

THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

August 3, 2012

Issue 19

In This Issue

President's Messac

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

Executive

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

Industry News

President's Message

Board of Directors Up

Labour Update

Well things have been quite hectic in my world this past month as I'm sure it has been with all of you. With the crazy weather and all the water problems we're having there have been a few challenges to say the least.

Chapter Activity

Volunteers Neede

Continuing Educati

The ECAA office has been looking for a new home as the landlord at our existing location needs more space so has asked us if we would mind getting out. Sheri and the girls have been busy looking at different properties and we havde made an offer to lease office space in the west end.



AUGUST/2012

Kelly Wilde

Quick Links

www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Eve

We have also been trying to put the final touches on the location for next year's AGM which will likely be held in Waterton National Park in southern Alberta. It is one of our most beautiful parks in our Country and I know it will make for a fantastic AGM. Further details will be made available as we finalize the deal.

Bonnyville Lake)

I don't know if the rest of you are having as much trouble as I am in getting locates done with Alberta 1st Call but it has been absolutely brutal. I have managed to speak to Mike Sullivan who September 6th, 2(is the President of Alberta 1st Call and he explained the problem they are having with getting CE Code Seminar people and getting caught up with the back log. He offered this link to me, Portage College, http://www.alberta1call.com/HLJuly.17.2012.html, o that I could pass it on to our membership and told me that if others were having the same problems (which I'm sure everyone is) that

(Note: Moved from (they could contact him at 403-531-3712 and he would do what he can to help. He also gave me this link to their newsletter for those who may be interested. "The Real Dirt". This will keep you up to date with what is happening.

September 7th & 8

Basic Electrical Estim. Well that's about all I have for you this month other than a reminder that the Bob Carson is Carriage House, Calc coming up real soon and if you haven't booked your group in you're running out of time. September 12th is the day and I hope to see you there.

September 10th CE Code Seminai Fort McMurray **CANCELLED**

Getting to Know Your Executive

September 12th Bob Carson Classi

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.

Highlands, Edmont Getting to Know Your Executive Director: Sheri McLean, CAE

September 13th Calgary Chapter Mee Blackfoot Inn

Company History: I have been very fortunate to work for ECAA for the past 21 years. I was hired as an Executive Secretary on a six month contract when the board had to let their Executive Director go due to budgetary constraints. My September 17th previous 15 years were with another not-for-profit Association that had just become Edmonton Chapte registered under POARA. This proved to be very beneficial when ECAA was pursuing the Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) registration.

Meeting Chateau Louis

Family Members: Husband Ned, children Dustin (Rachel), Shawn (Samantha) and September 20th & 2 Tammy (Sean); grandchildren Jaydon, Seth, Kenzie, Sawyer and baby Danica arriving late September.

Safety Principles ECAA Boardroom

September 26th Favorite Hobbies: Cooking, canning, gardening and travelling.

Board of Directors me

ECAA Boardroom Favorite TV Shows: Right now following the Olympics.

September 28th & 2 Business & Public Relations

Favorite Sports Team: Jaydon's competitive hockey team.

Carriage House, Calg Most Memorable Vacation: I have been very fortunate to travel on a number of ECAA conventions but the one that was most impactful to me was Costa Rica. I loved the wildlife. Last year Ned and I spent our 40th wedding anniversary on a European cruise where standing in Pompeii and watching a live volcano off the cruise ship in the ocean left lasting memories.

Tradeshows

September 28th & 7 Alberta Employme Career Week Northlands, Edmor

Affiliations with other Associations: Canadian Society of Association Executives. I have my Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation and this Association has been a mentor to me in my position with the ECAA.

VOLUNTEERS NEED

Favorite ECAA memory: Driving back to Edmonton from Fort McMurray with Kris Gjertsen, Brian Galick and Carmen Nickolson -- the closer we got to Edmonton, the slower Kris drove as he was not finished telling us all his stories (and he had many of them to share Join Our Mailing List! over the years). It was a very long trip back with lots of laughter.

Join Our List

Social Networkii



Any word of advice to electrical contractors: Definition for Association is "an organized body of people who have an interest, activity or purpose in common". That says it all -- I can't understand why every electrical contractor in the province is not part of the Find us on Facebook f pciation that looks after their common interests.

Best part of ECAA: The wonderful people that make up the ECAA and the very special staff that I have been fortunate to work with throughout the years.

Industry News

Kickoff to the 12th Annual National Buyer/Seller Forum (NBSF) -Canada's premiere annual oilsands supply-chain gathering. With the event shifting to the fall, please note the new dates are October 23-25, 2012 in Edmonton!

uction Owners Association of Alberta pating in NBSF

will be delivering their WorkFace Planning course during this year's NBSF. The WorkFang is a best practice that emphasizes the development of small, manageable work package action. Providing leadership to enable the Alberta heavy industrial construction and indust nance industries to be successful, this course will highlight the need to drive safe, effective and productive project execution for all levels of industry who participate in the oilsands.

Our best wishes to **Francis Koppe, PEC Canalta Power Systems**, who is currently in the process of closing down his company as he has accepted a position with Supreme International in Wetaskiwin. Supreme International has been his biggest customer for 20 years. Francis has designed and wired stationary feed mixers for Supreme to export around the world. Francis states "I have enjoyed the ECAA over the years and have had very good value out of it. I have valued the professionalism, education, and networking with the ECAA over the years. Best of luck in the future to you and everyone at the ECAA."

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FOR OUT OF COUNTRY WORKERS - Global2GO

Sun Life's Expatriate Benefits Solution

When your employees are out of the country taking care of your business, we'll help you to take care of their benefits.

Peace of mind counts for a lot when it comes to taking care of your expatriate employees. A comprehensive product for employees in all kinds of situations is a big step towards that peace of mind. Global2GO helps ensure that your employees' benefits are taken care of, while they take care of business for you.

It's comprehensive - providing great benefits your employees can count on:

- Life and accidental death and dismemberment
- Disability
- Major Medical and dental care
- International Employee Assistance Program
- Emergency medical and political evacuation
- War risk coverage
- Voluntary benefits

It covers all types of employees working outside Canada - including those with more hazardous occupations including work underground, underwater, over water or aerial occupations.

In all types of employment - full time employees leaving Canada, and rotational workers, contract workers and non-Canadians working in another country (third country nationals).

It's simple - covering everyone's needs with straightforward claims processes and expert support for you and your employees.

- 24/7customer service for your covered expatriates
- Wide choice of reimbursement currencies
- Coverage for one or more expatriate employees in over 194 countries

It's reliable - a specialized product needs an expert provider. That's why we've teamed up with MSH International (Canada) to provide expatriate group benefits coverage that is underwritten by the highly respected Lloyd's of London and Hauteville (a subsidiary of Allianz.)

CSA Group - 2012 CE Code Online Training. To register call (877) 905-6094.

STANTEC is looking for a SENIOR ELECTRICAL ESTIMATOR for its Oil & Gas division in Edmonton. For more information contact Bob Maslanko at (780) 969-3267.

REMINDER: ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY CODES COUNCIL ACCEPTING BUILDING & FIRE CODE CONSULTATION. As part of the code development process, Municipal Affairs and the Council are consulting on proposed changes to Alberta specific code requirements in the next editions of the Alberta Building Code and Alberta Fire Code. The proposed changes were submitted to Municipal Affairs by the public and stakeholders or developed by the department. All the proposals were then reviewed and approved for inclusion in the consultation Building and Fire sub-council of the Safety Codes Council. For additional information visit the Alberta Municipal Affairs' website. The consultation will be open from June 5 to August 31, 2012.

STILL LOOKING FOR ELECTRICAL PHOTOS: BUILDING MAGIC IN THE AIR IN SUPPORT OF STARS. ECAA is once again a proud sponsor of this Gala event to be held on November 24th, 2012. Tickets are currently on sale and the the committee is looking for auction and raffle donations. Further information available at www.ecaa.ab.ca or www.stars.ca.

STARS is once again *looking for photos* from construction sites. These photos must meet the following specifications:

1.) RGB Colour; 2.) Full Screen Images need to be <u>AT LEAST</u> 1920 x 1980 or 26.667" x 15"h, 72 DPI at 100% size; 3.) Images that "FIT" in the screen should be <u>AT LEAST</u> 865 Pixels high (12.014"h) x variablewidth, 72 DPI at 100% size; 4.) 300 DPI, Images need to be 2.883"h x variable width to "FIT" in screen OR 6.4"w x 3.6" for full screen images.

Please note, any images done at a higher resolution than what is listed above can be scaled down. Lastly, images taken with point and shoot cameras, iPhones or BlackBerrys will NOT be accepted.

If you have auction or raffle items, or pictures depicting electrical work on a construction site that meet the above criteria, please contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca Thank you.

WHAT'S NEW WITH OH&S.

Workplace Health and Safety held a Stakeholders meeting for Administrative Penalty System in Calgary on June 26, 2012 and in Edmonton on June 28, 2012. The Government is implementing Ticketing and an Administrative Penalty System (TAPS). This will provide officers with additional tools to be used when deemed appropriate to re-establish compliance with OHS legislation.

The proposed ticketing system will enable OHS officers to issue on-the-spot tickets to employers or workers who are in violation of legislated health and safety rules. The tickets will be similar to traffic tickets.

What is an Administrative Penalty System?

It is a monetary penalty levied by administrative action rather than judicial action. An incident does not need to occur for a penalty to be levied. The purpose of the penalty is to focus on remedial action, preventive in nature.

The purpose of the Stakeholders meeting was not to identify if administrative penalty should be introduced, rather share information, hear thoughts and concerns and explore suggestions/solutions to concerns, resulting stakeholder engagement. Workplace Health and Safety are looking at implementing both Tickets and Administrative Penalty in April of 2013.

WHAT COULD TRIGGER AN ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY?

- 1. A single provision of legislation being contravened and there was:
 - risk of injury, illness, or death
 - no or minimal efforts to prevent the contravention
 - history of non-compliance activity as evidenced by past Orders,
 - minimal likelihood of compliance
 - past contraventions of the same provision within specified time period (e.g. 3 years)
- 2. Multiple provisions being contravened and there was:
 - risk of injury, illness, or death
 - no or minimal efforts to prevent the contravention
 - history of non-compliance activity as evidenced by past Orders,
- 3. Observed non-compliance with an Order, an issued Acceptance, or Approval.
 - 4. Was impeded in carrying out duties considered crucial for administration of the OHS program (ref. OHS Act Secs. 8 inspection authority and 19 investigation authority)

Certain provisions are considered crucial for adequate administration of the provincial OHS program. When such provisions are contravened, the administrative penalty will be the maximum amount, \$10,000.00 per day

- Ignoring a 'Stop Work' or 'Stop Use' Order
- $\bullet \hspace{0.5cm}$ Impeding an Officer in carrying out Sec 8 (inspection) or Sec 19 (investigation) duties
- Failing to report a Sec 18 reportable incident
- Disturbing the scene of an incident contrary to Sec 18

When an Officer's identification of a contravention, there would be a maximum 'window' of 180 days to finalize a decision.

This recognizes that:

- contraventions can be of varying complexity,
- the amount/detail of investigation can vary,
- the relevant adjustment factors can vary in type and extent, and
- it can be desirable to have the flexibility to postpone, extend, etc. to meet varying circumstances.

The recommendation is reviewed by a designated manager and a decision made.

• If a penalty is to be issued, the potential recipient may be invited to provide relevant information (including any demonstrated effort to mitigate the contravention).

Being an administrative action, a mechanism for appeal will be part of the APS. The OHS Council will act as the appeal body.

At the Stakeholders meeting they did indicate that the Administrative Penalty is not to be the first tool the Officers use but rather one that could be used on a repeat offender. There are many good employers that are working to the right thing, but there are some employers that do not have the focus on workers safety. This is only a tool to help the officers.

Also as part of the government's continued commitment to workplace health and safety they are starting Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code Review, for the 2012 -2013 year they are looking at reviewing the following parts of the Code:

Section 4 - Chemical Hazards, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances

Section 6 - Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices

Section 21 - Rigging

Section 23 - Scaffolding and Temporary Work Platforms

Section 33 - Explosives

Section 36 - Mining

Occupational Exposure Limits for Chemical Substances

Board of Directors Update

Legislation Commitee:

With the Economy staged for the next wave of mega projects the ECAA finds itself busier than ever tackling several key issues :

- 1.Trade Definitions for tendering and constructing projects
- 2. Foreign workers entrance into Canada and ensuring qualifications and Fair wages are maintained
- 3. Proposed changes to the Alberta Building Code and the Alberta Fire Code
- 4. Prompt Payment legislation

5.Bill 377

Please contact your local chapter president / local legislation representative or myself, Terry

Milot, Chair of the Provincial Legislation Committee (tmilot@chemco-elec.com). to provide input or feedback on any of these or other issues.

NEXT Provincial Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 26th.

Labour Update

Industrial Maintenance Labour Agreement Renewed. With the assistance of the ECAA Labour Relations Committee a group of contractors have concluded negotiations with IBEW 424 on the renewal of the Local 424 Maintenance Agreement which was ratified by the IBEW on July 9th, 2012. This maintenance labour agreement for contract industrial maintenance work with IBEW Local 424 has similar conditions to the General Presidents Agreement for Maintenance (GPA). The GPA covers contract maintenance work on many major resource and industrial facilities in Canada. Since the inception of the GPA in 1951 there has never been a labour dispute involving a union strike or a contractor lockout which has provided reliable, secure labour support for clients. The maintenance agreement's term is to December 31, 2016. For unionized contractors wishing additional information contact Jim Bendfeld at 780-619-8843 or the ECAA office 780-451-2412.

Labour Relations Support

The ECAA Industry Fund provides support for resolving grievances, coordinating collective agreement negotiations, Membership Development Fund Applications, collective agreement interpretation and application, etc.

BSV BETTER SUPERVISION BLENDED LEARNING PILOT PROGRAM FRIDAYS, SEPTEMBER 21, 28, AND OCTOBER 12, 2012

Better SuperVision has developed a new blended learning format for our Foreman training program which combines three full days of classroom training and completion of the e-learning first level supervisor program developed by Construction Sector Council. The e-learning package in conjunction with the three classroom days will be equivalent to our current six days of classroom training.

A **pilot program** of this blended learning program will be offered for 12 participants as follows:

Classroom Schedule: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays September 21, 28 and October 12, 2012.

Location: Alberta Pipe Trades College (16120 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton) **E-Learning Component:** During the September 21 - October 12 time period, participants will be expected to complete an e-learning program which is anticipated to be 16 hours in duration. Participants will need to have access to a computer that utilizes the PC windows format (not Mac) and also the internet. Orientation to the e-learning program will take place on Friday, September 21 and participants will not be required to provide their own computers for the three Fridays in the classroom.

Upon completion of this program graduates will receive the first seal on the Better SuperVision certificate. Better SuperVision pilot program participants will still be asked to complete Leadership For Safety Excellence and the field mentoring portions

of the program in the normal manner for the second and third seals on their Better SuperVision certificate.

Program fees for this pilot program will be the current BSV fees which are \$850 plus GST. This includes the costs for participating in the e-learning portion of the learning. People interested in participating in this pilot program can apply by contacting Shannon DeMaere at Shannon@clra.org or calling (780) 451-5444.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY CHAPTER - Next meeting Thursday, September 13th at the Blackfoot Inn.

CENTRAL CHAPTER - Code update course October 17th at the Holiday Inn with chapter meeting to follow at 5:30 pm.

FORT McMURRAY - Code seminar September 10th cancelled due to lack of registrants. Chapter meeting will be rescheduled.

NORTH EAST CHAPTER - At the request of Chapter members, the Cold Lake code update seminar has been moved to a more central location at Portage College in Bonnyville. September 6th date remains the same. Seminar will begin at 1:00 pm.

EDMONTON CHAPTER - Bob Carson Classic registration forms available on ECAA website www.ecaa.ab.ca. This tournament, booked for September 12th at the Highlands, sells out quickly. Donated golf prizes are very much appreciated. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca or bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca if able to assist with prizes. Thank you.

Locate delays in the Edmonton Area

A message from Mike Sullivan, President of Alberta One-Call Corporation

Since April this year, the Edmonton area Digging Community has experienced locate delays. In some cases, delays have been substantial. The damage prevention process is triggered by your contact to Alberta One-Call to identify buried utilities prior to ground disturbance. Using our software, Alberta One-Call determines the member utilities that will be affected by the planned excavation and notifies them by virtue of a 'ticket'. Utility members will then clear the ticket by locating and marking buried utilities in the vicinity of the planned excavation or, providing the party who requested the locate with an "all clear". Typically, the process takes two working days from beginning to end. Unfortunately, the process in the Edmonton area is taking much longer to complete.

The Cause for the Delays. The primary causes for the delay is a 40% increase in locate requests between January and April 2012 in contrast to the same timeframe last year; the seasonally low staffing levels within the locating industry at that time of year; and also, the shortage of skilled workers across Alberta.

The locating industry prepares for the seasonal "spike" in locate requests typically experienced in May but by then, the 40% increase in locate requests between January and April was already consuming Locator capacity. When the seasonal spike occurred in May, the total number of locate requests essentially matched the combined number of locate requests received between January and April. The locating industry has been working to catch up ever since.

Locating is an integral part of the damage prevention process and requires training and mentorship. A typical locator requires 4 to 6 weeks training before they begin field work. In that regard, their employer spends a considerable amount of capital preparing them for their role. Alberta's prosperity, however, has created a worker's market where higher paying jobs are virtually around every corner. When a Locator moves on to a new career, the contractor is required to begin the process all over again. The result is not being at desired Locator capacity, increased backlog and longer hours for remaining staff, and longer wait times for the digging community.

What is being done?

Since June, Canadian Locators Inc. (CLI) has temporarily brought in Locators from Ontario to assist with the backlog and newly trained Locators were deployed 10 days ago. Members of the Edmonton Locate Consortium (ELC) are in the process of deploying their own staff to function as a team completing locate requests to assist in reducing the backlog.

Alberta One-Call is working closely with the ELC and CLI to address this issue and doing whatever we can to help solve the problem. Alberta One-Call continues to facilitate communication between the ELC and the digging community. In addition, Alberta One-Call has adopted procedural changes designed to assist CLI in reducing the backlog and expediting the locate process without introducing any risk to public safety. For example, we are requesting more detailed descriptions of work areas and promoting the practice of pre-marking dig sites thereby reducing the number of locate requests that require a scheduled meet with the Locator. Locators can complete un-scheduled locate requests after business hours and on weekends.

What can you do?

Do Not Dig Without a Locate!

Despite the frustration you might have, <u>it is absolutely imperative that you do not dig without a valid locate</u>. If you choose to do so, you are placing yourself, your co-workers, your family and your community at risk.

2. Pre-mark your dig site

Clearly pre-marking your dig site with white paint, white stakes or white ribbon, will alert the Locator to the precise location of your dig site whether you are on site or not. Pre-marking the dig site expedites the locate and marking process and in most cases, eliminates the need for an on-site meeting with the Locator.

3. Follow this Safety Checklist:

1. **Call or "Click" Before You Dig!. C**ontact Alberta One-Call during the planning stage of your project (1-800-242-3447)

- 2. **Pre-mark your dig site.** Pre-marking your dig site with white paint, white stakes or white ribbon, will alert the Locator to the precise location of your dig site whether you are on site or not. Pre-marking the dig site expedites the locate and marking process and in most cases, eliminates the need for an onsite meeting with the Locator.
- 3. Wait the required time. A representative(s) of the buried utilities in the vicinity of your project will contact you within two working days to schedule a locate. Under the current situation, you may be forced to wait up to two weeks for the locate to be carried out.
- 4. **Respect the marks.** Understand and respect the markings once the buried utilities have been located and staked.
- 5. **Dig with care.** Not all buried utility owners and operators are members of Alberta One-Call. It is the excavator's responsibility to identify all buried facilities in the dig area and contact any non-member facility owners directly.

New Members

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Effective Electric Ltd (Calgary) - offering residential, commercial and emergency services; Electromax Electrical Contracting Inc (Edmonton) - residential and commercial construction/maintenance; GENIVAR Inc (Sherwood Park) - electrical consulting; Live Wire Electric Inc (Edmonton) - residential and renovations/some commercial; PT Electrical Services Inc (Red Water) - electrical contracting, maintenance, service and construction; R. STAHL Ltd (Edmonton) - manufacturer of electrical, lighting and automation interface products for harsh and hazardous location environments; Southwire Canada (Edmonton) - manufacturer of copper and aluminum building wire and industrial cables .

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PEC - Jerry Keith Hayduk (Vegreville).

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Board approves PEC Regulatory Committees. Thank you to all who volunteered to participate - we value your input.

Volunteers Needed

Upcoming Career Fairs:

• Alberta Employment and Career Fair (September 28th & 29th, Edmonton)

ECAA is looking for volunteers for this upcoming tradeshow listed above. If you are able to

volunteer please contact bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca

Continuing Education

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

Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) - September 7th & 8th (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.

Safety Principles - September 20th & 21st (Edmonton) A well developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage, and is the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firm. The first day of the course shows you each step to develop and implement an effective safety program for your small to medium sized electrical contracting firm.

The next day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by:

- clearly understanding what their safety roles and responsibilities are
- presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards
- conducting effective site inspections and developing appropriate recommendations
- investigating the steps to follow and processes involved

Business & Public Relations - September 28th & 29th (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.

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 Brittany (bsmith@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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