



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

January 6, 2012
12

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

**Jan. 12th
Calgary Chapter Meeting
(The Blackfoot Inn)**

**Jan. 16th
Edmonton Chapter Meeting
(Chateau Louis)**

**Jan. 21st
Edmonton Chapter President's Ball
(Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe)**

**March 2-12th
ECAA's 50th Anniversary Convention**

JANUARY/2012

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

Happy New Year! 2012 has landed and here we go. I think the last Spark message went out just prior to our last Board of Directors meeting on December 01, 2011. That was a busy couple of days as we had a very well attended Board meeting followed by a very well attended Christmas Open House at the ECAA office. My thanks to Sheri and the rest of the ECAA staff for planning, coordinating, and facilitating a great open house, a fantastic job done. The next day early morning the PEC's had their first breakfast meeting and although I could not attend, I heard it was a great session. Look forward to more of these in your area. I also attended the CREC (Capital Region Electric Club) luncheon held at the Marriott River Cree, which was a great time with plenty of time to mingle with Industry participants. This also gave me another opportunity to experience the Marriott River Cree which is where we will be holding the "50th Anniversary" AGM and President's Gala. This should be great as the Marriott does an excellent job. I also chaired the AGM committee meeting on December 2nd 2011 and things are all shaping up nicely for a great event. I believe you should have all received your sponsorship opportunity packages (included with the last Contactor), as they were barely out the door and 3 participants signed up pretty much the next day. I had a chance to review the list of people who have signed up for the Cabo San Lucas out of country convention, and it is filling up nicely with 65 people so far. Looks like this is going to be a great time. Interest in our Association is still good as we approved 4 new members and 3 new PEC's at our last Board meeting. Keep an eye out for Industry awareness nights which will take place in February in Calgary and Edmonton. Plan to bring a non-member so they can see what you are part of. A lot of work has been done with the CME (Certified Master Electrician) and RME (Registered Master Electrician) programs. Make sure and come out to the Chapter meetings to get fresh updates as they develop. I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year and I wish you all an exciting and prosperous 2012.



**Clem Gratton,
PEC**

Getting To Know Your Executive

We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors so have added this feature into the Spark.

Getting to know your Treasurer:

(Cabo San Lucas)

Tradeshows

No upcoming tradeshows at this time.

Join Our List

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Social Networking



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Here's a bit of insight into ECAA's Treasurer Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC, GSC

Company: Builder's Electric Co. Ltd. (Grande Prairie) Started in 1984

Family Members:

Oldest is my daughter Angie who I took with me to our ECAA convention in St. Lucia, she works in Kelowna for Meditative web services. Second is my son Alex who is an electrician in Grande Prairie and still takes some advice from the old man.

When I started in the industry:

It was 1973 and the economy was slow, getting a job as an electrical apprentice was not easy. It took going to the same company 5 days in a row, starting on a Monday at 8am, and by Friday they got tired of seeing my face and gave me a job so they could send me on an out of town job. The company was Midwest Electric in Grande Prairie which was then owned by Frank Biegel and Al Wigelsworth. It was fun going to NAIT every year in January for two months missing a lot of the cold weather!

Hobbies:

Five years ago I purchased a small vineyard in the Okanogan. I enjoy working with the vines, and still learning what it takes to produce a great wine grape. I also enjoy traveling, golfing and WINE TASTING.

Favourite TV Show:

Dragons Den, Piers Morgan, Travel Channel

Favourite sports Team:

Oilers and Flames

Most memorable vacation:

Touring around on my hog, with wind and sometimes bugs in my face but it was all worth it. A great location was Astoria, Oregon, US.

Affiliation with other Associations:

A member of the Canadian Home Builders Association in Grande Prairie. I also sit on the Provincial Apprenticeship Committee. Past President of the ECAA Northwest Chapter.

Word of advice to new electrical apprentices:

Stay focused, save your money and ask all the right questions when on the job.

Favourite ECAA memory:

Eating fresh fish that Brian Halina caught on our ECAA convention in Costa Rica.

Best part of ECAA:

Meeting other contractors and listening to so many ideas regarding our trade. Working with government, learning institutions and the work force to ensure a better and safer product.

Getting to know your Secretary:

*Here is a bit of insight into ECAA's Secretary, **Darcy Teichroeb, PEC***

Company: Bar W Petroleum & Electric

Family Members: My wife Barb and two children, daughter Daralynn and grandson Koby and my son Ryland.

When and how did you start in the industry: Started working in the Electrical trade immediately out of High School in 1979. I worked for two Red Deer Electrical companies from 1979-1989 before I started my own Electrical company in 1989, Bar W Electric and Controls Ltd. As president of Bar W Petroleum &

Electric Ltd (name change in 1991) for 18yrs, I then sold the company to United Farmers of Alberta in 2007. Currently I am a Director at Bar W Petroleum & Electric Division of United Farmers of Alberta.

Favorite hobbies: Golf, Hockey, Sport Cars

Favorite TV show: NCIS

Favorite Sports Team: Edmonton Oilers/Calgary Flames

Most memorable vacation: Orlando, Florida

Affiliations with other associations: Petroleum Equipment Institute, Canadian Petroleum Contractors Association, Alberta Petroleum Storage Systems Contractors Association

Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices: Enjoy the trade with a passion for learning. The more you enjoy your work the better you will be at it. When faced with adversity always maintain safety and integrity.

Favorite ECAA memory: Our first AGM in Jasper that Barb and I attended where we met great people and made new friends in the association.

Best part of ECAA is: Having a connection and voice relative to current affairs of the Electrical Industry including maintaining contact with an association of members wanting to continuously improve and evolve our trade.

Industry News

Congratulations to Stan Misyk on his recent retirement from The Inspections Group. Stan has been a valuable volunteer on the Edmonton Chapter executive for a number of years and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

20th Anniversary COAA Best Practices Conference to be held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton on **May 15 and 16, 2012**. It will feature discussions and workshops on some of the most important issues facing the construction industry today. Registration will be done electronically again this year, starting in March. You will receive notification via e-mail when on-line registration opens (www.coaa.ab.ca).

Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta conference, February 3 & 4, 2012 - registration on EIAA website (www.eiaa2004.com).

Calgary, February 8-9, 2012. **Interactive Training Course on Fire Alarm Protection Systems** that discusses the purpose and specific application of the different codes and standards that regulate the industry. Complete course program at www.electricityforum.com/forums/fire-alarm-systems-2011.html

CECA Convention 2012 in Whistler, BC. Updated registration form on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca).

Donations still being accepted for **Kristy Elhard Memorial Fund** at any ATB branch. On behalf of the Elhard family thank you to all who contributed as over \$7000 in donations was received. Recipient will be a post secondary student who will receive the funds in the form of a scholarship in Kristy's name.

Board of Directors Update

Next meeting January 20th, 2012.

Reminder: 2012 ECAA membership payment now due

Limited sponsorship opportunities available for ECAA's 50th Anniversary celebration (posted on website www.ecaa.ab.ca).

Thank you to the members and industry partners who have advertised in the **ECAA 50th Anniversary Commemorative magazine being published by Del Communications**. Advertising sales have reached \$25,000 to-date.

Labour Update: The Electrical Industry Training Centres have introduced programs to train **Journeyman Construction Electricians in the field of Sub-Station Construction** with the idea that they would eventually attain a Power Systems Electrician ticket. To date, approximately 200 IBEW L.U. 424 members have completed this training. Unionized ECAA Contractors who require people with these skill sets should be aware that these people are available and that they can be dispatched to projects that require these qualifications. Call the Training Director, Todd Chronik, at 780-462-5729 for additional information on these programs.

On behalf of Unionized ECAA contractor members who work under the **Local Maintenance Agreement and/or the Power Line & Utility Agreement**, the Labour Committee is assisting in the renewal of these Agreements. Both the Local Maintenance Agreement and the Power Line Agreement have been expired for some time. Unionized Contractors who work under these Agreements are invited to contact Jim Bendfeld at jimbendfeld@shaw.ca or by telephone at 780-633-7030 if you have anything that you would like to add to the process.

Local Chapter Activity

Calgary. Next meeting Thursday, January 12th at the Blackfoot Inn. **Guest speaker is Dave Smith, Calgary Construction Association with a presentation on the Western Provinces role in Driving Canada's economy.** Contact Brittany (bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) to confirm attendance.

Edmonton. Next meeting is Monday, January 16th at the **Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center**, 17727 Kingsway, Edmonton. **Edmonton Chapter President's Ball** tickets still available, please contact Christine (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) Special thanks to those who have contributed as a wine sponsor, we are still looking for more contributions.

North East. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at the Wayside Inn in Lloydminster. Contact Brittany (bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) to confirm your attendance.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

PEC Update. Still looking for retired PEC's to assist with marketing the PEC program. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca or tommorin@shaw.ca if interested in assisting. Thank you.

Continuing Education

Registrations being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2012 (complete list on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events):

February 9 & 10, 2012 - Legal Implications.

The instructors for this course are from the legal firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain, LLP. This course will address such matter as incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts and subcontracts and liability thereunder, and perhaps most importantly, steps available to ensure payment, including remedies under the Builder's Lien Act. Liability in stamping and sealing drawings will also be addressed.

February 23rd & 24th - Basic Electrical Estimating (Edmonton) *Limit 10 per class*

so register early to avoid disappointment.

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.

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.

From the Archives

From the Archives (Objectives of Association in 1967):
OBJECTIVES

of the Association ... as laid down in its Constitution ... provide an admirable goal for any electrical group.

But... they are just so many words until translated into ACTION.

They cannot be met by the Electrical Contractor alone!

They require the vision, foresight and energy of a combined force.

Your support will make this goal attainable

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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