

# Alaska Chapter NECA

February 25, 2007

Alaska Chapter, NECA [www.alaskaneca.org](http://www.alaskaneca.org)

## Chapter Calendar

March 4-6	AEI-San Francisco
March 6	Anchorage JATC
March 11-14	Dist 10 Meeting-Kona
March 13	Safety Committee
March 14	Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
March 22-24	IBEW Outside/Inside Construction Conference-DC

## Tool Box Talks

March 05, 2007	Cranes & Hoists/Rigging & Slings
March 12, 2007	DMM (Digital Multimeter) Safety/Test Equipment
March 19, 2007	Emergency Response
March 26, 2007	Excavation

## Message from John Grau, NECA CEO

On Friday, Feb. 16, NECA got the news that one of its major lobbying efforts – repeal of a 3 percent withholding tax on all government contractors – had resulted in legislation introduced in the House. Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA-02), along with Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL-17) introduced H.R. 1023, a bipartisan bill that would repeal Section 511 of the "Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005" that enacted this provision. Herger and Meek have many bipartisan allies for this repeal, and we will push for as many face-to-face meetings on the Hill as possible.

This legislation is a great example of what can be accomplished when NECA members work through their association. I'd like to add a special thanks to Walter Parkes and NECA's Political Leadership Council. While we have been making the rounds on Capitol Hill, Walter personally spoke to Rep. Tom Reynolds (R-NY-26) about repealing the 3 percent withholding tax. Thanks to our combined efforts, Rep. Reynolds has agreed to be a co-sponsor of the bill. It is this kind of constituent action that gets the results that can make a real difference for electrical contractors.

## Capitol Current Online

Jim McGlynn of McWilliams Electric discusses the effectiveness of lobbying at home in the latest video posted on NECA's government affairs site. Watch the video now at <http://www.necanet.org/government/>

## 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
October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL

## **ELECTRI International Reviews 2007 Research Goals**

Council members of ELECTRI International recently met to kick off the Foundation's 2007 research agenda. The meeting allowed Foundation researchers to get critical feedback and direction from contractors at the beginning of their project. These directional meetings ensure that real-world issues are included in the researchers' plans.

### **KUDOS TO.....**

JOHN M. GRAU  
Chief Executive Officer  
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January 1, 2007

Mr. Tim Bitter  
Simplex Grinnell  
5430 Fairbanks St #7  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1263

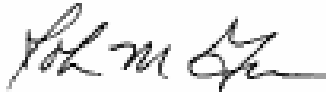
Dear Mr. Bitter:

I am pleased to present Simplex Grinnell with the enclosed plaque recognizing your 25 years as a NECA member. Your contributions have strengthened the association and enabled NECA to take a leading role in our industry. With your continued support, we will realize even greater achievements in the future.

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association, I offer our deepest thanks and gratitude. Please accept this plaque to commemorate this proud milestone. We hope you will display it proudly.

Thank you for 25 years of steadfast partnership with NECA and your commitment to improving the electrical construction industry.

Yours sincerely,



John M. Grau  
Chief Executive Officer

### **Are You and Your Customers Ready For Daylight Saving Time?**

Thanks to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005), this year we'll be springing forward earlier than ever (on March 11) and falling back later (Nov. 4). This is a major change since, for decades, daylight savings began the first Sunday in April and ended the last Sunday in October. An interesting article in the February issue of NECA's Electrical Contractor magazine points out what that means for electrical systems and electrical contractors.

Intelligent and integrated systems dominate most of today's facilities. Integrated systems can include time-controlled lighting; security and life safety; heating, ventilating and air conditioning; and other systems. The preprogrammed systems auto-adjust for daylight savings time. Even systems that do not adjust for time might be linked to others that do.

Since building owners and facility managers may not be aware of the EAct requirements, they may not deal with it until right before the new daylight savings time takes effect. Contractors are in a unique position to educate their customers about these issues and get them resolved as quickly as possible.

According to Scott Jordan, Square D/Schneider Electric, "It's a software change, meaning the system will have to be reprogrammed to account for the change in daylight savings parameter, which is something that hasn't changed in decades."

Also, if these changes are made after March 11, the system will "spring forward" an hour again on the original date because the device believes that date to be the correct daylight savings change date.

According to Jordan, "Manufacturers of systems have already begun attending to this. Contractors can download a software upgrade for the Square D Powerlink whole-building lighting control system and apply it to reprogram the system for the daylight savings change. We're guessing it is similar for other systems/manufacturers but, of course, can't speak for them." One could probably assume that by this point just about every manufacturer has a repair or recommended process ready to go.

Check in with current customers. Alert them to this issue, and follow up by going into their respective facilities and assessing their systems in order to determine which ones will be affected. It may be worthwhile to check in with manufacturers to determine the best course of action