



WATTS UP

July 01, 2008

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

July 1

Anchorage JATC

July 4

Independence Day

July 8

Safety Committee

July 9

Board/Membership Meeting Cancelled

July 13

NECA OPEN Golf Tournament

Tool Box Talks

July 07, 2008

Injury Prevention, Hands/Injury Prevention, Neck

July 14, 2008

Ladder Safety

July 21, 2008

Lift Trucks

July 28, 2008

Lockout/Tagout Energy Sources and Procedures

NECANET.org is now live with our new features and a new look. Be sure to visit the website to see all the latest improvements that have been made to make your online NECA experience the best it can be.

The NECA Connection online search for the best electrical contractors in the industry has also been completely redesigned. In addition to the online search feature, which is regularly the Google #1 result for "Find an Electrical Contractor", we have added a lot of customer-friendly features that share information about the electrical contracting industry and help customers work with qualified electrical contractors in their homes and small businesses. Visit www.necaconnection.com to see the new and improved site.

NEW! NECA Weekly Legislative Update

NECA publishes a weekly account of our government affairs activities on Capitol Hill and beyond. Learn how NECA is working to advance the work of our contractors and the entire electrical construction industry through legislative and regulatory reform.

Tax-Extenders Blocked in the Senate, Again

NECA, in conjunction with NEMA, sent out letters to the U.S. Senate this week urging them to support HR 6049. This bill would extend renewable energy tax credits, as well as provide a temporary fix for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The vote Tuesday fell only eight votes short of reaching 60 votes, the minimum necessary to reach cloture and limit debate on the bill under consideration.

Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said the Senate will take the legislation up again at a later date, most likely after July 4. While the Senate continues to grapple with the legislation, the House already approved such tax extenders last month. NECA will continue to monitor and push for HR 6049 passage, as well as any movement on the legislation as debate continues on the Hill.

NECA Signs Industry Letter to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil

On June 17, NECA joined industry leaders in urging Congress to take steps to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The letter calls for the Congress to act in authorizing and encouraging domestic production at a time where gas prices have adversely affected businesses and consumers pocketbooks.

High Performance Building Caucus Convenes Hill Briefing

NECA staff attended a briefing with Congressional staff and industry leaders on a recent assessment for the Department of Energy and US Congress on High Performance Buildings under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Representatives' Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Russ Carnahan (D-MO), co-chairs of the High Performance Building Congressional Caucus, spoke of the need for certified contractors and their highly skilled workers to move energy conservation to America's buildings and infrastructure. The study showed that 40 percent of the total energy expenditure for the nation occurs from building stock, including 68 percent of total electricity consumption.

The report concluded that there is a growing need to increase energy efficiency standards and measures in our nation's buildings and that with the trend to undertake such efforts will come a larger need for businesses skilled and certified to perform the work.

Federal Contractors to Verify Employees Electronically

As a result of an immediately effective Presidential Executive Order, contractors who provide goods or services to the federal government will be required to use an electronic employment eligibility verification system designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The order applies to persons hired or persons assigned by the contractor to perform work within the United States. The Administration believes that contractors that adopt "rigorous confirmation policies" are less likely to face immigration enforcement actions and are generally more efficient. If you have any questions regarding how the Executive Order is to be applied, please contact: lc@necanet.org.

"Are You Ready for BIM?"

Civil Engineering (05/08) Vol. 78 , No. 5 , P. 44 ; Fortner, Brian

Building information modeling (BIM) is proving to be a critical tool for realizing successful construction projects in an era of shorter schedules, inflexible budgets, and complex designs, while also helping owners operate and maintain structures in the long term. BIM involves the creation of a sophisticated 3D computer model of a structure parametrically connected to a database that can deliver information about every aspect of the design. The paperless electronic transfer of data via BIM requires design firms and any other project participants to be resourceful in how they manage information technology, and BIM is becoming a requirement by more owners as they understand the process' advantages. The amount of information that must be incorporated into a model so that a project can legitimately claim to be employing BIM is a matter of debate, with the most advanced classification involving a merging of all documents, data, and software packages used during design, construction, operation, and management into one electronic source. The communication and cooperation between engineering firms and owners and other partners can be transformed by BIM, with its emphasis that engineers, architects, and contractors must understand each other's needs as early in the model generation process as possible. Properly deployed BIM can address discrepancies between the different disciplines while the project is being planned; guarantee the consistency of plans and design documents as the documents are passed to each discipline; and help all participants to better visualize a project and spot potential trouble points earlier--which also leads to cost savings. "Owners driving full collaboration through information sharing early in the project process are most likely to achieve the desired outcomes: fast, efficient, effective, and cost-bound buildings," concludes a 2004 report from the Construction Users Roundtable. The use of BIM and its visualization tools in bid packages have also helped bring in new business, according to half the respondents to a November 2007 survey from Stanford University's Center for Integrated Facility Engineering.

"Ann Arbor a Fitting Site for Electrical Industry Training"

Ann Arbor News (MI) (05/25/08) Stephens, Greg

The National Joint Apprenticeship Training committee (NJATC), a joint venture between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and National Electrical Contractors Association, will hold an annual trade show in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The National Training Institute will provide more than 2,000 training directors from across the United States and Canada with the latest training techniques for use in their classrooms at apprenticeship schools. The NJATC already trained over 300,000 apprentices, who are now journeymen, and the program has not cost taxpayers anything. The local Ann Arbor Electrical Apprenticeship School is training about 115 apprentices, who have an opportunity to garner full-time employment in the nearby area.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL
September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA