

CONTACTOR



Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Newsletter

Issue 1, 2007

Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
Celebrates 45th Annual Convention

Chateau Lake Louise
May 24th - 26th

"The Voice of the Electrical Industry in the Province of Alberta"

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President's Message

With this Contactor you will receive registration information on ECAA's 45th anniversary convention and Annual General Meetings, May 24th - 26th at the Chateau Lake Louise. We are very excited to have Mr. George Hedley, an entertaining and enlightening speaker from Costa Mesa, California deliver two seminars to convention participants: "Clues Your Company is in Huge Trouble" (*warning signs and solutions to build your business*) and "WOW Your Customers" (*how to build loyal customer relationships*). The golf course has



Mike Brunner

been booked in beautiful Golden, seats have been reserved for a live dinner show in Canmore, and the ballroom and band booked for the President's Gala on Saturday evening. The ladies will be treated to a fashion show luncheon as one of the many optional activities planned during the event.

This Annual General Meeting will be a turning point in ECAA's membership with proposed ByLaw revisions to welcome "Regulatory" members into the Association. Your participation, input and vote are very important.

It's election time. If you have a passion or interest in one of the committees (either at the Chapter or Provincial level) please let us know. Volunteers are very much needed and appreciated!

Looking forward to your attendance in Lake Louise!

Chapter Reports

Calgary

Brian Phelps, PEC

Eighty members and guests were present at the January 11th Chapter meeting held at the Blackfoot Inn, a good start to the New Year. A number of new master's were in attendance to receive their certificates. Mr. Lou Greco, City of Calgary, delivered a presentation on E-line permits. Mr. Burt Moore, a new City Inspector, was introduced. Members received notice of price increases from Enmax for minor services. ECAA has been invited to participate with a booth in the Calgary Construction Association tradeshow April 25th (volunteers are asked to please contact ECAA). Information on \$500 tool credit for apprentices is available on www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. Condolences to the family of Mr. Henry LeGuyder, a Lifetime member of ECAA who recently passed away.

February meeting was held at the Danish Canadian Club with



another good turnout. The Nominations Committee introduced Mr. Doug Fraser as an additional Vice President to work with Mr. Paul Roy (Mr. Roy will be stepping down at the end of the year). Mr. Stephen Dunne provided an interesting synopsis on the price of copper; Ballast disconnect issue was discussed by the City of Calgary; Enmax asked contractors to please check off "No" if they are not ready to have services energized; Thomas & Betts displayed their new fusion wrap and Mr. Doug Piebiak provided a very interesting presentation on Surge Pure. Welcome new member, Aspen Electric.

Chapter elections will be held May 10th (*members wishing to volunteer on the Board are asked to please contact President Brian Phelps or Mr. Ken Rickbeil*), to accommodate an industry membership drive in April. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th. Speaker will be Sharlene Massie from About Staffing who will speak on Hiring/Motivating/Retaining employees.

Chapter Reports

Edmonton

Terry Milot, President

The New Year started off with fifty-eight members and guests attending the January 15th meeting. Mr. David Prentice and Mr. Harry Ooseroff made a presentation on CLAC – a union alternative. (Mr. Brad Wright from Merit Contractors was also scheduled to speak but was called away at the last moment and rescheduled for the March meeting). Members were



updated on Apprenticeship (best wishes to Mr. Ron Yanew who is leaving Alberta Apprenticeship for private industry), Code (disconnects for fluorescent lighting issue), PEC (upcoming courses listed on ECAA's website), Labour Relations (bargaining proposals exchanged with IBEW), and Communication (Associate members encouraged to post events on ECAA's website to avoid industry conflict). Mr. Art Lippert, the Chapter's new Social Committee chair, encouraged members to participate in the upcoming President's Ball at the Fairmont Hotel McDonald. A warm thank you letter was received from Ms. Nicole Sikora, recipient of the Edmonton Chapter Stan Sunley scholarship, presented to a Business student at the University of Alberta. A number of new master electricians were in attendance to receive their certificates, and Mr. Kelly Kegler was presented with his Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) ring.

February 26th saw another successful Chapter meeting. Mr. Mark Lipton, Western Regional Manager of Ferraz had a very interesting presentation on arc flash, as well as the impact

on current legislation. Mr. Clem Gratton reported that the Provincial Apprenticeship Committee (PAC) will be holding their annual meeting March 7th in Edmonton. Proposed changes to the Electrician course outline will be submitted for approval by the PAC at this time. Apprenticeship tuition fees for the 2007/2008 year will be increasing 3.3%. 165 AIT Scholarships are available at \$1000 each. An update was provided on the successful Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta (EIAA) conference held February 8th and 9th in Sherwood Park, where there was plenty of opportunity to voice issues and opinions. Members were provided an update on self-regulation for master electricians by PEC Provincial Chair, Mr. Lou Hiemer. Mr. Lippert reported that Edmonton Chapter President's Ball in 2008 will be held on Saturday, January 26th at the Fairmont Hotel McDonald. Survey showed an overwhelming response to keep venue the same. Mr. Tom Morin, was introduced as incoming Provincial Communications Chair.

Joining Mr. Wright at the March 19th Chapter meeting will be Mr. Blaine Doherty from Dyna-Flo to address secondary seals.

Volunteers are required for Edmonton Public School Workplace Showcase March 14th (7-9 pm) & 15th (9-3 pm). Contact the Provincial Office if you are able to assist.

Elections will occur at the April 16th meeting. If you would like to be part of the Board please an email to the Provincial Office.

North East

Jonny Nielsen, PEC

The NE Chapter held a meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007 at the Wayside Inn in Lloydminster, with eight members in attendance. Agenda items included the Chapter budget, Code seminars held in Lloydminster and Cold Lake, membership dues, a membership drive, and benefits that may be offered specifically to North East Chapter members. Apprenticeship numbers at Lakeland College were discussed and a request made for the percentage of industrial, commercial and residential apprentices the college presently. The availability of a Master's course at the College was requested.



Mike Chledowski with Alberta Permit Pro reviewed the permit and inspection process for NE Chapter area. The Vermillion

River area is positive and proactive. Discussion took place on codes and enforcement of safety.

Mr. Rick Hutchison, Federated Insurance, initiated discussion on insurance value for ECAA members. Federated Insurance has designed exclusively, for Association members, a program that offers unique coverage and services not available to non-members. Unique coverage includes waiver of depreciation on artisan vehicles; employment practices defense cost coverage group employee benefit programs; trauma assistance; errors and omissions; and multi-cover endorsement. Premium discounts are offered for COR Certification. Brochures available through ECAA.

Motion was made and seconded that the existing members remain on committee for 2007. Next meeting will be held April, 2007 in Lloydminster.

Committee Reports

Electrical Technical Council

Clem Gratton, PEC

It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Electrical Technical Council, I have been officially appointed to the Council as of the effective date February 1st, 2007, as the representative for the ECAA. At this point I would like to thank Perry Schmaltz on behalf of the ECAA for his extremely long service as the Committee Chair, from what I have observed over the past couple of years helping out, Perry's expertise in this area has proven to be very valuable for the Association and believe me, we were very well represented. On a personal note, Perry, I would like to thank you for your past, present, and hopefully future assistance in getting myself up to speed and comfortable with this position.

On to the business: I attended my first Board of Directors meeting (end of January) with the ECAA and dropped into a hot bed of issues which some of the members had already been working on. I proceeded to look into addressing these concerns at the EIAA (Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta) conference and my first ETC (Safety Codes Electrical Technical Council) meeting, and noticed that they were all in the perspective agendas already. I attended the EIAA conference February 9th, and 10th and found it to be very informative with plenty of opportunity to voice our issues and opinions. If any of you ever think you might like to attend I would encourage you to, it is open to anybody who has a stake in our industry, and next years Conference will be February 8th, and 9th, 2008. I will make sure the official notice is forwarded to our members when it comes. I followed that up with attending the ETC meeting February 14th, and found this to be an eye opening experience. There are some very capable and experienced individuals that belong to this committee, which has a very good representation of all the stakeholders of concern in our industry. So here is the standing as I perceive of some of the issues that have been a concern to our members.

The Secondary Seals issue, a Standata has been released as of today Feb 14, 2007.

The Electrical Skids issue is being researched by a special committee that was formed.

Disconnects for fluorescent lights, this is being pushed at the manufactures level and it is anticipated that product will eventually address the issue. In the mean time there has been 3 manufacturers' who have come up with a plug type

product that can be incorporated in the wiring. I believe that an information bulletin is being prepared to explain that this interim fix is not to be confused with an approved disconnect and is to be considered as an Isolating device. In other words turn power off then unplug the ballasts, then the power could be turned back on knowing that the fixture ballast would not have power to it.

If any of you were in the habit of building recessed heat lamp boxes for installations where the heat lamp cans would be exposed to insulation (attics etc), as per an old Standata which had been removed some time ago, then you will want to start telling your customers that this is not allowed any longer. Recessed light boxes will not be allowed by any of the inspectors any longer.

In the recessed light fixtures in attic theme, you will likely be having inspectors starting to ask you for proof that they are approved to be installed in the attic space. I am contacting our manufacturer to be prepared before they call me on it, you might want to as well.

A new Standata for cathodic protection will also be released in the very near future, please keep an eye out for that one. Of course there were many other issues discussed, some of which were just for information, many that were forwarded for further review, and others passed on to other committees. I think I have made this report long enough already, please do not hesitate to email me if you have any concerns.

By the way here are some dates for industry events that you may want to attend:

AEICTC (Alberta Electrical Industry Codes and Technical Conference) May 2nd and 3rd, 2007 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

SCC (Safety Codes Council) Annual General Meeting and Conference May 4th, and May 5th, 2007 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

I will forward the registration information once it is officially received through the ECAA office, but keep those dates in mind.

Committee Reports

Labour Relations

Brian Halina, Chair



2007 promises to be an interesting year for Unionized Electrical Contractors. The year began with the exchanging of proposals with the IBEW and negotiations are well underway. There is hope that a settlement can be reached before the April 30th expiration of the present Collective Agreement. While we don't know exactly where the numbers will fall, Contractors should be aware, as they prepare estimates for late 2007 and forward, that increases are expected to be fairly substantial.

The Industrial Contractors are beginning to get busier but it will probably be late in 2007 before they reach full capacity.

Apprenticeship

Dean Gjertsen

Applications for 2007 Apprenticeship and Industry scholarships will be available from ECAA, all Apprenticeship and Industry Training offices as well as off the web site: www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. There are 165 scholarships available at \$1000 each.

Tuition fees for 2007/2008 will be increasing 3.3% to \$84 per week (\$672 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year) and \$1008 for the 4th year apprentices. Grants are available for those apprentices who may need assistance with tuition, books, supplies and living expenses.

Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit

New Federal Tax measures were introduced last year. The Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10 per cent of the eligible salaries and wages paid to qualifying "Red Seal Trade" apprentices.

The credit is applicable to a maximum of \$2000 per year per apprentice, and is valid for the first two years of employment. To qualify, the eligible wages and salaries have to have been paid after May 1, 2006. The potential tax savings for employers can be significant if they have hired a large number of qualifying apprentices.

Commercial and Institutional Contractors continue to be busy with a good outlook for some time to come. Manpower is readily available at this time.

The Education Trustees are working with the Union to build a new free standing Training Facility on the Union office site in Edmonton. The design of the project has commenced. It is hoped that construction will start late in the Spring and will be completed before year-end. The new facility will provide 20'0" high space to better facilitate Fall Protection, Hoisting and Rigging, Conduit Bending and QA/QC Training.

Joint Committees in Health and Safety, as well as Education and Apprenticeship continue to function well.

Skills Competitions

ECAA is a strong supporter and proponent of the Skills Competitions, which are approaching in May. Below is an excerpt from a letter to ECAA from one of the Skills participants.

"I wish to thank you very much for the cheque of \$500 for placing 1st in Automation & Controls at Skills Alberta 2006 in May. ... After Alberta's competition I went on to compete in Halifax at the Canadian Skills competition. There I placed 2nd. The winner was over the age of 30 so I was given the opportunity to go onto World's at Tokyo in November 2007. The age limit to go to World's is under 21 as of January 1, 2006. This has been quite an experience up to now. I have been enrolled in extra training at SAIT since September 2006 along with my 4th year electrical school. During 2007 I am going to Montreal for training as well. This year promises to be an exciting year and I hope that I represent Canada well."

Signed by Travis Dunne (we wish Travis all the best in World's and encourage more Alberta apprentices to get involved in the Skills competitions).



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we've got
you covered.

Beyond knowing your industry, we take the time to understand your business. We work with you to provide insurance programs with tailor-made policies that meet your specific business needs.

Our knowledge is key to managing your risk. Customized insurance, loss prevention programs and a commitment to prompt and fair claims service.

We've got you covered when you need it the most, but we sincerely hope you never do.



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Knowing your business matters.

Exciting News!

Federated Insurance, our recommended Insurance Partner has just announced a new program exclusively for the members of our Association!

The program, **ASSOCIATION AD VANTAGE** includes new and enhanced features and services available to our members only! Unique additions to the program include:

- Waiver of Depreciation on Artisan Vehicles
- Employment Practices Defense Cost coverage
- Group Employee Benefit Programs
- Trauma Assistance Program
- Contractors Errors and Omissions Insurance (E&O)

In addition, Federated Insurance has introduced a number of premium **discounts** for COR Certification on your CGL and E&O coverage, a **37.5%** savings on your Multi-Cover endorsement, and up to **55%** off Homeowner/tenant/condo insurance.

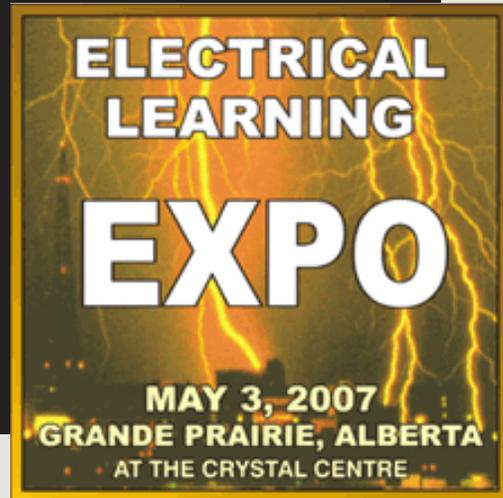
The program also includes a number of excellent resources including:

- A **NEW** Employer resource for Employment Practices and Legislation, Knowing HR Matters
- A **NEW** "ready to implement" risk management, safety and loss prevention program, RiskWise, that addresses issues specific to our Industry
- A **NEW** Risk Management Certificate Program for Contractors
- A **NEW** series of Loss Prevention material, Partners In Prevention, to share with your employees
- A comprehensive fleet management program, The Right Road

For more information on this program and the coverages and services now available contact your Federated Insurance Risk Services Coordinator. Details of the program will also be available shortly on our website under the members only section.

We work hard to bring value to our members and we are pleased to provide this new benefit to you!

Mark Your Calendar!



ECAA congratulates Madame Justice Donna Shelley on her recent appointment to the Court of Queen's Bench. Donna was a resource to ECAA Past President's on ByLaws , as well as the Professional Electrical Contractors on ethics. We wish her all the best in her new endeavour.

(Donna with her two children, Scott & Breah)

Board of Directors

Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta

Executive:

President:	Mike Brunner
Vice President:	DJ Coppens
Treasurer:	Todd McKay
Secretary:	Ron Mackenzie
Past President:	Terry Milot

Chapter Presidents & ECAA Directors:

Edmonton	Terry Milot
Calgary	Brian Phelps, PEC
Central	Charlie Bagshaw, John Kostiw, Darcy Teichroeb, PEC
North East	Jonny Nielsen, PEC
North West	Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC
Lethbridge	Todd McKay
Medicine Hat	Glenn Pocsik
Fort McMurray	Gord Stuve

Directors-at-Large:

North	Terry Emmerson
South	Ken Rickbeil, PEC

Committees:

ACSA	Dave Hagen
ACA (South)	Al Miller
ACA (North)	Peter Rasmussen, PEC
Apprenticeship	Dean Gjertsen
Associate Liaison	Terry Sawatzky
CECA	Willard Kondro
Code	Clem Gratton, PEC/Perry Schmaltz, PEC
Communications	Tom Morin
Convention '07	Mike Brunner
Convention '08	DJ Coppens
Labour Relations - Union	Brian Halina
Labour Relations – Non-Union	DJ Coppens
Legislation	Dick Ducholke, PEC
Master's	Kelly Morris, PEC
Membership & Public member	Carmen Nickolson
Nominations	Terry Milot
	Willard Kondro
	Roger Richard
PEC	Lou Hiemer, PEC
Safety Codes Council:	
Fire	Keven Lefebvre, PEC
Electrical	Clem Gratton, PEC
Ways & Means	Todd McKay

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Regular:

Diesel Electric, Red Deer

Associate:

ABB Inc., Edmonton

CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

2007 NATIONAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

(HOSTED BY ECA ONTARIO)

JUNE 13 – 16, 2007

WESTIN, OTTAWA

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE

www.ecaa.ab.ca or www.ceca.org

The Contactor

The Contactor is the official publication of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta.

We welcome articles and paid advertisements.

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