



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

February 4, 2013
Issue 25

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Quick Links

www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Code Seminars

February 21st

CEC Code Changes seminar

1:00 - 5:00 Blackfoot Inn, Calgary

February 23rd

CEC Code Changes seminar

8:00 - 12:00 ECAA

Boardroom, Edmonton

March 23rd

CEC Code Changes seminar

FEBRUARY/2013

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 February. I don't have a lot to talk about cause I said it all at the Edmonton Chapter President's Ball and don't really remember what I said. Lucky you. It was a good evening and we got to sit with one of our MLA's and Mayor Mandell. The Mayor was very cordial and we got to chat about several things not related to politics, such as the basketball team we used to play on in our younger days. I also got to stay up late to the wee hours of the morning to discuss even more mundane topics (though they seemed very important at the time) with a few of our members including the man of the night and our past Provincial President. Don't think we solved much but it all seemed quite important at the time.



Kelly Wilde

ECA offices are moving right along, we have started painting and the millwork is ready to go in. Lights will be going in this week as well. By this time next month we should be up and operational in the new digs. Be sure to drop by and check it out.

AGM in Waterton is nearly done and notices should be out right away. I'm sure Sheri will be filling you in with more details. Expect the packages by the end of the Month.

I will be attending the annual EIAA conference on February 8th and should have something to share with you in the next Spark.

Enjoy the month of February. The days are getting longer and Spring is hopefully just around the corner. Talk to you soon.

1:00 - 5:00 Black Knight
Inn
Red Deer

(These courses approved
by Electrical Technical
Council to meet
recertification
requirements for Master
Electricians and Safety
Codes officers)

February 21st & 22nd
Basic Electrical Estimating
Course

ECAA Boardroom

Tradeshows

**Calgary Construction
Association Tradeshow
April 24, 2013**

**Lloydminster Try-A-
Trade**

**May 1st, Lloydminster
Provincial Skills
Competitions**

**May 15th & 16th
Edmonton**

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Getting to Know Your Membership

The Wirtanen Electric Training Foundation in Tenth Year of Operation

Ernie Wirtanen founded the George Wirtanen School in 2011. The plan was to put something back in the community from which Wirtanen Electric operated for 56 years. It was found young people could not get into the electrical industry without experience. You can't get a job without experience and you can't get experience without a job. The solution to this challenge was to provide job readiness training. Applicants who were Alberta High School graduates received training in basic electricity, safety and work readiness (Be on time every day and be there ready for work).

Students are hired by open shop contractors. After working 1500 hours attend NAIT for first period training. At the February ECAA meeting Richard Cronin class C5 2003 was awarded his master's certificate. Richard went from IGA to Electrical Apprentice at Kondro Electric. He now operates RICK BECK ELECTRIC at Niton Junction.

Classes are held 7 times per year. 723 apprentices have been sent to open shop contractors at no cost to the taxpayers. To date 577 people have completed the training. Of the fifty women who took the training 42 are in the electrical trade. January and February 2013 classes are fully enrolled.

Applicants can book for April (projects@wirtanenelectric.ca)

ECAA congratulates John Gullion and the Wirtanen Electric Training Foundation on their 10th anniversary.

(We thought our readers would like to know more about the member companies who make up the ECAA. If you are interested in sharing this information with our readers, please email smclean@ecaa.ab.ca a company profile)

Industry News

ECAA wishes Dave McCallum all the best in his new endeavor (see letter below from Dave).

It is with a sense of regret that I find myself informing you of my resignation from the position of Technical Administrator-Electrical (Chief Electrical Inspector). I submitted my letter of resignation to James Orr yesterday; my last day will be February 1, 2013. I have been offered a position in industry which will provide me with greater opportunities for growth and compensation. It has been my great pleasure serving in this position, building relationships with members of the department and industry, and tackling the challenges presented to us in the Codes development field. **Dave**

McCallum, Chief Electrical Inspector (Technical Administrator)

CONGRATULATIONS TO **Mr. Daniel Houle** (Peace River), recipient of the ES Stan Sunley scholarship presented on behalf of Edmonton Chapter of ECAA. This scholarship is awarded annually on the basis of high academic achievement to a student entering fourth year of the Human Resource Management program in the School of Business at the University of Alberta. Thanks to Daniel and his guest for attending and being recognized at the January Edmonton Chapter meeting.

On Thursday, April 25th, 2013 the Edmonton Journal will once again be hosting their bi-annual Employment Job Fair at the **Commonwealth Field House** (please note the change in venue - a larger 40,000 sq ft space). This Job Fair covers the Trades, Career Planning/Job Find (Retail, Finance, Hospitality, Education, General & much more) and Health Industry categories. Contact

dgawron@edmontonjournal.com

Our congratulations to Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, PEC on his reappointment as a member of the Electrical Technical Council (ETC) until January 31, 2016.

Eaton is a diversified power management company providing energy-efficient solutions that help our customers effectively manage electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power. Our Team in Edmonton, Alberta has **(2) opening for a Field Service Representative**. The primary function of the Field Service Representative is to provide field service engineering and technical assistance to customers in areas of installation, startup, maintenance, repair, training and modification on power transmission, distribution and generation equipment and systems.

Detailed position criteria and job posting on ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca).

Preferred Qualifications:

CET or Diploma in Electrical Engineering

Please note relocation is not provided with this position. Only local candidates will be considered. If interested, please apply, at www.eaton.com/careers Job number: 54446BR and 56958BR. Please email: Shelleychaith@eaton.com with any questions

Basic qualifications - Licensed Electrician and/or Interprovincial Red Seal; Minimum 3 years of experience testing and repairing electrical power distribution equipment. COOP experience will be considered as equivalent to work experience; Valid Driver's license

Are you looking for a well-paying job that's in town?. Ready-Mix might be for you! To qualify for the 190 hour/6 week program, you need a valid class 5 driver's license and clean driver's abstract, a good level of physical fitness with a focus on upper body strength, and an absolute focus on getting the job done safely and on time.

Funding is available depending on student eligibility. A WBF advisor will help you explore your options. Job search and job retention support is provided. To find out more, or to start the application process, visit womenbuildingfutures.com.

REGISTER TODAY FOR CLASSES STARTING MARCH 4!

ACA's Government Action Committee (on which ECAA has representation) met January 22nd and confirmed that ACA advocacy priorities will continue to focus on:

- advocating for sustained, predictable, adequate investment in infrastructure, and
- immigration, mobility, and education policies that support a skilled and productive construction workforce

Government Action Committee recommended the development for associations and member firms, speaking points to educate policy makers, the media, and the public on the importance of investment in infrastructure.

In its efforts to support the competitiveness of the construction industry in Alberta,

the Government of Alberta is undertaking an overview survey of the state of productivity in the commercial construction sector. The Winslow Group has been retained to seek your thoughts through a brief survey (your individual replies remain anonymous).

You can access the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J3G6PTT>

DO YOU WORK FOR ONE OF CANADA'S SAFEST EMPLOYERS?

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR CANADA'S SAFEST EMPLOYERS 2013!

Nominate a deserving employer for one of these award categories:

- * Building and Construction * Health Care * Hospitality
- * Manufacturing * Mining and Natural Resources * Oil and Gas
- * Public Sector / Non-profit * Retail * Transportation * Utilities and Electrical

VISIT WWW.SAFESTEMPLOYERS.COM FOR DETAILS. Nominations close June 21st, 2013,

We're Moving March 1st, 2013 to 17725- 103 Avenue, Edmonton, T5S 1J2 (phones and fax remain the same).

Board of Directors Update

Board meeting held January 18th. Highlights included ECAA's participation in Careers the next Generation Future Circles celebration; recommendation from Past President's Council on individual membership in ECAA; approval of 2013 budget; ECAA's relationship with Alberta Electric League; approval of PEC and membership applications; general contractors going directly to manufacturers to purchase materials; committee and chapter reports.

Labour Update

Construction Agreements Negotiations 2015. The Registered Employer Organizations (REO) and the Building Trades of Alberta (BTA) are preparing for the construction agreement renewals to begin in the fall of 2014. The last round of bargaining in 2010/11 saw a new structure called Framework Bargaining. Representatives from the REOs and BTA negotiated the major items such as wages, which were adopted into all the construction agreements. Negotiations for most of the agreements were finished months prior to the agreements coming to term.

All parties agree the framework bargaining was beneficial and worth repeating. The unions and contractors are optimistic that the framework bargaining will succeed for the next round of bargaining.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY - Calgary Industry Night scheduled for Thursday, February 21st. Members asked to bring a non-member to this casino night event. Prize donations welcome - contact Cindy Cameron (cindy.cameron@sonopardis.ca) or Hilary Zorn (hilary.zorn@sonopardis.ca). Thank you to all our members for helping make this industry event a success.

EDMONTON - Edmonton Chapter President's Ball a huge success -- thank you to all who attended to make it so successful. Next meeting Monday, February 25th. Presentation by Terry Sawatzky, Schneider Electric on "Energy Management and Power Metering"

FORT McMURRAY - Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 7th at the Sawridge. Presentation by Tavis Lindquist, Westburne Electric Supply on

"Electrical Distribution in the Online World".

New Members

Applications approved at the January 18th Board meeting were Brews Supply (branch membership in Calgary); Exile Automation Corp (Red Deer); Inova Electrical Inc (Edmonton); Sheridan Electrical Contracting (Sherwood Park). Welcome to ECAA.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Practice Review Committee chair required. Mr. Jonny Nielsen, PEC has resigned as the chair of the Practice Review committee. Nominations being accepted for a replacement until the end of the term (May 25th, 2013). Interested individuals can send email to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca.

PEC = Blue Seal Only to Feb 28, 2013. As a PEC have you applied for your Alberta Blue Seal certification? An urgent issue is getting your Blue seal. An Alberta Blue Seal requires 150 hours of Business Training. Until March 1, 2013 your PEC qualifies for the Blue seal just by applying and paying the fee. After March 1, 2013 you will need to take another 60 hours of approved business training to get your Blue Seal

Attached are web site links.

<http://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/experiencedworkers/business-competencies/>

Board-approved programs of study for full credit for the Blue Seal Certificate

- [Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta](#)

Professional Electrical Contractor Program

Please forward this message to any other PEC's that you have not yet got their Blue seal.

PEC Course Equivalency . The following article provides an overview of the concept of the getting credit for a PEC course from courses you have taken previously.

The P in PEC stands for "professional" as legislated under the Professional Electrical Contractors and Master Electrician Regulation. Since it is legislated, there is no provision for "Grandfathering" i.e. you may have spent 30 + years as a successful electrical contractor. However contractors have often on their own initiative taken courses similar to the present PEC courses or longer courses that contain all the components of a two day PEC course. In the early days of the PEC designation the University of Alberta was contracted to evaluate courses taken and presented by PEC Students to see if the course taken was equivalent to a present PEC two- day course. ECAA PEC program has now matured to where PEC Education Committee can do this equivalency evaluation in house.

There is a process in place for Alberta Master Electricians who have Alberta Blue Seal Certification or CCA Gold Seal Certification to get equivalency for PEC courses. Blue Seal - is straight across for course equivalency (no other PEC courses are required to be taken at this time). The Blue Seal holder still needs to meet the other requirements in the PEC application form (CME at time of registration, two professional references, etc.). Gold Seal - if a person has a Gold Seal for safety, estimating or project management they would automatically be given equivalency recognition for these three courses towards PEC.

If a PEC student wants PEC course exemption for another course previously taken and passed process is:

Applicant must complete program description form and exam form and pay \$150. If the course they have presented for equivalency is accepted, they must write and pass that PEC course open book exam. Equivalency Application Review is by PEC Course instructor and at least 2 PEC Education Committee members who are PEC's. Appeals against any decision made by the PEC Education committee are to follow documented PEC guidelines. Questions can be directed to Sheri McLean, Registrar of the PEC program (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca).

The forms are available on ECAA web site

http://www.ecaa.ab.ca/pec_program.aspx under forms.

Any comments or questions are welcome.

Mike Fleming PEC Education Chair email : mike_fleming07@yahoo.ca

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (PEC'S)

Mr. Michael Desautels (Sherwood Park) and Mr. Calvin Hilman (Sylvan Lake)

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2013 form on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events):

Legal Implications, February 7th & 8th (Edmonton). The instructors for this course are from the legal firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain, LLP. This course will address such matters as incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts and subcontracts and liability there under, 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.

Basic Electrical Estimating, February 21st & 22nd (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 or materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit (contingencies). This course is taught by Mr. Pat Barnes.

Also 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.

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 ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca



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