

# WATTS UP

August 01, 2007

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

[www.alaskaneca.org](http://www.alaskaneca.org)

## Chapter Calendar

August 7

Anchorage JATC

August 8

Board Meeting/Membership Meeting

August 14

Safety Committee

August 22-28

District Six Mini Convention

## Tool Box Talks

August 06, 2007

MSDS

August 13, 2007

OSHA Violations to Avoid, Part I

OSHA Violations to Avoid, Part II

August 20, 2007

Portable Cords

August 27, 2007

Power Lines



## NECA Convention

The 2007 Convention is in San Francisco October 5-8. For those of you interested in attending, the early bird registration and hotel reservation early bird rates are approaching rapidly. The early bird rates are good until August 8. The opening reception is Friday evening October 5 from 7-9 pm.

Registration and hotel reservations can be made on line at <http://www.necaconvention.org> or if you would like the convention booklet with a registration form please call us and we'll send one to you.

## Management Seminars at NECA 2007 San Francisco Could Equal CEU Credits for Attendees

Attendees of management seminars offered at NECA 2007 San Francisco will get more than just a first-rate education in expanding market share and running their businesses more effectively -- they will also receive print-outs listing the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the courses they attend during the convention.

The International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) has authorized NECA's Management Education Institute (MEI) to be a provider of CEUs. One IACET CEU is equal to ten hours of participation in a continuing education course led by a qualified instructor. The IACET CEU is a hallmark of quality training and instruction, and in many states, electrical contractors or journeymen electricians need CEUs for license renewal.

Scanners at the entrance of every management seminar will collect information from the badges of attendees. At the close of NECA 2007 San Francisco, a printed record of the seminars attended, the number of CEU credits earned, and brief descriptions of the courses will be distributed to participants. According to Stuart Binstock, Executive Director of NECA-MEI, the decision to track CEUs is in response to requests from NECA members, but that it is important they check with their individual States about CEU-acceptance.

Our members indicated that they want a way to track CEUs for their participation in NECA's management courses at convention, and this year we are going to meet that need. Because every state is so different, however, it is important that all participants check with their individual state certifying agency regarding acceptance of the CEU and any other requirements for licensure.

For a complete list of the management seminars offered at NECA 2007, San Francisco, visit [www.necaconvention.org](http://www.necaconvention.org), or call Katie at 301-215-4506. For questions regarding the CEU, call Stuart Binstock at (301) 215-4523.

## **"When Disaster Strikes"**

### **Wall Street Journal (06/25/07) P. R7 ; Chernova, Yuliya**

Small business experts say having a well-structured organization and reliable second-in-command and a well-structured organization is essential for ensuring smooth operations during an owner's absence or disability, or when a death occurs. Business owners facing personal crises must be willing to delegate. "Those business owners who are entirely self-sufficient and are not going to yield any amount of control are the most subject to disasters," says Bob Cockrell, a family-business adviser in St. Louis. In the best scenario, the person taking charge is someone already working for the company who has had test runs as leader. In choosing a successor, it's important for owners to not only groom them for the job but to make their choice widely known. Whoever takes charge can expect a rocky start, along with a possibly significant drop in revenue. It's a good idea for small businesses to have a portion of capital in an emergency reserve fund, several forms of insurance, and a detailed list of instructions covering key duties in the owner's absence. Many advisers recommend doing annual contingency planning for a key person's absence. They say owners should consider establishing an advisory board made up of the company's accountant and attorney, family members or friends who would know what to do in case of an emergency. Alliances can be set up with peers and partners to try to stem losses from disruptions in business. Philip London, senior tax partner with the accounting firm Freeman & Davis LLC in New York, advises his small-business clients to ensure there is a continuation plan in place. When two partners run a business, it's common to set up a buy-sell agreement insured by a life-insurance or a disability policy. Less common is so-called key-man life insurance, in which the business is the beneficiary of the policy. Only about 17 percent of businesses with fewer than 500 employees have key-man life insurance on their chief executives, a 2003 study by Hay Group found. Other types of insurance, however, are essential -- especially good medical and disability insurance. Disability insurance can cover a business's overhead expenses or some lost income, says Paul Stawinski, managing director at the New York financial advisory firm Price Raffel & Browne Inc.

## **FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....**

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

## **First Step Toward Repeal Of 3% Withholding On Government Work?**

The House Ways and Means Committee recently approved legislation (HR 3056) that would push back enforcement of the 3% withholding requirement so that it would apply to payments to government contractors made after December 31, 2011, one year later than now mandated. Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL-17), a committee member and the chief sponsor of a NECA-backed bill (HR 1023) to overturn the requirement, said that "We are one step closer to achieving full repeal."

NECA thinks so, too. And the proposed enforcement delay is NOT the most important reason why.

A more important part of HR 3056 is a requirement for the Treasury Department to conduct a study on the problems and costs of administering the withholding law. Results of this investigation would have to be reported within six months after passage of the legislation.

Since it became known that the withholding requirement was surreptitiously slipped into the 2005 Tax Increase and Reconciliation Act, it has been opposed vigorously not only by the construction industry but also by IRS officials and state, county, and municipal governments that would be overwhelmed by the

responsibility to administer it. (The withholding rule would apply to all levels of government – not just federal – for all payments for goods and services.) Thus, we are confident that the report will provide a strong basis for full and outright repeal.

That is, if HR 3056 is ultimately passed. We have not received word yet as to when the bill will be presented for floor action in the House. In the meantime, you can learn more about NECA's efforts to repeal the withholding requirement by visiting <http://www.necanet.org/private/government/>

The committee hearing on HR 3056, at which NECA was represented, wasn't a complete win-win for contractors. In a party-line vote split 23-to-18, the panel rejected a proposal by Reps. Kenny C. Hulshof (R-MO-9) and Eric I. Cantor (R-VA-7) to repeal the federal inheritance tax. That levy is set to be reinstated in 2011 unless Congress acts to abolish it