

Alaska Chapter NECA

March 26, 2007

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

April 3	Anchorage JATC
April 8	Easter
April 10	Anchorage Safety Class @ NECA
April 10	Safety Committee
April 11	Board Meeting / Membership Meeting
April 12	Fairbanks Safety Class @ JATC

Tool Box Talks

April 02, 2007	Exit Strategies
April 09, 2007	Fall Protection
April 16, 2007	Falling Objects/Hard Hats
April 23, 2007	Fire Evacuation
April 30, 2007	Fire Prevention

Message from John Grau, NECA CEO

I had the privilege of meeting with several of NECA's line contractors last week. This special group is really the heart of our industry – the contractors who see that power is transmitted and distributed through high-voltage lines across the country.

NECA line contractors are also among the first emergency responders that connect with a community after it has experienced a disaster. This unique public-private partnership between contractors, utilities, and local citizens was the focus of a recent article published by COMCARE, a non-profit association of local emergency response agencies. "High Voltage and High Stakes" featured NECA line contractors John Colson of Quanta, Don Wilson of Wilson Construction and MYR Group.

Restoring power to a community's critical infrastructure is often what makes other rescue and relief efforts possible. I encourage you to read the article online and whenever possible, thank a NECA line contractor for everything they do to support our industry and make our modern lives possible.

NECA Action Alert - Help Repeal 3% Withholding Tax Now!

Representative Wally Herger (R-CA-2) discusses the importance of writing congress on 3% withholding repeal in the latest Capitol Current Online. NECA has issued an Action Alert on H.R. 1023, a bill introduced by Representatives Meek and Herger to repeal the unjust 3% withholding tax on all federal contractors. Go to NECA's E-advocacy site, www.necanet.org/writecongress, to ask your Representative to support H.R. 1023.

Watch the video and view the 3% Tax Repeal Action Alert online.

NECA's Manual of Labor Units Goes Digital Through Trade Service

BETHESDA, MD - March 5, 2007 – For over 80 years, the Manual of Labor Units published by the National Electrical Contractors Assn. (NECA) has been the industry standard for electrical construction estimators and project managers. Beginning this summer, MLU data on the labor required to install thousands of different electrical material items will be available as a real-time database feed through Trade Service, the industry's leading data provider on materials. This feed will make MLU data available electronically for use within various bidding and estimating systems and software.

One delivery method will allow users of Trade Service's popular price and product updating software, **TRA-SER® Premier**, to automatically import the labor units directly from TRA-SER into their estimating or accounting database, along with pricing data. Trade Service will match the labor units to specific items within TRA-SER so this data can be easily imported to the contractor's business system database. Trade Service is also working closely with the industry's business system providers to enable this new export / import functionality by June 2007.

"This could revolutionize how bids and change orders are created," said Dan Walter, NECA Vice President and COO. "It makes materials and labor information available from the same source at the same time – a first for our industry."

"The new partnership represents a tremendous savings for business software providers, who, in the past, have had to enter the labor units manually as the MLU has been updated every two years," said Stuart Binstock, Executive Director, NECA's Management Education Institute.

Tod Moore, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Trade Service adds, "We see this as a great opportunity to support NECA and the electrical industry, while at the same time incorporate a significant new use model to one of our products."

The MLU will continue to be available in print and CD, and soon, with its improved functionality through Trade Service. NECA has negotiated a \$750 member discount on the TRA-SER Premier software to facilitate members' access to this new technology.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

July 8, 2007	NECA Open Golf Tournament
August 23-26, 2007	District Six Mini-Convention/Coeur d'Alene, ID
October 5-8, 2007	NECA Convention/San Francisco, CA
December 15, 2007	Annual Meeting/Christmas Party
October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL
September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA



NECA 2007 San Francisco Website is Live

Details about the general sessions, tours and lifestyle programs are just some of the things now posted on the new NECA 2007 San Francisco Convention and Trade Show website. Start planning your trip today!

NECA Co-Sponsoring New Workshop on Collectively Bargained Workers' Compensation, April 11

NECA is co-sponsoring a comprehensive seminar for the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans April 11 in St. Louis on how unions and employers can create collectively bargained workers' compensation (CBWC) programs. Where state law permits, CBWC improves the process for the injured worker and substantially lowers workers' compensation costs for employers. (**Learn more about CBWC and this seminar at www.ifebp.org.**)

ElectrifyingCareers.com Wins "Best of the Web"

ElectrifyingCareers.com, the industry recruiting website sponsored by NECA and IBEW, was recently selected by Building Design & Construction magazine as one of its annual "Best of the Web" sites. ElectrifyingCareers.com provides information on the wide range of career paths available within electrical construction, plus video testimonials from young people already working in the industry. Check out ElectrifyingCareers.com today!

Did you know...

1901, November - NECA publishes its first issue of The National Electrical Contractor magazine, the first national publication for the electrical contracting industry in the US.