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Alaska Chapter News

Board of Directors and Membership Meetings for 2015

Our Annual Meeting and Holiday Party will be December 5, 2015. The Chapter will be hosting the party again this year at Embassy Suites in Anchorage. Please RSVP for both the Meeting and the Party if you will be attending. If you are interested in hotel accommodations, the Embassy Suites can be reached at 907-332-7000. The Chapter has secured a room block, so please be sure and ask for the Holiday rate for the NECA party.

Welcome to our newest Alaska Chapter Member

The Alaska Chapter would like to welcome our newest NECA member, Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc. Their contact information can be found on the Chapter's website at www.alaskaneca.org.

Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc. (RBC) is a full service provider of outside plant construction services to the communications industry, and electrical infrastructure installation services to the renewable energy industry and electric utilities.

While new to Alaska, RBC has been providing high quality construction services to its customers for over 46 years. Their primary focus during their first four decades of operation has been communication network installations. They have been involved in the deployment of fiber optic networks across the country for most of the nation's largest communications companies, and have installed over 3,800 miles of fiber optic cable. They also have considerable experience with rural independent (Telecommunications & Broadband) deployments, including over 628 miles of RUS funded projects.

Events

11/26/15
Thanksgiving Day

12/05/15
Annual Board of Directors / Membership Meeting & Holiday Party in Anchorage at Embassy Suites
[RSVP](#)

12/25/15
Christmas Day



Take Action

If you have not yet contributed to NECAPAC (formerly known as ECPAC) for 2015 there is still time! You can ask the Chapter for an NECAPAC contribution form at the upcoming meeting Saturday, December 5, 2015, or click on the link below to contribute online.

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Tell Congress to Authorize Composite Plan Design for Multiemployer Pension Plans

Tell your Member of Congress to authorize composite plan design for multiemployer pension plans!

The NECA-supported Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA) included several major reforms and brought about a joint effort between management and labor. Unfortunately, the law did not include the important recommendation of creating "composite" benefit plans which are a hybrid between a defined contribution and a defined benefit plan. Allowing plans to transition to composite plan designs is necessary to provide a secure retirement benefit for the electrical construction industry's workers and to protect the fiscal viability of employers that contribute to NECA multiemployer pension plans.

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Electrical Contractors Hail Passage of Long-Term Surface Transportation Bill

NECA commends House leaders for moving forward with passage of the STRR Act. Our members play a crucial role in the building and maintenance of our transportation system. Electrical contractors across the country light our nation's highways and streets; connect rail switches and catenaries; install complex electrical systems at airports; and much more.

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Help NECA By Completing the 2015 Government Affairs Issue Survey

In an effort to continuously assess and prioritize our legislative issues, we have compiled this survey for your input. With Congress facing multiple issues that must be addressed in a short timeframe, these responses will help us evaluate our end-of-year legislative goals and strategy. Please complete this survey at your earliest convenience.

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Publications & Resources

NECA Releases Manual of Labor Units (MLU) 2015-16 Edition

An estimate is only as good as the information it's based on, and the NECA Manual of Labor Units is the estimating resource of choice for electrical contractors since 1923. The MLU provides an experience-based reference for estimating the electrical construction labor required to install typical electrical and communications systems and is an invaluable resource to NECA members when estimating projects.

The MLU is available as a hardcopy book, CD, digital download, and as a companion subscription to TRA-SER in the NECA Store. Visit NECAStore.com to order.

NECA members receive a free copy of the MLU as a membership benefit. Letters were mailed to each company with details. If you have any questions please contact orderdesk@necanet.org.

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The 2015-16 Edition of the NECA Tool & Equipment Rental Schedule is Now Available

Construction tools and equipment are an essential part of an electrical contractor's business and can represent a significant investment, and NECA is here to help you determine the return you should get on that investment.

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NECA Revises Three Popular Equipment Installation Standards

Three power distribution series NEIS have recently completed the revision process and have been approved by ANSI. NECA 407-2015 Standard for Installing and Maintaining Panelboards, NECA 408-2015 Standard for Installing and Maintaining Busways, and NECA 409-2015 Standard for Installing and Maintaining Dry-Type Transformers have each been meticulously revised and are now available from the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) at NECAStore.com

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Safety

Constant Protection Required: PPE Care and Maintenance

As the dangers of arc flash have become better known, the market for arc-related (AR) clothing has grown. Unlike earlier offerings, many of today's garments can be comfortable to wear on a daily basis. However, ensuring this clothing is used as it should be and retains its protective properties requires both employer commitment and employee training with follow-ups to ensure that safety remains a priority for workers in the field.

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Updated OSHA Guide on Trenching, Excavation Features Info on Bidding for Jobs

OSHA has updated its guidance document on trenching and excavation activities to include a section on the employer bidding process.

When deciding whether to bid, employers should know as much as possible about a jobsite and consider the materials necessary to perform work at the site safely, the document recommends. OSHA advises employers to consider the following factors when bidding on a job:

- Traffic
- Weather
- Fall protection needs
- Overhead and underground utilities
- Soil classification

The document also details when employers must conduct site inspections, the protective equipment and means of egress employers must provide workers, and requirements regarding protective systems.

OSHA considers trenching and excavation activities among the most hazardous construction operations. Between 1992 and 2000, trenching and excavation hazards during construction projects killed 488 workers, according to NIOSH. In the first six years of the new millennium, 271 workers died in trenching or excavation cave-ins.

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eSafetyLine Toolbox Talks

Each month, the special safety site available through NECA's website addresses a specific topic and offers downloadable materials to enable you to provide related weekly toolbox safety talks to employees.

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