



“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”

Steve Jobs

MANAGER’S COMMENTS

GREATER CLEVELAND

Before I get started, now that the Republican Party’s Convention site selection committee has made their recommendation, can you think of any reason Cleveland shouldn’t host a NECA Convention & Trade Show sometime in the near future? I asked that question in my comments last month and to be honest I received one call. It was from my good friend Chad Jones, the Western Pennsylvania Chapter Manager. Since we’re talking about Cleveland and Pittsburgh, you can imagine how that conversation went. It was replete with expletives being hurled back and forth for the first few minutes...just for fun. Then we talked about the virtues of both cities. It’s no secret, my heart is in Pittsburgh but my home is Cleveland. I’m proud to be a Clevelander. The people here have and continue to show the qualities that you would expect from them. They have not curled up in a fetal position and cried ‘whoa is me.’ Certainly Cleveland was down, maybe longer that they should have been but those days are over. They have chosen leaders that are now leading and they are working hard to reach the goals that have been set. One way to look at the Republican’s decision is that it is a reward and recognition of the efforts the people here have made to put this city on a par with other cities worthy of being sites for major conventions. Our Chapter members have been an integral part in those efforts. Obviously their firms have been involved in every major construction project in the area but many of them, including their employees, are involved either publicly or behind the scenes, in creating the positive image Cleveland has achieved. I thought long and hard about writing last month’s comments the way I did and maybe I should have thought longer BUT I’ve been thinking about it now for the

past month and you know what...I’d do it again.

OK, this month’s quote from Steve Jobs is about a very important aspect of leadership-Innovation. I doubt that’s a big surprise or that you just had an “Ah hah” moment but I want to let everyone connected with the organized electrical construction industry know you can puff out your chests and be proud. Our National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee is now rolling out the Blended Learning Program. Briefly, this is how all future NJATC curriculum will be delivered. It “blends” the delivering of curriculum content by way of face to face classroom time with online time. If you want to be hip, it’s called f2f and the LMC (Learning Management System.)

I’m not going to go into the mechanics of all this but there are a couple of things you should be aware of. This program is here to stay. I’m convinced that Blended Learning will provide a more efficient and effective learning experience for the apprentice. Part of the efficiency will come from the time savings attributable to the online work that will be done by the apprentice, while part of the increased effectiveness comes from the new resources that will be available, such as simulators, interactive components and much more. The improved efficiency will allow the instructors more time to use their imaginations and talents to develop hands on learning activities. You know it’s a fact that retention of knowledge increases dramatically when a hands on component is added to the process.

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MANAGER'S COMMENTS CONTINUED

Also, there's no denying this generation gets their information by using technological resources that weren't available to us baby boomers. Using these delivery methods will lend to the improved effectiveness by keeping the students engaged.

You may think all this is nice and maybe even mildly cutting edge but I want to give this some perspective. If you take advantage of the Electric International studies that are available at www.necanet.org by clicking on the Publications tab, you probably have seen the name David Riley, PhD. He is an Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering at Penn State University. Currently Dr. Riley is involved with his GridSTAR project underway at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. In short, he is firmly planted in the world of academia. Well, while I was attending the NJATC's National Training Institute I went to a class that was presented by Dr. Riley. Before he got into the meat of his GridSTAR subject matter he commented that he

wished Penn State had an LMS, remember, Learning Management System, like we have in our Blended Learning Program. Wow!

What the NJATC is doing with the development of the Blended Learning Program, is pick an adjective BIG, HUGE, MONUMENTAL, or how about all of the above plus, INNOVATIVE!

Leadership takes courage. In this case, the courage to completely and forever change the way the curriculum is presented. The people at the NJATC who are leading our industry's training programs deserve our appreciation and support.

In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the LMS development was, in large part, made possible by the NJATC Training Partners. Please consider using their products. Patronizing your friends is good business. See a list of these partners on the back page of the Review.

NECA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 7TH

Be sure to take note of some schedule changes by going to www.necanet.org and viewing the Convention site.

The Chapter's room block at the Hyatt is full but there are rooms available at the Renaissance Hotel, just a short walk down Wacker Drive.

The Chapter will have a hospitality suite at the Hyatt.

The Chapter will host a reception Sunday afternoon from 3:30-5:30 P.M. at the Hyatt in honor of our President, Mike Joyce's induction into the Academy of Electrical Contracting.

The Chapter Dinner will be on Monday starting at 6:00 P.M. tentatively at the Signature Room at 95th.

At this time we have 25 people registered but expect several more to register before August 7th.

PLC GOAL REACHED

We are happy to announce that the Chapter has reached its ECPAC contribution goal to retain their seat on the Political Leadership Council. Once again

the members and those associated with the Chapter have stepped up to support the ongoing efforts of NECA's Government Affairs staff.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

This is just a reminder that the Chapter is presenting a full day NECA Education class entitled "Are You a Project Manager or a Project Witness." A flyer with all the pertinent information has been sent out and if

you attended one of the recent Division meetings you also received a hard copy. Since this class is scheduled for the beginning of September you have to register in early August. Holy cow...it is August!

MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru May :	1,329,557
Lake Erie Division thru May:	218,538
Northeast Ohio Division thru April:	<u>146,909</u>
Chapter Total:	1,695,004

ECONOMIC NEWS OF THE DAY

- 1.) Lebron is back. \$\$\$\$
- 2.) Second Quarter GDP was 4%. It indicates we're not falling back into a recession after experiencing a negative 2.1% GDP.
- 3.) Economic sanctions against Russia were announced to modify Putin's behavior. Maybe it'll work..talking on the phone and pushing big red buttons haven't.
- 4.) Nintendo had a worse than expected loss (\$9 billion) due to lagging Wii sales. Come on people, get moving.
- 5.) The tapering of the Fed's asset purchases (QE3) are having little effect on the Market.
- 6.) Toyota remains #1 in global vehicle sales while Volkswagen bumped GM out of the #2 spot.
- 7.) A federal court judge ordered Bank of America to pay a \$1.2 billion penalty for fraud in connection with shoddy mortgages sold by the former Countywide Financial Corp.
- 8.) The TSA security fee on airline tickets will rise on August 5th from \$2.50 on nonstop flights and \$5.00 for a connecting flight to \$5.60 for all flights.
- 9.) Truland Systems Corp. the 10th largest electrical contractor in the country, has closed its doors. They filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy.
- 10.) The state of New Hampshire has the greatest consumption of alcohol in the entire U.S. Having no state sales tax seems to be a contributing factor. Who wouldn't celebrate that?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) Educational Course: "Are You A Project Manager/Witness?" September 3,2014 8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. at Crowne Plaza, Independence.
- 2.) NECA Convention & Trade Show-September 27-30, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN SEPTEMBER 2014!