



“The wise man does not expose himself needlessly to danger, since there are few things for which he cares sufficiently; but he is willing, in great crises, to give even his life—knowing that under certain conditions it is not worth while to live.”

Aristotle

GREATER CLEVELAND

ELECTRICAL LEAGUE

The new President of the League is Don Moran from PEPCO. Don in addition represents PEPCO as one of the Chapter’s Associate members. Next year the League will sponsor the Electro Expo 2012, March 20-22, 2012.

Also, the League sponsors Code Classes with the next one available on May 11, 2011 5:00-10:00 P.M. at 12875 Corporate Drive, Unit F, Parma. The cost is \$55/ members and \$70 for non members.

NEGOTIATIONS 2011

With the conclusion of negotiations with Local Union #673, the Chapter’s three Divisions have concluded this round of deliberations. All in all each area has unique issues and like many areas in the country the competition for work is intense. The new agreement changes have been sent to all contractors.

As work hours improve, it is the desire of all employers to employ as many workers as possible. Already we have seen an up

tick in work in Lorain, a smaller increase in Lake County and the expectation for Cleveland is for an increase later in the year.

One of the tools employers can use is the new “NORA” agreement which utilizes the Classifications of CE and CW. Jobs that may have been out of reach before NORA should allow you to be more competitive.

OHIO LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1.) H.B. 102—Labor Requirements—this bill will prohibit certain labor requirements on public work and also prohibit the use of state monies when political subdivisions require labor provisions.

2.) H.B. 137—Uniform definition of Employee—this bill will create a uniform standard.

3.) H.B. 153—This bill is the budget for July 1, 2011—June 30, 2013.

4.) A referendum to overturn SB 5 will probably be on the ballot in the fall.

5.) Governor Kasich has proposed a 4% cut in workers’ compensation base rates. The BWC Board of Directors is expected to vote on it this month.



IBEW NEWS

Sam Chilia has been appointed to the position of International Secretary/Treasurer .

He is being replaced as Fourth District Vice President with Ken Cooper, formerly the Business

Manager at the IBEW Local Union #688 in Mansfield, Ohio.

Mr. Cooper recently was on the international staff in Washington, D.C. area.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- 1.) Electrical Contractors Safety Program is available from NECA—order it online.
- 2.) Tools & Equipment Rental Schedule 2010-2011 was just released in April.
- 3.) The NECA Manual of Labor Units—one of the standards in the industry.
- 4.) NECA Updates Installation Standards for Panel

- boards, Busway and Dry-Type Transformers.
- 5.) Klein Tools has committed \$1,000,000 to support the NJATC training and education in the organized electrical construction industry.
- 6.) NECA's Legislative Conference is scheduled for May 10-12 in Washington, D.C.

LEGAL ISSUE

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a union can collectively bargain to have its members' claims of

employment discrimination decided exclusively before an arbitrator rather than a jury.

CALENDAR

- 1.) Legislative Conference—May 10-12 in Washington, D.C.
- 2.) Board of Directors meeting—May 16th.
- 3.) NORA Meeting—May 23rd.
- 4.) Annual Golf Outing—June 27th at Barrington.
- 5.) District Two Council—September 13-14 in

- Philadelphia.
- 6.) IBEW Convention—September 19-23 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 7.) NECA Convention—October 21-25th in San Diego, California.

COMMENT

Once again the issue of prevailing wage is under attack by some who try to argue there will be “huge” cost savings for all public projects. Time and time again this has been proven to be incorrect. Yet, those who are against prevailing wage seem to disregard the truth or they just refuse to listen with any kind of rational thinking. Opposition to unions in general is the focus of ABC or their spokesmen. They know that prevailing wage is a stabilizing policy and law that prevents a lot of harmful practices by unscrupulous contractors.

The problem in most states has been consistent enforcement and, or a lack of enforcement at all. Too often those who violate the law only receive a slap on the hand and continue to function without repercussion.

If states like Ohio continue to raise the threshold levels that dictate when prevailing wages will be paid, the result will be even more violations and “game” playing with split contracts. We need our public officials to enforce the law as they are required to do.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN JUNE 2011!