



“We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.”
George Bernard Shaw

GREATER CLEVELAND

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The topic of this month's comments is portability. The word itself, as it relates to our industry, is like most others. We hear it, we know what it is and we have an opinion.

This isn't my favorite topic but don't give up, just try to follow along. Portability is like saying "rent." We hear it and we might think rent is good, I like it because I'm a landlord. Or, I hate rent because it's an expense I have that doesn't build equity. Our initial opinion stems from our point of view and experiences.

Portability is very much the same because if you set aside your initial reaction or opinion and examine the subject more deeply, without a point of view, you may end up arguing with yourself. I have and continue to have arguments with myself about it. But first let me say, I'm honest with myself and try to stick to facts and not feelings.

I start by acknowledging portability is multifaceted; therefore, each facet can create at least two trains of thought. Some examples would be, how many rules are needed to manage it? Are any rules really needed? Is it possible rules would be abused? Who benefits from it? Or a broader question, why have portability at all? Those questions just barely scratch the surface and show how many directions/questions there are. Obviously then, the subject is very complex and to say,

without a jewelers loop examination of the facets, that you're in favor of or not in favor of portability is a shallow opinion at best.

Now when you dive in and take a look at the different facets one at a time you can begin to try to form thoughtful opinions. There are some parts where one opinion clearly outweighs the other.

Since you can see that I could go on and on about portability, but really don't want to because quite frankly as I said to begin with I dislike talking about it, I'm going to stick to one broad general facet..portability between adjacent jurisdictions.

Are you wondering why that one? Well, as you might suspect, I recently heard some disturbing comments about it. Ones that rise to a level that fit into the category of "I gotta say something." I will say that I believe, in general, portability benefits NECA and the IBEW.

Let me preface the rest of this paragraph by saying most of it is from direct first hand comments and some second hand comments I've heard from what I consider reliable sources. When it comes to district and local portability it's my understanding that the local areas have the ability to work out rules that would be acceptable to both Labor and Management with the IBEW's blessing.

Continued on Page Two.



MANAGER'S COMMENTS CONTINUED

If I'm wrong about that then let me be so bold as to say they damn well should and here's why. Since former IBEW President Jack Barry introduced the "Blueprint for the 90's," back in the 1990's for those of you who weren't around then, the mantra has been "Organize, organize, organize." I applauded President Barry then and I still believe in that being a priority of the IBEW as well as NECA to this day. And it must be true or why have Locals been required to hire organizers who have attended and continue attending countless Local, State, Regional and National organizer's meetings?

Anyway, I've had numerous meetings and conversations with non-union electrical contractors, usually at the behest of the IBEW but some just in passing. Actually one lives across the street from me and I can't avoid him. So, after extolling the key benefit to signing a letter of assent, the ability to increase and decrease your manpower as needed, and all the other great things in the CBA they usually get around to...you guessed it, can I take my employees any-

where? Obviously, I can't wait to say "Of course you can!" Then they say, "That's not what I hear!" So then I've got to explain there's rules and when I get done and they get done laughing, I found that I've wasted more time organizing than it was worth.

My point should be obvious. Portability is a roadblock to the Holy Grail...organizing! And what's getting done to remove it, at least in small geographical areas where multiple IBEW jurisdictions/CBA's exist, not too damn much. Business Managers aren't inclined to do anything more than help an already signatory contractor work out a small portability problem that pops up and that's not guaranteed.

So why isn't this local geographical problem being addressed in a comprehensive manner so that the portability roadblock to organize is removed? I'm going to be nice and just say it's because there's a lack of will. But then, that's not like me so I'll just be honest. It's a lack of leadership and responsibility for the future.... somewhere.

A SHOUT OUT FROM A FORMER BOARD MEMBER

On January 31st and February 1st Chapter President Mike Joyce and Manager Tom Shreves paid a visit to Duke Benevento and his wife Debbie at their winter home Key Colony on Marathon Island in the Florida Keys. After struggling this fall from some health problems Duke wanted everyone to know he has made a terrific recovery and is enjoying his time in the Keys. At the age of 80 and having been away from the Board for two years, Duke wants and receives regular updates on the happenings within NECA.

Thankfully, he continues to share his experience, knowledge and opinions with us.

We look forward to seeing Duke at home this spring.

NORA FACTS- PREVAILING WAGE AND PLA'S

- 1.) General fact. There are two distinct types of prevailing wage. **Federal**, known as the Davis Bacon and **State** prevailing wage.
- 2.) The NORA cannot be used on a Federal Davis Bacon project.
- 3.) The NORA can be used on a State Prevailing Wage project but only if the project falls within the scope of the agreement or a variance to use the NORA for that project is approved.
- 4.) The CW/CE rates have been posted with the State Wage and Hour Division of the Commerce Department. Always check these prior to bidding.
- 5.) The NORA cannot be used on a project that is being worked under a PLA (Project Labor Agreement.)

COPPER PRICES

Keep an eye on the price of copper. It has risen approximately 13% recently to near \$3.00/lb.

MANHOURS

Cleveland Division thru January:	256,760
Lake Erie Division thru January:	34,687
Northeast Ohio Division thru January:	31,534
Chapter Total:	322,981

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.) **Code Class**-March 23, 2019 7:30 AM-1:00 PM- Doubletree Hotel, Independence, Ohio.
- 2.) **Cleveland Division Meeting** - March 28, 2019 -5:30 PM at Lockkeepers, Valley View, Ohio.
- 3.) **NECA NOW**-April 1-4, 2019-Phoenix, Arizona.
- 4.) **Lake Erie Division Meeting**-April 9, 2019 -6:00 PM at Diso's Bistro, Lorain, Ohio.
- 5.) **Northeast Ohio Division Meeting**-April 10, 2019 at Noon at Red Hawk Grille.
- 6.) **Joint Tradeshow with NCO Chapter, NECA** -April 11, 2019 at -3:00-5:00 PM at the Sheraton Suite, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.
- 7.) **SEMINARS- Cracking the WIP/Driving Predictable Cost Projections and Managing the Lifeblood of Contracting/Cash Flow** -May 10th-7:45 AM-5:00 PM at the Doubletree Hotel, Independence, Ohio

LOOK FOR THE NEXT REVIEW IN APRIL 2019!!

**IT'S GOOD BUSINESS TO DO BUSINESS WITH THOSE FIRMS
WHO SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION**

CHAPTER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1-888-Ohio Comp	Graybar Electric Co.
ABB Industrial Solutions	Leff Electric
Admar Supply Company	Mars Electric
BMA Media Group	Milwaukee Tool
Ciuni & Panichi, Inc.	PEPCO
CompManagement, Inc.	Riffle and Associates
Eaton Corporation	Simplex Grinnell
ENESPRO PPE	United Rentals
Ericson Manufacturing	

NECA PREMIER PARTNERS

3M	Schneider Electric
Federated Insurance	Southwire Corporation
Graybar	Thomas and Betts Corporation
Greenlee	United Rentals
Milwaukee Tool	Westex by <i>Milliken</i>

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
 Graybar
 Greenslee by Textron Corporation
 Ideal Industries, Inc.
 Westex by Milliken

GOLD LEVEL:

Buckingham Manufacturing Company, Inc.
 Alexander Publications

SILVER LEVEL:

Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Rubin Brothers, Inc.
 American Technical Publishers, Inc.
 Ypsilanti Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Legrand, North America
 E2E Summit

BRONZE LEVEL:

MOSAIC
 Stark Safety Consultants
 Coyne First Aid
 Wellshade