

OCTOBER 2008

MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) held its September Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at Courtright's Restaurant in Willow Springs, Illinois. The guest speaker was Rich Kelly, Local Union #134, IBEW Referral Hall Coordinator. Mr. Kelly gave a brief background of his 27 years in the industry, his work as a Business Agent and his current Referral Hall position. Mr. Kelly distributed the "Journeyman Wiremen Referral Policy." He briefly discussed various issues including the following: policy regarding strikes and rolling off the Books, time-frames for clearing people for work out of the Referral Hall each day, rejection sheet usage, City of Chicago Residency requirements, proper interpretation of the collective bargaining agreement regarding Referral procedures. He received a round of applause following the question and answer portion of his presentation.

In addition to the guest speaker, the meeting discussion highlighted activities regarding the upcoming NECA Convention which include the following events:



Pictured above from left to right are:
 Michael Nugent, Business Agent, LU #134, IBEW;
 Rich Kelly, Referral Hall Coordinator, LU #134, IBEW and
 James Gallagher, ECA Vice President, Grand-Kahn Electric

- Pre-Convention Reception
 Friday, October 3, 2008 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Peninsula Hotel - Downtown Chicago
- NECA Convention - October 4 - 7, 2008
 Governor's Meeting (Oct. 4)
 Three Proposals:
 1) Category I Referral Group Change;
 2) New Standing Policy on Energy Independence; and
 3) Counterfeit Electrical Proposals.
- The LMCC/Chicago is sponsoring a booth at the NECA Convention.
- Special Labor Relations Session
 October 6, 2008
 11:30 am - Arie Crown Theater
 Featured speakers include:
 Geary Higgins, NECA, Ed Hill, IBEW and Mike Callahan, NJATC.
- Post Convention Trip
 October 12 - 16, 2008
 The Greenbrier Resort located in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia



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EPS I PROGRAM

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Research and Education Committee has announced that an Electrical Project Supervision Level I (EPS I) Program has been scheduled for the following Monday evenings: October 13, 27; November 3, 10, 17 and 24th. The EPS I Program is to be held at the Holiday Inn Oak Brook Hotel. Registration has already begun. The EPS I six-session program is designed to strengthen the abilities of project supervisors with little or no previous supervision experience; provide an understanding in traditional areas of supervision and develop new skills in emerging areas; and gain a new knowledge of the total "supervision" model. Topics covered in this introductory project supervision program include: Leadership & Team Building, Verbal and Written Communication, Productivity Improvement, Evaluating Performance, Customer Relations, among other areas. Norb Slowikowski, Slowikowski & Associates, Inc. will be the facilitator for this program. We hope to see you there. Please contact the Association for Registration details at: (708) 531-0022.

MVP PROGRAM

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Research and Education Committee recently held its Managing & Vitalizing Productivity - Developing a MVP Culture program on Friday, September 19, 2008 at the Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel. Over 40 participants were able to participate with this unique program.



Pictured above is Norb Slowikowski as he began the MVP program on September 19, 2008.

The MVP program is structured to help the office personnel gain an understanding of what the field supervisors learned through the Electrical Project Supervision (EPS) series. The presentation is geared to minimize any confusion between the office and field as it relates to supervision activities, paperwork and job related responsibilities. The MVP program instructor was Norb Slowikowski, Slowikowski & Associates, Inc.

NECA CONVENTION RECENT ADDITIONS

NECA has some late editions to the already full Convention schedule. The recent additions include the following five events: 1) NECA-IBEW Technical Institute (INTECH) will offer demonstrations by apprentices on conduit bending techniques in residential and commercial applications, as well as opportunities for attendees to view the latest methodologies and technologies utilized in the apprenticeship program; 2) Autodesk will provide 25-minute presentations regarding their Building Information Modeling (BIM) software through the new *Electrical Theater* at various times throughout the Trade Show; 3) Hands-on Training displays concerning Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Energy Efficiency will be provided by the LA LMCC; 4) NECA Government Affairs will offer a seminar called, "Business and Politics: NECA Government Affairs on the Election, 111th Congress & Issues Affecting the Industry" on October 7th at 10:30 am; and 5) NECA *Electrical Contractor* magazine and *TED* magazine will present a panel discussion called, "Counterfeit Products: Are you Liable?" on October 6th at 4:30 pm. We hope that you will be able to participate with these upcoming programs.

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MARK KIRK BREAKFAST

On September 5, 2008, the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Legislative Committee along with the help of area constituents hosted a Special Breakfast Meeting with Congressman Mark Kirk. Congressman Kirk is the only candidate the ECA has ever fully endorsed. Over 15 ECA representatives were in attendance. The breakfast was a "Thank You" to Congressman Kirk for his efforts and for his support of general business endeavors/issues vital to all contractors through Congress. The attendees were able to discuss a wide variety of issues with Congressman Kirk. Issues discussed included the following: Gas prices, Energy issues - renewable energy, off-shore resources, conservation efforts, foreign policy issues, Capital budget for Illinois, local programs in his district including Waukegan Harbor upgrades and VA Hospital work, the Presidential race, nuclear power issues, tax credits for alternative energy sources, among other issues. The Association wishes to thank all those who were able to participate with this event.



Pictured above from left to right in the back row are: Ken Bauwens, Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Thomas Halperin, ECA Liaison; Kevin O'Shea, Shamrock Electric Company, Inc.; James McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc.; Peter Erland, Erland's Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Richard Jamerson, Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Ken Aldridge, Aldridge Electric, Inc.; Eric Nixon, Maron Electric Company and Patrick Thornton, Gurtz Electric Company.
Pictured above from left to right in the front row are: Karen Johnson, Roughneck Concrete Drilling and Sawing Company; Michael Deger, Block Electric Company, Inc.; David Hardt, Hardt Electric, Inc.; Mark Nemshick, ECA Exec. VP; Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co.; Congressman Mark Kirk (10th District); Steve Diamond, NECA Governor, Malko Electric Company and Roy Diamond, Malko Electric Company.

2016 OLYMPICS PROMOTION

An umbrella organization consisting of firms involved in the Chicagoland Construction Industry is being formed to support the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee. The Association of Subcontractors and Affiliates (ASA) has coordinated a special meeting called "Chicago Builds 2016" to begin this effort. Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago will be participating with the joint effort and will report as necessary on the group's activity, as well as requests for assistance from contractors throughout the industry. Also, the overall promotional effort is being pushed by recent participants of the 2008 Games, including Tom Hoff, Captain of the Gold Medal winning U.S. Men's Volleyball team. Tom Hoff is also the cousin of ECA member Michael Hoff, Crosstown Electric, Inc. and the brother of Richard Hoff, Crosstown Electric, Inc. Tom Hoff is a Park Ridge, Illinois native and a 1991 Maine South High School graduate. It was Mr. Hoff's third Olympic appearance, having been in the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games. Congratulations to the Hoff family.

Portions of this article were excerpted from the Park Ridge Herald Advocate, September 11, 2008 on-line issue.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 1, 2008
ECA Regular Membership Meeting
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, IL
- October 3, 2008
Pre-NECA Convention event
"Chicago Chapter Welcome Reception"
The Peninsula Hotel Chicago, IL
- October 4 – 7, 2008
NECA Convention and Trade Show
McCormick Place Lakeside Center Chicago, IL
- October 12 - 16, 2008
ECA Post Convention Trip
The Greenbrier Resort White Sulphur Springs, W V
- October 30, 2008
Electric Association Annual Membership Awards Dinner
Carlisle Banquets Lombard, IL
- November 12, 2008
ECA Regular Membership Meeting
Rosewood Restaurant Banquets Rosemont, IL
- November 19 - 21, 2008
Greenbuild International Conference & Expo. 2008
Boston, MA.
- December 5, 2008
ECA Presidential Ball & Holiday Party
Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort
Oak Brook, Illinois

**CHECK OUT
THE ECA WEBSITE**

The Association urges all members to utilize the many resources that are available on-line at the ECA website. We hope that the information provided will help you better run your business, by helping you become aware of what's new in the marketplace not only in the Chicagoans area, but nationwide.

Available in the On-Line Resources section of the ECA Website is the Equipment & Material Member Exchange. Visit the "Member's Only" section and unlock all the features provided to ECA members.

The Events area of the site is constantly being updated. Please view the calendar for upcoming educational programming, as this dynamic is ever-changing. We hope that you will take advantage of the on-line surveys, polls, etc. Your participation will assist in the development of future programs offered by the Association. We look forward to your visit to: www.ecachicago.com.

LiveWire is a publication of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago, Inc., Five Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 940, Westchester, IL 60154.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for stories to the Association office.

Please note: The totals below for '07 & '08 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.

JULY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	2007	2008	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	918	907	2007 9,610,995
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,431	11,898	2008
HOURS WORKED	1,453,946	1,541,568	9,866,163