



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

July 5, 2013

Issue 30

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

*Bob Carson Classic Golf
Tournament
Highlands Golf Course
Wednesday
September 11th
Registration at
www.ecaa.ab.ca
(Calendar of Events)*

Upcoming CEC Code

JULY/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

As we are getting into the summer months, I don't have much to write about. I have had meetings with some of my executive in June at our head office in Edmonton getting into items that needed attention, that of non-member contractors using the ECAA logo. It was good to have a resolution pretty well the next day. The use of our ECAA logo is only for member contractors, one of the privileges of belonging to the association. As a member please use the logo on your trucks, equipment, letter head and business cards. This does make a difference to the public when they receive a quote or correspondence from one of our members. And don't forget your web site, great place for the ECAA logo.



Les
Dzwonkiewicz,
PEC

I am a PEC and use this as well behind my name, it really makes a difference when dealing with engineers and other professional identities. Logos are important to your business, people remember you, and logos help you stand out ... and I don't mean standing out in the cold. Lol! So please become a member if you are not, check out what we can do for you as a member of the ECAA.

I have met and spoke with 5 chapter president in June and would like to meet with the rest before the September meetings begin. It is my objective to know Chapter concerns so that we can start early in the year and try and accomplish the items important in each part of the province.

Changes Seminars

September 21st
8:00 am - noon
ECAA Office
Edmonton

October 10th
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Hotel Blackfoot
Calgary

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

Upcoming PEC Courses

Basic Electrical
Estimating
September 6th & 7th
Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary

Project Management
September 13th & 14th
Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary

Safety Principles
September 19th & 20th
ECAA Office, Edmonton

Tradeshows

Thank you to the volunteers
who participated at the ECAA
booth during the Skills
Competitions in Edmonton.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
Alberta Employment &
Career Fair
October 4th & 5th
Edmonton Expo Center

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Social Networking

It was my privilege to be part of the retirement party for Mr. Al Larson in Grande Prairie on the 19th of June, his last 2 weeks with Wesco. I first knew Mr. Larson when I called him Al back in the early 80's, it has been a long time of breakfast only, he never did buy me lunch. ☺ I could always rely on Al when it came to delivery of material to a certain job site and the price was not too bad as well. Thank you Al for all your dedication and knowledge you have contributed to the electrical industry.

Our membership chairman, Mr. Steve Warholik, presented Mr. Larson with a gift certificate from the ECAA and delivered a few good jokes -- that man can just pull some great jokes out of his pocket. I wish I could do that sometime in the near future. lol Thank you Steve for taking time out to come to Grande Prairie for this, and I am happy to say that we did not drink too much that night. lol There was a great turn out of people from the whole electrical industry. On a side note Steve, we wish you a speedy recovery from your recent knee surgery.

We as an association think of our associate members as a very important part of the ECAA. We learn from you as you learn from us. The electrical industry starts first with the apprentice, than the journey person, than that person may become a contractor. Than that contractor will start to do business with one of many of our associate members and it is a vision that we all belong to the ECAA.

Wish everyone a great summer.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU EXECUTIVE

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.

Getting to Know Your 2013-2014 Secretary, Darrell Castor

Company History: Western Electrical Management Ltd. has been providing commercial electrical contracting services in western Canada from its offices in Calgary and Edmonton since 1959. It has been involved in some of the most significant commercial projects in the area including The Bow, McCaig Tower at the Foothills Medical Centre, Suncor Energy Centre (formerly Petro Canada Centre), Bankers Hall, the National Institute for Nanotechnology at the University of Alberta and the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat.

Family Members: Married to Elsie Marie Castor since 1983. Elsie works at Atco Gas as an Senior Administrative Coordinator for Engineering Construction and Operational Support. One son, Jason Matthew Castor born in 1988. Jason just graduated from University of Victoria with Bachelor of Engineering.

Favorite Hobbies: Fitness, Gardening and Travel.



Find us on Facebook 

Favorite TV Shows: Game of Thrones, Dexter, The Good Wife, Breaking Bad, Sons of Anarchy.

Favorite Sports Team: Calgary Flames, Toronto Blue Jays.

Most Memorable Vacation: An overland adventure tour from Amman, Jordan to Cairo, Egypt followed by a Safari in the Masai Mara, Kenya

Affiliations with other Associations: Scouts Canada

Favorite ECAA memory: 2013 AGM - This event offered me an introduction into the culture of the ECAA.

Any word of advice to electrical contractors: Everyone need to continue their professional development to keep up with our ever changing industry.

Best part of ECAA: The ECAA offers an opportunity to meet with our peers in a non-competitive environment and share our common concerns.

Industry News

ECAA teamed up with Mustang Freightways and sent a trailer full of food to the Calgary Food bank (pictures on facebook). So successful sending another this Friday. Thanks to all for your donations.

SAVE THE DATE. **STARS Building Magic in the Air** fundraiser sponsored by the construction industry, Saturday, October 26th, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton. Sponsorship packages and ticket sales available end of June. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca if you require further information or are willing to donate an auction/raffle item. This event raised approximately \$200,000 last year and a Spyder crane was purchased for STARS. This year a wish list for \$180,000 worth of tools submitted by STARS staff is the goal. PLEASE get involved.

ACA Safety/WCB Committee (ECAA representative on this committee is Mr. Dave Hagen, Chemco Electrical Contractors). ACA successfully lobbied for the WCB to introduce consulting services to assist employers understand the process should they wish to appeal decisions of the WCB. While employer satisfaction with the service has been high, usage has been very low. ACA is concerned that limited usage may reflect lack of employer awareness, not lack of value. It would be very unfortunate if the Employer Appeals Consulting Services were discontinued for lack of use. ACA encourages all employers to use the service.

WCB has advised employers that it is required to apply no fault throughout the life of a claim, even where employee refusal to accept modified work stems from situations where the employer believes it has

terminated an employee for just cause. ACA's Safety / WCB committee met June 3rd with the WCB to review their policy interpretation. Consequently ACA will be requesting the WCB undertake a review as to the applicability of no fault as it applies to employee actions subsequent to the acceptance of the initial claim.

Peter Lawlor, President of Skills Canada Alberta (SCA) is pleased to welcome Bert Samuelson to the Skills Executive Committee as Vice-President. This was affirmed by the Board of Directors at their meeting on June 19, 2013. Bert's appointment completes the current Executive Committee membership that also includes: President, Peter Lawlor (NAIT); Treasurer, Terry Harris (Vantage Alliance) and Secretary, Dave McPhail (TELUS). Bert Samuelson is the Dean of Trades at Lakeland College and has been a Director on the SCA Board since 2012. He is an ardent and passionate Skills Champion. Lakeland College (Vermillion Campus) is the annual host of the Lakeland Regional Skills Canada Competition.

Change in Leadership at Kristian Electrc. After 4 years of dedicated leadership, *Dean Gjertsen* has decided to pursue a new position within Kristian Electric. We wish Dean the best of luck and congratulate *Kevin Gjertsen*, who has assumed the role of President.

ACE Learning Centre is coming back to the cities of Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray to teach next **IP Electrical Red Seal refresher course**. For more information or to enrol contact info@acelearningcentre.org.

Brittany Smith will be leaving ECAA this Friday. We wish her all the best in her new adventure and endeavour in her new job. Congratulations Brittany - we will miss you.

Christine Hryniw will be returning to ECAA from her maternity leave July 15th. Welcome back Christine.

Board of Directors Update

Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 25th, 2013. Prior board will focus on strategic/succession planning.

We're still looking for a Communication Chair to join the Provincial Board of Directors - interested? Contact Sheri or Les.

CONVENTION 2014. Had to add extra day to trip (Air Canada cancelled flight home). Once details finalized, registration forms will be on the ECAA website. At this time limited to 70 people - register early to avoid disappointment.

Call for Speakers. If you are planning to join us in South America and are

interested in making a presentation to the group, please email your proposed topic to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca. We need a minimum of three presenters. On behalf of President Dzwonkiewicz, thank you.

Labour Update

The Labour Relations Committee will be meeting on July 9th. Congratulation to Kevin Levy, recently re-elected as IBEW 424 Business Manager.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY - Next meeting Thursday, September 12th. Chapter board orientation on September 4th.

EDMONTON - Next Chapter meeting is Monday, September 16th. Bob Carson golf registrations and hole sponsorship welcome.

FORT McMURRAY - Next meeting September 10th. President Joe MacNeil looking for volunteers to fill rest of Executive positions. Contact Joe directly at joemacneil@shaw.ca.

New Members

Welcome CEM Electrical (Welling), Cage Electric Ltd (Stettler), URSA Electric (St. Albert), Zembal Electric Inc (Gibbons).

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

PEC Committee members still required -- especially for Marketing & Communication and Practice Review. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ab if you would like to participate on a committee or would like more information on one of the committees.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (PEC'S)

Shawn Salekin, PEC #248

Continuing Education

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

Basic Electrical Estimating, September 1st & 2nd (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 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.

Project Management, September 13th & 14th (Calgary). Increased competition is eroding profit margins across the board. To be successful in today's marketplace, electrical contractors need to work smarter - not harder. The Project Management course will teach you practical, hands-on skills to:

1. identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled
2. avoid paying for others' errors or omissions
3. reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration
4. identify cost overruns - and take corrective action
5. use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability

Safety Principles, September 19th & 20th (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 (steps to follow and processes involved).

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 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,

August 9, 2013.



Electrical
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