

January

WATTS UP

January 01, 2009

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

January 6

January 13

January 14

Anchorage JATC

Safety Committee

Board of Directors/Membership Meeting

Tool Box Talks

January 05, 2009

January 12, 2009

January 19, 2009

January 26, 2009

Aerial/Scissor Lifts

Arc Blast/Fault Hazards

Assured Grounding, GFCI Protection, Temp Power

Blood Borne Pathogens

Please join us on January 13th from 11-12PM EST for our first safety webinar of 2009, **OSHA Recordkeeping-Who, What, Why and How**, presented by Joe O'Connor, Intec Inc.
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/344444663>

Rex Ferry is New NECA President



After serving a one-year term as President-Elect of the National Electrical Contractors Assn. (NECA), Rex Ferry became the association's 31st president on Jan. 1, 2009.

Ferry is President/CEO of Valley Electrical Consolidated, Inc., in Girard, Oh.

NECA President Rex Ferry

Ferry assumes leadership of the association at a critical time for the electrical construction industry. The full force of the recent economic downturn is expected to hit the industry later this year. Economists also predict that there will be a steep increase in construction shortly afterwards, meaning that electrical contractors will need to continue recruiting and training workers even as the actual work slows down.

"The advantage that NECA members have in uncertain times is something I mention whenever I talk to people in construction," Ferry said. "NECA was founded on the idea that electrical contractors working together can make the industry better for everyone. Our companies may be competitors in business, but we're colleagues in NECA."

Ferry plans to spend much of his three-year term as NECA president addressing the workforce, legislative and market development issues that affect contractors' businesses. He recently chaired NECA's Energy Solutions Summit and sees great potential for NECA contractors in the surging green construction market.

"We're at a crossroads where the rising costs of energy and the emerging technologies to actually do something about those costs have met," Ferry said. "Green construction, energy-efficiency, and renewable and alternative energy all present opportunities and challenges for building owners, facility managers, developers, and the contractors who work for them." Ferry recently added a Green Energy Division to his company's services in order to help his customers become more energy efficient.

Ferry entered the electrical industry as an apprentice with IBEW Local 573 in Warren, Oh. Prior to purchasing Valley Electric Consolidated, Inc. (VEC), Ferry worked in all areas of the electrical

construction industry. Along the way, he took advantage of NECA's management education courses so when the opportunity came to go into business for himself, he felt confident that he would be successful. VEC was founded in 1976, and Ferry purchased the company in 1990. VEC is a complete electrical systems integrator for industrial and institutional facilities. Ferry added Evets Electric, an electrical contractor that specializes in hazardous and classified work in the natural gas industry to his holdings in 2006. He currently serves as President/CEO for VEC and Evets.

VEC has been a NECA member since 1976, and Ferry has been extremely active with NECA at the local and national levels. He has served as treasurer, vice president, president, and governor of the NECA Penn-Ohio Chapter. On the national level, he has served on NECA's Management Development Committee and is a member of the ELECTRI Council. Ferry has served on the JATC, Negotiations and Pension committees as well. From 2002-2006, he served as the District 2 Vice President on the NECA Executive Committee. He became NECA's first President Elect in 2007 following the Board's decision to update the organization's governance structure.

"I'm looking forward to the energy and professional experience Rex is going to bring as NECA President," said Milner Irvin, outgoing NECA President. "I have great trust in his leadership abilities. He's a great advocate for small businesses, and he fights for the rights of business owners to manage their companies competitively."

Ferry has been married to Mary, his high school sweetheart, for more than 30 years. They have two daughters and three grandchildren and enjoy traveling and golfing together.

NECA Reaches \$1.5 Million Goal for Political Action Committee

Bipartisan Approach Works to Support Members' Priorities on Capitol Hill

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) announced on Dec. 22 that its [Electrical Contractors Political Action Committee \(ECPAC\)](#) had achieved its ambitious goal of raising \$1.5 million for the 2007-2008 election cycle.

NECA has exceeded the \$1 million-plus threshold for ECPAC annually since 2004, making ECPAC the largest specialty contractor political action committee in existence. ECPAC is also ranked in the top 50 largest political action committees.

"I think we can look at this success, along with the tremendous mandate that voters delivered with the November elections, and know that it is time for some things to change," said John Grau, NECA CEO. "Specialty contractors like NECA members have been deeply affected by energy and tax policy issues," said Lake Coulson, NECA executive director, government affairs. "ECPAC is the best way they have to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill."

Coulson reiterated NECA's bipartisan commitment to work across the aisle with Congressional leaders who support NECA's legislative initiatives. Most recently, NECA urged Congress to pass emergency legislation protecting multiemployer pension plans from fall-out associated with the economic collapse.

"This legislative victory was made possible by NECA members who contribute to ECPAC and reach out to their elected officials on a regular basis," Coulson said. "NECA members get involved in issues early, and we stay involved, thanks to ECPAC and our Political Leadership Council."

NECA has already met with officials from the Obama administration transition team to discuss the implications of immigration reform on the construction industry and the problems inherent with current U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security regulations. Additional meetings are planned to discuss energy policy and opportunities for construction businesses within new economic stimulus legislation.

Legislation to Protect Multiemployer Pensions Passed by Congress

NECA's work to educate lawmakers on the need for quick action to prevent multiemployer pension plans from becoming another financial casualty of the economic crisis was rewarded with passage of H.R. 7327, the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 on Dec. 10.

A grassroots effort by NECA members and other business owners who participate in multiemployer pension plans to reach out to their Senators resulted in passage of the bill in the Senate by unanimous consent last night, Dec. 11.

"This legislation is a victory for more than 10 million workers who participate in multiemployer pension plans," said Lake Coulson, NECA executive director, government affairs. "We were confident that Congress was going to do the right thing to help protect what they've worked for years to save."

Coulson had urged NECA members and other employers who participate in multiemployer plans to contact their Senators in Washington to show their support for the legislation. The Senate's action today was made possible by the decision of Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.) to drop his opposition to the legislation. The bill addresses the concerns related to defined-benefit pension plans that have likely moved into the "endangered" or "critical" zone designation as a result of the recent stock market decline. The passed legislations contains the provisions NECA had formally requested Congress to address:

The funding improvement period for endangered plans was extended from 10 to 13 years, and the for rehabilitation periods for critical plans was extended from 15 to 18 years.

Plan trustees will be provided the option to elect, for one year, to freeze current (2008) zone status.

The legislation also included bonus depreciation and increases in expensing for small businesses, also advocated for by NECA.

"These are temporary protections to keep multiemployer pension plans safe while the economy recovers," Coulson said. " For those with defined benefit pension plans that have been adversely impacted by the recent stock market decline, the legislation allows for flexibility and additional time for meeting pension obligations as defined under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

"Permanent reforms to make technical corrections to the Pension Protection Act of 2006 are still necessary, but this legislation is definitely a move in the right direction," he said."

Coulson cautioned that the legislation faces an uncertain future as it now heads to the President's desk.

"Construction Industry Is Poised for a Rebound"

Wall Street Journal (11/25/08) P. A3 ; Karp, Jonathan ; Frangos, Alex

The construction industry is set to rebound under the incoming Obama administration's anticipated increases in spending for public works projects. Though no details have been provided about Obama's plan, stocks of engineering and construction firms have increased by an average of 16 percent. The construction sector has been experiencing one of the highest rates of unemployment, 10.8 percent in October, with some 52,000 jobs lost in the heavy and civil engineering sector.

"GE Suspends Development of High-efficiency Incandescent Bulb" Clean Break (11/26/08)

General Electric (GE) has reportedly abandoned the development of a next-generation high-efficiency incandescent light bulb, instead choosing to place greater focus on alternative energy-efficiency lighting technology like light-emitting diodes and organic light-emitting diodes. Last year, GE announced that it had made significant progress toward making an incandescent bulb that would be as efficient as compact fluorescents, but without the mercury and with improved light quality. Early versions would be available by 2010, projected GE, driven by mandates imposed around the globe, including in the United States, that will gradually phase out inefficient incandescents within a few years. But now, in a response to an email sent by a Clean Break writer, GE spokesman David Schuellerman wrote, "GE Consumers & Industrial and GE Global Research have suspended the development of the high-efficiency incandescent lamp (HEI) to place greater focus and investment on what we believe will be the ultimate in energy efficient lighting?light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs). ... LEDs and OLEDs used in general lighting are now poised to surpass the projected efficiency levels of HEI, along with other energy-efficient technologies like fluorescent, and have the additional benefits of long life and durability."

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