



“The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances. We carry the seeds of one or the other in our minds wherever we go.”

Martha Washington

## GREATER CLEVELAND

### MANAGER'S COMMENTS

A few events occurred in January that have made me decide to delay the topic I was going to write about.

We were talking in the office the other day about how January manages to be a miserable month year in and year out. Well this one sure lived up to that characterization.

The stock market had its worst start to a new year since back when Shep was a pup. Never mind, don't try to figure that one out...it's an old saying. Anyway, after those first two weeks and the volatility of the last two weeks, it's been pretty disconcerting to most of us who are trustees on defined benefit pension plans that weren't sound to begin with. I want to take this opportunity to say the Local #129 Plan in Lorain isn't one of them. It is in good enough shape due to tough decisions that were actually voted on by previous trustees to withstand this market downturn. They have a zero Unfunded Vested Benefit, at least for now and if it changes I'm sure the trustees have the guts to vote to take corrective measures.

More bad news also came towards the beginning of the month. My good friend and NECA East-

ern Region Field Representative, Frank Piatt announced that he was leaving his position and moving to NECA'S Southern Region to be a Field Rep there. Good for the South bad for the North. Oh well, at least something worked out for them...that 1860's thing didn't. Now, anyone who knows Frank professionally is well aware that he is like the energizer bunny. A loyal, honest, sincerely caring energizer bunny. He will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues here. But many of us from the North Central Ohio Chapter where Frank got his start with NECA as our Chapter Manager, will miss Frank and Bonnie because we genuinely love them. They are like extended family. What am I thinking....they are family. Damn, I'm going to miss them.

Then in the final week of the month we were saddened to learn of the passing of James B. Morgan, Sr. Mr. Morgan was Harrington Electric. Jim was extremely active in NECA. A more complete biography will appear later in this review but I'd like to, on behalf of the Greater Cleveland Chapter extend our deepest Sympathy to his family and thank them for sharing him.



## NECA SAFETY MEETING APP

One of NECA's premier safety services is the NECA Safety Meeting App. The app is a pretty neat tool that can help your company in a number of ways. For starters, the app comes equipped with a sort of safety curriculum. Safety curriculum may not be the scientific term, but that is more or less what it provides with the 30+ safety subjects that are listed within the app. After the user chooses a subject to teach, the app provides the information for the entire lesson. Safety meeting leaders are saved a lot of energy and time by being provided all the necessary class information in easy to read and present bullet point format.

Aside from providing the educational safety material, the NECA Safety Meeting App also creates an easy use medium for documentation of meetings. Some of

the tools that app provides are a photo/video function in-app, as well as an easy to use employee roster and attendee checklist. The Safety Meeting App also can maintain records of the safety lecturer including the dates taught to keep them archived in the app for company records.

If you are in the market for safety advancements, it would be well worth it to look into the NECA Safety Meeting App. At about \$85 per user, this is a cost effective option to minimize your company's risk. If you are unsure, go ahead and sign up for the free trial month. To find more information follow this link: <http://www.safetymeetingapp.com/>

## NORA FIGURES

Here are a few interesting figures from the inception of the Northern Ohio Recovery Agreement in 2011 to today's Northern Ohio Regional Agreement through the end of 2015.

- 1.) \$846,396 – the total contributions to the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF.) A defined benefit pension plan.
- 2.) \$847,192 – The total contributions to the National Electrical Annuity Plan (NEAP.) A defined contribution pension plan.
- 3.) \$7,406,785 – The total contribution to the Family Medical Care Plan (FMCP. The health care plan for CW/CE's.
- 4.) \$11,831,388 – The grand total of all the money contributed to for the two pension plans, health care,

NECA Admin fees, NECA member service charges, union dues, LMCC's, the NLMCC and training.

5.) \$1,244,990 – The total alone that went to the JATC's to train CW/CE's so they could prepare for the written advancement tests which no longer exist,

When you add the payroll dollars, probably close to \$30+ million, to these figures it presents a very clear picture of the positive impact this agreement has had.

Irrespective of whether you like the fact that CW/CE's are here to stay, you can't deny that this agreement has significantly increased the presence of union electrical construction in the market place. Simply put, more IBEW jobs and more sales volume for our contractors. Looks like we're meeting the expressed goals for our existence.

## MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru December :	2,822,390
Lake Erie Division thru December:	559,912
Northeast Ohio Division thru December:	<u>388,012</u>
<b>Chapter Total:</b>	<b>3,770,314</b>

## ECONOMIC NEWS

- 1.) The Dow Jones Industrials and the S&P 500 are down 8% and 7% respectively so far in 2016.
- 2.) The recent water crisis in Flint, Michigan affecting 6-12K people is expected to cost \$10 billion in direct and indirect costs.
- 3.) General Motors is working on a new armored limousine for the White House. The vehicle referred to by secret service as "the Beast" will cost between \$1- 1.5 million. The White House typically retains a fleet of 12 identical models of this vehicle.
- 4.) 35-44 is the only age group in which a majority has disclosed their income to friends or family
- 5.) Currently, 93% of Apple's \$215.7 billion in cash and investments is being kept overseas. Think it's on vacation or being protected from the U.S. tax rate?
- 6.) California became the first state to adopt energy efficiency standards for residential LEDs. This policy is expected to save consumers over \$4 billion in utility bills over the next 13 years and conserve enough electricity to power 400,000 homes over the same time period. The policy change in California is expected to have an effect on future federal regulations as well.
- 7.) Copper prices are at a seven year low, briefly dipping below \$2.00/lbs.
- 8.) The Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers will be competing in Super Bowl 50 on Sunday, February 7th. A 30 second commercial during the Super Bowl will cost \$5 million.
9. Under Armour, the athletic apparel firm reported higher earnings in part because of a 95% increase in foot ware sales. Stephen Curry, that basketball guy who's not Lebron, gets the credit.
10. Ford's strong Q4 and full year profits were enough to trigger a record \$9,300 profit sharing check for 52,700 hourly workers.

## JAMES B. MORGAN, SR.

In case any you of did not hear, Mr. James B. Morgan, Sr. from Harrington Electric Company passed away January 25, 2016. He was 87 years old.

Jim was an IBEW Local Union No. 38 electrician who became President of Harrington Electric Company in 1968 and would later acquire the company in 1971.

He was elected to the Greater Cleveland Chapter, NECA's Board of Directors in April 1973. He served as President from 1976 until 1981 and as Governor from 1982 until 1988.

Jim was inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting in November 1982. At that time Mr. Morgan was only the second member of the Chapter to be so honored.

Mr. Morgan also served on numerous committees such as the NECA/IBEW LU #38 Labor Management Committee, the Ohio Conference of NECA Chapters Committee, the By-Laws Committee and the Local Union No. 38 Pension Committee.

He also served as NECA's District Two Vice-President from 1989-1990.

In closing, here is a quote from an email we received from a contractor who had the pleasure of working with Jim that says it all. "A fine person, a gentleman, an exemplary businessman, he believed in Jesus Christ and when you struck a deal with him you could simply shake his hand and trust that it would be done! A great example for me." Mark Samsonas

A fine example for all of us.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) **General Membership Meeting - February 2016.** Date and location TBD.
- 2.) **2016 Eastern Region Spring Meeting-** April 17-20, 2016 Amelia Island Resort, Amelia Island Florida.
- 3.) **Code Class** -More information will be available soon.
- 4.) **Chapter Golf Outing** -June 27, 2016 at the Chagrin Valley Country Club.
- 5.) **Chapter Holiday Party** - December 3, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.-at the Hilton Convention Center Hotel.

## 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

## NECA PREMIER PARTNERS

Federated Insurance	Schneider Electric
Graybar	Southwire Corporation
Milwaukee Tool	Thomas and Betts Corporation
Phillips Lighting	Westex by Milliken

## ELECTRICAL TRAINING ALLIANCE PARTNERS

### PLATINUM LEVEL:

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
Klein Tools, Inc.
Thomas & Betts Corporation
3M Company Electrical Markets Division
Salisbury by Honeywell
Harger Lighting and Grounding
Fluke Corporation
Lutron Electronics, Inc.
Eaton's Bussman Business
Schneider Electric
Southwire Company
Prysmian Power Cables and Systems
Westex by Milliken
Graybar
Greenslee by Textron Corporation

### GOLD LEVEL:

Buckingham Manufacturing Company, Inc.
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 MARCH 2016