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Alaska Chapter News

Board of Directors/Membership Meetings

The November Board of Directors & Membership meeting will be held in Anchorage at the NECA office on November 9th.

The annual Board of Directors/Membership meeting & Holiday party will be held on December 3rd. The Holiday party will be at the Embassy Suites.



Meetings & Events

Electric Construction Industry Gathers for NECA 2016 Boston

NECA welcomed more than 6,800 members of the electrical construction industry and hundreds of exhibitors to NECA 2016 Boston for four days of education, networking and inspiration in October.

The trade show floor at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center featured more than 300 exhibitors. The opening reception was held at the Museum of Science and treated guests to interactive exhibits, inspiring encounters and delicious cuisine inspired by the regional elements of New England. Then we capped things off with an evening of music featuring a private concert by the Boston Pops Swing Orchestra at world-renowned Symphony Hall.

We value your feedback so be sure to complete the survey at www.necanet.org/2016Boston

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Events

11/09/16

Board of Directors / Membership Meeting in Anchorage
[RSVP](#)

11/11/16

Veteran's Day

11/24/16

Thanksgiving Day

12/03/16

Annual Board of Directors / Membership Meeting & Holiday Party in Anchorage

12/25/16

Christmas Day

NECA 2016 Boston Education Presentations and Certs Now Available!

NECA 2016 Boston Education Presentations

You can find PDFs of the convention education sessions in the NECA 2016 Boston app and on the NECA website or click on “Learn More” to download session presentations.

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Certificates

Certificates for the education sessions at NECA 2016 Boston will be emailed to all eligible participants within the next two weeks. The sessions shown on your certificate are those that you both scanned in and scanned out from and attended at least 90% of the session. If you have any questions, please email education@necanet.org.



Technology

Robots: Increase Productivity vs. Human Layoffs

Alison Carnwath, chairman of Land Securities, one of the largest construction firms in London with annual operations totaling the equivalent of \$10.66 billion, believes skyscrapers will soon be built by robots. The effect would be huge productivity gains as more work is done by fewer people. Not a goal, but a sobering result of robots on the construction site, would be massive layoffs due to fewer and fewer human staff hired for labor-intensive construction projects. Speaking recently at the annual convention of the Institute of Directors, Carnwath noted that the pace of technological change has not only taken her by surprise, but that “we’re moving into the era of the robots.”

We’ve already seen robotics in 3D printing construction of homes and buildings. Videos of SAM, the computerized brick mason, have also been widely circulated. You may have also seen the hydro-robots used in highway reconstruction. The point of all this is to highlight the fact that robotics are being used quite effectively on the construction site already. How long will it be before the high-tech human-operated tools will be combined with such robotics to deliver a super-construction worker robot able to do the work of a small human workforce on the jobsite?

When one of the big data firms announces a location and start date for construction of one of their super data centers, everyone in construction near that proposed job site gets excited because of the promised boom to the local economy – especially in the lives of construction workers. But, what happens when say Google announces that the desired construction will be built

solely by a workforce of robots? Guess what, that is the plan. It's coming. So far, humans are trained to operate and direct the work of all the above robots on the job site. The day will come when a robot lays cat5e cable, the kind we install under carpet flooring for instance, simultaneously perhaps with the 3D printer building the walls and support structure. This is an attempt to sound the alarm in preparation for the growing applications of robots on the construction job site. Definition of the human element in future construction is needed and preparation for new human skills training must be designed and implemented to avoid Carnwath's projection of "massive (human) layoffs" in future construction during the robot era. It's not just avoiding layoffs, but redefining the role and value of humans in the construction workforce now and for the future.

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Safety

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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