



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

October 7, 2011 Issue 9

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

**Oct. 13th
Calgary Chapter Meeting
(Blackfoot Inn)**

**Oct. 17th
Edmonton Chapter Meeting
(Derrick Golf & Winter Club)**

**Oct. 19th
Central Chapter Meeting
(Red Deer Lodge)**

**Oct. 20th
North West Chapter Meeting
(Stonebridge Hotel, Grande Prairie)**

**Oct. 21st & 22nd
Accounting Principles,
Calgary
(The Blackfoot Inn)**

OCTOBER/2011

Welcome to ECAA's E-Newsletter, The Spark!

This e-newsletter was created to keep members informed on the Association's activities and upcoming events in a timely manner.

President's Message

Here we are at the beginning of October and our industry is back in full swing. Everyone is back from their summer holidays; a few of us have hung up the clubs for the year and are focusing on what our business will be bringing us in the near future. I have talked to quite a few people about how their business will be going in the next little while, and there is definitely a lot of skepticism. It seems most people think it will be getting busier over the next little while, and some even still believe that another labour shortage boom is on the way. Most government agencies are preparing for this by adopting new policies to make it easier for all Canadians to be able to come here and work, as well as adopting guidelines and making it simpler to bring in foreign workers. The last time this happened it was quite a mess as none of the guidelines were in place, or not up to speed to handle the large wave of workers from all over the world with different types of credentials. No one knew how to deal with the varying degrees of competencies. Let's hope we have learned some lessons from that and are more prepared if indeed this does come around again.



**Clem
Gratton,
PEC**

As you can tell from this e-newsletter ECAA is in full swing. I will be trying to make it out to as many of the Chapter meetings as I can fit into my schedule, as I am very interested in meeting many of my colleagues outside of my own Chapter area. Please make an effort to support your Chapter executive as they work very hard to host successful meetings.

The new website has been launched, with a similar look and similar navigation around the site. Focus has been on the many improvements behind the scene aspect. On-going tweaking continues so if you do find a glitch please do not hesitate to let the girls at the ECAA office know.

The ECAA 50th anniversary out-of country convention is finalized and registration forms are coming in. To date there are 24 couples registered. A pre-negotiated block for flights and accommodations has been secured so take advantage of them and book early. Check out the Pueblo Bonito resort - it is a beauty. The link for registration information is on the ECAA website

**Oct. 27th
Board of Directors
Meetings
Oct. 28th & Oct. 29th
Project Management,
Calgary
(Carriage House Inn)
Oct. 29th
STARS Gala
(Crowne Plaza Chateau
Lacombe)
Nov. 10th
Calgary Chapter Industry
Night
(The Blackfoot Inn)
Dec. 1st
ECAA Christmas Open
House
(ECAA Provincial Office)
Dec. 8th
Calgary Chapter Christmas
Social
(The Blackfoot Inn)
Jan. 21st
Edmonton Chapter
President's Ball
(Crowne Plaza Chateau
Lacombe)
March 2-12th
ECAA's 50th Anniversary
Convention
(Cabo San Lucas)**

Tradeshows

October 19th
Fort Saskatchewan Career
Fair

Nov. 18th & 19th
2011 Canada

Career Week Fair
(Edmonton Expo Centre)

<http://www.canadacareerfairedmonton.com/>

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

(www.ecaa.ab.ca). A one-page ad is also in this issue of the Contactor (watch for the Contactor in your mail next week).

I look forward to visiting with you at your local chapter meetings soon. Cheers!

Industry News

Congratulations to the Town of Bonnyville, Portage College, and the Bonnyville & District Centennial Centre on the official opening of the Bonnyville **Multi Trades Training Centre**, on Friday, October 14th.

Wishing our electrical installation competitor, **Tim Twa** who works for Allied Projects in Calgary, best of luck at the **World Skills competitions** this weekend in London, England. Congratulations on this achievement, Tim.

Ray Matthews is retiring as the Provincial Training Director of the Electrical Industry Training Centres at the end of October. Ray has served in the position since February, 2003 and in that time he has made tremendous contributions to the training of unionized electricians. Todd Chronik will be promoted to the position of Provincial Training Director as Ray retires. We wish Ray all the best in his retirement.

COAA 2012 Best Practices Awards Nominations Now Open, this year on the theme of leadership in Workforce Development. Nomination process and forms available on the awards page on the COAA website (www.coaa.ab.ca). 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 had led to measurable advances in project, company or industry performance. 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.

"Workplace Wellness 24/7" - Alberta Congress Board Annual Workplace Conference, Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, October 20th - 23rd. Find out how you can: Improve the productivity of your organization by adopting best practices that result in a stronger and healthier workforce; Learn how to foster Workplace Wellness and implement strategies that are effective and beneficial to everyone; Improve our workplace in a way that lowers costs, raises energy levels and improves focus, while better meeting the needs of your own stakeholders and customer. Email acb@congressboard.ab.ca for more information.

Last chance to participate in **"Building Magic in the Air"** construction and STARS gala, October 29th at the Chateau Crowne Plaza. Detailed information on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca) or contact (Sali@stars.ca). Silent and live auction items needed!

Canadian Electrical Contractors Association 2012 National Industry Conference and product exposition will be held June 13 - 17 at the Four Seasons Resort in Whistler, British Columbia. This event is being hosted by ECA Ontario and ECA BC. Sponsorship opportunities and registration package available on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca).

Social Networking



Find us on Facebook 

Board of Directors Update

Board of Directors met September 21st, 2011 (reports in this issue of the Contactor).

Board approved four new members. We welcome Armored Controls Ltd., Sherwood Park; EPL Energy Ltd., Ontario; Midland Electric, Lethbridge; and Rapid Mark, St. Albert.

ECAA Seeking Fire Technical Council Representative. ECAA has received notification from Safety Codes Council (SCC) that the term of Keven Lefebvre expires January 31st, 2012. SCC is requesting that ECAA provide the names of two proposed nominees for consideration to fill the position. See detailed ad in the Contactor. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca for further information.

Electrical Technical Council - Lot of discussion at the Edmonton Chapter and Board meeting on grounding satellite dishes (CEC038 Rule 54-922). Satellite dishes must be grounded not bonded, and a #6awg copper conductor is required. The coax sheath is not suitable for grounding of the dish. The grounding clip attached to a meter base is acceptable to be used for grounding purposes. Diagram posted under *News & Hot Topics* on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca).

Registration now open for ECAA's 50th anniversary convention, beautiful Cabo San Lucas March 2nd - 12th or March 5th - 12th. Updated registration form posted on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca) or contact Sheri at (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) for further information. Detailed information included in Contactor. Remember *ECAA rate is an all-inclusive one*.

ECAA's 50th anniversary to meet October 12th. Members wanting to participate on this committee, please contact Clem Gratton at (clem@cmnelectrical.com) or Sheri at smclean@ecaa.ab.ca. Communications Chair, Eric Fadden needs assistance with articles for 50th anniversary feature in Alberta Construction magazine. Contact Eric Fadden (eric.fadden@electri-can.com) or through the ECAA office at smclean@ecaa.ab.ca.

Volunteers Still Required to man ECAA booth at Canada Career Week Fair, November 18th - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; November 19th - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please contact Brittany (bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) if able to help us out. Thank you.

Local Chapter Activity

Calgary - Industry Information evening planned for Thursday, November 10th. Members encouraged to invite non-members and potential PEC students. Contact bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca if you would like an invitation sent to someone on your behalf. Contact Scott White if you would like a specific item addressed on the agenda.

The City of Calgary - Development & Building Approvals is changing how it manages and handles your financial information in order to increase security. To ensure the safety and protection of your financial information, fax applications for trade permits (electrical, HVAC, plumbing & gas) or the use of draw down accounts as payment options as of November 2011 will NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED. In its place, this service is moving online and can be accessed at calgary.ca/vista. If you do not currently have an online account with The City of Calgary, visit calgary.ca/vista to create one so you

do not experience interruptions to your work once this switch is made.

Edmonton -survey sent to Edmonton members regarding possible re-location of Chapter meetings. **Please respond to the survey no later than October 15th** so a decision can be made at the October 17th Chapter meeting. Thank you to the contractors and associates who participated and donated prizes ensuring continued success of the Bob Carson golf tournament. **(Aecon Lockerbie Inc., Can Source Lifts, Canem Systems Ltd., Chemco Electrical Contractores, Chubb Edwards, CMN Electrical Systems, Eaton, Edmonton Electric, Eecol, EQ Services, Federated Insurance, GETSCO, High Line Electrical Constructors, Prins Electric, Schneider Electric, Simplex Grinnell, Sun Life Financial, The Inspections Group, Thomas & Betts, Total Integration)** Congratulations to winning team of Jason Wright, Don Blake, Dave Rudichuk and Scott Mullin.

Central - meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th. Provincial President Clem Gratton will be in attendance. Members encouraged to attend and may contact Chapter President Darcy Teichroeb (dteichroeb@barwpetroleum.com) with any items they would like on the meeting agenda or suggestions for possible guest speaker.

North West - meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20th, with Provincial President Clem Gratton in attendance. Members are asked to contact Chapter President Tim Tarita (780-532-4000) with agenda items they would like discussed at the meeting or a possible guest speaker.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

ECAA being asked to reapply for Human Resources Skills Development Canada certification to assess eligibility for certification under the Income Tax Act for PEC courses.

New members and new master electricians encouraged to take their complimentary Professional Electrical Contractor course. Contact the ECAA office if you did not receive a certificate.

Continuing Education Courses - 2012 courses listed on the ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca) in the PEC section under *forms*. PEC committee looking into feasibility of offering some of the PEC courses on-line. Share your opinion with us (tommorin@shaw.ca; smclean@ecaa.ab.ca).

Survey Sent to PEC's and PEC student members - we need your input - please take the time to respond.

Continuing Education

Upcoming courses offered by ECAA.

October 21 & 22, 2011 - Accounting Principles (Blackfoot Inn, Calgary). This course, **taught by Mr. Ken Kouri**, will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

October 28 & 29, 2011 - Project Management (Carriage House Inn, Calgary).

Taught by father and son duo Reg and Kelly Morris who will teach you that increased competition is eroding profit margins across the board. To be successful in today's marketplace, electrical contractors need to work smarter - not harder. The Project Management course will teach you practical, hands-on skills to:

- identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled
- avoid paying for others' errors or omissions
- reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration
- identify cost overruns - and take corrective action
- use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability

November 18 & 19, 2011 - Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Carriage House, Calgary). For small contractors who are not ready to make the investment in a computerized estimating system.

Designed to teach new contractors the fundamentals of preparing an electrical estimate using the Elemental Format hands-on. The course will address material take-off, pricing of materials, labouring of materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit/contingencies.

November 24 & 25, 2011 - Business & Public Relations (ECAA Office, Edmonton). A series of five modules designed to give you essential and proven management concepts in the areas of managing: Credit & Collections, Business Promotion, Sales Management, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Each module will teach you hands-on management strategies to immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

December 1 & 2, 2011 - Assessing & Finalizing The Tender (ECAA Office, Edmonton). is course for the Professional Electrical Contractor courses covers organizing the estimate, finalizing the tender, and computer aid in estimating and finalizing the tender. Since the course is aimed at Professional Electrical Contractors, very little time is spent on basic take-offs. The course addresses calculations of various overheads, mark-up theories, labor factors, evaluating risk factors, and the like, all concerns that the active business manager meets up with every day. These three parts of this course are designed to create an awareness in the Professional Electrical Contractor of the various business principles involved in preparing his or her tenders.

Registration on-line at www.ecaa.ab.ca or through ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca. Available through ECAA. **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM (ESTS)** is a computer based, distance delivered program that recognizes Provincial & Federal Occupational Health & Safety Regulations. The program promotes a "Plan, Do, Check, Act" philosophy applying **CSA Z462**, based on **CSA Z1000 Occupational Health & Safety Management System Standard**. *Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.* Contact Christine chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca to sign up.

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us

directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and it is important to us. Please submit any comments to ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca



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