



WATTS UP

April 01, 2009

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

April 7

April 8

April 12

April 14

April 19-22

April 29

Anchorage JATC

Board of Directors/Membership Meeting

Easter

Safety Committee

District Ten in Phoenix

WorkSafe-Signs & Symptoms Training-Anchorage

Tool Box Talks

April 06, 2009

April 13, 2009

April 20, 2009

April 27, 2009

Exit Strategies

Fall Protection

Falling Objects/Hard Hats

Fire Evacuation

NECA 2009 Legislative Conference, May 4-6

What happens on Capitol Hill has a direct impact on electrical contractors' businesses. NECA's 2009 Legislative Conference (May 4-6) is your opportunity to let your voice be heard on the issues important to your business.

The meetings will be held concurrently, in response to members' requests. Former White House spokesperson Dana Perino will be the keynote speaker for both events.

Review the agenda and Register now for NECA's 2009 Legislative Conference

<http://www.necanet.org>

NECA Pledges to Work with Dept. of Energy to Advance Responsible Energy Policy Goals

In his remarks to a joint session of Congress, President Obama announced yesterday that supporting energy independence will be a critical aspect of his first budget and a policy priority for his Administration. NECA electrical contractors welcome this renewed focus on our national energy policy and today, the association's CEO John M. Grau formally notified Energy Secretary Stephen Chu about NECA's work on the issues facing the Administration and Congress.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was a great first step towards increasing our national investment in responsible energy projects," Grau said. "Now we need to carry that commitment through our regulatory and tax policies."

Grau was referring to the recently-passed economic stimulus legislation that included nearly \$150 billion in infrastructure and energy project appropriations. NECA is encouraged by the Administration's aggressive response strategies and legislative proposals to rebuild our national infrastructure that hold the possibility of saving or creating an estimated 3 to 4 million jobs.

In his letter to Secretary Chu, Grau outlined several ways that the association hopes to work with the Administration and Congress to develop and promote responsible energy policies, including training a workforce capable of safely upgrading our national electric grid and installing renewable energy technology, like solar water heaters and photovoltaic (PV) panels.

"In conjunction with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), NECA has helped build the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC), a nationally recognized training program jointly funded at a \$100 million per year," Grau wrote. "To date, the NJATC has been successful in training 300,000 apprentices to meet the demands of today and the energy technologies of tomorrow. NECA's Board of Governors passed an energy independence policy in October 2008 that encourages investment in renewable and alternative energy technologies, modernizing and securing the national electric grid, and actively working to decrease U.S. reliance on oil and energy resources from other countries.

"NECA is dedicated to enhancing the industry through continuing education and training in emerging energy technologies including: smart meter installation and smart grid construction; increasing energy efficiency through retrofitting; high-performance building design and construction; and development of best-industry practices to make the generation, distribution, and consumption of energy more efficient and reliable," Grau wrote.

Grau also expressed NECA's support for federal efforts encouraging the weatherizing of homes, temperature control systems in places of business, investment tax credits for energy efficiency and clean energy systems. "The credit crisis has unfortunately impeded many projects underway and has prevented the market-entry of many other investors," Grau wrote. "DOE should ensure that a renewable energy bond fund be implemented with funds from the stimulus immediately, to provide investors with needed capital to complete renewable energy construction projects."

At a time when many vital issues are demanding the President's and Congress's attention, Grau was extremely pleased with the emphasis the Obama Administration has placed on creating a comprehensive energy policy that will help America build a new energy economy. "This will be the issue that defines the 21st century," he said. "At NECA, we're already working towards moving the United States closer to the solution."

ELECTRI Study Reveals Ideal Inventory Levels Lead to Increased Profitability

Electrical contracting is a high risk, competitive business that requires the collaboration of multiple constituencies including labor, general contractors, distributors, manufacturers, architects, facility owners and banks. With the electrical contractor balancing all of these components, it is not surprising that one of the main challenges in the business is improving labor productivity. **ELECTRI International—The Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc.**, seeks to assist electrical contractors with *Ideal Jobsite Inventory Levels to Improve Profitability*, the newest addition to its collection of organizational development-focused research.

While most electrical contractors seek to improve productivity by adjusting the number of workers on a job, *Ideal Jobsite Inventory Levels* examines the impact excess quantities of materials can have on labor hours. Research shows electricians can spend up to 40 percent of their time on non-value-added material handling, which is the moving of materials on a jobsite that do not end up in installation. And despite material management's clear impact on labor productivity and cost, it is often an issue left primarily to field personnel. This research explores the "ideal material quantity" for productive jobsites to cut down labor hours wasted on excess materials. It also defines the need for careful material planning and scheduling, and offers examples of proven collaborative partnerships between contractors and distributors.

According to Bitia Silverman, Director of Projects for ELECTRI International, *Ideal Inventory Levels* not only gives electrical contractors a clear picture of the importance of carefully managing inventory levels, but offers a guide for how they can best reach an ideal level that maximizes productivity and minimizes both material and labor costs. She said, "This research illustrates how proper management of inventory amounts on worksites can lead directly to increased productivity. And at the end of the day, it is increased productivity that is going to make an electrical contractor more competitive and profitable. It also illustrates the importance of the electrical contractor- distributor partnership in achieving the most profitable balance."

Ideal Jobsite Inventory Levels to Improve Profitability is authored by Philip E. Nimmo of Motor Consultants of America (MCA, Inc) and Dr. Perry Danesghari from the University of Michigan-Flint and MCA, Inc. NECA members can expect to receive a complementary copy next week. Additional copies will be available soon in the NECA Store www.necanet.org/store

NECA 2009 Seattle Registration Opens May 15

It's a new economy . . . and a new National Electrical Code is coming.

Over **5,000 changes** were submitted for the 2011 National Electrical Code. And more than **\$150 billion** was allocated for infrastructure spending and energy projects in the economic stimulus. The best way to learn how all these changes will impact your business is at NECA 2009 Seattle.

So far, more than half the NECA Show floor is sold, and new exhibitors are signing up daily. Just last week, McGraw-Hill committed to bringing its latest construction products to the 2009 NECA Show *and* putting on a technical workshop for attendees. We're in business and looking forward to a great event!

Registration opens May 15, so check out www.necaconvention.org for registration info and blog.necaconvention.org for the latest news.

Be ready for all that's new in your industry. Be at NECA 2009 Seattle.

2008 NECA Annual Report Available Online

Every year, NECA creates a report charting the association's progress on key priorities and initiatives throughout the year. Download or view the 2008 annual report as a PDF here

<http://www.necanet.org/about/about-neca/?fa=annualReport>

Register Now! Grounding and Bonding Webinar #5

The fifth webinar in NECA's series on grounding and bonding will be held Tuesday, April 14, at 11a.m. (EDT). In this 60-minute presentation, Mike Johnston, NECA executive director of standards and safety, will review the general requirements for equipment grounding, and reviews the purpose of equipment grounding and applicable NEC rules.

This is an event that will award 0.1 CEUs (continuing education credits) and costs \$15 for each participating user site. Participation in this webinar is open to non-members, but you must have a NECA User Name to process your payment and CEUs.

<http://www.necanet.org>

You will receive webinar log-in instructions via email once your payment has been processed. For questions, please contact the webinar host, AES@necanet.org.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA
October 2-5	NECA Convention/Boston, MA
October 22-25	NECA Convention/San Diego, CA
September 30-October 3	NECA Convention/Las Vegas, NV
October 12-15	NECA Convention/Washington, DC