



“Economic depression cannot be cured by legislative action or executive pronouncement. Economic wounds must be healed by the action of cells of the economic body, the producers and consumers themselves.

Herbert Hoover

# GREATER CLEVELAND

## MANAGER’S COMMENTS

The 2011 NECA Convention & Trade Show just concluded. Our Chapter had a contingent of 15 attendees. I’ve always held the belief that going to the annual convention was an investment, one that paid dividends each year I attended. The dividend would be finding a labor saving tool or product at the trade show, knowledge from a seminar or creating a new business relationship and sometimes even a new friendship.

NECA goes to great lengths to make all those possibilities available. For those reasons, I’m recommending that you go to [www.necaconvention.org](http://www.necaconvention.org) (if you watch closely you’ll see a familiar face from our Chapter.) Then block out September 29th through October 2nd on your 2012 calendar.

## RANDOM PONDERANCES

- 1.) Bank of America and others have decided not to institute a debit card fee. Does anyone believe some fee, by another name, isn’t right around the corner?
- 2.) 20 out of 21 trading days in October saw triple digit closes on the DOW. Let me off this roller coaster!
- 3.) The European financial problems continue to affect our markets. We are truly part of a global economy.
- 4.) According to Steve Jobs’ sister, his final words were “Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow.” What do you suppose he was thinking or what do you suppose he saw?
- 5.) Is this the right time for the Indians to be raising ticket prices?
- 6.) The effects of the outcome of the Issue #2 on the State Legislature will be interesting.

## MANHOURS

The Chapter’s man hours continue to be up over last year’s figures, but at the end of September they were only up 5.79% , slightly less than the 6.14% that was reported last month.

The total through September was 2,784,794.

- Local Union #38—Down 2.09%
- Local Union #129—Up 58.21%
- Local Union #673—Up 11.87%



## INDUSTRY HAPPENINGS

NECA's Board of Governors met on October 21st and passed a By-Law Amendment that eliminated the Marketing Committee and passed two Ordinary Proposals. One updated the language to Standing Policy #15 regarding Electrical Industry Contractor Utility Relations and one that deals with The Council on Industrial Relations (CIR) procedure for handling grievance cases.

IBEW President Ed Hill addressed the Governors and audience at the Governor's Meeting. He made mention of his belief that the NLMCC contribution should be increased from a penny to twenty cents. As you can imagine, he didn't get a standing ovation. NECA President Rex Ferry presided over his last Governors meeting and received the overwhelming gratitude of those in attendance. By the way, Rex did get a standing "O" ..HIO.

The topic of the Labor Relations session at the Convention was the costly benefits burden we are all to aware of. NECA has been collecting data and will be discussing with the IBEW how these benefits impact our ability to be competitive. Of particular importance is the condition of defined benefit pension plans. Larry Bradley, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the NEBF and Randy DeFrehn, Executive Director of the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans spoke extensively about the status of the NEBF plan and defined benefit plans in general. While

the NEBF is so far in the "green zone" Mr. DeFrehn noted how quickly a majority of plans went from "green zone" plans to "yellow" and even "red zone" plans in a year's time.

As mentioned above, NECA's Marketing Committee has been disbanded, but marketing has not. Through the NLMCC, two Business Development directors have been hired, one working with the IBEW and one working with NECA. You'll be hearing more about their work in the future.

You may have noticed that there's been no mention of the social activities that took place at the Convention. Well, suffice it to say, they were awesome! The opening reception on the aircraft carrier, USS Midway could be described as an educational bash. The reviews from the members were exceptional. Our Chapter Dinner at the Oceanside Restaurant was excellent. The closing event was an outdoor concert by Keith Jardine, one of the original members of the Beach Boys, in Embarcadero Park. It was a quintessential Southern California experience. Coupling all that, with all that San Diego had to offer and that the Convention & Trade Show had to offer, it would be tough to argue that it wasn't a great investment for your firm.

## CHAPTER NEWS AND CALENDAR

We're happy to formally announce that **Telecom Technicians Inc.** of Cleveland, and **Alternalite Electric, Inc.** of North Olmsted have become our newest members. Mr. Jon Somes from Telecom's Sterling Heights, Mi. office and Mr. Jim Acetelli, located in Cleveland will be representing their firm. Mrs. Gertrude Ramos will be representing her firm, Alternalite.

Attendees at the NECA Convention received five hours (business) of OCILB continuing education credit. Just one more reason to block out September 29-October 2nd on your 2012 calendar.

A five hour Code Class will be offered on November 19th. Just think, convention, code class and in one month all of your Ohio License continuing education requirements are fulfilled.

But, for those of you didn't attend the convention, five hours of continuing education (business) will be offered if

you attend the NECA Eastern Region Annual Spring Meeting coming up March 25-28, 2012 at the Frenchman's Reef Marriott Resort on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Calendar:

- 1.) Code Class—November 19th—8 AM-1PM-Eastridge Professional Dev. Center, Valley View.
- 2.) Annual Holiday Party—December 10th—6:00 PM - Morton's Steakhouse, Cleveland.
- 3.) District II Council Meeting—January 30-February 2, 2012—Naples. Florida.
- 4.) NECA Eastern Regional Annual Spring Meeting—March 25-28, 2012—St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 5.) NECA Convention & Trade Show—September 27-October 3, 2012—Las Vegas, NV.

Please remember, if you have any questions about the Chapter or NECA in general just call the office (216-524-8444) or Tom's Cell (216-802-9512.)

**"HAPPY THANKSGIVING!"**  
**LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN DECEMBER 2011!**