



Alaska Chapter NECA



November 22, 2006

Alaska Chapter, NECA www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

- November 23** **Happy Thanksgiving!**
- December 4** **Western Region LMCC in Las Vegas**
- December 5** **Anchorage JATC**
- December 9** **Annual Meeting/Christmas Party**
- December 12** **Safety Committee**
- January 11-12** **IBEW/NECA Employee Benefit Conference in Phoenix**

Tool Box Talks

- December 04, 2006** **Transporting Tools and Materials**
- December 11, 2006** **Work Practices**
- December 18, 2006** **Working Hot**
- December 26, 2006** **Workplace Violence**

ALASKA CHAPTER NECA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY-DECEMBER 9, 2006

The Chapter's Christmas Party is Saturday December 9, 2006 at the Anchorage Museum. Please join us for Hors D'Oeuvres and Cocktails at 7:00 P.M. Parking is available in the Museum Garage. RSVP with Michelle (copper@pobox.alaska.net) or call 907-561-1958.

Final Flurry of Campaign Contributions

In a final flurry of check writing to candidate campaigns, ECPAC contributed over \$300,000 to over one hundred candidates in the last weeks of the congressional campaign season. Checks were sent from coast to coast, to campaigns and to chapters for constituent action meetings in local congressional districts.

“Congress is facing significant change on Election Day,” says Bob White, Executive Director for Government Affairs, “and contributions to ECPAC by NECA members have allowed us to get involved in individual races as never before.”

ECPAC reached a milestone in the closing weeks of the campaign season by collecting over \$660,000 this second year of the election cycle. This puts ECPAC well over its goal of \$1.2 million raised for the last two years at \$1,210,000. This money has been put to work in nearly 180 House and Senate races, with maximum contributions of \$10,000 given out in 17 of these.

Advances in ECPAC fundraising and NECA’s stature on Capitol Hill are due in no small part to the generous giving of monies and time by NECA members in the last two years.

“Members of NECA’s Political Leadership Council have been invaluable in spreading the word of contractor’s importance in the political process,” White continued. “Every one of them has been an exceptional ambassador for our government affairs program. PLC members who deserve special accolades for their efforts include the 2006 PLC Chairman **Ron Autrey**, the Associate National Chair **Jerry Nixon**, and Eastern Region Chair **Bob Bruce** in particular for being influential spokesmen on behalf of the Political Leadership Council.”

Constituent Action meetings have been numerous with the end of the campaign season fast approaching and members of congress home in their districts and states. Members of the Atlanta Chapter met with Congressman Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA-8) in his campaign office. Others, such as members of the Cascade Chapter, Illinois Chapter, and Maryland chapter all met with members of congress in the last few weeks.

If you know of any constituent action meetings occurring in your chapter, please let Government Affairs know about it. Forward photos and summaries of the events to jjk@necanet.org or phone Jeff Kohmstedt at 301-215-4542.

Register For Free National Lighting Bureau Referral Service To Qualify For Energy Act Business

A nationwide search for lighting system designers and what the Internal Revenue Service calls “qualified individuals” has been launched by the National Lighting Bureau. The Bureau is expanding its free referral service for those seeking a lighting system designer to also serve those businesses that need a “qualified individual” to certify that a lighting system meets Energy Policy Act efficiency targets and is therefore eligible for preferential tax treatment.

Rob Colgan, NECA’s executive director of marketing and current chair of the National Lighting Bureau, urges NECA members to register on the Bureau’s website. “While a small percentage of NECA members would consider themselves lighting system designers in the strictest sense, most of our contractors clearly meet the criteria that the IRS has established to certify lighting systems eligible for tax incentives available for commercial buildings under EPAct 2005,” he said. “It’s in this latter category that NECA members should list their services.”

John Bachner, the Bureau’s communications director, notes that the nation’s commercial building owners have a powerful new incentive to install better lighting, thanks to Section 1331 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which provides tax incentives to owners that install high-efficiency lighting this year or next.

Until the recent issuance of Internal Revenue Service Notice 2006-52, (an “interim guidance”), owners were unsure of who had to certify a new or upgraded lighting system’s efficiency in order for them to claim tax benefits. Now the answer is known: Owners need to rely on “a qualified individual”; i.e., someone whom the IRS defines as a licensed engineer or contractor who “has represented to the taxpayer that he or she has the requisite qualifications to provide the certification required” and/or to perform the inspection and testing that is also mandated.

“We want these ‘qualified individuals’ to register on our website,” Bachner said. “Owners are anxious to take the next step.”

To register as a “qualified individual” who can certify a light system’s efficiency (and as a lighting systems designer if you qualify as such), or to find either type of consultant, visit the National Lighting Bureau’s website at www.nlb.org.

The National Lighting Bureau was established in 1976 as a not-for-profit source of information about lighting. NECA has sponsored the Bureau since its inception. The Bureau is sponsored by professional societies, agencies of the federal government, trade associations, manufacturers, and utilities. More information is available at the Bureau's website or by contacting the Bureau's communications office by phone (301-587-9572) or e-mail (info@nlb.org).

THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY

The Chapter office will be closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 23, 2006 and Friday, November 24, 2006.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

The Chapter office will be closed for Christmas Monday, December 25, 2006.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY

The Chapter office will be closed for New Year's Day Monday, January 1, 2007.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

February 22-25, 2007	District Six Council Meeting/Phoenix, AZ
March 4-6, 2007	Chapter Manager's Institute/San Francisco, CA
March 11-14, 2007	District 10 Meeting/Kona, HI
March 22-24, 2007	IBEW Outside/Inside Construction Conference/Wash, DC
August 23-26, 2007	District Six Mini-Convention/Coeur d'Alene, ID
October 5-8, 2007	NECA Convention/San Francisco, CA
October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL
September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA

"Power Industry Seeks Help From Schools" Miami Herald (10/31/06) Cornwell, Lisa

The U.S. power industry, facing the possible retirement of about half of its employees within 10 years, is hoping colleges in the country can train the next generation of workers, offering grants and scholarships to develop appropriate curriculums that integrate math and environmental regulations with lessons on combustion engines and electrical circuits. Unions are not against the drive but want utilities to hire employees before they pay for their education, saying that students will not want to spend the money and time required for a degree unless they are guaranteed a job. "Every day we delay hiring people, another 40-year veteran is retiring and won't be there to pass along valuable experience," says Jim Hunter, director of the IBEW utility department.