



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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July, 2013

## Wagner Industrial achieves safety recognition

**W**agner Industrial Electric, an MDU Construction Services Group company, recently took steps to further cultivate its safety culture by enhancing working conditions and gaining certification through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program. The achievement places the Dayton, Ohio-based company among the elite contractors in the country to reach certification.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the VPP "recognizes employers and workers in the private industry and federal agencies who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and

maintain injury and illness rates below national Bureau of



Labor Statistics averages for their respective industries." Barry Smallwood, Safety Director for WIE, said that for employers, achieving VPP shows their employees, industry peers and their community that their company is a leader in safety and health. To qualify for the VPP, applicants must meet all relevant OSHA standards and have effective safety and

health management systems in place that meet rigorous performance-based criteria.

OSHA verifies qualifications through a comprehensive onsite review process and approves successful applicants.

A benefit of obtaining VPP certification is gaining exemption from programmed or scheduled OSHA inspections. Companies and individual sites that apply for VPP recognition show their commitment to effective worker protection by inviting government regulators into their workplace. In return, OSHA removes them from programmed inspection lists and does not issue citations for standards violations that are promptly corrected.

Before completing the program, WIE began the certification process by completing the OSHA Challenge Program. Challenge Program administrators who are experienced in safety and health issues guide participants through a three-stage process to implement an effective system to prevent fatalities, injuries and illnesses. "By participating in the program, it almost forces you to add new or revise existing safety policies and procedures," Smallwood said. "Since completing the program in 2009, Wagner employees have become an intricate part in helping to maintain a safe place of employment and have experienced steady improvement in the reduction of incidents."

## Graduation 2013

**O**n May 22, the Dayton Ohio Area Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) held the Class of 2013 graduation banquet. Twenty nine apprentices moved up the ranks to Journeymen, twenty seven Inside Wiremen and two Teledata Technicians.

Speakers included Dan Neal, Executive Director Western Ohio Chapter NECA. His message was straight to the point "The day you think you know everything is the day you're no longer needed." He emphasized to the

graduates that "it's about how hard you work to improve yourself. It takes effort and discipline to become successful."

Nick Comstock, Business Manager for Local 82 stressed that the graduates will, "get out of their career what they put into it." Learning new technology will be at the forefront of their success. The



Training Dir. Dick Brooks

IBEW started in 1897 installing telegraph lines. And now the IBEW installs sophisticated

teledata networks and energy efficient building automation. Nick's message, "Have a dream, have a mission. It won't happen overnight, but stay with it and make it

happen." In closing, Training Director Dick Brooks explained

to the graduates that there are many career paths, 59 to be exact, from Foreman, Inspector, Contractor, Instructor, to Training Director. Dick began his career in 1982 when he started his apprenticeship. In 2001, he became the Assistant Training Director until 2006, when he took the position of Training Director. During his years of service, he also was an Instructor and served on several committees for the NJATC. Dick is retiring at the end of this year and we wish him a happy retirement!

The JATC offers the best electrical worker training in the

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## Powering up Good Neighbor House

Good Neighbor House (GNH) was founded in 1994 out of a collaboration of eight Dayton area Seventh-Day Adventist churches who desired to make a difference by helping to meet the needs of the underserved in the Dayton community. GNH is a non-profit organization that provides food pantry services, clothing, and household items to underserved individuals and families in the Miami Valley. They also established a clinic dedicated to providing medical, dental, and vision services to the working uninsured community.

To better serve the community, the Good

Neighbor House moved to a new, larger facility at 627 E.



Calvin Neeley of Spurling Electric.

First Street, which opened in April, 2013. The new facility required an extensive renovation, additional space, and many man hours of labor. All of the time and materials for the renovation have been donated by various building trades and suppliers throughout the Miami Valley.

Rick Weiser of Chapel Electric was responsible for collecting donations for

materials for all of the electrical work. John Mueller of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82, began working full time on the project the week of March 5, 2012.

Calvin Neeley of Spurling Electric took over after a few months and worked the project until the doors opened in April.

The facility was expanded 2,000 square feet in order to build an attached garage to store the box truck used to pick up items; and install additional equipment for the food pantry. A new dental clinic was added, expanding from two to four chairs, along with new x-ray equipment. There is a new eye room and

medical rooms as well. State-of-the-art, energy efficient electrical and HVAC systems have been installed in the new facility. All the lighting was installed with motion detectors mounted on walls and in the ceiling. The furnaces were replaced with 95% energy efficient equipment.



New main lobby.

Through the contributions of dedicated donors and volunteers, the agency is funded and supported by monetary and in kind donations that help to make a tremendous difference in the lives of many throughout the Miami Valley.

## Counselors attend *apprenticeship expo*

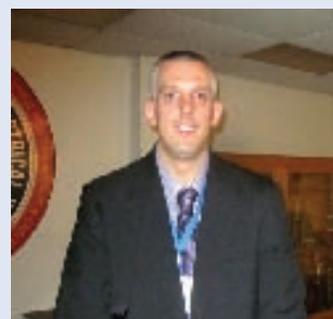
An often overlooked career path for high school graduates is an apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship programs consist of a combination of on-the-job training (earning while you learn) and classroom instruction, for which college credit is available.

Every year, the Miami Valley Building Trades Apprenticeship Group hosts a breakfast for area high-school

counselors to showcase their programs. This year's event took place on April 17. Several of the trades had exhibitor tables set up and shared information about their particular program with the attendees.

Eugene Frazier, Training Director for Sheet Metal Workers Local 24, kicked off the event with a warm welcome. Patrick Reardon, Employment Support Administrator with the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council, spoke about the importance of Apprenticeship programs in Ohio. The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes over 1000 Apprentice programs in several industries: advanced manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, aerospace,

health care, biotechnical, energy, information



Patrick Reardon

technology, and of course, the building trades.

On average, an apprentice will **earn** \$150,000 in four years (the length of most apprenticeship programs). A college graduate **owes** an average of \$26,000 in student loans at the end of four years. It's plain to see why opting for

a career in the building trades is a win-win experience.

Terry Estes, COO with J&B Steel Erectors, Inc. spoke about his journey from apprentice to owner of a business. "You can't replace on-the-job-training," says Terry. "I've found that union Journeymen are better trained and perform unsurpassed quality installations."

Articulation programs between community colleges and the apprenticeship programs and also four-year university programs, help apprentices transfer credit easily to further their education. Terrence Katschke, Coordinator, Owens Community College added that on average, two-thirds to



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

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# SkillsUSA Ohio *Local 82 takes the reins*

SkillsUSA held its state-wide competition in Columbus on April 15-16, 2013. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations, to ensure America has a skilled workforce.



SkillsUSA *Electrical Construction Wiring competition.*

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 5,000 students compete in 91 occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a “successful model of employer-driven youth development training program” by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Participating students are Juniors and Seniors from technical schools throughout

the state and locally include the Greene County Career Center and Miami Valley Career Technology Center. Competitions vary from Automotive Refinishing,

Aviation Maintenance, Basic Health Care Skills, Carpentry, Community Service, Computer Programming, to Medical Math, and more.

The coordinator for the regional and state-wide Electrical Construction Wiring and Industrial Motor Control competitions is Mike Evans, Membership Development Coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82 in Dayton. Mike has been involved in SkillsUSA since he was a participant himself, going all the way to Nationals. He became a judge in 2008 and has brought

several other IBEW Local 82 members on board. As the coordinator for the Electrical competitions, Mike and Local 82 were responsible for supplying all the materials required in the competition, including wiring, motors, wall materials, drywall, conduit bending equipment, etc.

“It takes a day just to set up,” says Mike. “We have to erect the walls used for the wiring competition and ensure each individual has the required materials to meet the list of competition challenges.” Participants in Electrical Construction Wiring and Motor Control (18 in each group), follow the same overall requirements: a two hour written exam; mock interviews (complete with submitting their resume); conduit bending; and a four hour hands-on lab. Students are given a set of drawings and descriptions of how the installations should function. Judges have a list of criteria that must be met, and students are scored accordingly.

Local 82 volunteer judges included: Ben Dehart, Kenny Pierson, Ralph Peyton, Chuck Terry, and Brad Travis. Dick Brooks, Training Director for the Dayton JATC Apprenticeship Program also

attended to lend a helping hand. “I would like to thank everyone for their participation,” says Mike. “It’s a challenge to set up everything in one day and judge two, day-long competitions.”

Congratulations to Joshua West, who won Silver for Industrial Motor Control. A 2013 graduate of Greene County Career Center, Josh entered the IBEW as a Construction Wireman as a



*Silver Award Winner Josh West.*

Junior in April, 2012. He is now a second year apprentice for IBEW Local 82..

Nationals take place June 23-29 in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, visit [www.ohioskillsusa.org](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org).

## Apprenticeship Expo

*(cont'd.)*

three-quarters of the credits needed to complete a two year degree are acquired during an apprenticeship program, which only leaves about 9 hours to complete an Associate’s degree.

During a Q & A with the Apprenticeship Coordinators, the following question was asked: “How can we prepare

students for a future in the building trades.” Surprisingly, the answer centered around teaching students soft skills: how to dress appropriately; instilling a desire to work and being steadfast on the job site; teaching



*Counselors learn about apprenticeships.*

them how to interview; and being responsible and on time!

Two \$500 scholarships were awarded. Troy High School received a scholarship from the West Central Ohio Laborers and the

Mound Street Academy won a scholarship from the Miami Valley Building Trades.

Apprenticeship programs provide a great education and skill set, leading to a variety of careers.

For more information please visit: [www.daytonapprenticeships.org](http://www.daytonapprenticeships.org).

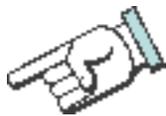


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**The Western Ohio Chapter -  
National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:**

**Congratulations Class of 2013**

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area. For the last eight years, their graduation grade point average of 89%, has been well above the national average. It's an arduous journey, but well worth it. Two programs are offered: Inside Wireman is a five-year training program and the Teledata Installer Technician is a three year program.

The top graduate for the Inside Wireman program is Eric Gray who carried a 97.9% grade average for all five years. Mark Phillips came in as a close second with a grade average of 97.6%, an outstanding achievement for both graduates. The top graduate for Teledata is Kelly Hicks. Please visit: [www.daytonohiojatc.org](http://www.daytonohiojatc.org) for more information.



*Top grads, Kelly Hicks, Teledata Technician (left) and Eric Gray, Inside Wireman received new tools from Milwaukee Rep Kate Tomko.*

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