



WATTS UP

November 01, 2009

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

November 3

November 4

November 9

November 10

November 11

November 12

November 13

November 20

November 26

December 4

December 7-8

Anchorage JATC

Board of Directors/Membership Meeting

Fairbanks Substance Abuse Meeting

Safety Committee

Veteran's Day

Proving, Pricing & Defending Delay & Disruption Claims FBX

Proving, Pricing & Defending Delay & Disruption Claims ANC

NESC 2007 CEU

Thanksgiving Day

Annual Meeting/Christmas Party

Energy in Alaska Conference

Tool Box Talks

November 02, 2009

November 09, 2009

November 16, 2009

November 23, 2009

November 30, 2009

The Safety Attitude

Tools, Hand and Power Tool Safety

Tools, Hydraulic and Pneumatic

Tools, Powder-Actuated

Transformer

House Approves Unsatisfactory Health Care Bill; NECA's Search For A Cure Shifts to Senate

The [Affordable Health Care for America Act \(HR 3962\)](#) was approved in the U.S. House of Representatives late Saturday night by an extremely narrow vote of 220-to-215. NECA opposed this bill.

One of the most troublesome aspects of the House-passed measure is that it would exempt small businesses with a payroll of \$500,000 or less from the requirement to offer health care to employees thereby giving them an unfair competitive advantage over other businesses, such as union-employing electrical contractors who are contractually obligated to provide coverage. We also oppose any health care legislation that would impose new taxes to cover the cost of "reform" or that otherwise fails to

address our concerns.

We thank all NECA members and chapter offices that responded so quickly to our Action Alert on Friday and urge *ALL* of you to join us in our continuing efforts to gain more effective health care reform legislation. The Senate must now pass its own version of a health care bill. Once both chambers have passed a bill, a congressional conference committee will merge the two proposals into a consensus version that would require final approval from each chamber and President Obama's signature. ***Stay alert for further Action Alerts!*** [Examine NECA's prescription for effective health care reform and prepare to take action!](#)

Take Action

NECA Issues Action Alert on Comprehensive Health Care Legislation

In anticipation of the [Senate Finance Committee's health reform plan](#) being introduced this week, last week we issued the first in a series of [Action Alerts](#) that includes a draft letter-to-Congress for your use. It's based on [NECA's position on health care legislation](#) and is directed at a provision that would exempt some employers from providing coverage for their employees as NECA contractors must and another that would require workers to pay income tax on employer-provided health care benefits. [Help NECA head off harmful, anti-competitive provisions in health reform legislation](#)

Labor Relations

Video Recording of Labor Relations Special Session Posted Online

The Labor Relations Special Session at our Convention in Seattle focused on the need for, and benefits of, maintaining strong Labor-Management Cooperation Committees (LMCCs) at the local level, with presentations from four chapters and a helpful question-and-answer period at the end. This Special Session was recorded and, for your convenience, the recording was broken into segments in a series of eight short videos now available for viewing on NECA's website whenever you choose. [Go to the Labor Relations pages of NECA's website to view the Special Session videos](#)

Safety

Free Webinar on NFPA 70E Essentials November 17; Register Now!

John Luke, safety director at [ESCO Electric](#) in Marion, Iowa, and a proven expert on [NFPA 70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace](#), will share his expertise in a new NECA webinar on [NFPA 70E Essentials](#) next Tuesday, **November 17**. The presentation is designed to familiarize business owners, safety directors and decision-makers with the specific guidance provided in the latest (2009) edition of this increasingly important standard. **Pre-registration is required.**

Note: 0.2 CEU credit hours are available, upon request, to participants in this two-hour webinar.

[Reserve your place at the November 17 NFPA 70E Essentials webinar](#)

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

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