



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

October 4, 2012

Issue 21

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### Quick Links

[www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

### Calendar of Events

*October 10th  
PEC Education Committee  
Conference Call  
12:00 noon*

*October 11th  
Calgary Chapter Meeting  
Blackfoot Inn*

*October 11th & 12th  
Assessing & Finalizing the  
Tender  
ECAA Office*

### OCTOBER/2012

#### 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

Well it's now official -- fall is here, the trees are losing their leaves, winter activities are starting (I curled my first game of the year already) and meetings are going on all over the province. I'm sure there has been one in your chapter already and if not one will be held very soon. Check it out and see what's going on in your part of the province. We had our first Provincial Board Meeting on the 26th of September and here are a few highlights (see Board of Directors Update for more).



Kelly Wilde

Darcy Teichroeb's term as our representative on the Safety Codes Council for Electrical (we also have one for Fire) is expiring on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and Darcy has graciously accepted to sit for another term. Thanks Darcy for doing this. Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board is currently looking for an employer representative and we need a Public Member. Sophie Schmalz was our Public Member appointee, has completed her term. I would like to thank Sophie for all her work and dedication to our association and wish her well in her future endeavors. If you know of someone who is at arms length from our Association and would be interested in taking on that roll please contact the office.

We have also confirmed that next year's AGM will be in the beautiful Waterton Lakes National Park. If you have never been there you owe it to yourself to go see one of our true gems. If you have you're probably already looking forward to being able to go back and understand why we picked this place. Mark it down you won't want to miss it.

I have just confirmed with Sheri that I will be attending the N.E. Chapter meeting on October the 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see all the NE members there. I

*October 15th  
Edmonton Chapter  
Meeting  
Chateau Louis*

*October 16th  
North East Chapter  
Meeting  
Spiros, Lloydminster*

*October 17th  
CEC Code Seminar and  
Central Chapter  
Meeting  
Holiday Inn*

*October 20th  
CEC Code Seminar  
Edmonton*

*October 27th & 28th  
Design Build  
ECAA Boardroom*

*October 30th  
Board of Directors  
Meeting  
ECAA Boardroom*

## Tradeshows

***Thank you to our  
volunteers at the  
recent  
Alberta Employment &  
Career Week  
Northlands, Edmonton***

## Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

## Social Networking



will also be attending Careers: The Next Generation's 15th year celebrations in Fort McMurray on October 19th and partake in a tour of the oilsands. That's about it for now, talk to you in the upcoming edition of the Contactor.

## Getting to Know Your Staff

***We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors and the staff so have added this feature into the Spark.***

### ***Getting to Know ECAA's Accountant: Dorothy Dean***

**Company:** I have worked with ECAA now 3 years. Prior to being here, I spent 4 years going to school in Virginia for a Bachelor of Science / Accounting degree. For almost 20 years before that I co-owned and was the Controller for an Edmonton based computer software company.

**Family:** I am single and have 3 grown children, two sons and one daughter.

**Hobbies:** Reading, cooking, sewing and spending time with my friends.

**TV Shows:** I enjoy movies and watching shows on Netflix

**Sports:** Not really into sports at all

**Most memorable vacation:** England and Paris prior to starting school and of course the years in Virginia were one long extended vacation.

**Affiliations with other Associations:** Part of the Hospitality team at my Church

**Favorite ECAA memory:** The AGM's and Conventions I have been able to attend

**Best part of ECAA:** All the wonderful people I work with

## Industry News

### **Nominations are now open**

### **2013 Alberta Export Awards**

Recognize an Alberta Exporter with notable achievements. CME-Alberta is looking for Alberta's top exporters from amongst the province's diverse

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export industry. The Alberta Export Awards recognizes the innovative approaches, milestone achievements and unique contributions of companies as well as the people who lead them. The award categories include: Technology & Media, Manufactured Products, Emerging Exporter, Services (professional, financial, engineering or design) and Agricultural & Consumer Products. Additional Awards for Leadership and International Business Studies 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 are encouraged to apply. Go to [www.albertaexportawards.ca](http://www.albertaexportawards.ca) download an application or nomination form. The deadline to nominate a deserving company is November 30, 2012. Those who are nominated and those companies who nominate themselves have until December 7, 2012 to submit their completed 2013 Alberta Export Award Application.

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton seeks support of \$5,000 for the support of our 30 affordable homes being built in St. Albert. While we have asked for this amount we would be grateful for any support you can provide. ***We also hope that we can engage employees and members to volunteer on our build sites as well.*** The community of St. Albert has really rallied behind this project, however as a non for profit we have very little human resource, your partnership is truly important to us. We think this proposal may be of comparable interest to the employees, your members and to the association. We have attached a complete proposal and hope you will be able to partner with us. To address the affordable housing crisis, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton will be building 100 homes over the next year. This is a huge endeavor for us, to which we rely on support such as yours. 100 homes over the next year. This is a huge endeavor for us, to which we rely on support such as yours.

***Division 16 Curling League***

BEGINS: **October 3, 2012**

WHERE: **Avonair Curling Club**

**10607 Princess Elizabeth Ave.**

DRAW TIME: **6:00 pm, Wednesdays**

**\$310.00 (per person)**

**Ray Sheskey Brews Supply PH: 780 452-3730 FAX: 780 455-4422**

**Dwight Hunter Leviton PH: 780 475-5575 FAX: 780 475-2436**

REMINDER: 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!

**REMINDER; SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE SEMINAR. NOVEMBER 29TH, 2012. Presented by Worksite NEWS,**

**Canada's premier occupational health, Safety and environment E-Magazine;** Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre; 4404 Gateway Boulevard. . Register online: [www.worksite-news.com/default.cmf?pageid=388003](http://www.worksite-news.com/default.cmf?pageid=388003)

**New CSA publication** available in September. It's called "**Electrical Quick Reference**" and is a pocket size reference guide (about 180 pages). At a list price of just \$19.99 it's an ideal reference book for the contractor, construction electrician or HVAC journeyman. It contains the most commonly referenced information and tables from the 2012 CEC and it is an economical way of putting critical information in the hands of electrical workers that do not have a code book. It's available for pre-order on line or via phone. The link to shop.csa is: <http://shop.csa.ca/en/canada/c221-canadian-electrical-code/electrical-quick-reference/inv/27034292012/>.

**KNOW THE CODE - IT'S UP TO YOU. Z462 Workplace Electrical Safety now available.** The second edition of CSA Z462 has been extensively revised and updated. In addition to significant technical revisions, the new edition adds considerable amount of guidance and resource material - especially important for organizations seeking to make electrical safety an integral part of their safety management system. The new edition has also been aligned with the changes and revisions to the upcoming 2012 Canadian Electrical Code, Part I. For information call: 1-800-463-6727; email: [sales@csa.ca](mailto:sales@csa.ca); or online [shop.csa.ca](http://shop.csa.ca).

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR STARS Gala.** We are looking for live and silent auction donations as well as raffle items. Items can be dropped off at the ECAA office or the form sent directly to STARS for volunteer pick-up. The 2nd annual Building Magic in the Air Gala, in partnership with the construction industry and STARS, is going to take place on Saturday, November 24, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. Join us in making this a successful event.

**PUBLIC MEMBER REQUIRED for ECAA Board of Directors. STILL LOOKING FOR RESUMES** from interested individuals at arms length from the association. For further information contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca).

#### Board of Directors Update

Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 26th. Detailed reports in this issue of the Contactor.

Ken Gibson, Alberta Construction Association (ACA) Executive Director, updated board on agenda priorities of the ACA sub-committees ECAA

has representation on. Government Advocacy (Marv Green) dealing with immigration reform; provincial capital budget; education and apprenticeship. Safety/WCB (Dave Hagen) priority issues are administrative penalties; Provincial safety strategies; return to work Partners in Industry Reduction (PIR) incentives. Standard Practices (DJ Coppens) lobbying Alberta Health Care; liaising with Alberta Infrastructure on cost and capacity; educating owners about procuring design and construction services; updating form A and creating sub-sub contracts; lean legislation and Building Information Modeling (BIM). Research and Technology (Perry Schmaltz) building relationships with AB universities and technical institutes; partnership with Productive Alberta; and monitoring trends, disseminating information through blog and newsletters. ECAA appreciates and thanks our volunteers for their involvement with these committees.

Mike Fleming made a presentation to board on Annual Professional Development for Professional Electrical Contractors. Thank you to Mike and his committee for a job well done.

Bill 377 discussed. Board questioned whether this will apply to a Registered Employers' Organization (REO) in Alberta as this is Federal legislation. The Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) is not taking a position. This was turned over to labour for follow-up.

Invitation received from Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk for ECAA participation in consultation and review process concerning important aspects of Alberta's construction labour legislation.

OHS Policy and Program Development branch of Alberta Human Services undertaking a review of the following parts of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code: 4 - Chemical hazards, Biological Hazards, Harmful substances; 6 - Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices; 21 - Rigging; 23 - Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms; 33 - Explosives; 36 - Mining; Occupational Exposure Limits for chemical substances. Review and submit suggestions at <http://employment.alberta.ca/SFW/14571.html>.

ECAA Executive will attend Alberta Construction Association caucus dinner in November. The three key messages will be: (1) Maintaining Provincial investment in infrastructure; (2) Support solutions for industry capacity; (3) Support industry competitiveness.

ECAA proud silver sponsor of Careers: The Next Generation's 15th anniversary celebrations in Fort McMurray on October 18th.

Did you miss ECAA's 50th anniversary gala? Great video available [www.EBMag.com](http://www.EBMag.com), under videos. Thank you to A. Dalton, Electrical Business and A Capkun, Editor for sharing this with us.

ECAA welcomes *Ms. Camille Arnett* as Christine's maternity replacement. Camille will be working with the chapter presidents in organizing their meetings and assisting with membership requests.

### Labour Update

Labour Update in this issue of the Contactor.

For unionized contractors wishing any information contact Jim Bendfeld, Labour Relations Coordinator at 780-619-8843 or the ECAA office 780-451-2412.

### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY** - Next meeting Thursday, October 11th at the Blackfoot Inn. Guest speaker, Kelly McLennan, Cooper Industries, "*Structural Steel Savings*". RSVP to meeting by email [carnett@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:carnett@ecaa.ab.ca).

**EDMONTON** - Chapter meeting scheduled for Monday, October 15th. Guest speaker Brian Thompson, ElectriXwest Agencies on "*How to deal with and reduce Harmonics in your building through the use of Distribution Transformers*" and Cathy White, SunLife Financial on "*Estate and Financial Planning*". The Chapter thanks City of Edmonton Inspector, Dean Hlewka and Chief Electrical Administrator for Municipal Affairs, Dave McCallum for attending the September meeting. Dean will once again be at the chapter meeting to address contractor concerns.

**FORT McMURRAY** - Chapter meeting was held on Wednesday, September 19th at the Stonebridge Hotel. Thank you to guest Speaker Ron Warholik, Thomas & Betts for his informative presentation on "*Nexus Monitoring System. Emergency Lighting Exit Sign and Battery Unit Monitoring and Testing System.*" Membership extends a huge thank you to Gord Stuve who has stepped down as Chapter President (2004-2012) and congratulates incoming President, Joe MacNeil from Laird Electric. Gord will be honored at the Awards luncheon in Waterton in May.

**NORTH WEST** - Chapter breakfast meeting was held on Friday, September 21st at the Stonebridge. Round table discussion with local chapter inspectors and Mr.

Mike Gardner from Safety Codes Council very informative. See full report in this issue of the Contactor.

**NORTH EAST** - Chapter meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th at Spiros. In attendance will be provincial President, Kelly Wilde and PEC Discipline Chair, Clem Gratton to discuss chapter concerns. Agenda items may be forwarded to Chapter President Terry Barnett.

**CENTRAL** - Code update course October 17th at the Holiday Inn with Chapter meeting to follow at 5:30 pm. Refreshments will be sponsored by EECOL and a guest speaker is being finalized. Agenda items may be forwarded to President Darcy Teichroeb.

## New Members

**CONGRATULATIONS NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS:** Amdek Electrical Services (Edmonton); DCM Integrated Solutions (Sherwood Park); Horizon Electric (Calgary); Live Wire Electric (Edmonton); Plute Construction (Edmonton); Rev's Electrical Contracting (Edmonton); Southern Energy Consulting (Edmonton); Western Pacific Enterprises GP (Coquitlam).

**CONGRATULATIONS NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** ESE-LSS Life Safety Systems Technology (Edmonton).

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**PEC Education Committee seeks student member volunteer.** Contact Mr. Mike Fleming PEC Education Chair email : [PEC\\_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:PEC_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca)

**REMINDER: PEC MEETINGS** scheduled for November 8th in Calgary and November 19th in Edmonton. Seminar presenters being finalized.

### PEC Professionalism in the Workplace

*The following article provides an overview of the concept of professionalism in the work place with specific reference to PEC's. Professionalism can take many different forms depending on the work location and the types of work; however there are some common traits. Professionalism is an attitude that ought to be present both at the workplace and in our non-work lives.*

Professionalism impacts employers, employees, customers and the public

**1. As an Employer / Employee the PEC should develop attitudes that will allow them to be:**

1.1 a person who is a continuous learner, keeping updated on: codes, regulations, technologies, work practices and by being "teachable", "continuous improvement" .

- 1.2 a person who works with others to solve problems.
- 1.3 an active listener.
- 1.4 a clear, concise, and consistent communicator.
- 1.5 dependable.
- 1.6 a person of integrity, truthful and upfront.
- 1.7 a safe worker
- 1.8 a provider of quality work.
- 1.9 a person who completes tasks on time or provides the customer with advance notice of problems that would delay the completion.
- 1.10 a person who has full awareness of the company's vision, mission, goals and objectives.
- 1.11 a person who has respect for others.
- 1.12 a person who admits errors and takes ownership to determine resolution.
- 1.13 a person who tries to use a mistake as an opportunity for learning..

**2. In response to their customers the PEC should :**

- 2.1 Be excited about their company.
- 2.2 Respect their time and contribution to the business.
- 2.3 Respect and value their opinion.
- 2.4 Remember that you are providing benefits not product features.

**3. In response to the Public the PEC should:**

- 3.1 Remember that you are representing the entire electrical industry so that:
  - 3.1.1 Your actions should bring respect.
  - 3.1.2 You are seen as a voice of reason.
  - 3.1.3 You consider the good of the industry in your dealings.
  - 3.1.4 Your position is based on current information but you are open to new information.

Have a professional day, every day. Any comments or questions are welcome.

Mike Fleming PEC Education Chair email : [PEC\\_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:PEC_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca)

## Volunteers Needed

### Upcoming Career Fairs:

- Thank you to our volunteers for the Alberta Employment and Career Fair (September 28th & 29th, Edmonton)
- **2012 Fort Saskatchewan Career Fair, October 24th**, 10:00 - 4:00. If you are able to assist, please contact Brittany in our office as soon as possible at [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca). Thank you for donating your time.

## Continuing Education

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

**Assessing & Finalizing the Tender, October 11th & 12th (Edmonton).** This course covers organizing the estimate, finalizing the tender, and computer aid in estimating and finalizing the tender. Very little time is spent on basic take-offs. The course addresses calculations of various overheads, mark-up theories, labour factors, evaluating risk factors, and the like -- all concerns that the active business manager meets up with every day. The three parts of this course are designed to create an awareness of the various business principles involved in preparing his or her tenders. Mr. Pat Barnes is the instructor for this course.

**Computer Estimating, October 18th & 19th (Edmonton).** This course is designed to provide the new estimator or contractor with a basic understanding of how to prepare an estimate. It covers: Planning for the estimate; Preparing counts; Take-offs; Preparing the bill of material for supplier pricing and Review of the bill material; Accubid "Bidwinner"; use of assemblies; where to enter miscellaneous costs, supplier pricing, overhead costs, and the final pricing sheet; use of Excel spreadsheets to assist with take-offs. Course instructor Mr. Chris Reinhert, PEC.

**Design Build, October 27th & 28th (Edmonton).** Design build has become a common place term in the engineering and construction industry in recent years and is prevalent for various building construction projects. The electrical contractor as a sub-trade is being asked to participate in the design build process. As a viable business opportunity, it is necessary for the electrical contractor to fully understand the concept of design build organization model, the laws and regulations pertaining to design build, design build methods, estimating techniques and risk management. The course will help project managers, engineers, executive and owners of electrical contracting firms to address opportunities in design build and expand their market

profitability. Instructor for this course will be Mr. Larry Cantello.

**Project Management, November 9th & 10th (Calgary).** This revised course will now be taught by Mr. Mike Fleming, PEC.. You will learn practical hands-on skills to identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled; avoid paying for others' errors or omissions; reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration; identify cost overruns - and take correction action; use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability.

**Accounting Principles November 22nd & 23rd (Calgary).** This updated course taught by ECAA's new accounting firm, BDO will introduce you to terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business. Course open to your accounting staff person.

**Business & Public Relations, November 29th & 30th (Edmonton).** 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. This course taught by Mr. Grant Hammond.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)



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