



“More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren’t so busy denying they made them.”

Anonymous

GREATER CLEVELAND



MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Last month my comments were about the mistake I believe was made by changing the advancement testing requirements in the Northern Ohio Recovery Agreement. Mostly, it was written from the prospective of an IBEW member. This month I want to expand on those comments and add a little more from an employer’s point of view.

As you may recall, the professionally produced Incremental Craft Certification Exam has been replaced. Now it’s time for a confession, I don’t know what the hell it’s been replaced with. You see, the test for advancement from CW-4 to CE-1 and from CE-1 to CE-2 and CE-2 to CE-3 is the IBEW Fourth District Hands-on test. OK, I got that. I actually have seen it and it’s the first few hands-on portions of the Craft Certification Test. But, to advance from the CE-3 classification to Journeyman Inside Wireman, that person is required to pass the Multi District Journeyman Wireman exam. As a member of three JATC’s in northern Ohio and one who’s been given the responsibility to administer that test, I honestly haven’t seen it and the Training Directors of those programs don’t have a copy either. I feel pretty certain we’ll all be seeing a copy soon though.

It’s important to remember that the CW/CE classifications were born in the Addendum to the Inside Pattern Agreement Guide and whose purpose and objective were delineated in the accompanying “Memorandum.” This wasn’t an “Immaculate Conception.” They were conceived by the IBEW and NECA. These two documents, I believe, in part were developed to correct the mistakes that were evident in the Intermediate Journeyman classification.

Specifically, with regards to Journeyman Inside Wireman status. You see, a number of IJ’s went on to receive JIW cards with little or in some cases no testing; i.e., proof that they deserved the same pay as a JIW. Let’s be clear, in no way am I saying they weren’t worth that pay scale. I am saying they never had to prove it and that caused some very real problems that the drafters of the CW/CE Addendum and Memorandum were not about to let that happen. Just one example of those problems was the fairness to the IJ. Once he or she had the JIW card he was expected to do the work of a JIW. If they couldn’t, at the very least they would be embarrassed and at the worst, they would be unemployed. The knowledge, skills and abilities required to receive a JIW card are obtained by passing approximately 48 tests for those of us who went through a four year apprenticeship and about 60 for the current five year program. Having graduated from a nationally accredited apprenticeship program has been the benchmark necessary to be called a Journeyman in the United States and Canada.

Is it really unreasonable to expect a CE-3 with 14,000 hours of hands-on experience to demonstrate that he has the knowledge, skills and abilities that hundreds of thousands of IBEW members have had to prove? And is it reasonable or fair to expect a CE-3 who obtains a JIW card through a means (A Multi District Journeyman Wireman exam) that is not what the IBEW and NECA put forth in the CW/CE “Birth Certificate” to defend the validity of their card when confronted by a JIW who passed the multitude of tests developed by the same NJATC that developed the Craft Certification Exam?

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MANAGER'S COMMENTS CONTINUED

As I was told shortly after the documents were distributed in 2005 and I was disagreeing with its contents, "The document is written in English, read it again."

Well, I did and it says very clearly on page 2 of the Addendum, "No one, however, will be advanced from the Construction Electrician classification to Journeyman Inside Wireman status without (1.) having a minimum 14,000 hours of documented electrical construction work experience, (2.) having successfully taken the written and practical examinations of each of the levels of the NJATC Craft Certification Program and (3.) having passed the final NJATC written and practical (hands-on) Craft Certification Examinations."

Apparently in the IBEW 4th District, CE-3's will be given a JIW card by passing a test other than what the

IBEW says they need to pass to receive that status. Maybe those cards should have an asterisk after JIW.

I know there are those out there who don't give much thought about the customers but they are buying the labor we are selling. Is it unreasonable for them to expect that when they pay for a JIW that hasn't successfully completed an accredited apprenticeship program they should at least have met the requirements set forth by our parent bodies (IBEW/NECA)?

It's never too late to correct a mistake. The IBEW and NECA tried to do it with the CW/CE documents but as we've seen, those documents have been bastardized. Maybe in some cases and in some ways that had to happen to get the classifications implemented, but when it comes to earning a JIW card there should be no bastards. We should all be legitimate.

NEW MEMBERS

The Chapter is pleased to welcome three new members, Gateway Electric Communications, Hatzel & Buehler along with Great Lakes Testing.

Gateway Electric Communications is a newly formed company from right here in Cleveland. Their accredited representative is Jessie Singh.

Hatzel & Buehler is the oldest electrical contracting company in America. Mr. Hatzel and Mr. Buehler formed their partnership in 1884 in New York City, two years after working for Thomas Edison. Their

accredited representative is Jim Goekler who is based in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Great Lakes Testing LLC is our newest member of the Northeast Ohio Division. They have been performing work in our area for over a decade. Their accredited representative is Brent McKenna.

We welcome our newest members.

2015 NECA NOW LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the 2015 NECA Now Leadership Conference being held in Miami, Florida, April 13-16. Go to www.necanet.org to register on-line or call the NECA office to complete your registration.

This year's conference, with its unique format, has been greatly anticipated since its hugely successful inaugural event in 2013.

Maybe the easiest way to find out everything about the conference would be to just Google NECA Now 2015. You will find a smorgasbord menu of social events, education opportunities, interactive breaks, two plenary sessions and more.

There are 28 educational breakout sessions scheduled but the quantity will be overshadowed by the content. With sessions entitled "What is Your Business Worth," "Don't Get Left Behind: Growing Your Company Through Business Development" and "How Smart People Will Double Their Cash" and so many more you may find yourself going to more classes than you planned on. Golf may just take a backseat.

NECA has reserved the entire Intercontinental Hotel for this event. It is located across the bay from South Beach, so take your company's talent there. You'll find it very rewarding and just like LeBron, you can come home.

ECONOMIC NEWS OF THE DAY

- 1.) The majority of the people's representatives in Washington support the Keystone Pipeline construction project. The President doesn't.
- 2.) The Federal Trade Commission is likely to approve Staples, Inc.'s purchase of Office Depot.
- 3.) Here's a quote from the State of the Union speech. "Send me a bill that gives every worker in America the opportunity to earn seven days of paid sick leave." Is it safe to expect it will be free just like Obamacare?
- 4.) The Euro is steadily falling in value against the U.S. dollar, making travel to Europe more attractive.
- 5.) The Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote on a proposal to apply decades-old rules to label Internet Service Providers as utilities on February 26th.
- 6.) The Ford Motor Company reports that it's having difficulty keeping up with demand of its F-150 pickup trucks.
- 7.) The new Postmaster General is looking for new revenue. The service is experimenting with delivering groceries in San Francisco and water in New York City.
- 8.) There is a new innovative website called "Instant Checkmate." It's revealing the full scoop on millions of Americans. It aggregates hundreds of millions of publicly available criminal, traffic and arrest records as well as more general info such as marriage records, divorce records, various licenses you may hold, estimated income and more.
- 9.) The U.S. based employers in the oil industry announced approximately 21,000 jobs are being cut due to the recent decline in oil prices.
- 10.) The initial estimate for the 2014 4th quarter Gross Domestic Product shows an increase of 2.6%.

MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru December :	2,786,077
Lake Erie Division thru December:	510,215
Northeast Ohio Division thru November:	<u>304,161</u>
Chapter Total:	3,600,453

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) **General Membership Meeting**—March 11, 2015-6:00 P.M. at the Electro Expo, Cleveland Convention Center.
- 2.) **Electro Expo 2015**—March 11-12, 2015 at the Cleveland Convention Center.
- 3.) **Lake Erie Division Meeting**—April 7, 2015- 6:00 P.M.-TBD.
- 4.) **Northeast Ohio Division Meeting**—April 8, 2015-Noon—Red Hawk Grille.
- 5.) **Cleveland Division Meeting**—April 9, 2015-6:00 P.M. TBD.
- 6.) **2015 NECA Now**—April 13-16, 2015 in Miami, Florida.
- 7.) **Annual Golf Outing**—July 13, 2015 at the Lakewood Country Club.
- 8.) **2015 NECA Convention & Trade Show**—October 3-16, in San Francisco, California.

“HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!”

ELECTRICAL TRAINING ALLIANCE AND NECA PREMIER PARTNERS

ELECTRICAL TRAINING ALLIANCE PARTNERS

PLATINUM LEVEL:

3M Company Electrical Markets Division

Graybar

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation

Klein Tools, Inc.

Harger Lightning and Grounding

Fluke Corporation

Eaton's Bussman Business

Lutron Electronics, Inc.

Greenlee, A Textron Company

Prysmian Group

Salisbury by Honeywell

Southwire Company

Thomas & Betts Corporation

Schneider Electric

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

Westex by Milliken

GOLD LEVEL:

Buckingham Manufacturing Company, Inc.

E2E Summit

SILVER LEVEL:

Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ypsilanti Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Steel Tube Institute

American Technical Publishers, Inc.

BRONZE LEVEL:

Alexander Publications

Coyne First Aid

Breslin Strategies, Inc.

Ideal Industries, Inc.

Legrand

MOSAIC

Rubin Brothers, Inc.

Stark Safety Consultants

Phillips Color Kinetics

TE Connectivity

The Lincoln Leadership Institute at Gettysburg

NECA PREMIER PARTNERS

Graybar

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation

Federated Insurance

Schneider Electric

Thomas & Betts Corporation

Trimble

Westex by Milliken

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN MARCH!