



“It’s not a merit to tolerate, but rather a crime to be intolerant.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley

# GREATER CLEVELAND

## MANAGER’S COMMENTS

What is this electrical construction business all about? That sounds like the question you may have heard from your kids....Is this all there is to life? Both can be answered in one of two ways. First, with a long detailed answer that most likely is what the questioner is looking for when asking such a broad question or the ornery, short, cut to the chase answer that I nearly always defer to.

In the case of the question about life, I’ll go with the ornery, short answer. “Yes, unless you know something I don’t.”

You may think the electrical business question would be impossible to give an ornery, short, cut to the chase answer to because we all know how multi-faceted and complex this business is right? Well, not true. Sure there’s many things that are incorporated into the electrical construction business. There’s basic knowledge of building construction and site work in addition to an extensive knowledge of electricity, electrical design and construction techniques, logistics, purchasing, scheduling, finances, taxes, health care, pension planning, estate planning, succession planning, training, building maintenance, business law, labor law, corporate law, customer relations and so on and so on.

But when you boil it all down, the common thread to all of these things is people.

People is what this electrical construction business is all about. Humans of all sorts. How true the old adage, “It takes all kinds.”

I just attended the IBEW LU #38 Scroll Party, a combination apprenticeship graduation and celebration to honor IBEW Members’ service to the industry. The old adage was very apparent that night. It was inspiring to see the new inside journey persons and the new teledata technicians of differing races, nationalities, genders, shapes and sizes, all of whom are about to become integral parts of the future of our industry. And it was heart warming to see the diverse group of proud retired members commiserating with their buddies.

One of the honored retirees at the Scroll Party was an ex-contractor. He effused his belief and renewed my belief that this business is truly about all the people you come into contact with.

This business is about a lot of things but success depends on how well you master the art of dealing with people.

## MANHOURS

Northeast Ohio Division thru August:	243,057
Cleveland Division thru August:	2,012,581
Lake Erie Division thru August :	<u>272,294</u>
Chapter Total:	2,527,932



## NORA CHANGES

In a joint letter from NECA's Eastern Region Director, Richard Parenti and the IBEW's 4th District Vice President, Kenneth Cooper, clarity has been given to the 2012-2013 Northern Ohio Recovery Agreement along with the three other regional recovery agreements, regarding Placement and Advancement of Construction Electricians.

The clarity comes from the standardization of the hands on testing for advancement and the ability to test a newly referred CE who has not been previously tested to verify their skill level for placement.

Also, the joint letter makes clear that all testing is to be done by the jointly managed JATC.

In addition, new Job Start, Tracking and Variance Request forms have been issued. All these documents along with the newest version of the Agreement and a list of Frequent Asked Questions and Answers will be sent via email to the contractors who are signatory to the NORA. Anyone else who would like to have these documents, please send a request to the Chapter Office.

And lastly, all new CW/CE's will be required to complete an OSHA 10 within the first month of employment and an OSHA 30 course within a year. This requirement will be waived for anyone who has proof of completing an OSHA course.

## OBAMACARE NEWS

Before anyone gets offended, "Obamacare" is a term the President uses when referencing the "Affordable Care Act" just so you know.

In addition to the announcement in last month's NECA Review the Chapter recently sent out a notice to all members explaining the requirement for all employers to notify all their current employees by October 1, 2013 and any new employees thereafter of their insurance options.

NECA's position that the ACA be reformed and repaired has been joined by the IBEW in their white paper detailing some of the negative effects the ACA will have on our Multiemployer Health Plans.

Two of the more easy to understand effects are the Comparative Effectiveness Fee (\$1.00 per plan participant this year and \$2.00 next year) and the Temporary Reinsurance Fee (\$63.00 per plan participant this year and adjusted each of the next three years.) This year these fees will amount to approximately 1/2 million dollars for the multiemployer funds that cover our union employees in the Greater Cleveland area. A half million dollars not spent on their benefits. These trust funds are managed under the ERISA law that states the contributions to these

funds are to be used solely for the benefit of the participants. Not any more.

Add to that the enormous lack of guidance for multiemployer health plans and you end up with the hidden costs of attorneys' fees. As an aside, add the employer costs for time to ferret out everything they need to know to be in compliance.

Who knows what's next. But it's for sure that Obamacare will provide health insurance for our non union competitors, most of which have fewer than fifty employees and that's all right, except that it will be paid for in part by all of us.

As always, you are encouraged to participate in NECA's webinars on the Affordable Care Act. PDF's and recordings of the first two webinars are available at [www.necanet.org](http://www.necanet.org). Also on the website are frequently asked Questions and Answers from the first webinar, with a second set being prepared from the second webinar and will be available soon.





## DISTRICT II COUNCIL MEETING

On September 11th we had the honor of hosting the NECA District II Council Meeting at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in downtown Cleveland. Actually we got a jump on the official meeting by having a golf outing on the 10th at the famed Canterbury Golf Club for those council members who could arrive a little early. It was not only a great day for golf but we had the added bonus of sharing a little fellowship with retired Chapter Executive Director, Dick Newcomer and retired Member/Governor, Gerry Higgins.

On the morning of the 11th everyone was treated to a private tour of Cleveland's new Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation conducted by Mike Joyce, our Chapter President and President of Zenith Systems LLC, the Electrical/Telecommunications contractor for the project. Because of the audience, Mike concentrated the tour on the Electrical Systems and their extensive use of Building Information Modeling, Prefabrication, Trimble layout equipment and cutting edge in-

formation management in the field via the use of iPads. Much was learned by everyone.

Our council meeting began with a solemn Remembrance of 9/11/01 then District II Vice President, Greg Stewart lead the business of the district.

We concluded the day with a reception and tour of the ROCK & ROLL Hall of Fame. Music and history from every generation was enjoyed.

It was great to be able to showcase all that downtown Cleveland has to offer. Great restaurants, great bars, the Rock & Roll HOF, the Horseshoe Casino as well as shopping in Tower City and much more. Along with that, there are many nearby attractions like the Professional Football HOF in Canton, Ohio and Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio. Oh yeah, did we mention a world class convention center big enough and worthy enough to host a NECA Convention & Trade Show?

## ECONOMIC NEWS OF THE DAY

- 1.) Browns owner Jimmy Haslam says his Pilot Flying J company is recovering from it's legal problems.
- 2.) The Country's' broke.
- 3.) The Country's' credit card is maxed out. The answer....raise the limit. Not the answer....quit spending so damn much. Tick, Tick, Tick.
- 4.) The Federal Reserve continues printing about \$83 billion a month. Tick, Tick, Tick.
- 5.) The deficit in Washington continue to grow. The Leadership Deficit that is!
- 6.) The economic news of the day is disgusting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) NECA Convention & Trade Show -October 12-15, Washington D.C
- 2.) Code Class -November 2, Crown Plaza, Rockside Road.
- 3.) NECA Holiday Party-December 7, 2013, Ritz Carlton Hotel.

**GO TRIBE!!!!**

**LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN NOVEMBER 2013!**