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NECA-MEI Announces EPS Train-the-Trainer Schedule for 2009

The NECA Management Education Institute (MEI) is pleased to announce the Electrical Project Supervision (EPS) Train-the-Trainer (T the T) program schedule for 2009. The EPS (T the T) program is designed to develop trainers of project supervisors at the local level. Each level of the course builds on the skills gained at the level that preceded it.

The 2009 schedule is as follows:

EPS (Level 1) Train-the-Trainer	March 16-19	(Atlanta, GA)
EPS (Level 2) Train-the-Trainer	May 18-21	(Jacksonville, FL)
EPS (Level 3) Train-the-Trainer	August 10-13	(Jacksonville, FL)

Individuals wishing to attend one, two, or all three programs must contact Jiela Mansouri by phone at (301) 215-4557 or by e-mail at jjim@necanet.org. In turn, you will receive a confirmation letter along with information on where the (T the T) program of your choice is being held. All EPS (T the T) programs sponsored solely by MEI will be held free-of-charge, but participants are responsible for transportation, hotel and other miscellaneous expenses.

New Executive Director

There's a new face in Glen Burnie! Jonathan (JT) Thomas has come to the Maryland Chapter, NECA to serve as the new Executive Director.

JT's career with NECA began as a Staff Associate in the Southern Region in June 2006. In September 2006, JT joined the Southeastern Line Constructors Chapter in Atlanta, Georgia. There he served as the Assistant Manager until recently, when he was brought on to the Maryland Chapter to replace Larry Tolbert who passed away last October.

JT comes to us from Georgia, but calls Knoxville, Tennessee his hometown. He graduated from Emory & Henry College in 2005 with a Bachelors Degree in Economics.

JT brings with him his wife, Megan, who is expecting their first child in July and their dog, Dixie.



Alliance for Construction Excellence (ACE)

The Alliance for Construction Excellence is a coalition of the premier construction specialty contractor associations, allied to create awareness of the value of quality construction. Recently, the Maryland Chapter NECA and its members have joined ACE in an effort to promote union electrical contracting in our area and to our local legislative representatives.

In January, Jim Cornelius, Curtis Reed, Tom Inscoc, Steve Kelly, Michael Birckhead, and JT Thomas joined other ACE members, including the Washington D.C. Chapter, NECA and the Mechanical Contractors of Maryland, Inc., at an ACE reception held at the Loews Annapolis Hotel. There, contractors and their representatives had a chance to speak to local delegates and inform them of the legislation that affects our industry. Overall, the night was a success in terms of introducing ACE to the General Assembly with over 100 contractors and their representatives getting to know more than 40 legislators in attendance.

If you would like to participate in the Alliance, please feel free to contact the Chapter office for details on the next meeting.



*Photos by Thang Nguyen



Maryland Chapter Welcomes MBR Construction Services

In December 2008, the Chapter welcomed its 32nd member to the Association. MBR Construction Services Maryland Division has been actively working in Maryland since 2001 and we are glad they have become members. We look forward to their participation in many of our upcoming events.

SubContractors Beware!

Geary Higgins, National NECA's Vice President of Labor Relations, recently sent out an alert to contractors who have taken on subcontracting work.

“As the economy dips, we have noticed an increase in activity by other crafts to try to claim work that has historically been performed by NECA contractors and IBEW bargaining units. Much of this mischief has been instigated by the Laborers.”

“In addition to other methods being employed, the Laborers have negotiated agreements with general contractors that require the general contractor to include language in its contracts with subcontractors that arguably require that the subcontractor (such as an electrical contractor) recognize and agree to be bound to the Laborers' collective bargaining agreements with the general contractor. In effect, an electrical contractor could unintentionally become signatory to a Laborers' agreement simply by signing a contract with a general contractor and without signing anything with the Laborers.”

Higgins' recommendation: those contractors carefully review all language in any subcontract offered by a general contractor with language pertaining to the Laborers.

The incident Higgins is referring to, happened in northern California. For more information or a sample of some language that is being used by the Laborers and general contractors, feel free contact the Chapter office.

**Monthly Payroll Reports
September 2008**

(Based on reports received as of November 26, 2008)

Local Union	# of Employees	Hours Reported
LU 24-Balto	1828	587561
LU 24-ES	85	10460
LU 70	66	11257
LU 307	333	48942
Total	2312	658220

Note: "Number of Employees" and "Hours Reported" figures include non-bargaining unit employees who are listed on the monthly reports.

**Calendar of Events
February – March 2009**

February 10: Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 PM - Chapter Office

March 24: Membership Meeting
6:00 PM - Four Points Sheraton, BWI



MD NECA News is published by the Maryland Chapter NECA, Inc., and is intended for the exclusive use of NECA members. MD NECA News is meant to provide general information, and is not intended to offer legal advice or opinions.

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Thank You from Denise Tolbert

To All the Board Members, Staff, Contractors and Friends of the Maryland Chapter.

I wanted to express my thanks, love and gratitude for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, contributions, and things you have said and done since Larry's tragic passing. His sudden death has broken me, and will take a very long time to heal.

Larry's career with NECA meant a lot to him, and it means a great deal to me that each of you had such high respect for him. During Larry's years with the Maryland Chapter, you have treated us both with exceptional kindness, and made me feel welcome since the first time I met each of you...

Larry was a wonderful man. He was devoted to his job and his family. He left great memories to all those who knew him that will live on forever. My life was also enriched by the presence of so many great friends. Friends he left behind to help me through this difficult time. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you. You all have a special place in my heart, and now Larry lives on in all our hearts.

I will never forget those wonderful parties, get-togethers and trips that we have enjoyed together. Wonderful memories that will help me through the difficult times ahead.

I will also remember your kind expressions as a tribute to the man who will always be the light of my life.

Words cannot cover my appreciation.

With a heavy heart...
I will remain your friend.

Denise Tolbert