



REVIEW



VOLUME XXVII
Editor: R. Newcomer

ISSUE FOUR

April 2010
Staff Associates: L.Garner and P.Solich

“Freedom in economic arrangements is itself a component of freedom broadly understood, so economic freedom is an end in itself... Economic freedom is also an indispensable means toward the achievement of political freedom.”

Milton Friedman

GREATER CLEVELAND

FINANCIAL

- 1.) Consumer spending accounts for approximately 70% of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).
- 2.) Many remain skeptical about the recovery.
- 3.) How healthy is corporate America? A.) Large companies are remarkably healthy. B.) Cash on nonfinancial company balance sheets was \$930 billion as of January 2010, nearly a third higher than 2008. C.) The ratio of cash to total assets for S & P 500 nonfinancial companies has increased for the past 12 months to a 35 year high of 9.8%. D.) Small business continues to struggle.
- 4.) Construction peaked in 2006 and we are still living with the hangover. Private commercial construction did not experience dramatic growth until 2005-2008. A bottoming process in commercial real estate is occurring during this first part of 2010.
- 5.) Benefit packages and salaries are significantly higher in the public sector versus the private sector.
- 6.) The U.S. spent about \$21 trillion in health-care expenses in 2009. It should be closer to \$2.3 trillion this year.

NECA-ENERGY SOLUTIONS

NECA's definition for energy solutions is energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy integrated in a holistic way. Green solutions—buildings account for nearly 50% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Electrical contractors can help to make such buildings environmentally responsible.

NECA is a proud partner with the U.S. Green Building Council.

Many aspects of green technologies has been incorporated into the apprenticeship training program. Log into the NECA website and learn more www.necanet.org.

EMPLOYMENT

January 2010—total employed: 1888, 1566 (Inside), 281 (Teledata) and 41 (Residential.)

December 2009—total employed: 1893, 1595 (Inside), 258 (Teledata) and 40 (Residential.)

November 2009—total employed: 1883, 1573 (Inside), 267 (Teledata) and 43 (Residential.)

These are the numbers for LU 38, 129 and 673 combined.





ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Greater Cleveland Chapter, NECA is seeking applicants for this position with a planned starting date of September 2010 or later if appropriate. Assumption of the Executive Director position is planned for September 2011.

If you are aware of qualified candidates please have them forward their resume's to the Chapter Office.

Telephone calls are not necessary at this time.

Some of the qualifications include appropriate educational background, labor relations experience, computer knowledge, above average mathematical skills, flexible personality and willing to work long hours.

MANHOURS

Overall manhours are slightly higher than 2009. However, residential work continues to be extremely weak and the inside agreement work was slightly improved with the exception of Local Union #673.

Total = 278,075 manhours for January 2010.

Inside—234,825

Teledata—38,263

Residential—4,987

7 LESSONS FOR LEADING IN CRISIS

In this book by Bill George he offers his view about leadership by specifying 7 lessons for all of us to learn and utilize. The 7 lessons are:

- 1.) Face reality, starting with yourself.
- 2.) Don't be Atlas, get the world off your shoulders.
- 3.) Dig deep for the root cause.
- 4.) Get ready for the long haul.

- 5.) Never waste a good crisis.
- 6.) You're in the spotlight: follow true north.
- 7.) Go on offense, focus on winning now.

I recommend that you read this book for its insight and an enumeration of what it takes to provide the leadership to run your companies.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER FINANCES

Every year the Chapter has an audit performed by an independent accounting firm. As many of you, the members, have confronted financial impact from the ongoing recession, the Chapter has also been enduring these challenges. By curtailing some activities we have been able to remain fiscally prudent. Both for the years 2008 and 2009 the Chapter has ended the years in the black. The

year 2009 was slightly positive and considering the drop in income from CECAF and the decline in manhours it was somewhat better than anticipated.

The Board of Directors has shouldered this responsibility and based on the recent audit their decisions have been appropriate.

CALENDAR

- 1.) April 9-14, - Eastern Regional Spring Meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 2.) Board of Directors Meeting—April 19th at Noon.
- 3.) JATC 129 Meeting—April 22.
JATC 38 Meeting—April 26.

- 4.) Pension 129—April 29th.

- 5.) NECA Legislative Conference—May 3-6, in Washington., D.C.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN MAY 2010!