



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

November 4, 2011

Issue 10

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 10th**
Calgary Chapter Meeting
(The Blackfoot Inn)
- Nov. 21st**
Edmonton Chapter Meeting
(Derrick Golf & Winter Club)
- Nov. 22nd**
Lethbridge Chapter Meeting
(Lethbridge Lodge)
- Dec. 1st**
ECAA Christmas Open House
(ECAA Provincial Office)
- Dec. 2nd**
CREC Christmas Luncheon
(Marriott at the River Cree)
- Dec. 8th**
Calgary Chapter Christmas
Social
(The Blackfoot Inn)
- Jan. 12th**
Calgary Chapter Meeting
(The Blackfoot Inn)
- Jan. 16th**
Edmonton Chapter Meeting
(Chateau Louis)
- Jan. 21st**

NOVEMBER/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 in November already. The fall is steam rolling along at a good pace and soon the Christmas Season will be upon us -- hey I am not the first one to say that word. Our company is churning at a good steady pace with the typical rollercoaster ups and downs. Almost every contractor that I have talked to in the last month is very busy and most are looking for good employees (remember you can use the ECAA website to post job openings).

We had a Board of Directors meeting in Edmonton October the 27th, which was well attended by your ECAA representatives. This is a brief outline of what was presented at the Board of Directors meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Some of the highlights were updates on the out-of-cuntry convention and the AGM which is shaping up nicely; keep the dates May 25th thru to 27th open for our activities at the Marriott River Cree Resort in Edmonton.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Les Dzwonkiewicz, updated us on our financial situation for the ECAA and was happy to advise that the Association is on track to run a balanced budget this year. This is good news as the Board had anticipated running a deficit budget for the 2011 year. Thanks to the ECAA staff for minding the expenses and cutting back where possible. First go-around on 2012 budget was conducted - board aiming for balanced budget.

Mr. Kelly Morris our Masters Committee chair briefed the Board on some new developments taking place for the Certified Master Electricians (CME), which will greatly add to the benefits of being a CME if all goes as planned. Make sure to renew your CME designation and keep an ear open for more updates as they progress.

The ECAA Executive Director was requested by the Board to do some cost comparisons for the Group Insurance which the ECAA is endorsing for our membership. We are pleased to advise that the pricing as it stands right now through our Sun Life provider is still very competitive and please remember -- they are one of the few companies who will supply benefits for the small shop contractor with 1-3 employees. Of course they also provide for the larger shops as well, and these rates are for ECAA contractor members, so please make sure and give them a call for your needs.

Associate members were polled regarding topics of discussion at Chapter meetings. On behalf of chair Terry Sawatzky, thank you to those who provided input. We look forward to hearing your presentations at upcoming Chapter meetings.

Our Electrical Technical Council representative, Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, gave us an update on some of the things they are working on, one of those being the OBIEC review that was done by Grant Thornton. Darcy is preparing responses from our membership to present as was requested. If you have any thoughts he certainly would be happy to hear from you.

Our PEC Chair Mr. Tom Morin presented his report and outlined some of the outcomes



Clem
Gratton,
PEC

**Edmonton Chapter President's
Ball
(Crowne Plaza Chateau
Lacombe)
March 2-12th
ECAA's 50th Anniversary
Convention
(Cabo San Lucas)**

Tradeshows

Nov. 18th & 19th

2011 Canada
Career Week Fair
(Edmonton Expo Centre)

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

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from the radio and print ad campaigns that they have done to promote the PEC brand. He also is looking for feedback from these efforts so if you haven't already, make sure and complete the survey that was sent out.

Board approved three new members: Coleman Electric (Lethbridge); ES Fox Limited (Edmonton) and Edgerton Electrical (Wainwright). Welcome to ECAA!

I had the opportunity to attend some of the Chapter meetings around the province -- Calgary October 13th, Edmonton October 17th, Central in Red Deer October 19th, and Northwest in Grande Prairie October 20th. I was very happy to see good attendance in all of the meetings and I found them all very productive with good interaction and good speakers.

As you can tell from the brief outline above there are a lot of people working and representing our membership on an on-going basis and on many fronts. There are plenty of benefits in belonging to the Association, even if you do not directly attend or have the ability to participate. Your membership is working for you, and if you put your hand up and participate you will be closer to the action and see for yourself what the benefits are. Please keep coming to your Chapter meetings and I certainly hope to see you at one of them soon.

BOARD DISCUSSES BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO ECAA. Benefits of belonging to ECAA are perceived differently by individual members. Board had an opportunity to share their reasons for joining ECAA (some professional, some tangible and some personal). The benefits will be incorporated into a survey and sent to our members. Purpose of the survey is to ensure that benefits important to our membership are continued and those that may no longer have any value are eliminated so please complete the survey.

Industry News

NTCCC Comes to Alberta. At the request of the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC), ECAA was asked to host a meeting with executive directors from sub-trade associations within Alberta and two Ontario representatives of the NTCCC, Mr. Eryl Roberts and Mr. Tom Vivian (who are also CECA staff). Purpose of meeting was to advise and inform of the NTCCC initiatives with regards to Prompt Payment legislation drafted in Ontario. The meeting held in Edmonton was one of four that were scheduled in the Western provinces to ascertain the respective provincial industry's desire to move forward in a similar fashion in their own province and how NTCCC could be of assistance to promote, and hopefully obtain, the proper legislation required to make the construction industry more profitable to our members, and to ensure that our members have proper legislation in place to better protect their interests.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) has extended an invitation to ECAA and our members-as stakeholders in the development of the National Model Construction Codes-to take part in the fall 2011 public review of proposed changes to the 2010 National Model Construction Codes. The public review is one of the main steps in the process for developing national code documents, providing a nation-wide forum where anyone can review and comment on the changes proposed. The National Model Construction Codes, comprising the National Building, Fire and Plumbing Codes are model codes developed by the CCBFC that the provinces and territories can adopt as is, or with modifications, as part of their building, fire and plumbing regulations. The public review will run from October 24, 2011 until December 16, 2011 on the National Codes Web site, www.nationalcodes.ca. The CCBFC wishes to thank your organization and its membership for contributing to the development of Canada's National Model Construction Codes. We would appreciate you forwarding this invitation to your membership and stakeholders.

Congratulations to **Bunny Kennedy on his upcoming retirement**. Bunny's journey of 46 years of service and dedication to Guillevin International was recognized by his industry peers on November 3rd. We wish you all the best, Bunny!

Industry celebrated **Ray Matthews retirement** on October 27th with a surprise event at the Training Centre. Those of us at our Provincial Board meeting were unable to attend however wish Ray all the best.

Reminder -- **COAA 2012 Best Practices Awards Nominations deadline** is 12 Noon on November 30th. Nominations process and forms available on the awards page on the COAA website (www.coaa.ab.ca).

STARS and construction industry "**Building Magic in the Air**" gala a huge success with over 320 tickets sold, numerous silent and live auction items donated, and **\$221,436.51 raised to keep STARS in the air**. Our very own Scott Hutton from High Line Electrical was

the lucky recipient of the jewelry raffle basket. On behalf for the organizing committee, thank you to the construction industry for your participation in making this event such a victory!

Chief Inspector/Administrator, Electrical position re-posted with Department of Municipal Affairs. Closing date November 17th, 2011. The successful candidate will possess either a University Degree in Electrical Engineering or a diploma in electrical engineering technology, be eligible for membership in APEGGA or ASET as appropriate, and have at least 5 years of related experience. Must have experience with, and comprehensive knowledge of the electrical codes and standards in force in Alberta under the Safety Codes Act. Training as a Safety Codes Officer is a definite asset. Equivalencies may be considered. Contact Municipal Affairs for more information.

Mr. Gary Wagar will be retiring as Alberta Construction Safety Association (ASCA) Executive Director in the New Year. Aplin Executive has been retained to search for a replacement. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply in confidence to Jennifer Ward, Senior partner (jward@aplin.com).

Mr. John Biollo and Mr. Don Letcher have been contracted by ECAA to offer **updating courses on the 22nd edition of the Canadian Electrical Code**. Request has been made to Safety Codes Council for this course to be recognized as meeting code upgrade requirements for Safety Codes Officers and master electricians. Watch for dates in the New Year at your local supplier or on the ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca).

ECAA needs to clear out our inventory of the 21st edition of the Canadian Electrical Code books, order form on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca). Pre-orders for the 22nd code book at discount price still being taken at ECAA office.

Nine pre-booked rooms left for ECAA's convention in Cabo San Lucas. Contact Christine or Sheri at the Provincial office if you are thinking of joining President Clem Gratton and his wife, Kathy on ECAA's 50th anniversary celebration.

Del Communications will be contacting the electrical industry to advertise in an ECAA commemorative 50th anniversary special they are publishing in the spring. This commemorative magazine does not replace the 50th anniversary hard cover one that will be printed following the 50th anniversary gala celebration.

ECAA recognized as a silver sponsor at the **RAP Scholarship celebration** on November 3rd. Congratulations to ECAA RAP scholarship recipients: Mr. David Larson (*employer: CMN Electrical*) and Mr. Rayden Kotyk (*employer: J & J Electric*). Our congratulations also go out to the rest of the electrical RAP recipients: Jordan Appel, Cole Bellavance, Boden Bilokraly, Trevor Charron, Aaron Combs, Conor Delbello, Devin Donnelly, Brian Dubetz, Brayden Erickson, Jacob Fluker, Amara Fofanah, Brianna Foster, Adam Friesen, Jordan Fruson, Darieun Greenidge, Adnan Grozdanic, Brandon Hick, Cole Hook, Ryan Jodoin, Bryce Kammermayer, Matthew Lyons, Westley Mahabeer, Connor McMullan, Robert Mitchell, Levi Mosich, Bradley Moule, Travis Nelson, Conor O'Neill, Lane Pipke, Kyle Reid, Colten Sutherland, Luke Vanklei, and Anthony Wong. Job well done!

Alberta and Industry Training (AIT) 2011 scholarship recipients were also announced: ECAA/NW Chapter AIT scholarship was awarded to Stacy Bjorkland (*employer: Techmation Electric & Controls*); ECAA AIT scholarship recipient was Dwayne Geddes (*employer Canem Systems*); and ECAA/IBEW AIT scholarship recipient was Arrigo Monai (*employer PCL Intracon*). These individuals will be invited to attend ECAA's Awards Luncheon in May.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) would like to invite ECAA and its members-as stakeholders in the development of the National Model Construction Codes-to take part in the fall 2011 public review of proposed changes to the 2010 National Model Construction Codes. The public review is one of the main steps in the process for developing national code documents, providing a nation-wide forum where anyone can review and comment on the changes proposed. The National Model Construction Codes, comprising the National Building, Fire and Plumbing Codes are model codes developed by the CCBFC that the provinces and territories can adopt as is, or with modifications, as part of their building, fire and plumbing regulations.

The public review will run from **October 24, 2011 until December 16, 2011** on the National Codes Web site, www.nationalcodes.ca. The CCBFC wishes to thank ECAA and its membership for contributing to the development of Canada's National Model Construction Codes.

Reminder - tickets for the **Capital Region Electric Club Christmas luncheon** on sale. Order form on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca) under Events Calendar.

ECAA Christmas Open house scheduled for Thursday, December 1st, 3:00 - 6:00. Please join the Provincial Board, members and guests for some Christmas cheer and greetings

from Santa.

Board of Directors Update

See President's message.

Local Chapter Activity

Calgary - Industry information evening moved to February 9th 2012 because of November 11th. Chapter Christmas social scheduled for Thursday, December 8th at the Blackfoot Inn. Tickets \$20 per person (dinner, auction, dance). Contributions to the food bank appreciated. Contact Dianne Rinaldi (muffin_911@hotmail.com) if donating silent auction items. Registration form for tickets available on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca) in Calendar of Events.

Edmonton -meeting location moving January 2012. After years of fine service at the Derrick Golf & Winter Club members feel it is time to move to a more central location. The convention center at the Chateau Louis Hotel on Kingsway Avenue has been chosen as the new facility. Hope to see all our members there on January 16th. Tickets will be available for Edmonton Chapter President's Gala January 21st at the Crowne Plaza in the next week.

Lethbridge - meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd. Please forward agenda items to rob@colemanelectric.ca or smclean@ecaa.ab.ca. President Clem Gratton and Membership Chair Steve Warholik will be in attendance at the meeting to mingle with Chapter members.

North West - ECAA participates in final football game fundraising initiative. Our NW Chapter stepped up to the plate with sponsoring refreshments at the football game. Magnum Electric matched the sponsorship dollars and donated a generator for their use. \$65,000 has been collected to -date for scholarships in the names of the deceased players.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Both Provincial and Federal governments renew eligibility for certification under the Income Tax Act qualifying the PEC courses for tuition tax credit under sections 118.5 and 118.6 of the Canadian Income Tax Act.

PEC Survey Results - PEC's want promotion directly to stakeholders in industry; want continuing education course on new technology; want to continue promoting PEC program and designation to new master electricians. Two brunch and learn seminars will be scheduled early in the New Year for PEC's and PEC student members. Send topics of interest or suggested speaker to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca.

Mr. Perry Schmaltz, PEC and Mr. Mike Fleming, PEC make presentation to 55 masters students at SAIT on the PEC program and benefits of becoming a PEC. Thank you Perry and Mike.

Formal request made to NAIT to make PEC presentation to master's students and secondly to introduce 4th year electrical apprentices to our industry association, its role and continuing education opportunities.

Looking for retired PEC's to assist with marketing the PEC program (at tradeshow, at industry events, to journeymen, as mentors to new PEC's). Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca if interested in assisting. On behalf of Mr. Tom Morin, PEC chair, thank you.

Continuing Education

The following two courses are full. If you wish to be placed on a waiting list please contact bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca or smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

November 18th & 19th, 2011 - Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Carriage House Inn, Calgary)

November 24th & 25th - Business & Public Relations (ECAA office, Edmonton)

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

December 8 & 9, 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.

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 23 & 24, 2012- Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Edmonton). 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.

Registration on-line at www.ecaa.ab.ca or through bsmith@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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