



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

April 10, 2015

Issue 50

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APRIL/2015

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

The ECAA held a board meeting on March 18, where our chapter and committee representatives provided updates of current events and industry news. The ECAA is very fortunate to have dedicated representatives keeping our association current with these industry events and activities. I would like to thank all of our representatives and acknowledge Tim Brundage for his valuable representation from our Fort McMurray Chapter.



Darcy Teichroeb,
PEC

Upcoming activities with ECAA representation will include an important meeting in Ottawa with CECA and other National Associations participating in the Trade Coalition for Prompt Payment Legislation. As well, Careers the Next Generation is planning three Student Career Events in Red Deer, Fort McMurray, and Grande Prairie.

I had the privilege of attending the Alberta Construction Safety Association's AGM in March where I met many dedicated construction safety volunteers representing all regions of the province. I was especially impressed with some of the safety videos being produced by these volunteer groups with their intent to promote safety awareness within the construction industry. I encourage all business owners to source these safety videos and use them within their company safety programs.

The ECAA completed our 2014 financial internal audit and review with a very positive report. The continued positive financial reporting is attributed to a strong dedication by our ECAA staff to the sound processes developed over time. I would like to thank Mr. Kelly Wilde and Mr. Pat Barnes for their time and efforts completing this internal audit.

The ECAA has started educating our members and associates with code update courses which will continue throughout the year. You can get dates and registration information from the ECAA website or by calling the office. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the Easter weekend. This brings us closer to Spring weather and outdoor activities.

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC
ECAA Provincial President

Getting To Know Your Executive

Upcoming Code Seminars

April 20th, 2015
(Edmonton)

April 22nd, 2015
(Lethbridge)

[Code Seminar Registration](#)

Upcoming PEC Courses

Assessing & Finalizing the Tender

April 17th & 18th, 2015
(Calgary)

Business & Public Relations

April 24th & 25th, 2015
(Calgary)

*Computer Estimating
for Small Projects*

April 30th & May 1st, 2015
(Edmonton)

[PEC Course List & Dates](#)

Tradeshows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Career Expo 2015
April 30th, 2015
Red Deer, AB

Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade
Career Expo
May 6th, 2015
Lloydminster, AB

Provincial Skills Competition
May 13 & 14, 2015
Edmonton Expo Center
Edmonton, AB

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Social Networking



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

Getting to Know Your Communications Chair Jeanette DeBruin

Company: AltaPro Electric Ltd.

Family Members: Husband Bert, blessed with three children - two daughters and one son. Additional family added is two most adorable granddaughters, son in laws and daughter in law.

When and how did you start in the industry: Started in 1987 when the economy was at its lowest. Bert, my husband decided we had to look for any opportunity to help out our financial situation as we were expecting our 2nd child and soon I would be on mat leave from the Bank. He was working 3 days on for his residential employer, and 2 days he was assigned to sit at home collecting EI. On the days off, he hit the streets trying to find work to pay the bills. Even though I was never an electrician by trade, I was married to one and had to assist any way I could to benefit our new endeavors. I worked at the bank during the day for 15 years, and continued to work on the company books until 1999 when I quit the bank, and worked full time at AltaPro Electric. I never looked back, and I see this as part of the journey to develop our company and to work side by side with my husband. For sure I could understand all the late nights and Saturdays that he had to work, as without that I am not sure if I could understand the business and all its responsibilities.

Favorite hobbies: Gardening in my back yard

Favorite TV show: Suits

Favorite Sports Team: Oilers

Most memorable vacation: Beaches Turks and Caicos 2014

Affiliations with other associations: Mustard Seed, Somalia Women and Children Association, Word and Deed, Edmonton Downs Syndrome Association

Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices: strength finders - find out how you are wired, and work towards your greatest strengths so you can be the best you can be.

Favorite ECAA memory: Being asked to sit on the board - what a great honor to sit with so many amazing leaders of Alberta.

Best part of ECAA is: gaining access to key information in our electrical business. In addition, being connected to peers that deal with the same issues and challenges. Union and non-union members can sit at the same table and play nice so that the best interests of the industry is preserved and maintained.

Industry News

ECAA 2015 Convention & Training Day. Reminder that if you have not yet registered please send in your convention registrations at your earliest convenience [CONVENTION REGISTRATION PACKAGE](#). "Changes in Codes & Standards" is the theme for our upcoming Training Day on **May 22nd, 2015**, Copper Point Resort, Invermere, BC. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office directly.

"What's New In the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code" Seminars have been scheduled. Click on the following [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to sign up. This course is approved for CME's and PEC's. Code Books also available for sale. Click on the following order form to get your copy today. [2015 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM](#)

Kelly Morris - Replacement for Section 14 Sub Committee Request. Kelly is asking for a replacement on the CSA Section 14 subcommittee of the CEC. If you are interested in this position contact Kelly Morris morrisk@msn.com directly.

From Electrical Business Canada e-newsletter. Banff to Offer Solar Incentives In what may be the first municipal action of its kind in Canada, the town council for Banff, AB has approved an incentive program that would help eco-conscious residents install solar panels on private homes and businesses.

How the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I Is Amended by William Burr. "I am often asked how new rules get in the Code and how one could go about amending a code rule. All of these procedures are outlined in Appendix C of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I. However, being written as a standard it is sometimes a struggle to follow. I trust this article easily explains the process." To read more click [here](#).

Safety Codes Council 12th Annual Conference June 3rd - 5th, 2015. Early Bird Registration ends May 4th. Here are just a few Conference 2015 agenda highlights: **Alex Steffen Keynote Presentation and Q & A;** He has been called one of the world's leading voices on sustainability and the future of the planet. Don't miss this opportunity to hear his optimistic message and ask him your burning questions about everything from building better cities today to the distant global future. **David Eaves Keynote Presentation;** An expert in technology and transparency, David Eaves knows how to open things up. As one of North America's most exciting public policy entrepreneurs, he is retained by governments to advise on areas such as big data, open government, and open source. **Dr. James Talbot Concurrent Session;** Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health joins us to examine how safety in the built environment intersects with issues of public health and wellness. **Todd Hirsch Concurrent Session;** Is concern about Alberta's economy overdone? Learn what's likely to happen in the global, national, and provincial economies in 2015 with ATB Financial's Chief Economist.

The Annual **COAA Best Practices Conference** will be held on **May 12 & 13, 2015**, at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton and will be another great exchange of ideas with colleagues and friends from across the industrial construction industry. Our theme this year is "**Driving to Excellence, Thriving Amid Challenge: Twice as Safe, Twice as Productive by 2020**". Remember: the Early Bird Registration deadline of April 10th is approaching. Now is the time to take advantage of the early bird price of \$450 plus GST.

We are aware that attending the Best Practices Conference could be a particular challenge this year due to commodity prices. However, we offer you these nuggets of information: 1. No downturn in knowledge content - the Best Practices XXIII workshops and plenary sessions are as good as ever- many ideas and best practice tools for making companies safer and more productive - NEW this year: two pre-conference courses 2. Best Practices XXIII is the best bang-for-the-buck conference in our industry - \$450 +GST (early bird) for lots of practical information and lots of networking opportunities 3. We consciously keep the conference local and compact (1.5 days) - so that travel and time away is minimized 4. Now is the time to be investing in training to improve processes and culture - to "improve" our way out of the downturn. The full conference agenda can be found on the COAA website at www.coaa.ab.ca as well as links to the online registration page and to the two pre-conference courses.

Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) **2015 NATIONAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE** is taking place September 16 -20, 2015 in St. Andrews-By-The-Sea, New Brunswick. Click the following link to view the complete [CONFERENCE PACKAGE](#).

Nominations now open for CAREERS Excellence Awards CAREERS: The Next Generation is excited to recognize Alberta's outstanding educators, mentors and students for their dedication to promoting careers in trades, technologies and health services. Awards are offered in the following categories: [The CAREERS: The](#)

[Next Generation Award of Excellence in Skilled Trades](#). The Skilled Trades Award recognizes promising high school RAP students and outstanding mentors who are contributing value to Alberta's designated trades. Two students and one mentor will be selected from Northern and Southern Alberta respectively. The award includes a \$200 scholarship to be awarded to an eligible student. * NEW ONLINE SUBMISSION AVAILABLE * The deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 17, 2015**.

RAP/AIT Apprentice Scholarship Application Deadline is June 30, 2015.

News from our Associate Liaison in Calgary: Price of copper on the rise and going up.

CREC Golf Tournament: June 17, 2015 for more information or to register visit the following link <http://albertaelectricalleague.com/crec-info/>

News from Alberta Construction Association

[ACA Golf Tournament Registration Begins](#). ACA's annual Golf Tournament is Thursday, May 28 at the Alberta Springs Golf Course in Red Deer. (Registrations are \$160 plus gst per golfer) Download the registration form [here](#). We currently have sponsorship vacancies for the 2015 tournament. Sponsorship is only \$300 (plus gst). Please email Belinda at info@albertaconstruction.net for further information. Please note that both sponsorship and registration are open to members only. Thank you for your consideration!

[The Alberta Chapter of the Green Building Council Hosts Energy Code Awareness Sessions](#). The Alberta Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council will host awareness sessions for stakeholders in the commercial construction sector. These information sessions will discuss the adoption of the [National Energy Code for Buildings \(NECB\)](#) in Alberta. The ACA is working with the Green Building Council to offer these workshops.

Speaking at the session will be Cam Munro, Innovative Construction Manager with Clark Builders and Justin Pockar, Energy & Environment Coordinator with the City of Calgary.

There will be three sessions held:

April 16 - Edmonton

April 24 - Calgary

April 29 - Online Webinar

To sign up for a session and for further information please [click here](#).

[The ACA is Pleased SAIT Seeks to Use Trade Definitions](#). The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic) has asked for permission from the ACA to reproduce and distribute the Alberta Construction Trade Definitions 2015 document, found [here](#).

Several dozen classroom copies will be printed to support SAIT students Construction Apprenticeship programs training. The purpose is to help instructors to better illustrate content and concepts, resulting in better prepared students to transition from school to the workplace.

The ACA is pleased to see SAIT adopting Trade Definitions in their course material and will continue to advocate for their use among all of our education partners and owners.

[Alberta Construction Association Launches Alberta Election Information Website](#)

The ACA this week is launching an Alberta election information website. Our goal is to engage candidates on the issues important to our industry in the midst of a tighter budgetary landscape.

However, to achieve our goal we need your help. Members can report back on their impressions of the various candidates via a [feedback form](#).

We would encourage owners of construction firms and workers to use the

hashtag **#ConstructionVotes** to create media interest in our issues during the campaign.

Members can contact jonathan.williams@albertaconstruction.net for the following:

1. A guide to sample questions to ask candidates.
2. Form letter to request a meeting with a candidate.

You can visit the website here:

http://www.albertaconstruction.net/?page_id=330

For more information and news from Alberta Construction Association visit <http://albertaconstruction.net/>

Board of Directors Update

Board meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18th. Joining President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC were Mr. Terry Barnett, Mr. Darrell Castor, Mr. Bob Clarke, Mr. Brent Connell, PEC; Mrs. Jeanette DeBruin, Mr. Clem Gratton, PEC; Mr. Dave Hagen, Mr. Keven Lefebvre, PEC; Mr. Doug Miller, Mr. Terry Milot, Mr. Tim Tarita, Mr. Hans Tiedemann, Mr. Ray Wery, PEC and new Fort McMurray Chapter President, Mr. Tim Brundage. Agenda items included Day on the Hill in Ottawa on April 18th (Mr. Terry Milot and Mr. Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC represented Alberta); Prompt Payment Legislation; survey input for Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs); applications for membership and PEC's; Committee and Chapter reports (in this issue of the Contactor); a detailed review by Mr. Kim Wallin, BDO on ECAA's 2014 year-end financials; and a presentation by Mr. Jerry Heck and Mr. Jim Goodmurphy, Careers the Next Generation on the RAP program and a request to ECAA to showcase the electrical trade in each of our Chapters.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8th in the ECAA boardroom. Any member interested in attending please contact Sheri at Provincial office.

Have something to say?

ECAA is currently looking for guest writers for the Spark. Contact Darcy or Sheri.

New Members

Welcome new Contractor & Associate Members: Catalyst Power & Controls(Calgary); **Cromolox Inc** (Edmonton); **Ridge Electric** (Lethbridge); **Sable Electric** (Red Deer); **Voltel Electric** (Black Diamond) and **Kwong Sum-IP**(Journeyman Associate Member).

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 14th**, where elections for 2015-2017 executive will be voted in. Call for Nominations has been circulated. Chapter looking for incoming secretary as well as additional directors to assist on the Board.

CENTRAL: Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15th** at the Radisson Hotel on 67th. Chapter members with agenda items asked to contact President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC or the provincial office.

EDMONTON: Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 20th** at the Chateau Louis Hotel. Members encouraged to attend to acknowledge the hard work of outgoing Chapter president Brent Connell and the current Board. Elections will be held; please make every effort to attend as quorum will need to be met. To send in a proxy on your behalf contact Sheri McLean smclean@ecaa.ab.ca Guest Speaker: Tom Clooney, GESCAN/LSW Lighting.

FORT MCMURRAY: Next meeting **Tuesday, April 14th** at the Chateau Nova. Agenda items will include the ECAA Wood Buffalo electrical scholarships, as well as the golf tournament on June 24th. On behalf of President, Tim Brundage, members encouraged to attend meeting as your input is important.

LETHBRIDGE: Next meeting **Wednesday, April 22nd** at the Lethbridge Lodge. Guest Speaker: Jamie Smyth, EECOL. A code seminar is scheduled prior to the chapter meeting. Contact Tammy at ECAA (ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca) to register.

NORTH EAST: Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6th** following the **Bi-Provincial "Try-A-Trade" Career Expo** being held at the Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds. Contractors from the NE chapter are encouraged to join Chapter President Terry Barnett at the ECAA booth.

NORTH WEST: Next Meeting scheduled for **Thursday, May 7th** at the Pomeroy Hotel at 11:30 am. Please forward agenda items to Chapter president Tim Tarita or the provincial office.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Congratulations! David Doel, PEC# 289 and **David Kavanagh**, PEC #288 on successfully obtaining your PEC designation.

There appears to be some confusion with regards to the Annual Professional Development (APD) point requirements. ECAA will be visiting the Chapters to address the APD points at the various scheduled Chapter meetings. If you would like more information on this or need assistance entering your points please contact chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2014 form on ECAAwebsite under PEC section and in Calendar of Events: Contact Christine Hryniw (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to register or for more information on the program.

[2015 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Assessing & Finalizing the Tender April 17th & 18th, 2015 (Calgary)

This 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.

Business & Public Relations April 24th & 25th, 2015 (Calgary) 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.

Computer Estimating for Small Projects, April 30th & May 1st, 2015 (Edmonton)

This course is designed to provide the new estimator or contractor with a basic understanding of how to prepare an estimate. It covers:

- Planning for the estimate

- Preparing counts, take-offs
- Preparing the Bill of material for supplier pricing and Review of the Bill of material
- Accubid "Bidwinner"
- Use of assemblies, where to enter miscellaneous costs, supplier pricing, overhead costs, and the final pricing sheet
- Use of Excel spreadsheets to assist with take-offs

ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM

This course offers the critical basic skills and concepts needed to supervise a crew in the residential, institutional, commercial, industrial and civil construction sectors. For more information click on the following link [First Level Supervisor Training Program](#) . Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424. **Course cost is \$400 and to enroll contact Christine chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca**

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.

ON-LINE ETHICS COURSE. This course is designed for the Certified Master Electrician (CME) that desires to maintain that designation and for any Registered Master Electrician (RME) or Master electrician that desires to become a CME Information at www.ecaa.ab.ca (Ethics course).

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 smclean@ecaa.ab.ca.

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed Friday, May 11, 2015.



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