



“Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.”

Marie Curie

GREATER CLEVELAND

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Why...why, why... why... why? The favorite word of all small children. That's the word we use to acquire knowledge. You know, at that stage we have this vast sponge of a brain that needs to be occupied. As we go along getting that sponge filled we taper off with that incessant question. Gradually and thankfully we become adults.

Now as adults, we much less frequently ask “Why?”, sometimes to the point we nearly stop questioning anything. Funny thing is, I really don't know “why” we do that. I have some suspicions though. I think it's in part because we think we know it all, so there's no reason to ask questions. Also it could just be because we get tired or lazy. If the later is the case and you are still working, you probably should be thinking about quitting. I did that on the NORA Labor Management Committee. I quit. I quit because I am tired of it and got to the point where I only have one more “why” to ask. I'm not sure I'll get an answer and I'm not too sure anything will happen but what the heck?

Here it is. Why in heaven's name is there an \$.80/hour Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee contribution rate for CW/CE's in the NORA?

The only book learning class CW/CE's are required to take is OSHA. Written tests for advancement have been eliminated from the agreement, with the exception of the Multi District Journeyman Exam. That's an exam that has been explained to me as a test made up by the IBEW back in the day when it was used in organizing the non-union guy who had experience but very little formal training. Now it is given by somebody, I don't know who, it's

not the JATC, to a CE-3 that has met the qualification of time (14,001 documented hours) in the trade and successfully completed 4 hands on exams so they can be paid the journeyman inside wireman rate.

As you can see, there is not much book learning (formal classroom JATC training) required under the NORA. So I will simply ask WHY do the JATC's need the over \$1.3 million worth of 80 cents that have been contributed so far? Better yet, how about what have they done with the \$1.3 mil so far? That's actually a rhetorical question since I'm a trustee on three different JATC's at the moment and I know what's been done with the money. Which do you want first, the has or the hasn't? What I've seen first hand is about \$600,000 has gone into the general trust fund accounts of the three JATC Trusts I sit on. From what I hear from Trustees on the other JATC's it's the same. So pretty much all \$1.3 mil is sitting in JATC trust fund accounts. Now that's not unusual. That's what you would expect to happen with JATC contributions. However; very little if any, has gone to prepare CW/CE's for advancement testing since there's practically no testing either required or being performed now. But that's what the original intent was. Train them as they requested so they could advance through the classifications as they were ready and able by having their knowledge, skill and ability measured through an accredited exam. Then if they chose, they could go on to be a Journeyman Inside Wireman, again by measuring through the accredited testing procedure, that they possessed the same knowledge, skill and ability as is required of every apprentice that goes on to be a JIW.



MANAGER’S COMMENTS CONTINUED

If we don’t need to prepare these CW/CE’s for advancement through the initially agreed upon method of passing the nationally accredited craft certification exam, WHY are we contributing 80 cents?

Can someone please educate me? Why not something less than 80 cents, like 10 or 15?

When competing against the non-union, which is when this agreement is most often used and as I remember hearing, just recently as a matter of fact, is

why the IBEW gave it to us, would 65 or 70 cents/hour help? You tell me.

Ok, let me put this in very simple terms.

If you keep the 80 cents—reinstate the craft certification.

If you don’t want to reinstate the craft certification exam—get rid of the 80 cents.

Logic tells us that it’s either or both or neither.

WITH SADNESS

The Greater Cleveland NECA family was saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of member Paul Zielazienski of South Shore Electric on March 3rd. Paul was 69 years old.

South Shore Electric has been in business since 1984 and became a member of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, NECA in 1998.

Paul was very active in the Association serving on various committees and was instrumental in the building of the new training center.

Paul may be best remembered for being an early adopter and ardent promoter of the Northern Ohio Regional Agreement.

On behalf of the members of the Chapter, the Board of Directors offer their sincere condolences to Paul’s wife Kay. As we all know, they were inseparable and shared many good times at NECA events and

during their numerous adventures on trips spanning the globe. Paul was unique and genuine and will be missed by his friends.

Board member Dan Fresch lost his brother Kim unexpectedly on March 14th. Kim had worked for Fresch Electric and with his brother for nearly 50 years. He started when he was 13 years old. The Fresch family has endured several losses recently and they continue to exhibit an inordinate amount of strength. The Lake Erie Division is fortunate to have someone with Dan’s character representing them.

Chapters using the Corellian Software electronic payroll reporting system were shocked to learn of the passing of founder and owner and friend, Kip Larson. Kip was only 42 years old and is survived by his wife and two young children. Our hearts go out to the Larson Family.

NECA SAFETY APP

The Chapter Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of the new NECA Safety app for each member firm. It is expected that each firm who uses the app will have it renewed annually by the Chapter.

This app will provide the user with over two hundred safety topics to use in conducting tool box talks or regular safety meetings along with a syllabus that lets anyone conduct the class. This app can be loaded on any number of mobile devices so it’s simple to take to the job site. While that makes complying with

safety requirements easier, there’s an added benefit.

The app allows you to document the names of the meeting attendees, the name of the presenter, the topic, the date and time and then send that info from the field back to the office to be filed. Hopefully all the members have downloaded the app by now and attended the informational luncheon meeting with the app’s developer David Carl.

However, if you want to know more about this app, you can check it out at www.necanet.org.

MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru February :	470,466
Lake Erie Division thru February:	104,140
Northeast Ohio Division thru February:	<u>44,185</u>
Chapter Total:	618,791



ECONOMIC NEWS

- 1.) Tesla introduced its mass marketed sedan, the Model 3 on the last day of March. It will be priced around \$35,000 before tax credits, given by us taxpayers to promote a technology that's not able to stand on its own just yet.
- 2.) Copper rose in price about 10% in March. It's now around \$2.24/lb.
- 3.) Negative interest rates (paying to have a bank hold your money) is now the policy at the European Central Bank, Switzerland, Sweden and the Bank of Japan.
- 4.) So far, negative interest rates are creating serious economical and financial distortions.
- 5.) Big changes looming at Yahoo. Some of its assets are for sale after poor performance last year.
- 6.) U.S. home prices have claimed at more than doubled the rate of incomes.
- 7.) Arcelor Mittal Steel stock is poised to make a rally.
- 8.) This year for the first time in decades neither of the men's NCAA basketball tournament Final Four games will be televised on a free broadcast network.
- 9.) GM is recalling nearly 6,300 police cars because the power assisted steering can fail.
- 10.) While the national average price of a gallon of gas is \$2.04, in some areas of California it's over \$4.00. One station in San Francisco is actually at \$5.03.

DIVISION MEETING REMINDER

Its not too late to sign up to attend your Division Meeting.

Lake Erie Division - Tuesday, April 5th - 6:00pm –Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio

Northeast Ohio Division - Wednesday, April 6th –12:00 Noon –Red Hawk Grille, Painesville, OH

Cleveland Division –Thursday, April 7th - 6:00pm –Maggiano's Restaurant –Beachwood, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) **Lake Erie Division Meeting**-April 5, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. Sawmill Creek.
- 2.) **Northeast Ohio Division Meeting** - April 6, 2016 at Noon - Red Hawk Grille.
- 3.) **Cleveland Division Meeting**-April 7, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. Maggiano's Restaurant.
- 4.) **2016 Eastern Region Spring Meeting** - April 17-20, 2016 Amelia Island Resort, Amelia Island Florida.
- 5.) **Code Class** - April 30, 2016 - 7:30AM –Crown Plaza Hotel, Rockside Road, Independence.
- 6.) **Advanced Construction Law** –May 25, 2015 –7:30 AM –Crown Plaza Hotel, Rockside Road, Independence.
- 7.) **Chapter Golf Outing** -June 27, 2016 at the Chagrin Valley Country Club.
- 8.) **Chapter Holiday Party** - December 3, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.-at the Hilton Convention Center Hotel.

GO CAVS!!! GO TRIBE!!!



CHAPTER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1-888-Ohio Comp	Graybar Electric Co.
BMA Media Group	Leff Electric
Ciuni & Panichi, Inc.	Mars Electric
CompManagement, Inc.	Milwaukee Tool
Eaton Corporation	PEPCO
Ericson Manufacturing	Riffle and Associates
G.E. Energy Management	United Rentals

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Alexander Publications
E2E Summit

SILVER LEVEL:

Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rubin Brothers, Inc.
American Technical Publishers, Inc.
Ypsilanti Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Legrand, North America

BRONZE LEVEL:

TE Connectivity
MOSAIC
Stark Safety Consultants
Coyne First Aid
Ripley

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN MAY 2016