

# CONTACTOR



Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Newsletter

Issue 2, 2007



## Highlights from AGM Convention



# 2007



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

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# President's Message

As your new President, I had the good fortune of attending the 2007 CECA Convention in Ottawa. The business sessions were very informative and interesting and I came away with a couple of realizations. First, that it doesn't matter where we hang our shingle, the issues of running a business are similar. Workforce, wages, insurance, cost escalation etc. are issues that all contractors have to deal with regardless of location.



*DJ Coppens*

In Alberta, with our economy, some of these issues are more challenging than our counterparts in other provinces.

The second realization was how fortunate we are to be able to have an Association representing both Non-union and Union Contractors. Many of the participants at the convention expressed envy in our Association. They have concerns that they are not properly representing the industry in their area because their Association is made up of one or the other labor group. They also know that the government does not always take them seriously as they (the government) are receiving mixed messages from the different Associations.

Through the Strategic Planning process and consistent, conscious efforts of our members, committees and executives we are part of an Association that can truly say "We represent the Electrical Contractors of Alberta". Your new Board will continue to strive for equal representation for all members and focus on completing the initiatives set forth by the previous Boards and bring forward new initiatives for the continued improvement of our Association and industry.

## Chapter Reports

### Calgary

Doug Fraser, PEC

Members and guests were treated to a casino night as part of the industry information evening in April. Thank you to Stephen Dunne for organizing the event and the Associate members for manning the tables.

Annual elections were held in May. Congratulations to the incoming Calgary Executive: Doug Fraser, President; Gordon Boys, Vice President; Tina Hebert, Treasurer; Tim Lang, Secretary. We would like to thank out-going President Brian Phelps and

Vice President Paul Roy for their hard work on behalf of the Calgary Chapter during the past year.

Our year ended with a fun Par 3 golf tournament and social in June. Thanks to all who participated and made the event a success.

We look forward to an eventful year and hope to see new and returning members in the fall.



*Congratulations to Calgary's Newest Master Electricians!*

# Chapter Reports

## Edmonton

Terry Milot

A mini-trade show was held in April as the format for the Chapter industry information evening. Thank you to all who participated and attended this informative display.

Chapter elections were held in May. Incoming Executive consists of President Terry Milot; Vice President Kelly Wilde; Treasurer DJ Coppens and Secretary Bob Maslanko. Directors are Brian Alexander, Clem Gratton, Scott Hutton, Norm Kaiser, Frank Krupka, Art



Lippert, Randy Metcalf, Stan Misyk, Tom Morin, Brad Quist, Terry Sawatzky, Art Thormann and Ian Touw.

June social provided an opportunity for members to invite their staff and families to a picnic in the park at Gyro Park in Fort Edmonton. Thank you to Art Lippert for organizing this very successful event.

Reminder the Bob Carson Classic will be held on September 12th at the Highlands. Get your registrations in early as this is usually a sold-out event.

## North East

Jonny Nielsen, PEC

North East Chapter held a meeting in May. Chapter funds have been allocated towards an electrical apprenticeship bursary at Lakeland College. Topics of discussion included ATCO Electric and privacy



legislation; inspection issues; new group benefit plan and proposed changes to ECAA ByLaws to accommodate certified and registered master electricians. The electrical program is being changed to include more cathodic protection. Lakeland College will be offering a master's course in the fall.

A mini tradeshow was discussed. The next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 29th.

### Congratulations to 2007 Skills Alberta Electrical competitors:

#### Automation & Control

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1st place | Andrew Holman<br>Alcro Electric, Calgary |
| 2nd place | Steen Urkow<br>Action Electric, Edmonton |
| 3rd place | Craig Johnson<br>Canem Systems, Calgary  |

#### Electrical Wiring

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1st place | Garret Pearman<br>Allied Projects, Calgary   |
| 2nd place | Steven Barnes<br>Edmonton Electric, Edmonton |
| 3rd place | Kevin Wentz<br>BDW Electric, Calgary         |

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# Committee Reports

## Alberta Construction Safety Association

Board Of Director's Meeting (June 21, 2007)

Dave Hagen



### Strategic Planning Session

Strategic Planning Session was held May 24 and 25, 2007. The following lists the action plans developed to address key strategic issues:

#### Manpower shortages – staff and volunteers

- Be proactive in looking for replacement staff for leaves of absence.
- Develop and use a referral program to enhance recruitment of staff, advisors.
- Create a “Human Resources Department”.
- Have more owner representatives on the ACSA Board.
- Have more worker representative on the Regional Safety Committees.

#### Government Driving ACSA Direction

- The ACSA should meet regularly on at least an annual basis with the Minister, Deputy Minister and ADM's to express concerns.
- Encourage ACSA member associations to identify key safety issues within their industries to relevant Ministers, DM's and ADM's when they meet with them.

#### Edmonton space/capacity

- As the demand for safety training increases so will the need for increased space in the Edmonton area.
- Option for increasing space in the Edmonton area could include a new location in a couple of years.

#### Health and Safety Association Network issues

- Utilize the Health and Safety Association Network (HSAN) to set standards for health and safety training on a provincial level that will be recognized in a provincial capacity.
- Utilize the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations to establish inter-provincial equivalencies for health and safety training.
- Work with the HSAN to develop the HSAN Safety Training Tracking System to encompass all types of health and safety training.

#### Nurturing partnership with Association and Trade Associations

- Provide more access to information about industry and trade associations, including possibly having more links to the associations on the ACSA website.
- Develop partnerships with associations and companies.

#### Expansion of E-Learning

- Research and access funding for alternate language delivery of e-learning programs.
- Develop/resource on-line reference library.
- Review all current classroom courses for theory portions that can be delivered electronically.

### New Building - Calgary Update/Edmonton Update

The building in Calgary is progressing with most of the structural steel in place.

Within the next three years, the ACSA will have to consider expanding their Edmonton building or moving to another location.

### Health and Safety Association Network Update

The group is working on a process for accredited training. A two day meeting was held on June 18 and 19 to discuss the development needs of the industry safety training database. This system would be available to all employers and there could be the possibility for a database that small employers could download to assist them in tracking safety training.

### Certifying Partner Update

Disabling injury rate and the lost time rate will be used to identify poor performers.

They are researching methods to highlight traffic safety in all industries.

They are working on systems to address companies falsifying COR.

### Canadian Traffic Education Course

The ACSA is looking at identifying the needs of the construction industry as it relates to traffic safety education and the partnering within the right groups to meet the needs of the industry.

### Construction Sector Council Supervisory Training Program

The Construction Sector Council is looking at a “Construction Supervisor”. This is following the same line as the provincial committee that is looking at the “Industrial Construction Crew Supervisor Occupation”. The LSE program has been accepted as the safety component.

### Construction Sector Council, CSTS

The CSC is still interested in working with the ACSA to develop a system where CSC could use CSTS as an orientation system to the construction industry. The ACSA will look at how they can work with the CSC after the CSTS enhancement has been completed.

### OH&S Code Change Process

The ACSA is still working with Workplace Health and Safety to ensure we have right people reviewing the specific areas of the code.

# Committee Reports

## Convention 2008

DJ Coppens, Convention Chair

You spoke – we listened. In 2008, ECAA will host two conventions to accommodate the requests of our membership.

### **Spectacular Bali & Hong Kong**

**January 31st – February 15th**

3 nights in the cultural center of Ubud

7 nights on the beach at Jimbaran Bay

3 nights in Hong Kong

(Optional 1 week trip to Viet Nam will depart January 24th)

### **The Emerald Isle of Ireland**

**May 10th – May 20th**

5 nights in Dublin

5 nights in Galway

(Optional 3 day stop-over in London will return May 24th)



Detailed registration information included with this issue of the Contactor and available from the ECAA office.

## Electrical Technical Council

Clem Gratton, PEC

The Safety Codes Council annual meetings were held in Jasper this year on May 4th and May 5th. This year for the first time the AEICTC (Alberta Electrical Industry Codes and Technical Conference) May 2nd and 3rd were held in conjunction with the SCC meetings. I think this proved to be a very good format as all the meetings were very well attended.

The AEICTC meetings with their new format went very well with good participation and many issues being brought forward. As most of you are well aware with the adoption of the new code last fall there is still much controversy and debate on several issues such as the fluorescent fixture disconnects, and the secondary seals. It appears that the manufacturers are steadily developing products to satisfy these rule changes. Some clarifications on some of the new rules to help industry deal with them across the province uniformly were also debated such as 20amp t-slot receptacles in kitchens, and Kitchen Islands and what constitutes an Island. Quite a bit of discussion arose around the temporary construction receptacles and if receptacles which are installed inside a home under construction should fall under that category. The new Draft Alberta Electrical Utility Code was reviewed and to this date has still not been adopted as I believe legislation is bogged down in other priorities, as is the case with the new Permit Regulation. The next AEICTC will be held in conjunction with the SCC meetings again next May 2008 in Banff.

The Electrical Technical Council also took the opportunity to hold meetings since most of the committee members were also attending the SCC and AEICTC meetings. It was held on May 3rd and dealt with a few of the items that were forwarded from the AEICTC meetings but also approved the new course material for the Group A CEC Course and struck a task force to prepare documentation to send to CSA advising of our industry's concern with going to a 3 year code cycle and our opposition to it.

The next Electrical Technical Council meeting will be held September 27th, 2007 in Edmonton.

The next CEC Code Committee meeting will be held on July 19th, 2007 also in Edmonton.

The new Standata has been released so if you subscribe you should if you have not already received your latest revisions. You can also view them at HYPERLINK "[http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss\\_index.htm](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss_index.htm)" and follow the links to the Electrical Standata.

# Committee Reports

## Labour Relations

Brian Halina, Chair

The Labour Committee Report at the AGM stated that a Memorandum of Agreement had been reached in negotiations with the IBEW. That Memorandum has subsequently been rejected by the Union membership and they have now served notice that they intend to make an application to conduct a strike vote.

The Local Union recently held their elections for Business Manager and executive. Congratulations to Tim Brower.

The Edmonton Training Centre has undertaken a program to mentor Unionized apprentices who qualify, in preparation for National Skills (2008) and World Skills (2009), both to be held in Calgary. The following people are presently in the program and participated successfully in the recent Provincial Skills Competition:

Steven Barnes – Placed second in Alberta Skills – Division 18  
Jonathon Ferguson  
Alexander Karampelas



The Labour Chairman has accepted the following resignations from the Committee:

Sean Casault – Lockerbie and Hole  
Jim Clarke – Comstock  
Dick Ducholke – Edmonton Electric

The Labour Chairman is pleased to welcome the following individuals to the Labour Committee:

Trent Valentine – Comstock  
Cameron Cassels – Norcan Electric Inc.  
Jason Idler – Casca Electric Ltd.  
Bob Lynn – Chemco Electrical Contractors  
Bob Maslanko – Lockerbie and Hole  
Terry Milot – Chemco Electrical Contractors  
Grant Brooks – Bantrel

These people were elected to the Committee at the AGM in Lake Louise. It should be noted that where there is more than one representative from a company, that company still has only one vote.

David Lemay from Laird Electric has joined the Joint Education Apprenticeship Committee. Joint Committees continue to function.

## Master's Update

Kelly Morris, PEC

I'm pleased to report that at the recent Annual General Meeting the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta voted unanimously to amend our bylaws to incorporate the new Certified and Registered Master Electrician titles, in addition to other changes to provide for Board representation, and Master Advisory Sub-Committee. This is one of three substantial changes necessary in industry to realize our vision.



With respect to the second, a meeting was held with officials from the Ministry responsible for POARA, and the best information we have is that it is possible that a draft regulation will be in our

hands from Legislative Services this fall. There is some suggestion that a stakeholder review be considered in advance.

As for the third, Municipal Affairs has informed us that they are trying to push the new Permit Regulation through. Included in that package is the amendments to the Certification and Permit Regulation which removes all permit requirements from it and extends its expiry date. As soon as the PEC Regulation is amended, the Permit Regulation will be amended to refer to certified and registered master electricians and reference to master electricians removed.

Special thanks to Pierre McDonald for making the effort to attend ECAA's AGM. It was great to see him there!

# Board of Directors

## Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta

### Executive:

President:	DJ Coppens
Vice President:	Todd McKay
Treasurer:	Ron Mackenzie
Secretary:	Bob Maslanko, PEC
Past President:	Mike Brunner

### Chapter Presidents & ECAA Directors:

Edmonton	Terry Milot
Calgary	Doug Fraser, PEC
Central	Darcy Teichroeb, PEC
North East	Jonny Nielsen, PEC
North West	Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC
Lethbridge	Todd McKay
Medicine Hat	Glenn Pocsik
Fort McMurray	Gord Stuve

### Directors-at-Large:

North	Terry Emmerson
South	Ken Rickbeil, PEC

### Committees:

ACSA	Dave Hagen
ACA (South)	Al Miller
ACA (North)	Peter Rasmussen, PEC
Apprenticeship	
Associate Liaison	Terry Sawatzky
CECA	Willard Kondro
Code	Clem Gratton, PEC/Perry Schmaltz, PEC
Communications	Tom Morin, PEC
Convention '08	DJ Coppens
Convention '09	Todd McKay
Labour Relations - Union	Brian Halina
Labour Relations – Non-Union	DJ Coppens
Legislation	
Master's	Kelly Morris, PEC
Membership & Public member	Carmen Nickolson
Nominations	Mike Brunner
	Willard Kondro
	Terry Milot
PEC	Lou Hiemer, PEC
Safety Codes Council:	
Fire	Keven Lefebvre, PEC
Electrical	Clem Gratton, PEC
Ways & Means	Ron Mackenzie

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Regular:

*ABB/Raffin, Calgary  
Emes Electric, Slave Lake*

### Associate:

*Clarica, Edmonton*

## ECAA 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS & PRESIDENT'S GALA

WILL BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY, MAY 31ST, 2008  
FANTASYLAND HOTEL, EDMONTON

GOLF FRIDAY, MAY 30TH  
COUGAR CREEK GOLF COURSE

## The Contactor

The Contactor is the official publication of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta.

We welcome articles and paid advertisements.

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# Chapter Summer Socials

