



Alaska Chapter NECA

October 24, 2006

Alaska Chapter, NECA www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

October 29	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 7	Anchorage JATC
November 8	Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 14	Safety Committee
November 14-18	NJATC in Las Vegas
November 23	Thanksgiving
December 4	Western Region LMCC in Las Vegas
December 9	Annual Meeting/Christmas Party

Tool Box Talks

November 06, 2006	Tools, Hand and Power Tool Safety
November 13, 2006	Tools, Hydraulic and Pneumatic
November 20, 2006	Tools, Powder- Actuated
November 27, 2006	Transformer

THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY

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

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.

DID YOU MISS SOMETHING IN BOSTON?

Here's your chance to catch up! CDs providing audio and PowerPoint presentations from select educational sessions offered at NECA 2006 Boston are now available for purchase. Contact Alaska Chapter, NECA for details.

NECA CONVENTION 2006-BOSTON

The Alaska Chapter had 30 people attend this year!

During the Board of Governor's business meeting, a proposal was passed directing the National NECA's Executive Committee and its' Labor Relations Task Force to pursue a more aggressive strategy in negotiations with the national IBEW. An Abridged list of the points included in the strategy follows:

1. NECA shall expand the online resources available from the NECA website to include a database of all local labor agreements and a collection of local area "best practices" to include examples of flexible agreement language. (Note: The development of these resources is already in progress, and they are expected to be available online soon.)
2. NECA's leadership shall schedule a meeting as soon as possible with the IBEW leadership to initiate negotiations to achieve a complete restructuring of standard NECA-IBEW Agreement language.
3. NECA shall initiate negotiations with the IBEW to replace all current Category I and Category II Referral Procedure language with language developed by NECA's Labor Relations Task Force as published in the June 15, 2006, Report of NECA's Labor Relations Task Force. (Note: This report is contained in the "Reports of Staff Officers, Committees and Task Forces," which is included in the documentation of the Board of Governors Meeting available on www.necanet.org)
4. NECA shall initiate negotiations with the IBEW to create multiple classifications to facilitate the assignment of a crew with an effective mix of skills and competitive crew costs, including at least one additional classification – "Construction Installer."
5. NECA shall initiate negotiations with the IBEW to achieve unrestrained Non-Resident Employee (portability) language modeled on the portability language from the Voice, Data, Video National Agreement.
6. Current Category II Age Ratio Language should be deleted from Category II IBEW-NECA Standard Language because it is discriminatory and potentially illegal.
7. NECA shall propose revisions to the Category I Standard Shift Clause to allow the contractor to schedule multiple flexible shifts of at least one day's duration and implement more competitive shift rates.

OSHA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM IN CONSTRUCTION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration invites employers in the construction industry to apply for participation in OSHA's newest component of its premiere cooperative program-the VPP Mobile Workforce Demonstration for Construction. Eligible applicants include those who operate within the construction industry and have been in continuous business for at least three years.

The initiative was first announced in July by OSHA Administrator Ed Foulke at the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) Safety and Health Committee mid-year meeting in Denver. Foulke said the program "offers construction employers with mobile construction workforces and short term projects the same opportunity for recognition that fixed-site employers receive" and "recognizes those construction companies that should be held up as models of safety and health for the rest of the industry."

While the core of the new program continues on the principle of effective safety and health management systems, there are important differences as compared to site-based VPP participants. For example, applications are acceptable from a corporation, or from a division or business unit within that corporation. Additionally, companies can use an Applicant Participation Plan to note safety and health policies and procedures that differ from established VPP requirements. There is also a requirement for a prescreening/oversight process that verifies corporate policies and procedures are being effectively implemented at all worksites.

The Demonstration program involves a two-phased OSHA verification process: (1) a review of safety and health management system policies and procedures, plus management's commitment to safety and health and VPP; and (2) a visit to one or more worksites to determine the successful implementation of the corporate policies and procedures, and to verify employee involvement.

The new program is based on the agency's VPP experience as well as successes garnered through the construction-related Mobile Workforce and Short-Term Construction Star Demonstration Programs. Construction industry VPP participants in 2005 enjoyed total case incident rates (TCIR) and days away from work, restricted, or transfer (DART) rates more than 60 percent below their industry average.

Details on applying for the Demonstration program are available on OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs website; interested parties are also encouraged to contact OSHA's Regional VPP managers for assistance in the application process.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

January 11 & 12, 2007	IBEW-NECA Employee Benefits Conf/Phoenix, AZ
February 22-25, 2007	District Six Council Meeting/Phoenix, AZ
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