

OCTOBER 2007

ECA POLITICAL OUTREACH

Representatives from the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) were able to visit with Congressman Mark Kirk at a special breakfast meeting held on September 24, 2007 at The Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois. The group was able to discuss many issues directly affecting electrical contractors and overall electrical construction. The Association wishes to thank the Congressman for his time with the meeting. We also wish to thank the meeting attendees and all of the participants with ECA's Legislative and ECAPAC Committees for their continued efforts.



Pictured above from left to right (back row) are: Michael Carreon, Enviro Dynamic Systems; Ken Bauwens, Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Dr. Malik; Richard Ruh, Fire Pros, Inc.; Richard Jamerson, Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc.; James McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc.; Mark Nemshick, ECA Executive Vice President and Pictured above from left to right (front row) are: Michael Deger, Block Electric Company, Inc.; Karen Johnson, Roughneck Concrete Drilling and Sawing Company; Roy Diamond, Malko Electric Company; Noreen Ferentz, Wright Electric Company, Inc.; Steve Diamond, ECA Vice President, Malko Electric Company; Congressman Mark Kirk; Lianna Nixon, Eric Nixon, Maron Electric Company and David Hardt, Hardt Electric, Inc.

ECA EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) works to provide educational opportunities throughout the year. The following highlights late Summer programming. The ECA



Pictured above from left to right are: Brian Stolzenbach, Seyfarth Shaw; Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co.; and Landon Armbruster, TALX UC eXpress.

Insurance Committee sponsored a unique program which was arranged just prior to the Wednesday, September 12, 2007 ECA Regular Membership Meeting. The program called, "Unemployment Cost Management Seminar" was held at the Courtright's Restaurant in Willow Springs, Illinois. The seminar featured two speakers: Mr. Brian Stolzenbach, Seyfarth Shaw who is an attorney specializing in labor relations and employment issues and Mr. Landon Armbruster, TALX UC eXpress who is an unemployment consultant with expertise in unemployment issues relating to state and local regulations. Each spoke on the varied aspects of unemployment issues and unemployment claims administration.

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Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County

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PRIVATE PROMPT PAY BILL PASSED

On August 31, 2007, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed House Bill 743, the Private Prompt Pay Bill, enacting Public Law 95-567 which establishes a new law in Illinois governing the payment of contractors and subcontractors on Illinois construction projects. This new law applies to private construction projects in Illinois, while payment on government construction projects will continue to be controlled by the State Prompt Payment Act or the Local Government Prompt Payment Act.

The new prompt payment law requires owners to pay contractors, who perform according to their contract and submit an invoice to the owner, within 15 days after the invoice has been approved. In the event the owner does not approve the invoice, he must provide the contractor with written notice stating the reason for withholding payment within 25 days of receipt of the invoice. If the owner fails to notify the contractor that the invoice has not been approved within 25 days of its receipt, the invoice will be deemed approved and the owner must then pay the contractor within 15 days. If only a portion of the work is unapproved, then the remainder is considered approved.

Similarly, if a subcontractor performs under a subcontract, and the contractor gets paid money for the subcontractor's work, then the subcontractor must be paid within 15 days of the contractor's receipt of the payment from the owner. Payments not timely made accrue interest at ten percent. Contractors and subcontractors not paid pursuant to the law are entitled to suspend performance after providing 7 days notice.

The Act is effective immediately and applies to all construction contracts entered into after August 31, 2007, its effective date.

Portions of this article have been excerpted from a Legislative Memo from Rohlfing & Oberholtzer.

PRIDE IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

The Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) is accepting applications for the 2007 Project of the Year Program. The program, introduced in 2004, highlights the excellence of union construction workers and contractors by promoting outstanding projects in Northeastern Illinois. This year CISCO will award projects in the following four categories: New Construction (Chicago), New Construction (Suburban), Rehabilitation and Residential Construction.

In order to be eligible, projects must be completed in 2006 or 2007, use only union contractors in project construction and be built in Cook, Lake, DuPage, McHenry, Kane or Kendall counties, Illinois. Projects are judged on their design, quality of construction, safety record and community impact. Any member of the construction team (architect, designer, engineer, general contractor, subcontractor, etc.) may nominate a project by submitting an application. Winning projects will be formally recognized with awards at CISCO's 2008 Annual Meeting in January.

All applications must be received by November 23, 2007. Please visit www.cisco.org/awards to download an application.



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ECA EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The ECA Research and Education Committee recently sponsored the Electrical Project Supervision II (EPS II) program which ran August to October. The EPS III Program is to be arranged for November 2007. Each EPS program is facilitated by Norb Slowikowski, Slowikowski and Associates.



Pictured above is Norb Slowikowski
as he began the EPS II Program

ELECTRI CHOOSES PROJECTS FOR 2008

The ELECTRI International - The Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc. has reviewed numerous topics for further development in 2008. The ELECTRI Council members have chosen six projects to be recommended for approval at the Foundation Board of Trustees meeting to be held during the upcoming NECA Convention in San Francisco, California.

The ELECTRI International has made a long-term commitment to building knowledge and developing opportunities for electrical contractors everywhere. Through permanent endowment commitments and project grants, the Foundation supports three Centers for Excellence: the Research Center, the Education Center and the International Center. Through these Centers, the Foundation conducts, coordinates and monitors the industry's most critical research and delivers the highest quality management education and supervisory training programs. ELECTRI Council members are representatives from major contributors to the Foundation, including NECA member contractors, NECA Chapters, manufacturers, distributors, software vendors, as well as NECA Staff.

The projects for recommendation, include: 1) "Achieving Performance Improvement through an Effective Project Management Strategy," 2) "Implementing the Lessons Learned from the Florida Initiative and other Small Works Agreements," 3) "Role of Electrical Contractors on LEED Projects; Focus on Commissioning and Innovation & Design Credits," 4) "Local Apprenticeship Program Best Practices," 5) "Effectively Recruiting and Retaining Supervisory Workforce of Electrical Contractors," and 6) "ELECTRI Knowledge Network."

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3, 2007
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Rosewood Restaurant Banquets Rosemont, IL

October 5 - 8, 2007
 NECA Convention & Trade Show
 San Francisco, California

October 9 - 13, 2007
 ECA Post Convention Trip
 Marquis Los Cabos San Jose Los Cabos, Mexico

October 15 - 18, 2007
 Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop
 McDonald's Hamburger University Oak Brook, IL

November 7 - 9, 2007
 United States Green Building Conference (USGBC)
 "Greenbuild 2007" Chicago, Illinois

November 1, 2007
 O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP)
 Contractor Open House
 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Fountain Blue Banquets Des Plaines, IL

November 14, 2007
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Itasca Country Club Itasca, Illinois

Please contact the Association office for further information on any of these events.

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.

**AUDIO RECORDINGS
 OF NECA CONVENTION
 SEMINARS**

Pre-orders of the Audio CDs for fifteen seminars to be presented during the 2007 NECA Convention in San Francisco are being accepted. The CDs are being sold on an individual basis; however, a full set is offered at a discount and is packaged in a complimentary custom album. Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 for a copy of the Audio Recordings Order Form.

**NECA TOOLBOX
 TALKS 2**

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) has just released its second in a series, "Toolbox Talks 2: 100 Safety Training Talks for Electrical Construction Work." The CD contains 100 short safety training lessons on subjects ranging from fall protection to arc-blast hazards, heat stress, personal protective equipment (PPE) among many other areas. Each lesson consists of a two-page PDF with a place for an employee's signature. Please contact the ECA at: (708) 531-0022 for a copy of the "Toolbox Talks 2: 100 Safety Training Talks for Electrical Construction Work" Order Form.

Please note: The totals below for '06 & '07 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.

JULY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	2006	2007	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	1,003	918	2006 9,415,317
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,491	11,431	2007
HOURS WORKED	1,348,603	1,453,946	9,610,995