



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

December 6, 2013

Issue 35

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

**Edmonton Chapter
President's Ball**
*Saturday, January 25th, 2014
Chateau Lacombe
Edmonton*

**Upcoming CEC Code
Changes Seminars:**
*December 16th, 2013
Chateau Louis
Edmonton*

*January 9th, 2014
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Port O'Call Best Western
Calgary*

DECEMBER/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

Ho Ho Ho everyone what's on your Christmas list this year??? Hope you've been good girls and boys, I know I have..... maybe, but I will only find out on Christmas day -- my wish for 2014 is no slice and 250 yards off the tee!!!

I would like to start off by thanking Sheri, Dorothy, Christine and Camille at our main office for their hard work, keeping the gears of the ECAA running smoothly. The Board of Directors are at the top of their game working together towards a better association. Special thanks to our board members and their families for giving up personal time for the betterment of the electrical industry.



Les Dzwonkiewicz,
PEC

Our membership since June of this year has grown by 18 new members, representing over 900 employees. Great job Steve, our membership chair. The main office is open to all our members. You have an open invitation to come and sit in at any of our board meetings, just please phone ahead and make arrangements with Sheri. The lunch is included as well as free coffee -- please bring your ideas.

The Canadian Electrical Contractors Association had a board of Directors meeting on October 12th in Washington, DC. CECA has agreed to a strategic planning session to develop strategies and measurement vehicles going forward. It was agreed that a 2 day session is required. The next meeting will be by teleconference on January 22, 2014.

The board meeting on December 5th went very well with all our board members looking their best for the pictures taken. Chris, the camera man from Stambaugh Photographics, always does a great job, very pro. We revived our budget and it is looking in great shape for this year. Thank goodness we are not seeing red :). Eric Fadden and Jeanette DeBruin are drafting a welcome statement for new members. The ECAA will be a contributing GOLD sponsor to the Safety Codes Council's June convention. We look forward to attending and networking with

January 11th, 2014
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Port O'Call Best Western
Calgary

January 28th, 2014
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Keyano College
Fort McMurray

March 11th, 2014
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Lethbridge Construction
Association
Lethbridge

March 12th, 2014
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Medicine Hat Lodge
Medicine Hat

March 17th, 2014
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
(lunch included)
Red Deer College
Red Deer

March 19th, 2014
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Location TBA
Grande Prairie

To register for the Code Seminars please fill out the following form and send it to the ECAA Provincial Office.

Please note that confirmation notices will be sent out.

[Code Seminar Registration Form](#)

(These courses approved by Electrical Technical Council to meet re-certification requirements for Master Electricians and Safety Codes Officers)

Upcoming PEC Courses
Legal Implications
February 6th & 7th, 2014
(Edmonton)

Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE)

fellow stakeholder's in the electrical industry. Thank you to the board members for your reports finishing off a super 2013, just an awesome job.

The Christmas Open House was once again very well attended this year with fellow members and guests wishing each other good cheer and a profitable new year in business ... and with life in general.

Please check the ECAA web site for upcoming seminars, meetings and news pertaining to our association.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Oh one more thing, my fortune cookie from the open house night reads, **IT'S ALL RIGHT TO HAVE BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH... JUST GET THEM TO FLY IN FORMATION.**

Your President,
Les Dzwonkiewicz PEC

Testimonials Requested

Membership Chair Steve Warholik is requesting testimonials from ECAA members to include in a marketing brochure. Testimonials can reference

Why you joined ECAA? or How has being a member benefited you? or Most memorable ECAA moment.

Thank you to those who have already submitted your testimonials. Let's keep them coming!

Please email chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca. A \$100 KEG gift certificate will be drawn from those who reply.

Industry News

ECAA Holiday Hours As the holiday season approaches we ask all our members to note that ECAA will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2013 until 8:00 am on Thursday, January 2, 2014. **Wishing all our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Edmonton Chapter President's Ball January 25, 2014 taking place at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. Tickets are now available; contact Christine Hryniw at the ECAA Provincial Office to book your table and tickets now! (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

[PRESIDENT'S BALL TICKET ORDER FORM](#)

Edmonton Construction Association is Expanding!

Project Solutions Consultant. Join the Edmonton Construction Association as it builds an exciting future. We are looking for a highly motivated professional to join our team as a Project Solutions Consultant. This position will be a conduit of the construction procurement process by connecting buyers of construction to providers of all construction services. You will be at the centre of the action of the largest contributor to Edmonton's economic powerhouse through this exciting new role.

You are: -A team player looking for a unique challenge in growing the number of on-line plans in COOLNet Alberta; -Experienced in developing and maintaining

**February 6th & 7th, 2014
(Edmonton)**

Tradeshows

Keep checking in for future participation and involvement in industry related career & trade fairs.

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business to business relationships; -Collaborative and solutions oriented; -Inquisitive in nature and in possession of excellent research skills to find out about up-coming construction projects; -Patient and persistent in order to keep following up on information and continue to build relationships; -In possession of some knowledge and understanding of the construction processes from beginning to end.

The position: -Is full time Monday to Friday with some evening and weekend work required to attend networking events; -Is located predominately in the Greater Edmonton Area with some travel required from time to time to conduct on-site - visits with external stakeholders or attend conferences; -Will be remunerated with a base salary and have an incentive based bonus structure tied to performance.

To Apply: Please apply in confidence with a cover letter stating base salary expectations and a resume demonstrating your past experience to hr@edmca.com We thank all applicants in advance for their efforts; only those that are selected for an interview will be contacted.

Nominations are Now Open 2014 Alberta Export Awards Recognize an Alberta Exporter with notable achievements. Canadian Manufactures & Exporters (CME) is looking for Alberta's top exporters from amongst the province's diverse export industry. The Alberta Export Awards recognizes the innovative approaches milestone achievements and unique contributions of the companies as the people who lead them. The award categories include: Emerging Exporter, Services, Agricultural & Consumer Products; Manufacturing: Oil & Gas; Manufactured Products; and Technology & Media. Additional Awards for Leadership and International Business student are granted to individuals demonstrating significant contributions to the export community in Alberta.

Anyone may nominate an Alberta exporter for these awards and Alberta Exporters themselves as they are encouraged to apply. Those interested in applying or nominating an organization or individual can go to www.albertaexportawards.ca or click here for [nomination form](#) or click here for [application form](#).

Exporters will be asked to step through the process of providing background information demonstrate their success and achievements. **The deadline to nominate a deserving company is February 3, 2014.** Those who are nominated and those companies that nominate themselves have until February 7, 2014 to submit their completed Alberta Export application.

Construction Owners Association of Alberta (COAA). Nominations are now open for the 2014 COAA Awards, this year on the theme of leadership in Construction Safety. The nomination process and forms are simple and brief; **the deadline is 12:00 pm on Friday, December 14th.**

These awards recognize companies and organizations who have provided outstanding leadership to implement, improve and share industry best practices, which have led to measurable advances in safety at the project, company or industry level. The awards are presented annually at the COAA Best Practices Conference in May, to celebrate industry leaders and to provide inspiring role models for COAA members and the industry at large. If you know of a firm or an individual who deserves such recognition by their peers, download the nomination forms under "What's New" on the COAA home page: www.coaa.ab.ca

COAA Associate Members, COAA Supporting members as well as non-member companies may be nominated:

- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms
- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) firms
- * General contractors

- * Sub-contractors and specialty contractors
 - * Labour organizations/ providers
 - * Other industry associations
 - * Extraordinary individuals within the above companies/ organizations
- Any best practice, whether developed by COAA or by others, can form the basis of an award. As usual, COAA Principal Members are not eligible for these awards.

The following information obtained from Alberta Construction Association website:
2014 WCB Rates Announced: Alberta's employers will see their premiums drop by more than 8 per cent on average in 2014. The average industry premium rate is \$1.03, continuing to be the lowest average rate in Canada. Construction industry rates vary by rate group. [Find out more.](#)

Employer Review - Level 2. Input Requested by December 12th. OHS Partnerships is seeking input from stakeholders on the question of developing some new methods to deal with Certificate of Recognition (COR) holders who have been through the Employer Review process two or more times, but where their health and safety performance is not improving over time. They will measure performance using the new Employer Scorecard which considers Disabling Injury Rate, Loss Time Claim Rate, Days Lost Frequency Rate and the occurrence of fatalities over multiple years.

Currently, when reportable incidents occur, to COR holders, Partnerships conducts a review of the incident with and determines whether the employer may have significant deficiencies in their health and safety management systems. When deficiencies are identified, a meeting is held with the employer and an action plan with deliverables and completion dates is developed. As this process occurs each time a reportable incident occurs with a COR holder, some employers have been through the action plan process several times. While most employers show some dramatic improvement following completion of their action plans, not all improve and some continue to have more incidents. There are not many COR holders in this situation, but they are aware of some, and they will be in better position to identify others once the data from 2013 from the WCB becomes available. The idea is for Partnerships to develop a "toolbox" of approaches that we could use to assist these COR holders.

ACA's Safety / WCB Committee met with Partnerships November 28. [Click here](#) to see the OHS presentation from the 28.

As per the preceding paragraph, OHS is seeking industry input on additional measures to address those few employers who continue to trigger reviews (OHS ideas are covered in bottom slide on page 10 of the attached document) . One idea raised yesterday from industry was that these employers be subject to more frequent and random external audits as part of their action plan. The regular audit cycle would come into play once OHS was satisfied that the problems had been rectified.

Please provide your comments by December 12 to Ken Gibson
ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net

The above information obtained from Alberta Construction Association website.

Merit Contractors has sadly announced the sudden passing of Bill Stewart, Merit's Vice President in Edmonton. Bill was a dedicated leader at Merit and his presence will be greatly missed by everyone. Within Merit he was known for his kindness, his willingness to lend a hand and his ability to bring people together. Bill built many relationships with those of us in the industry, all across Canada and the

United States, and he is remembered for his passion, his knowledge, his dedication, and his integrity. We will miss our colleague, and more important, our good friend, Bill Stewart. Donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Hope Mission, PO Box 953, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2L8. To send condolences please visit www.connelly-mckinley.com

Open Shop Contractor required for Code Committee: Contact DJ Coppens (dj@territorial-electric.com) if you are interested.

New Electrical Codes have been adopted by the Electrical Code Amendment Regulation (Alberta Regulation 176/2013) and came into force on October 1, 2013 under the Safety Codes Act. For further information on these Codes follow this [link](#).

NEW FIRE CODE STANDATA The following STANDATA has been released and is now available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website. To view or print a copy go to the link below.

Fire Code Interpretation

[FCI-13-03](#) - Liners for Secondary Containment - AFC 06, Division B, Article 4.3.7.2.

To view all STANDATA that have been issued for the 2006 Alberta Fire Code [click here](#) .

Please note that the **Alberta Fire Alarm Systems Guide** will no longer be available for order through the ECAA; please order through the Safety Codes Council by submitting the following order form directly [Alberta Fire Alarm Systems Guide Order Form](#)

NAIT Bursary's for 2013 were awarded \$500 to Zhiyuan Fu, Patrick Hardy, and Frederick Steyn. Each achieved academic excellence in Electrical Engineering Technology program. All bursary's raised through the Capital Regional Electric Club (CREC).

Mark your calendars for the following CREC social events: Curling Bonspiel March 7th, 2014; Poker Tournaments (TBA), Spring Golf Tournament June 18th, 2014.

Condolences on behalf of ECAA go out to the family of Joe Howdle, Eecol Electric Red Deer. Joe was a long standing member and supporter of ECAA and will be missed in the industry.

New Handi-Guide to Alberta's OH&S Act, Regulation and Code (2014) edition coming out this December. It will include the ticketing process and the new Regulation in addition to other changes. Also available is an Alberta Study Guide to be used for training on the legislation (includes sample questions and test material plus a free answer key). For more information contact the ECAA Provincial Office.

Board of Directors Update

Provincial Board Meeting held Thursday, December 5th, 2013. Agenda included formation of a sub-committee to look at guidelines for individual membership in the Association; input to ACA Construction Management Project Delivery method Guide; approval of ECAA's membership and participation in the Alberta Trade Contractor's Coalition; review of the Public Member resumes received from

Government; ECAA Gold sponsorship of Safety Codes Council 2014 conference; 2014 balanced budget reviewed and updated; Chapter and Committee reports which will be included in detail in the December issue of the Contactor; presentation on Federated Insurance Core health plan.

Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Open house that followed our board meeting, it was a great success!

Open door policy: ECAA Board of Directors invites those interested in sitting in on a Provincial Board meeting and bring forth ideas or just to gain a little perspective. Please contact Sheri McLean (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) to sit it on a future meeting. Members also encouraged to attend a Chapter Executive meeting to gain more insight into what your volunteers do.

Have something to say?

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

Labour Update

Increases to the subsistence allowance for Lloydminster, Hardisty and Wainwright areas have been made. Contact the ECAA Provincial Office for more information on this notice.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: *Calgary Chapter Christmas Social December 12th* (6:00pm cocktails at the Hotel Blackfoot). Silent Auction items and food bank donations welcome. Contact Dianne Rinaldi (muffin_911@hotmail.com) to make arrangements.

EDMONTON: Edmonton Chapter's *President's Ball* taking place on **Saturday, January 25, 2014**. Contact Christine Hryniw to purchase tickets (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

New Members

Welcome New Members:

Robert Electrical Services (Edmonton) and Deltec Power & Control Systems (Lethbridge)

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

We would like to welcome **Brian McCready** as our newest instructor for the PEC course Business & Public Relations. Brian joins Grant Hammond in delivering this course.

PEC Breakfast Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th (Chateau Nova, Edmonton) and Thursday, December 12th (Best Western Port O'Call, Calgary). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the following items: 1. Discuss Training Day (input for topics and training day agenda); 2. Marketing PEC designation (not the program, the designation); 3. Professional Liability Insurance (As a PEC, do I need it?) 4. 2014 PEC Budget (Is there anything you would like focus on in 2014 that should be included in the budget?) Your attendance and input at these very important meetings is much appreciated. Breakfast at 7:30 am (meeting to follow at 8:00). Please RSVP to chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

CALL FOR SPEAKERS! It's never too early to plan, and with that in mind the planning for **ECAA Training Day 2014** has been underway. Training Day will be

held at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton, Alberta, on May 23rd prior to ECAA's Annual General Meeting. The theme is "**Keeping Up with the Changes in Technology**". Presentations will be dedicated to Residential, Commercial and Industrial.

If you have any questions or would like to present please contact Sheri McLean or Larry Cantelo, PEC via email or 780.451.2412 for Sheri McLean. Thank You!

CONGRATULATIONS! New Professional Electrical Contractors (PEC'S)

Robert Colclough, PEC #259; Todd Fell, PEC #260; Robert Ferenc, PEC #261; Ryan Hudson, PEC #262; Derek Polsfut, PEC #263 and Robert Young, PEC #264

Continuing Education

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

[2013/2014 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Legal Implications, February 6th & 7th, 2014 (Edmonton) This course will increase your awareness and understanding of legal issues and pitfalls common to electrical contractors. The course will also address incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts, subcontracts and liability thereunder as well as how to ensure payment for your work - including remedies available under The Builders' Lien Act. *(Please note that this course is only offered once a year in Edmonton only)*

Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE), February 20th & 21st, 2014 (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.

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, February 7th, 2014.



Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

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