

Contact

Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Newsletter



BUILDING MAGIC IN THE AIR

IN SUPPORT OF **STARS**

GALA EVENT

Witness the magic, build the support and help STARS shine.

Please join **STARS** and the Construction Industry at an all-new gala event **BUILDING MAGIC IN THE AIR IN SUPPORT OF STARS**.

Saturday, October 29th, 2011 * Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, Alberta

The gala will feature a night full of magical entertainment with magicians, cirque-style performers and performances by the Edmonton Rhythmic Gymnastics Club and country music band Hey Romeo.

The Construction Industry is partnering with STARS because keeping workers safe is a priority. Having STARS in the sky makes a difference in the lives of critically-ill and injured patients who require emergency medical transport and care.

Tickets are \$150 per person and \$1,200 for a table of eight.

To purchase tickets visit:
foundation.stars.ca/buildingmagicintheairgala
or for more information contact Sabrina Ali
at 780.732.6031 or sali@stars.ca

www.stars.ca

**Silent & Live Auction items
APPRECIATED!!**

STARS



"The Voice of the Electrical Industry in the Province of Alberta"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again. As I sit and start this Contactor article listening to the sound of the geese flying over and the feel of the crisp cool air in the evenings, it is a reminder of the start of the many meetings of the Association after our summer break. We just completed our first Board of Directors meeting and from the reports submitted all Chapters and Committees are in full gear and many have not even taken much of a break over the summer. As I had made note in our electronic news letter, "The Spark", the Chapter Presidents and their executives have been working hard to put together some good agendas to present to you at the Chapter meetings. Again I would like to request your attendance at your Chapter meetings to support their hard work and efforts, as well as voice your concerns and/ or show your support. Our manufacturer and vendor representatives are also very diligent in showing their support and are at the meetings making themselves available for any questions or discussion you may want to have.

Our new web site access page has been launched. It has a familiar look and feel but there have been many improvements -- take the time and wander onto the site and tour around. If you have any comments don't hesitate to let the ECAA office know, as it has been just freshly launched, they are very interested in what you may have to say. **Please note that unfortunately each member will again have to request a log-in to get onto the membership section of the website.**

The ECAA has been an active partner with the STARS fundraising organization and have helped and supported the organizing of the construction industry's STARS Gala event scheduled for the October 29th, 2011. They are now seeking donations for the silent and live auctions, as well as registrations for participation. Please have a look at the donation and registration packages which can be found on the new web site.

Our out of country convention details have been finalized and emails and registration packages have been sent out. The documents can be accessed on our new web site as well. We will be heading to Cabo San Lucas, and staying at the Pueblo Bonito Rose' resort. Check out their web site as the resort looks great, our own ECAA executive director popped by and had a look when she was down there this spring and said the resort is beautiful. It is in walking distance to shopping and clubs of Cabo San Lucas, as well as has a swimmable beach right in front of the resort. I had heard that some folks have mentioned it is too expensive. We have made many requests to our membership as to what they would like to do and what they would like from a 50th anniversary, out of country convention. We listened as you told us you wanted Cabo San Lucas. You wanted a resort that had condo style accommodations and not hotel style. You wanted all inclusive meals and liquor included. Keep in mind that Cabo San Lucas is a very popular destination and tourism knows that, so it is not a cheap place to go. We negotiated some very good pricing and a couple, two people, can join us for as low as \$4,854.00 in total. That would be flights, accommodations in a junior suite, all the taxes, and transfer fees included. Did I mention all inclusive. This amount puts this trip as the second cheapest out of country trip, in the last 5 trips. Ok, Ok, enough said, as at last count, this week, 23 couples had signed up and taken advantage of the special block booking price. I am pretty sure it won't take long to go through those, so if you are thinking you might want to go hurry and let the ECAA office know before all the spots are spoken for.



Clem Gratton, PEC
President

Make sure and check out the ECAA web site (www.ecaa.ab.ca) and the event calendar to keep up with where and when a meeting or event is taking place, and I look forward to meeting you at one of them.

I was recently invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Gail Shea. My input was in regard to my experience in the business of electrical contracting.

My main focus was on the underground economy and how I personally feel more effort is needed in teaching the end users as opposed to spending a fortune trying to find the perpetrators -- spending more money on educating as opposed to policing.

Another point I made was if home owners could get the GST spent on renovation items back, then they would not feel compelled to use a non-tax paying contractor/supplier and hire tax paying professional contractors /suppliers.

Homeowners need to be educated in the huge risks they take by not dealing with professionals and the liabilities they put themselves into.

A very good round table discussion.



CHAPTER REPORTS

CALGARY

Scott White, *PEC*

A Calgary Chapter meeting was held on September 8th with approximately 45 members and guests in attendance. The bar was sponsored by Mr. Chris Charlton of Federated Insurance.

Our first guest speaker was Keith Carson of W. D. With & Associates Ltd. Credit and Collection Consultants. He offered some solutions to cash flow problems that are affecting electrical contractors in today's market.

Mr. Perry Schmaltz, *PEC*, presented the code committee report, which informed the chapter that there were some major changes coming to the new Canadian Electrical Code.

Our liaison with the Calgary Construction Association, Mr. Andy Carr, gave the chapter some insight into the Try a Trade program that is offered to high school students.

Myron Baldwin from Enmax asked the chapter members to inform Enmax a couple of months in advance when wiring infill houses in the downtown core because the existing transformers or overhead lines may have to be upgraded before their service will be energized.

The Calgary Chapter's goals were established for 2011/2012. The main goals of the chapter are: to improve and retain our membership, maintain a high quality of guest speakers, and enhance the structure and professionalism of our meetings.

The 50/50 draw was \$120.00 and went to Mr. Rob Perizzolo of AT & L Electric. Rob generously donated his prize to Perry Schmaltz, *PEC*, for Perry's participation in an upcoming walk for Parkinson's disease.

There will be a chapter meeting and information night on Thursday, November 10th at the Blackfoot Inn. As always, all members are encouraged to attend. In addition, we would appreciate our members to bring a guest who could benefit from becoming a member of the ECAA.

The Christmas social and silent auction will be held on Thursday, December 8th. Mrs. Dianne Rinaldi is coordinating the event and would greatly appreciate donations for the silent auction. If you have items to donate, please phone Dianne at (403) 240-4531 or e-mail her at muffin_911@hotmail.com.

The Calgary Chapter's next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13th. I look forward to seeing all members there.

EDMONTON

Scott Hutton

The Edmonton Chapter kicked things off last week with a very successful Carson Classic golf tournament at the Highlands golf course. The course was in excellent shape and all 164 golfers had a great day and still managed to get their round completed in about 5 ¼ hours. Thanks to the Provincial staff for all their organizing efforts. A special thanks to Russ Prosky for doing everything from parking cars to Master of Ceremonies. His unique evaluation of scorecards was used yet again to determine an appropriate winner.

Our Chapter meeting on September 20th was well attended and it appeared for a change that contractors out-numbered Associates. I hope we can continue this trend. An interesting presentation was put on by Terry Sawatzky of Schneider Electric on the issues facing contractors in regards to counterfeit electrical products. In short, if someone is offering you a remarkable deal on some electrical products, check their authenticity. To avoid these problems support our Associate members when buying product.

We were also joined by Dean Hlewka – Safety Codes Officer – City of Edmonton. He assured the group that they are trying to make the required corrections to the City of Edmonton Permitting system. He advised that their group would be making an effort to attend our meetings regularly, and hopefully this will be the first step in making the system work better. Issues that he advised us of is please fill in all information on the permit giving as much detail as possible. Try and avoid getting too technical as the clerical staff are not electricians. Use the on-line system as much as possible. We look forward to having Dean or a member of their team joining us!

As we move throughout the upcoming year I will be trying to maintain a quickly paced meeting with interesting presenters. I have approached the Associates to see if they want to take a meeting night and bring one of their suppliers to show us some new cutting edge technologies. We will be looking at the possibility of changing the location of our meetings and an email will be going out to members to seek their input and support a move to perhaps the Chateau Louis.

WINNERS OF 2011 BOB CARSON CLASSIC



Longest Drive (Ladies) - Cheryl Cormack-Manning

Longest Putt: Matt Gross

Longest Drive (Men's) - Jason Wright

Winning Team (L-R) - Scott Mullin, Don Blake, Dave Rudichuk, Jason Wright



NORTH EAST

Terry Barnett

The North East Chapter held a meeting on September 20th with eleven members and guests in attendance. Chad Oborowsky was introduced as the new manager of EECOL and the new Chapter Treasurer.

Agenda items included discussion on permits being supplied to an inactive semi-retired master electrician for 16 years (master's now renewed) and supervision of journeymen on his job site ; Continuation of NE Chapter Lakeland College scholarship (\$600 yearly scholarship awarded to 2nd year electrical apprentice); Smaller contractors receiving payment from large general contractors within 45 days; ensuring electrical inspectors provide code reference on deficiencies; and home inspections. Home inspectors are not qualified to pull of panel on electrical box when doing a home inspection. This item will be brought up at the Provincial Board meeting, as electrical trade is a compulsory trade in the Province of Alberta.

Pierre McDonald is no longer the Chief Electrical inspector for the Province of Alberta. We wish Pierre all the best in his new endeavours. Registrations are out for Convention 2012 in Cabo San Lucas. The increase to ECAA's SunLife benefit plan was also addressed.

ECA BC and ECA Ontario are co-hosting a CECA convention in June at Whistler, BC (registration information available on www.ecaa.ab.ca); Distractive Driving Legislation is now law – inform your employees and update your safety manual. Support construction industry's STARS Gala October 29th – looking for live and silent auction items.

Contact Terry Barnett or the Provincial for copies of forms available to ECAA members (Proposal for Electrical installation; Standard Agreement; Standard form of Guarantee for electrical workmanship and materials; Contract Change Proposal forms as well as pricing sheets, feeder schedule and job site journals.

Thank you to our members for attending this meeting, and to Mr. Gerry Foley for bringing a guest.



BOB CARLSON CLASSIC
2011

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION

The last ACSA Board Meeting was held June 17, 2011. Training numbers are up 15.5% at this time.

The ACSA is moving forward to purchase 2.3 acres of land in the TAIGA Nova Eco-Industrial Park in Fort McMurray. This will allow the ACSA to build a training center in Fort McMurray to meet the future needs of the Wood Buffalo area. They are also developing a marketing strategy to better identify the clients and business needs in the Fort McMurray area.

On July 1, 2011 the Minister announced the updated employer review process. This process will be used to review an employer's COR who has had a fatality or who continues to be in non compliance of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Code. You can find out more information of the employer review process at: <http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/14313.html>. Also it appears that the Government is moving ahead with ticketing workers and employers on site who are in non compliance of the code. A worker ticket could be \$200.00 and an employer ticket could be \$500.00.

ISNetworld has been working with Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI) to develop a process to download current COR holders. This would allow the COR to be recognized as a "verified" status within ISNetworld. The ACSA is working to ensure their course content is in compliance with RAVS within ISNetworld.

There was a presentation at the Board Meeting on an electronic application for the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code and implementation Guide. This allows workers and employers to access this information quickly and easily through their I Phones. At the present time there is no application for the Blackberry. The ACSA is looking at more information before proceeding.

The ACSA has been working hard to streamline the new CSTS 09 program. As a result, they have re-worked several questions or have removed some of the questions. They have made software changes to the program to help reduce delivery time. It appears

these changes have been successful and the program is now approximately 5 hours to complete. There is still the CSTS upgrade program free of charge on line through the ACSA website.

There has been a request from the Regional Safety Committees for the ACSA to provide Industrial Hygiene training. The ACSA is looking at providing a module Hygiene Program which would allow employers to select and choose the training related to their needs. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

Pragmatic Solutions did a presentation to the Board of a software system to re-engineer safety in Alberta. This program looks at systems and incidents within your organization to assist in identifying areas of risk. More information was required and as a result a sub committee was formed to meet with Pragmatic and to report back at the September meeting.

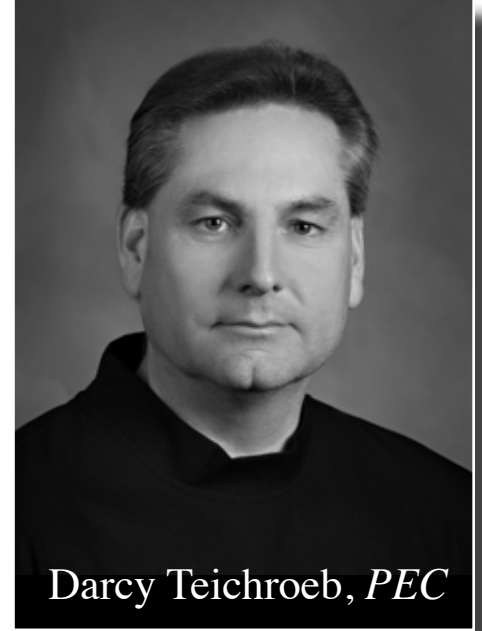


Dave Hagen

ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Electrical Technical Council held its first meeting after the summer break on Monday September 19, 2011. Some issues have been closed and others continue to be discussed with the goal of making informed conclusions/recommendations relative to Electrical Safety.

- Moisture repellent for high voltage cables can be used by Utilities. Corporations that may want to use the moisture repellent in cables may do so through the use of a variance. It was determined a Standata is not required.
- A Variance has been issued allowing for the use of unapproved electrical submersible pumps and associated equipment relative to oilfield down hole applications.
- Grant Thornton has presented a final report to the ETC for review and discussions. The ETC will analyze the report including round table Q&A to determine the next direction/action relative to the OBIEC concept. These Q&A sessions are tabled for the next ETC meeting.
- The Safety Codes Council is indicating the Masters Program administration is functioning status quo (similar to previous administration processes) with the team of Elise and Mike Gartner. The SCC is actively recruiting an Administrator for this program. I have asked for a detailed report of the intended administration process for circulation to our members. The SCC has agreed to produce this report for the next ETC meeting.
- The Oil and Gas Committee have completed their revised Oil and Gas code book to be submitted with the 2012 CEC code in January 2012. The revisions/updates to the code are currently being circulated to the ETC members for review pending approval.
- Discussions continue relative to Photovoltaic installations. The issue of structural compliance with the installations of the panels (ie. wind loads, snow loads) continues to be the concern of the SCC/ETC. The Building Technical Council has indicated they have no complaints relative to this issue. Some municipalities are enforcing the requirement for load assessment through a building permit whenever an electrical permit relative to a photovoltaic installation is applied for. As well the need for a safe means of disconnecting the voltage generating panels when firefighters are called to a building with photovoltaic power.
- The CE Code Advisory Committee is looking into a few concerns relative the following codes:
 - > 10-200 - objectionable current
 - > 46-108 - mixing of life safety and essential loads in a distribution panel
 - > 54-922 - grounding satellite dishes
 - > 8-400 - increasing automobile designated outlets to 20amp to allow for electric vehicle chargers
 - > 78-102 - marine shore power receptacles requiring GFCI protection



Darcy Teichroeb, *PEC*

The EIAA annual conference is to be held on February 3,4,2012 in Edmonton at the Chateau Louis Inn.

ASSOCIATE'S COMMITTEE



R.T.(Terry) Sawatzky, *C.E.T.*

The Associate Membership Committee had a general meeting of its members at the AGM in Kananaskis on Saturday May 28th. Discussion topics included: Membership value (both contractor and Associate), Benefits of membership, Associates participation, Networking within the industry and Partnering, Sales Channel to market, Promoting “Green” technologies to the Alberta Utilities, to name but a few.

Associate feedback remains as one of our foremost mandates for the committee. We also endeavor to expand our focus of Associate discussion topics to all chapters within the province – looking to improve total membership value.

The Industry as a whole is not as vibrant with activity as we may have hoped but the outlook for the future is brighter (??). The Oil sector in the northern areas of the province are starting to heat up which should bode well for all in the coming year. I have recently canvassed the associate membership for input – copy memo items below; answers forthcoming.

1) I have been asked by the ECAA executive to canvass our membership regarding Associates involvement in product presentations for our monthly Monday meetings. Which I am sure you all know are held every 3rd Monday of the month. If you need directions or would like to get on the upcoming event notice list, contact the ECAA at 780-451-2412.

Some of the topics of interest to ourselves and the contractors include anything associated with Green or Energy Management attached to it - load shedding, LED's, energy savings, power monitoring, building automation - residential and commercial, new technology products, etc..... Sample products are encouraged.

Member companies are preferred and the idea here is to keep the meetings informative and timely - a 20 minute presentation is more than suffice to drive the message and get us all out of there before the spouse & kids go to bed! Get back to me with your suggestions or volunteer list!

2) Who would you like to nominate for the Larry Wosnock Distinguished Service Award? (this is an Associates Award given out since 2003). We would like to honor a Recipient for 2011 - this award will be presented at the Capital Region Electric Club Christmas Dinner on December 2nd.

The recipient is an Associate member who is viewed by his or her peers, to:

- have contributed back to the industry
- is respected within the electrical community
- and is a member of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta

Please feel free to forward any nominees you may have to my attention - thanks.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: - Terry Sawatzky '03, Matt Gross '04, Ernie Mortemore '05, Bunny Kennedy '06, Russ Prosky '07, Larry Osland '08, Dwight Hunter '09, John Gullion '10

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Terry Sawatzky (Schneider Electric) PH: 780-447-6608 (Provincial Chairperson)
John Robinson (Guillevin) PH: 403-287-1680
Bob Clarke (Wesco) PH: 780-482-7746

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ASSOCIATES

singletouch

Tablet-deployed Singletouch Mobile gives contractors total control of their business, even on remote, disconnected jobsites. Tablet functionality won Singletouch the business of Energy Maintenance Services (EMS)

Phoenix, AZ and Calgary, AB – September 13, 2011 – Singletouch Corporation, whose comprehensive software toolset gives large industrial contractors total control of their business, today rolled out a tablet-based deployment of its Singletouch Mobile, a robust tool that extends the functionality of the company's platform into remote worksites that lack an available internet connection. The new capability, deployed on Hewlett-Packard's HP Slate tablet computer, was a key determining factor in the selection of Singletouch by Houston, TX-based Energy Maintenance Services (EMS), which recently deployed the platform.

“When we launched Singletouch Mobile back in 2008, it was really a labor-capture and materials-handling tool for managers and foremen working on remote jobsites,” said Marty Hilsenteger, CEO and director of sales, Singletouch. “Since then, Singletouch Mobile has evolved into a highly functional mobile extension of the Singletouch Office product. Using either the tablet or a handheld, industrial contractors can control inventory, labor, materials and equipment, and can generate purchase orders, work orders and more, right from their service vehicle or truck. Business processes can be completed easily and quickly on the jobsite regardless of whether there is cellular coverage or wireless connectivity.”

Singletouch Office, the company's core platform, is a Windows-based project database that gives industrial contractors total control over their businesses, whether they build or service and maintain large projects, or both. Unlike accounting software that so much of the construction industry still relies on to try to manage operations, Singletouch follows the flow of information from the field where the transactions occur into the main office and not the other way around. Data is captured and digitized in the field at the time and place where transactions actually occur, eliminating the clumsy and time-consuming manual processes, paperwork bottlenecks and transcription errors that cause billing delays, jeopardize customer satisfaction and threaten profitability. Information is easily integrated with third-party payroll, accounting and reporting software, while also feeding into custom reports that offer real-time visibility into project completion, budget versus actual, inventory, procurement, labor, equipment and materials management.

Singletouch Mobile is an extension of the core platform and operates in two modes, construction and maintenance. Construction mode gives those with connectivity access to the full platform. Managers or foremen operating on disconnected jobsites can use maintenance mode to finish business processes on site, with full visibility into their projects.

Contractors can choose to deploy Singletouch Mobile on ruggedized Motorola MC9090 handhelds or on the HP Slate tablet. Using the platform, contractors, even in remote and disconnected jobsites, can complete business processes on the mobile device. Using the customer interface, contractors can offer complete transparency to their customers, showing accurate, real-time labor information, materials and other costs, and have those customers sign off using electronic signature capture.

With Singletouch Mobile, service personnel can generate purchase and work orders, with signatures, on the fly. They can manage their truck inventories and their own time entry as they progress through their work day. Once service personnel have cellular coverage or internet connectivity, all of the information collected throughout the day synchronizes with the main Singletouch Office database.

Field personnel will enjoy the independence that Singletouch Mobile provides. They have the tools they need to manage their trucks and finish their days, without having to struggle to respond to the questions from accounting staff as to what happened several days ago.

The features and benefits of Singletouch Mobile are winning Singletouch clients. After a competitive vendor selection process, Energy Maintenance Services (EMS) selected Singletouch as its operational risk-management platform. Consultant Graciela Martinez of Silver Fox Advisors was responsible for software selection and overseeing the deployment of the platform. Martinez has over 20 years of experience helping organizations, including Fortune 50 companies, develop and execute their IT strategies.

“The goal was to find a tool that would streamline EMS's business processes. Because EMS operates remote jobsites, predominantly pipeline operations, it was critical that the system selected had a disconnected capability such as Singletouch Mobile,” said Martinez. “When I first encountered Singletouch in my research, the name itself said what I was looking for; my client had a requirement to find a system that captured the transaction where and when it happened. The field ticket could be entered into Singletouch and required no further action. This eliminated the need for disparate manual processes and spreadsheets.

“Singletouch was considered along with several other platforms by decision makers at EMS and because Singletouch recognized both the needs of the workers in the field and the requirements of the executive team, they won the business,” Martinez said.

ABOUT SINGLETOUCH

Singletouch develops and markets control centers for industrial contractors. Contractors that build, or service and maintain, large construction projects use Singletouch to control the variables that determine productivity and profitability. Unlike accounting software that the construction industry has long been using to attempt to control operational issues, Singletouch recognizes that data flows from the field into the office. By electronically capturing data where and when transactions take place, business processes are streamlined, errors are reduced, efficiency is improved and time-consuming manual reporting processes are eliminated. Singletouch products provide control over project variables, speeding reporting and invoicing. In an instant, whether working offline at a remote jobsite or online at the central office, Singletouch provides industrial contractors working in energy, chemicals, telecom, utilities, environmental or forestry sectors complete visibility into project completion against budget. For more information, please visit www.singletouch.com



Brian Halina,
Director Labour Relations

LABOUR

Unionized Electrical contractors are settling into business with the new Collective Bargaining Agreement and it seems that there are very few problems with the adoption of the terms of that Agreement.

Most Union Contractors are reporting that the work picture is improving, and in fact, ECAA and the Union are now considering strategies to deal with labour shortages in 2012.

The ECAA Labour Committee met on August 16th to address some current issues. Some important items were on the agenda of that meeting:

D) LOCAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – Jim Bendfeld will represent ECAA with the task of working with the Union to renew and resign the Local Maintenance Agreement. Jim is looking for individuals

who are active in the Heavy Industrial Maintenance field and who can sit on a sub-committee in meetings with the Union to accomplish this task. Contact Jim by e-mail at jimbendfeld@shaw.ca or by telephone at 780-633-7030.

II) SPECIAL PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR THE ATCO ELECTRIC SUITE OF TRANSMISSION PROJECTS - The Labour Chairman has signed a Special Project Agreement with Bechtel, along with the Union, which will allow Unionized Electrical Contractors to compete for the work on the “ATCO Electric Suite of Transmission Projects”. The project qualifies as a “Special Project” under the terms of the newly signed Collective Agreement.

THE FIRST JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE UNION SINCE THE SUMMER RECESS IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 26TH. Any concerns that contractors have in their dealings with the Union should be forwarded to Pat Barnes at pbarnes.ecaa@telus.net or by telephone at 780-450-1777 so that they can be addressed at JCC.

The Audiometric Testing Program for employees of Unionized Electrical Contractors has been operating since November of 2009. In that time the service provider, SureHire Inc, has performed 2,951 audiometric tests on Union Electricians working for ECAA contractors. This benefit is available to employees of all **Electrical Contractors who contribute to the “Industry Fund”** as outlined in Appendix “C” of the Collective Agreement. Participation in the program will insure that your company is compliant with Occupational Health and Safety legislation in Alberta. The service provider for the program can be contacted at SureHire Inc (Telephone 1-866-944-4473) or (e-mail to audio@surehire.ca). Commercial, Institutional and Light Industrial contractors should contact SureHire to determine the best method of providing audiometric testing their workers.

Training Centres continue to be very busy with training for Union contractor’s employees. There is a concerted effort being made to deliver as many courses as possible at the Calgary Training Centre and Union members in Calgary are filling the training seats. Where it is not possible to deliver a program in Calgary, travel allowance and accommodation is being provided so that members can attend training in Edmonton.

We have heard that after years of dedication, hard work and making his visions a reality, Ray Matthews is retiring from his position as Director of Training for the Electrical Industry Training Center of Alberta. We wish Ray all the best in retirement!

MEMBERSHIP



Hopefully everyone had a great summer. Got a head start and made some calls to prospective members. We were able to sign up 5 Contractor members and 1 Associate member. Another successful Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament was held at the Highlands Golf Course on September 14th. Thank you to all the Associate and contractors members who donated golf prizes.

Looking forward to attending all the upcoming Chapter meetings scheduled for the fall. Recently attended the Edmonton Chapter meeting at the Derrick Golf & Winter Club on September 19th and North East Chapter meeting on September 20th in Lloydminster. Central Chapter meeting is scheduled in Red Deer on October 19th and North West Chapter in Grande Prairie on October 20th that I will be attending as well. Thank you again to all of the bar sponsors who help out at the meetings.

Still making calls to potential new members. Would like to thank Sheri, Christine, Dorothy and Brittany for all their hard work this past year.

ECAA SEEKING FIRE TECHNICAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

ECAA has received notification from Safety Codes Council that the term of Keven Lefebvre, our current Fire Technical Council representative, expires January 31st, 2012.

Safety Codes Council is requesting that ECAA provide the names of two proposed nominees for consideration to fill the position, including brief profile with experience and background before the end of November 2011. A profile of each Council nominee is necessary to ensure that only those with appropriate qualifications are appointed, as is required by the Safety Codes Act. Essentially those considered for nominations should be actively engaged in the industry they are representing.

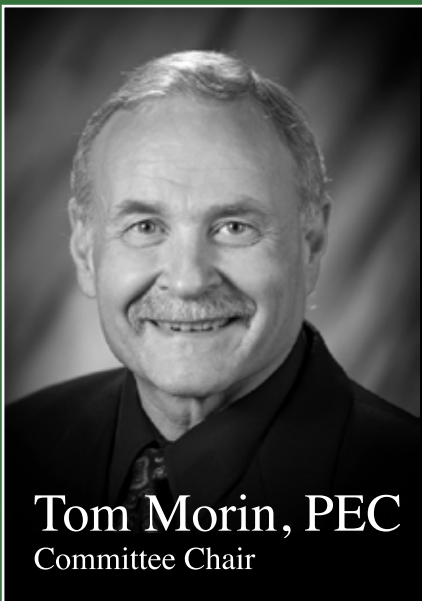
A copy of the position description is posted on the ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca). Interested parties are please asked to contact Sheri at smclean@ecaa.ab.ca or Keven at milleniumelectric@hotmail.com **prior to October 26th, 2011.**

PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR REPORT

The fall started off with two courses being offered by ECAA – Design Build on September 10th and 11th, followed by Safety Principles on September 22nd and 23rd. Mr. Darin Hucul, PEC is unable to teach the Design Build course due to work commitments. The new instructor will be Mr. Larry Cantello. Thank you Darin for designing this course and Larry for jumping in to assist. Twenty-two attendees in the Safety Principles course were glad to see Mr. Clarke Gould back teaching following an unexpected health setback earlier this year.

We are still looking for volunteers to sit on various PEC committees. The three Regulatory Committees consist of: the Registration committee which reviews PEC applications prior to being sent to the Board for approval; the Practice Review committee which advises the Board in respect of assessment and development of educational standards and experience requirements required for registration as a member; evaluates desirable standards of competence in the practice of electrical contracting or the electrical industry generally; and the Discipline committee which reviews complaints submitted in writing. The non-regulatory committees are Education and the Marketing and Advertising committees. Professional Electrical Contractors (PEC's), Certified master Electricians (CME's) and Registered Master Electricians (RME's) are eligible to sit on these committees.

The PEC and Communication committees teamed up to promote the Association and the PEC designation in recent radio and magazine ads. PEC's will be asked if they heard the ads and/or garnered additional business through them.



Tom Morin, PEC
Committee Chair

We are currently investigating the feasibility of making some of the PEC courses available on-line. Once budgets have come back PEC members will be asked for their input prior to proceeding.

Since 1993 PEC courses have been eligible as a tuition tax credit under Sections 118.5 and 118.6 of the Canadian Income Tax Act. ECAA is now being asked to reapply for this eligibility.

Upcoming courses are Accounting Principles, October 21st and 22nd at the Blackfoot Inn in Calgary and Project Management, October 28th & 29th at the Carriage House Inn in Calgary. Registrations are available on-line at www.ecaa.ab.ca or contact bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca.

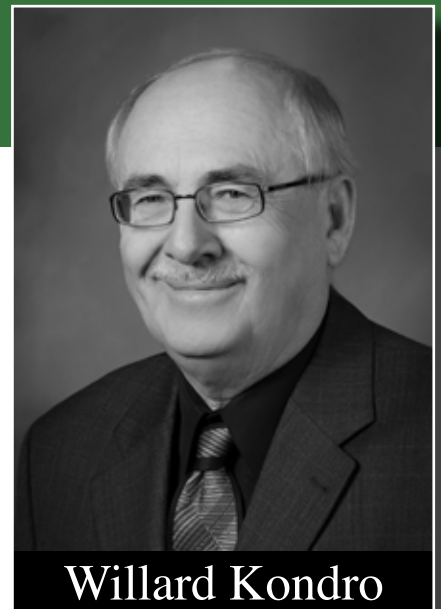
INSURANCE

Our Sun Life plan is very well used and remains a substantial benefit for those members who chose to participate. As a result, another increase to the rates was faced at our renewal in August. As originally promised, those groups whose experience supported it were taken to market. We had success in implementing better rates based on each company's own usage, but within blocks reserved for ECAA members. This enabled most of the larger members to experience significant savings with other carriers. They will continue to be evaluated based on their own experience. The existing plan continues to remain pooled. With the larger companies outside the original plan, volumes have decreased which will have a direct impact on the future of the pooled plan.

As we have stated all along, it is imperative to get support of the larger ECAA member companies to join the ECAA block of companies. Larger companies will not be subsidizing the smaller companies, as they will continue to enjoy rates based on their own experience. However, by quoting in a larger block of business, we will be able to get better rates for all companies.

The plan was started to benefit individual members (especially those with under 5 lives), but also to generate new members for the ECAA. It is for the good of the Association that we all try to keep it viable.

(Sun Life is one of the insurance providers endorsed by the ECAA)



CONSTRUCTION OWNERS 2012 BEST PRACTICES AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

This year on the theme of leadership in Workforce Development. The nomination process and forms have been simplified; **the deadline is 12 noon on Wednesday, November 30th.**

These awards recognize companies and organizations who have provided outstanding leadership to implement, improve and share industry best practices, which have led to measurable advances in project, company or industry performance. The awards are presented annually at the COAA Best Practices Conference in May, to celebrate industry leaders and to provide inspiring role models for COAA members and the industry at large.

If you know of a firm or an individual who deserves such recognition by their peers, download the nomination forms on the awards page on the COAA website: www.coaa.ab.ca

COAA Associate members, COAA Supporting members as well as non-member companies may be nominated:

- Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms
- Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) firms
- Extraordinary individuals within the above companies/ organizations
- Other industry associations
- General contractors
- Sub-contractors and specialty contractors
- Labour organizations/ providers

Any best practice, whether developed by COAA or by others, can form the basis of an award. As usual, COAA Principal members are not eligible for these awards.

KEVEN'S CORNER



Keven Lefebvre, *PEC*

I have fielded many calls and have had heated debates concerning standards, standards development, and why a certain standard is in effect or why a certain standard is not enforced. I will touch on some of the issues today. Remember, if this article stirs up debate within your organization, that is exactly what is intended. This is not an easy subject to write about as so much of the code world is about interpretation and who's interpretation is trump.

First, there are many organizations referenced in the Alberta codes which develop the standards of practice we use in applying the codes. The Standards Council of Canada is responsible for accreditation of these various organizations or "certification bodies" which develop the standards. We are most familiar with CSA, ULC & NFPA, among many others.

An inspection body, as accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, may also approve products or processes through a field evaluation process.

Standards are developed to explain exactly how a process is to be done, or detail how a product shall be built. Destructive and non-destructive testing of products, exhaustive scrutiny of an application of a skill set, including stakeholder input, all go together when a standard is developed. A few years ago, I was very close to having a heat alarm required in every new attached residential garage in Alberta. This requirement was set on hold as it was found that no standard existed for the testing of heat alarms in an unheated building. Even though, some organizations do install heat alarms, they meet no test standard and therefore were thought to possibly be a cause of false alarms or poor reliability. A standard is now being developed to meet this need, and once the new standard is put in a code, likely we will also see the requirement for a heat alarm in a residential attached garage finally become code as well.

Once a standard has been developed, the specific version of the standard is referenced in the code. For example, sprinkler systems need to be maintained annually to NFPA 25 standard. Another example, is that 5524-06 is referenced in the fire code although 5524-09 with 2010 amendments is available. The apparent lag of adoption of the latest version of a standard is not in error. Specific code release dates do not match up with release dates of standards, and therefore, if the codes were just to read "the latest edition of xyz standard shall be in effect", any error or Alberta specific conflict with the newest version of the standard would automatically become code. This is never a good thing and enough examples already exist of codes being released without proper beta testing and are now in force!

As we work towards the release of the next version of the Building and Fire Codes (2012)! We are closely watching to see if one code or standard is being negatively affected by another.

Most of the newest standards available will be referenced in the newer code edition. There are two other ways which a newer standard may be utilized: special request to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) explaining why you want to use a newer standard, or, in an extra-ordinary situation, the code may be amended ahead of its normal release date. Other than the HiRF requirements, this is one avenue which is seldom or never used.



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