

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Just a reminder that the Regular Membership Meeting for January has been scheduled for the 26th. Please mark your calendars and make every attempt to attend this meeting. The Chapter will be holding elections for the Board of Directors, Baltimore Division.

OTHER ELECTIONS

Unless other nominations are made for Division Boards, the current Directors from the Western Maryland and Eastern Shore Divisions will remain the same. Those Directors are:

WESTERN MARYLAND

Robert Boyle
Consolidated Electric

Arthur Strietbeck
S & S Electric

EASTERN SHORE

James Johnson
Rommel Electric

David Tomey
Tomey Electric



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Looking for Chances to Get Involved?

Along with the many opportunities to get involved on the local level with our Chapter, contractors are provided the opportunity to meet with colleagues from around the country at various NECA functions. Two of such functions are the Regional Conferences and National Conventions.

This year the Eastern Region Conference, which all Maryland NECA members are invited, will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona at the luxurious Hyatt Gainey Ranch. Pack your clubs and plan to attend this conference where you can share your thoughts about the industry, hear others' opinions, and learn about the latest trends. Attending this meeting will be contractors from Maine to Virginia and from Maryland to Ohio. This meeting will take place from April 11th through the 14th. Please contact the Chapter if you are interested in attending.

The "Main Event" for NECA every fall is the National Convention. This year we will be heading to Boston in October. Plan to attend the NECA

Convention and NECA Show in Boston from October 2–5, 2010—Mark your calendars now! Bring your key staff with you. Budget to bring your key people and educate your staff in today's electrical industry. NECA promises to give you the educational tools that you need to effectively compete in this work environment.

North America's most important electrical event assembles some of the industry's most knowledgeable experts to address the issues that affect your business everyday such as:

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Construction
- BIM
- Design-Build
- Single Source Solutions
- Integrated Systems
- LEED Certification
- NFPA Compliance
- Labor Relations



ACE Maryland Reception

On January 19th, the Alliance for Construction Excellence (ACE) will be hosting its 2nd Annual Reception and would like to invite contractors to show their support for this industrial coalition. The Alliance for Construction Excellence (ACE) is a program of the premier construction specialty contractor associations allied to create awareness of the value of quality construction among State leaders and the general public. Members of ACE employ highly skilled technicians for field construction work, and provide those employees with high-value wages, family medical care, retirement plans, and continuing education through workforce development and apprenticeship training programs.

The members of ACE represent more than 1,200 specialty contractors employing more than 55,800 skilled trades workers. Members of ACE average gross annual sales of over **\$6,250,000,000**.

Join the Maryland Chapter NECA on January 19th at 6:00 PM at the Calvert House in Annapolis and help us represent the construction industry to the State and local leaders in attendance.



Help Davis-Bacon; Help Yourself

Davis-Bacon Wage Rates Have Never Been More Important to Contractors

With the distribution of the Stimulus monies still flowing out of Washington, it has never been more important to try to get the Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Rate as the locally negotiated wage rate. This is not done overnight and requires a consistent effort on the part of the contractor, Chapter and Local Union. The procedure is not particularly difficult, and it should become routine and sustained.

Every signatory contractor should adopt an internal policy and procedure to document the work contracted on a WD 10 form that may be sent in to the Department of Labor, filled out online or retained for the DOL survey that may occur. Detailed information about the Davis-Bacon Wage Determination process, forms, decisions and compliance may be found at: www.dol.gov/whd - or - www.gpo.gov/davisbacon

Because of frequent change in personnel (like company staff and business managers), a system must be in place to guarantee that the forms are prepared and ready to be submitted when a survey is called for. Procedures should be established now with the help of the Chapter and the cooperation of the Local Union. It is to everyone's benefit; and you never know when you will need it.



Winds of Change in Western Maryland

Bob Metz of Metz Electric and Security participated in the recent installation of a wind turbine in Western Maryland. The 10KW generator sits atop a 100' tower just east of Cumberland. The wind turbine was supplied by Bergey WindPower Company.

Though Western Maryland has come up against some heavy opposition of installation of wind farms, the Baltimore Business Journal recently reported that that might not be the case everywhere. According to the Journal, not only is the public largely in favor of wind farms in their own neighborhoods, but they also consider it the safest energy source. A recent survey of 800 adults regarding the health and safety issues surrounding energy found that nearly 95 percent voted wind energy "very safe". However, another survey taken of 1,000 people found that 11 percent of those surveyed considered wind farms to be harmful to health and welfare. Of this group, most were over the age of 65 and had no college education.



New Health Care Amendment Introduced

NECA has played the lead role on an amendment that would reduce the small business exemption on the comprehensive health care legislation being considered in the U.S. Senate. **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR) has introduced an amendment that would reduce the size of the small business exemption from 50 or fewer employees to 5 or fewer.

The legislation currently exempts small employers with 50 or fewer employees from the need to offer health care to employees. This removes over 90% of the construction industry from the need to provide insurance to employees.

With NECA contractors providing health insurance to their employees, the small employer exemption would provide an

unfair competitive advantage to our non-union competition that are exempt and not required to provide health insurance to their employees. NECA supports the inclusion of provisions that would help make health insurance more affordable for employers, but it is opposed to outright exemption of other employers in the construction industry from the employer mandate. Again, this constitutes an undeserved competitive advantage to employers who don't provide health insurance to their employees. It's simply about fairness and leveling the playing field.

No such language is included in the House-passed legislation; therefore the Merkley amendment has become an item to be negotiated during the House-Senate conference proceedings.

MEMBERS

Looking for New Education Programs this Year?

The Chapter Office will be sending out a survey to all member contractors this month to find out which program, put on by the NECA Management Education Institute, will best serve our membership. Please make every effort to complete the survey and return it to the Chapter Office as soon as possible.

The programs we are looking to put on for the members are:

- Adapt or Perish: The Business Model
- The Emerging Green Market
- Building High Performance Work Teams
- How much is Your Business Worth
- Emerging PV Market Guide
- Developing Today's Managers
- Succession Planning – "Filling the Empty Chair"
- Surviving the Market

A WORLD (WIDE WEB) OF DIFFERENCE

As the future moves towards E-Commerce and Internet Based Software, the Maryland Chapter has made it a priority to utilize its website to promote our contractors and distribute vital information. Coming soon: the NEW Maryland NECA site.

www.marylandneca.org

The Electric League of Maryland Under New Leadership

The Electric League of Maryland has made some changes in their leadership for 2010.

After the resignation of Al Michel, the Executive Director of ELM, last year, the League asked Ed Mitchell of Mitchell Consulting to step in as the acting Executive Director for the remainder of the year. Ed Mitchell served faithfully throughout the latter part of 2009 and



worked diligently to find his replacement by January. Mr. Mitchell and the rest of the Board of Directors from the ELM interviewed and elected Robert Bertazon, of the ASA of Baltimore, as the new Executive Director for the Electric League. Robert and his assistant, Denise Lindross, will be co-managing the League in 2010.

MD NECA News would like to congratulate Mr. Bertazon and wish him good luck.



Special Thanks to Joe Boddiford

The Chapter and its Board of Directors would like to send a special thank-you to Joe Boddiford for all of his help in coordinating the Chapter's Annual Holiday Luncheon at Sparrow's Point. As usual (from what I'm told) the luncheon was a great success and enjoyed by everyone that attended. Thanks again Joe!

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- **January 1: New Year's Day**
Chapter Office will be closed
- **January 12: Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**
Chapter Office Glen Burnie, MD 12:00 PM
- **January 19: ACE Maryland Reception**
The Calvert House Annapolis, MD 6:00 PM
- **January 26: Regular Membership Meeting / Board Election**
Four Points Sheraton Baltimore, MD 5:30 PM
- **January 28-29: NECA/IBEW Employee Benefits Conference**
Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, Naples, FL

FEBRUARY

- **February 9: Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**
Chapter Office Glen Burnie, MD 12:00 PM



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Monthly Payroll Reports

October 2009

(Based on reports received as of December 15, 2009)

Local Union	# of Employees	Hours Reported
LU 24-Balto	1,878	310,287
LU 24-ES	53	8,096
LU 70	65	10,756
LU 307	235	27,844
Total	2,231	356,983

Note: "Number of Employees" and "Hours Reported" figures include non-bargaining unit employees who are listed on the monthly reports.