

SEPTEMBER 2006

MEMBERS TO RECEIVE EA AWARDS

On October 5, 2006, the Electric Association (EA) will be holding its Annual Awards Program. The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) is an active member of the Electric Association. The EA membership consists of electrical contractors, estimators, engineers, suppliers and other groups affiliated with the electrical industry. The ECA congratulates two members who are to be recognized at the upcoming event.

The Electric Association is to posthumously induct Gerald Gurtz, Gurtz Electric Company, for its "Hall of Fame." The Hall of Fame inductions are designed to honor outstanding individuals who have played a key role in the development and nurturing of the electrical industry and who have played a creative role in Chicagoland. The award recognizes individuals whose innovation, hard work, dedication and vision have fostered industrial growth and social progress.

David Hardt, Hardt Electric, Inc. is to receive the Electric Association's "Gold Medal Award." The purpose of the Gold Medal Award is to give recognition to a person serving in the Chicagoland Electrical Industry who has ably and unselfishly devoted his/her energy, imagination and qualities of leadership in the electrical industry; has shown keen insight into the opportunities of our great electrical industry, and has demonstrated great devotion to purpose; has, under his/her dynamic direction, furthered the industry; has won the respect and admiration of our entire industry. Please contact the Electric Association at: (708) 547-9910 to register for the Annual Awards Dinner.

MEMBER FIRM TURNS 50



Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) member firm, Roughneck Concrete Drilling and Sawing Company has been in business since 1956.

The company has been an active ECA / NECA member since 1996. We wish Karen Elin Johnson, President, Roughneck Concrete Drilling and Sawing Company many more years of success and participation with the Association.

Congratulations, Karen!

2006 WENDT AWARD

Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) member, Jerrold Nixon, Maron Electric Company has been selected to receive the Wendt Award at the NECA 2006 Convention and Trade Show in Boston, Massachusetts. The Wendt Award is given to those who show exemplary leadership and service to the electrical industry. The award was named in honor of the philosophical and financial commitments made to the industry by Albert G. Wendt, Cannon & Wendt Electric, Phoenix, Arizona. Congratulations, Jerry!

Portions of this article were excerpted from the NECA NEWS, July 31, 2006 edition.

Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County

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MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION REFORM

The U.S. Senate recently passed H.R. 4, the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The Pension Protection Act includes tough new funding requirements to ensure employers adequately and consistently fund their pension plans, provide workers with meaningful disclosure about the financial status of their benefits, and protect taxpayers from a possible multi-billion dollar bailout of the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). Specifically, H.R. 4:

- *Tightens funding requirements so employers make more cash contributions to their worker pension funds;
- *Closes loopholes that allow underfunded plans to skip pension payments;
- *Prohibits employers and union leaders from digging a hole even deeper by promising extra benefits if their pension plan is significantly underfunded;
- *Enhances disclosure to give workers and retirees more information about the status of their pension plans;
- *Protects multiemployer pension plans for workers and their employers;
- *Restricts "golden parachute" executive compensation arrangements in which executives of companies in financial difficulty often are given generous deferred compensation arrangements while the retirement security of rank-and-file workers remains at risk; and
- *Gives workers new access to personally-tailored, face-to-face professional investment advice.

NECA worked with a Multiemployer Pension Plan Coalition on this bill for two years and the final language includes the complete language presented to the House and Senate by the coalition. This is a major - and much needed - victory for unionized electrical construction.

NECA Members deserve much of the credit for their regular and effective response to the many Action Alerts on this issue. The e-mails, phone calls and letters from the overall NECA membership were instrumental in achieving this critical victory.

For a summary of H.R. 4, the Pension Protection Act, visit the Education & the Workforce Committee website at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/109th/workforce/pension/pensionbillsum72806.htm>.

Portions of this article were excerpted from the July 28, 2006 House Committee on Education & the Workforce "News Update," as well as various updates from NECA "Action Alerts," NECA's Political Leadership Council and NECA Government Affairs staff.



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COGGESHALL AWARD

Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) member, Charles Trout, technical consultant for Maron Electric Company has been selected to receive the Coggeshall Award at the NECA 2006 Convention and Trade Show in Boston, Massachusetts. The Coggeshall Award is given to a NECA-member contractor who has made an outstanding contribution to the progress of the electrical contracting industry in the technical and training area. Congratulations, Charlie!

Portions of this article were excerpted from the NECA NEWS, July 17, 2006 edition.

NECA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Annual Meeting of the NECA Board of Governors is scheduled for October 7, 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. A number of proposals and adjustments to the NECA Bylaws have been submitted for this meeting by various NECA Chapters. The proposed Bylaw Amendments regard Committee appointments to the Council on Industrial Relations (CIR) for Electrical Contracting Industry and a NECA Vice Presidential vacancy procedure. The Ordinary Proposals concern reporting of Board of Governors ballot results and a revised NECA strategy to negotiate restructured Category I, IBEW-NECA Agreement language. Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 if you need a copy of the proposals and amendments.

ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEE SAFETY HANDBOOK

NECA has recently revised its "Electrical Construction Employee Safety Handbook." The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) charges employers with providing employees a safe place of employment. This handbook summarizes the basic safety regulations and was developed so employees can familiarize themselves with general safety rules and OSHA safety regulations pertaining to the worksite. It is small enough to fit in an electrician's pocket or tool bucket. Each member of the Electrical Contractors' Association will receive a copy of the new Safety Handbook at no charge. The NECA member price is \$4.00 each. The product is listed as Item #5028. Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 for the "Electrical Construction Employee Safety Handbook" Order Form.

IBEW'S "HOUR POWER" WEBSITE

The IBEW has launched a new website at: IBEWHourPower.com. The site is basically an on-line magazine for the IBEW rank and file. Stories telling of organized industry successes and messages from IBEW President, Ed Hill and author, Mark Breslin remind workers that "every hour counts." The site is updated with new stories and material every four to six weeks. NECA Chief Executive Officer, John Grau recently sent a letter to all NECA Contractors urging them to assist the IBEW in promoting the IBEWHourPower.com website whenever possible. The site is a positive for the industry and it is hoped that it will aid in bringing meaningful change throughout the entire electrical construction industry.

Portions of this article were excerpted from an insert letter from the "NECA NEWS," July 31, 2006 edition that was directed to NECA Contractors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13, 2006
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Rosewood Restaurant and Banquets Rosemont, IL

September 18 - 21, 2006
 Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop
 The Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook, IL

September 20, 2006
 ECA Safety Directors' Forum
 Chicagoland Construction Safety Council
 Hillside, IL 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

September 25 - October 6, 2006 (6 modules)
 Electrical Project Supervision Level II (EPS II)
 Holiday Inn Oak Brook Oak Brook, IL

October 5, 2006
 Electric Association Awards Dinner
 Contact: (708) 547-9910 for details.

October 4, 2006
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Maggiano's Banquets Oak Brook, IL

October 7 - 10, 2006
 NECK Convention and Trade Show
 John B. Hynes Convention Center Boston, MA

October 11 - 15, 2006
 ECA Post-Convention Trip
 Elbow Beach Bermuda Hotel Paget, Bermuda

November 8, 2006
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Harry Caray's Restaurant Chicago, IL

Please contact the Association office for further information on any of these events, as well as visiting the ECA website at: www.ecachicago.com for the 2006 Calendar of Events.

**OCTOBER MEETING
 FEATURED SPEAKER**

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) has invited Michael Fitzgerald, Business Manager, Local Union #134, IBEW as the guest speaker for the Wednesday, October 4, 2006 Membership Meeting. The luncheon / business meeting is to be held at Maggiano's Banquets in Oak Brook, Illinois. It is anticipated that Mr. Fitzgerald will discuss the current "State of the Industry." As of this writing, it has not been decided if this session is to be open to all signatory contractors. If so, please watch for details via mail.

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 '05 & '06 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.

JUNE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	2005	2006	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	1,069	1,004	2005 7,421,293
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,066	11,470	2006
HOURS WORKED	1,002,582	1,123,521	8,066,714