



for Wagner-Smith when the company was sold to MDU Resources Group, Inc. The sale opened new avenues for the business to continue growth and expansion.

business type. In 2006, the Wagner-Smith Industrial Division merged with Capital Electric's industrial group located in Kansas City, to form Wagner Industrial Electric with headquarters in Dayton, OH. President Jim Fortkamp says, "With two operational locations, one East and one

Electric's new business model focuses on heavy industrial work. For example, they have installed FGD (see pg. 2) scrubber emission cleaning systems in power plants for DP&L and Duke Energy to capture sulfur dioxide and recycle it for use in the manufacture of gypsum

At any given intersection in the Dayton area, you might see bright orange and blue trucks with the name Wagner-Smith, fixing traffic lights. Or, you might have seen their on-site office trailers at Miami Valley Hospital. The Wagner-Smith name has been an integral part of the Dayton electrical construction sector for 90 years. But our global economy has changed the manufacturing/industrial complexion of this country and with it, many businesses like Wagner-Smith.

"As a company, we have always focused on personal service. And that hasn't changed a bit," says Phil Wagner, previous owner of Wagner-Smith and current President of Wagner-Smith Equipment, which manufactures, rents and sells a wide range of conductor stringing equipment and blocks, plus related accessories.

As part of MDU's Construction Services Group, Wagner-Smith's Outside Division and Industrial Division were separated and realigned by



DP&L Stuart Station Plant

West, we have the resources to support our nationwide customer base."

Wagner Industrial

wallboard. In addition, Wagner Industrial has performed several control upgrades and plant improvements for power companies across the country.

Wagner Industrial's projects are located nationwide including Montana, Utah, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois,

Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania. They recently completed a project with the

(cont'd. page 2)

## Apprenticeship update

Bill Newlin retires after 24 years as Director

Whenever the question of union versus nonunion electrical workers is raised, the subject quickly turns to training. Union electricians have long laid claim to being the most thoroughly trained workers in the business. The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC), established in 1941, is the organization responsible for training Union electricians and

has set the standard for turning out qualified electrical workers since its inception. Its intensive training program combines classroom work with on-the-job training under the supervision of a journeyman electrician or lineman, and offers various apprenticeship courses for residential and commercial/industrial electricians, utility linemen and voice-data-video installer technicians, as well as continuing education for Journeymen. It trains the vast majority of electrical workers in the United States and

continues to be the standard by which any alternative is judged.

Enrollment of minorities in union apprentice programs is about three times the number enrolled in non-union programs, and there are four times as many women enrolled in union training. Graduation rates of minorities and women from union apprentice programs are three times that of non-union programs. The all-trades graduation rate for union apprentice programs is 82.2 percent, compared with 17.8 percent for non-union programs. Obviously, union apprentice training programs

produce more and better skilled Journeymen.

But any training program is only as good as its instructors and the administrators that establish academic guidelines. The Training Director of the Dayton, Ohio JATC, Bill Newlin, recently retired after more than 24 years of committed service. Taking his place is Dick Brooks, who had worked as the Assistant Director for six years. "Bill's experience in the electrical industry made him a true asset to our program," says Dick. "We have one of the best

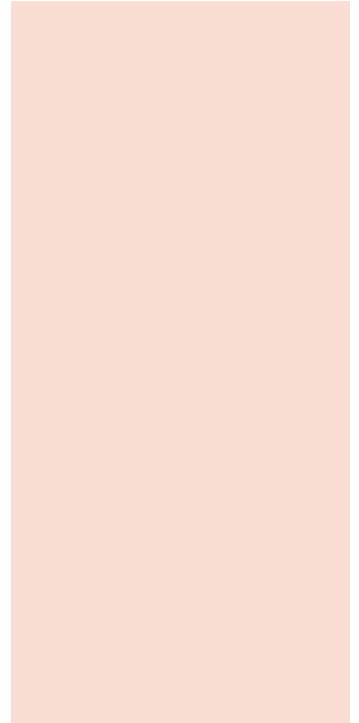
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**Wagner** *cont'd.*

Cleveland Water District installing backup power, new generators and a substation. Other focus industries include mining, steel manufacturing, automotive and other industries requiring complex process and control systems.

“Essentially, Wagner Industrial is a performance-based contractor,” says Tom Cope, VP of Operations. “In other words, the primary concern of most of our customers is to get the job done safely, quickly, and right. Our customers have come to rely on Wagner Industrial to provide quality service in a timely manner. Many of our customers do not go through an extended bidding process which is typically required for



**1 CONNECTIONS**

*January, 2007*

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NEECA

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## Hot topics

### Endangered Hawaiian seabird affected by lighting

Each fall, the keiki (babies) of Kauai's endangered Newell's shearwater and Hawaiian petrel birds fly out to sea for the first time in their lives; they use the moonlight as a guide, but en route to the ocean, the birds cross land with bright lights. The keiki are attracted to the lights and fly around them in circles until they are exhausted or until the lights are turned off. This is increasingly becoming a problem, as the island becomes more populated.



Keiki bird

Hawaii is asking its residents to help save the birds, and the task goes beyond rescuing the injured babies. Turning off unnecessary lights and using seabird-safe lighting fixtures

are a couple of options the state has suggested. On its Web site, Hawaii gives examples of such lights: recessed can lights with baffles, glare-buster lights, canister downlights and eyelid step lights, among others.

### Programming your systems for the new

#### Daylight Saving Time

Due to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Daylight Saving Time (DST) will result in changing the clocks on the second Sunday in March and then back on the first Sunday in November beginning this year. It has traditionally taken place on the first Sunday in April (since 1986) and on the last Sunday in October. That means under the new requirements, we'll spend an extra month in DST.

The problem is, you are going to have to do a little more than mark it on your calendar. With the current state of technology, many building systems are automated. This includes lighting control systems, HVAC, security

systems, etc., and those automated features are usually dependent on time. Moreover, the problem resides in programming.

Manufacturers, such as Square D, are offering software upgrades for contractors to download. After downloading the programs, contractors will only need to apply the changes.

### Sensors will pinpoint power problems

According to the Spectrum Online, University of Buffalo scientists are developing nanotech sensors capable of pinpointing power outages in real time, thus easing their repair. Currently, electrical crews have to go street by street searching for the location of the problem causing an outage, but the tiny, wireless transistors could save time and prevent people from being left without power and heat. Not only can they monitor an electrical system, but the sensors can alert the utility companies if they are damaged or malfunctioning.

Researchers are confident that this technology will be the future of electricity, replacing the current 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide transistors.

### New CCTV system recognizes suspicious behavior

According to the Xinhua News Agency, Austrian researchers at the Vienna University of Technology have created a computer-based CCTV (closed circuit TV) surveillance system that identifies and monitors suspicious behavior by people inside banks. The system automatically alerts banks when the suspicious behavior has been identified. The CCTV system uses a mathematical algorithm to identify atypical behavior inside the bank; the researchers have determined that 95% of bank customers tend to stay in the same part of the bank when waiting to conduct a transaction. One hitch in the system is reducing the number of false alarms generated by children, who never stay in one place! There were 56 bank robberies in Vienna in 2006, up from 39 in 2005.

### Apprenticeship *cont'd.*

training facilities in the country because of our dedicated staff."

The Dayton Electrical JATC is a state-of-the-art facility. Several electrical suppliers in the area donate the latest equipment to be used in classroom education. The Center offers two apprenticeship programs: Inside Wireman and Teledata Installer Technician. In addition to learning a trade by working alongside an experienced Journeyman, another advantage to apprenticeship is you earn while you learn. Apprentices start earning a livable wage as soon as they start working and receive pay advancements throughout their

apprenticeship. In recent years, much of the attention of the construction industry has focused on the need for apprentice training. Driving this focus are concerns about "skills shortages." And in every study, union building trades apprentice training programs outperform non-union apprentice training in every critical measure of program success. For more information about the Union electrical apprenticeship program visit [www.daytonohiojadc.org](http://www.daytonohiojadc.org).

**Bill Newlin** started as an apprentice in the Dayton electrical training program in 1969, becoming a Journeyman in 1973. As a Journeyman, he worked for various contractors in the Dayton area. He began



Bill Newlin

teaching part-time the following year and became a full time instructor in 1976. During this time, Bill worked on his Associates Degree in Skilled Trades Technical Studies at Sinclair Community College. He served on the Advisory Board at Sinclair, Greene County Career Center and the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.

Why teach? "I wanted to give something back to the program and to keep my knowledge of the trade up-to-date. Many of our instructors learn a great deal about new technology while teaching." Bill served on the JATC Board until January, 1983, when he became the Training Director in order to advance the apprenticeship program. "One of the biggest challenges is change: the electrical code is updated annually and new technology results in new products, with which every electrician must become familiar. The learning process never ends," says Bill.

Bill is now working for Wagner Industrial as a Safety Specialist and hopes to enjoy more time with his family and five grandchildren.

**CONNECTIONS**

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**In This Issue**

- **Bill Newlin retires**
- **Wagner Industrial Electric**
- **Protecting your finances**
- **Hot topics...new CCTV detection**

**Recent Events**



*The Dayton Boys Choir performed at the National Electrical Contractor's Association, Western Ohio Chapter's annual Holiday gathering.*



*Winners of the IBEW/NECA/LMCC 4th Annual Golf Outing at Greene Country Club (from left): Jim Porter, Grandview Hospital; Roger Vanderhorst, Chapel Electric; Dennis Quebe, CRT Technologies; and Allen Begley, Messer Construction.*

**The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:**

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- Chapel Electric Company
- Chapel-Romanoff Technologies
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