



WATTS UP

December 01, 2011

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

December 3

December 6

December 13

December 25

December 31

January 1

Annual Meeting/Christmas Party

Anchorage JATC

Safety Committee

Christmas Day

New Year's Eve/Fire & Ice Celebration

New Year's Day

3% Repeal Ready for President's Signature!

Nearly seven years of non-stop advocacy by NECA's legislative affairs team, NECA Political Leadership Council (PLC) members and NECA-member contractors came to a triumphant conclusion Wednesday (November 16) when the House voted *422-to-0* to pass [HR 674 as amended by the Senate](#). With this unanimous vote, repeal of the 3% withholding tax on government payments to contractors and suppliers is virtually a done deal. All that remains is for [President Obama, who supports the legislation](#), to sign it into law. As [Lake Coulson](#), NECA Executive Director, Government Affairs, notes, *"None of this victory would have been possible without the membership making repeal a priority and through tireless efforts during constituent meetings, letter writing, and lobbying visits during the Legislative Conference where the issue had been a priority."* [Find out how repeal of the 3% withholding tax was achieved and what's next for NECA](#)

President Barack Obama signed into law the "VOW to Hire Heroes Act," or H.R. 674, legislation to repeal of the imposition of 3 percent withholding on payments made to vendors by government entities, while also extending incentives for employers hiring veterans. The President signing H.R. 674 ends a 6-year effort to repeal this withholding tax that would have been detrimental to NECA contractors.

ECPAC

In the two weeks surrounding the [NECA convention](#), [ECPAC raised an incredible \\$65,000](#), including more than **\$9,000** in contributions from **NECA's Milwaukee chapter**. Thus far in 2011, NECA has raised over **\$790,000** from over **1,100** ECPAC contributions. NECA has two new Political Leadership Council members: **Brian Elliott, Anderson & Howard Electric, Orange County Chapter** and **Larry Thompson, Thompson Electric, North Central Ohio Chapter**. Members renewing PLC membership during convention included **incoming District 1 Vice President David Pinter, Vice President-At-Large Ron Autrey, and Southern Contracting's Tim and**

Heidi McBride. Tim serves as District 9's Political Leadership Council Regional Chairman.

On The Job

Keeping Skills Current during Difficult Economic Times

"Just as the world continues to turn, technology continues to change at a very fast pace — with or without us. If you pause for too long, it will pass you by ..." as explained in the featured article in the current issue of NECA's ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR magazine. It presents a lengthy list of ideas and resources for keeping your company's skills up-to-date at little or no cost. [Check out "Learning the Ropes While Against the Ropes" at the ECmag.com website](#)

About NECA

NECA Recognizes 2012-2014 Commitments of Premier Partners

We are pleased to announce that [Graybar](#), [Milwaukee Electric Tool](#), [Westex](#), [Federated Insurance](#) and [Schneider Electric/Square D](#) have all made multi-year commitments through 2014 to the **Premier Partner of NECA** national sponsorship marketing program. Our Premier Partners are fully invested in the success of NECA-member contractors and are fully integrated year-round within the NECA community. [Peruse the latest news from NECA's website on the Premier Partner of NECA program](#)

Management Education & Training

Educational Materials from NECA 2011 San Diego Available

Did you know? ... You can [download the 2011 Pre-Convention Workshop handouts](#) for FREE. You can also [download the 2011 San Diego Management Seminar handouts](#) at no cost. MP3 audio recordings of the Management Seminars are available to NECA members for only \$149 for the full set of 32 sessions. [Order your set of MP3s from NECA 2011 San Diego Management Seminars](#)

Meetings & Events

Save The Date! NECA's Future Leaders Conference April 18-20

The next **NECA Future Leaders Conference** will be held **April 18-20** at the [Omni Mandalay](#) in **Dallas (Irving), Texas**. The [NECA Future Leaders Program](#) is open to any NECA contractor who wants to take a more active role in our association but is especially recommended for *young and emerging* ECs who will help our industry thrive in the future. [Review what happened at NECA's 2011 Future Leaders Conference](#)

Labor Relations

Save the Date! National Labor Relations Conference, March 6-8

The *2012 NECA Labor Relations Conference* will be held at the [Royal Sonesta Hotel](#) in New Orleans, *March 7-8*, with a half-day pre-conference workshop on "Inspiring Trust" (based on the work of [Stephen M. R. Covey](#)) the afternoon of March 6. Early registration discounts are available through January 31, additional discounts are also offered, and

your suggestions for the conference are welcomed. [Get ready for the 2012 NECA Labor Relations Conference](#)

December 30 Hotel Deadline for Employee Benefits Conference

If you're a NECA contractor or chapter executive involved as a trustee or administrator of local benefit trust funds, note that the *2012 IBEW-NECA Employee Benefits Conference* will be held January 26-27 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Naples, Florida. The deadline for hotel registration at the NECA rate is December 30, and we expect the hotel to fill quickly, so *don't delay!* [Get detailed information on, and register for, the 2012 IBEW-NECA Employee Benefits Conference](#)

Safety

New from OSHA: Animated Videos on Construction Hazards

OSHA has just released [12 educational videos](#), available in English and Spanish versions, about potential hazards in the construction industry. They feature easy to understand, short segments geared to employers and workers and provide a great (*FREE!*) way to augment your safety training resources. [Access OSHA's 12 new construction hazard videos through NECA's website](#)

eSafetyLine Toolbox Talks

Each month, the [special safety site available through NECA's website](#) addresses a specific topic and offers downloadable materials to enable you to provide related [weekly toolbox safety talks](#) * to employees. * Click on the red numeral for the week (shown on the [eSafety Line calendar page](#)) to download the current employee training material. Click on the toolbox icon for the archive of previously issued toolbox talks.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

September 30-October 3, 2012	NECA Convention/Las Vegas, NV
October 12-15, 2013	NECA Convention/Washington, DC