



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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IBEW/NECA donates to *4 Paws for Ability*

The LMCC/IBEW/NECA hosted their 18th Annual Golf Outing in September. Congratulations to the winning team: Lance Beck, Matt Diblasi, Jason Stanek, and Tony Rowland.

All proceeds from hole sponsorship are donated to 4 Paws for Ability, an organization in Xenia, Ohio that trains and places service dogs with veterans and children with disabilities. The outing raised over \$2000 for 4 Paws. Tim O’Sullivan, a veteran suffering from PTSD, brought his service dog, Chesney, to the event and shared his story with us. (see below)

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is a

common disorder that impacts hundreds of thousands of veterans,



Tim O’Sullivan shares his journey with Chesney.

causing anxiety and fear which causes changes in the body. This anxiety triggers the body’s “fight-or-flight” response, even in situations

where no danger is present. This leads to a host of difficulties, ranging from higher stress levels to trouble sleeping.

Research suggests that psychiatric service dogs may be an effective complementary treatment option for military veterans with PTSD. Service dogs are trained to interact with individuals when

they begin to feel panicked, position themselves between a veteran and others, and interrupt night terrors. The results come in the form of a

non-judgmental living being who can provide unconditional love 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some trained tasks include picking up on cues veterans display when experiencing distress or anxiety and consequently nudging, pawing, or licking them to encourage the veteran to focus on the dog.

The dogs also learn to perform tasks in public—such as looking the opposite way in a crowded room or store to provide a sense of security for the veteran. In addition, these service dogs offer valuable companionship, provide joy and happiness, and add structure and routine to veterans’ lives.

Tim O’Sullivan

Tim comes from a military family and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1991 until he medically retired in 2013. He started out as a jet engine mechanic then was commissioned to Air Force Special Operations in Oman, Kandahar, Yemen and Pakistan. After 9/11 he was sent to Iraq for a year.

During the first seven months, Tim experienced over 1100 rocket attacks. Everything changed when the vehicle he was in hit a 100 pound roadside bomb. He suffered from a traumatic brain injury, torn ligaments and internal bleeding and eventually went home to Tampa.

Living so close to Disneyworld, their family took a vacation there one weekend. When the fireworks exploded, Tim found himself diving into nearby bushes. That’s when the reality of his condition became apparent. Tim thought he could deal with his PTSD on his own. But his sense of purpose had gone away, and he had too much free time to think about what had happened to him.

One day he went to Ritters with his mother-in-law

and sat next to a veteran who had a service dog. As they engaged in conversation, Tim



Veteran Tim O’Sullivan and Chesney.

began talking about his experiences and didn’t realize his anxiety level was rising until this service dog laid across his

lap. He had no choice but to hug the dog and realized that the tension he was feeling melted away. Tim decided then and there that he needed a service dog.

4 Paws for Ability had a dog in mind for Tim and he trained with Chesney for several months before graduation. Chesney distracts Tim when he is feeling anxious and even crawls on top of him in bed when he senses that Tim is having a nightmare. Tim says, “I recognize that I have some struggles and I’m doing something about it. And Chesney’s there to help me along that journey.” To donate, please visit: 4pawsforability.org.

Electrical Contractors with VPP Safety Status

What do NECA members ESI Electrical Contractors, Chapel Electric, and Romanoff Electric have in common? They are the only Electrical Contractors in Ohio to achieve VPP Status, the highest safety certification awarded by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Reaching Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) status places a company among the elite contractors in the country. Of the 10 million companies in the U.S., fewer than 2,000 have qualified for VPP status.

The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) recognize 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. In VPP, management, labor, and OSHA work cooperatively and proactively to prevent fatalities, injuries, and illnesses through a system focused on: hazard prevention and control; worksite analysis; training; and management commitment and worker involvement.

To participate, employers must submit an application to OSHA and

undergo a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of safety and health professionals. Union support is required for

According to Gaye Johnson, OSHA's Assistant Area Director in Cincinnati, the real challenge isn't attaining VPP status, it is maintaining it. "Think outside the box. Don't do what you're used to, do what you're not used to. Think about your families and how an injury would affect them. Think about how an injury affects your co-workers. Even the smallest gesture can have a large impact," says Gaye.

applicants represented by a bargaining unit. VPP participants are re-evaluated every three to five years to remain in the programs. VPP participants are exempt from

OSHA programmed inspections while they maintain their VPP status.

Statistical evidence for VPP's success is impressive.

The average VPP worksite has a Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) case rate of 52% below the average for its industry. These sites typically do not start out with such low

rates. Reductions in injuries and illnesses begin when the site commits to the VPP approach to safety and health management and the challenging VPP application process.

Keep up the good work!

EMCOR Group, Inc. acquires Quebe Holdings, Inc.

EMCOR Group, Inc. (NYSE: EME), a Fortune 500® leader in mechanical and electrical construction, industrial and energy infrastructure, and building services for a diverse range of businesses, announced that it has completed its acquisition of Quebe Holdings, Inc., headquartered in Dayton, Ohio. "Not only does the Quebe acquisition further strengthen EMCOR's position in electrical construction, it also expands our capabilities across the state of Ohio."

Quebe is a leading electrical services company providing preconstruction, construction, systems integration, and energy solutions in a variety of markets, including automotive,

commercial, healthcare, education, industrial, and mission critical.

"Quebe brings a wealth of industry experience, technical expertise, and a longstanding commitment to customers that aligns perfectly with EMCOR's business philosophy," said Daniel Fitzgibbons, President and CEO of EMCOR Electrical Construction Services. "Not only does the Quebe acquisition further strengthen EMCOR's position in electrical construction, it also expands our capabilities across the state of Ohio."

Quebe is comprised of five Ohio-based business units consisting of Chapel Electric Co., LLC; Romanoff Electric Co., LLC; Chapel-Romanoff

Technologies, LLC; Kastle Electric Company; and Kastle Technologies Co., LLC.

According to Quebe's Chairman and CEO, Dennis F. Quebe, both EMCOR and Quebe share the same commitment to customer loyalty and safety. "Just as we always have, we will continue to meet the high service level expectations our customers demand of us." Gregory "Buck" Ross, Quebe's Chief Operating Officer, added that the alignment of cultures will most certainly result in a positive experience for Quebe's employees and clients alike. "We look forward to delivering on our promise to our customers in the same way we always have, while also

cultivating sustainable growth as part of EMCOR's dynamic organization."

A Fortune 500® company with estimated 2021 revenues of approximately \$9.5B, EMCOR Group, Inc. (NYSE: EME) is a leader in mechanical and electrical construction, industrial and energy infrastructure, and building services. (published by Business Wire).



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

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2021 Technology and beyond...

New Magnetizable Concrete Charges EVs on the Road

Have you ever thought of buying an all-electric car but were worried you would run out of power before you got to your destination?

Well, soon, you may be able to recharge your car as you drive.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is partnering with Purdue University to conduct a pilot test of the world's first contactless, wireless charging concrete pavement on a highway segment. The project will use magnetizable concrete



developed by German startup Magment GmbH, enabling electric vehicles to be wirelessly charged as they drive, including all-electric heavy trucks.

Phases 1 and 2 of the project will feature pavement testing, analysis and optimization research conducted by Purdue's Joint Transportation Research Program. In phase 3, INDOT will construct a ¼-mile-long testbed where engineers will test the magnetizable concrete's

capacity to charge heavy truck operations at 200 kilowatts and above. Upon successful completion of testing of all three phases, INDOT will use the new technology to electrify a segment of interstate highway.

Indiana is known for its harsh winters, which, along with rain in the summer, could affect the transfer of electric charges across the air gap between the pavement and the receiver in the test electric car. As such, the pilot will test the magnetizable concrete's strength, durability and functionality under different weather conditions.

COVID-19 pushes security into a new look

COVID-19 has had a massive influence on physical security and the services systems integrators deliver, and the pandemic continues to serve as a prime catalyst for new applications. With a wave and a hopeful smile—but no handshake we move into this era of systems integration, with environmental controls, lighting, physical security, cybersecurity and more all rolled into one cohesive solution.

Friction-free access control

- Access control relies on smartphones and touch-free, frictionless and hygienic controls. Proximity sensors allow users to wave their hand near devices at doors and openings rather than grab door handles.
- Cards and other user credentials leverage radio frequency at turnstiles to quickly admit or deny visitors. Along these lines, access control card makers are leveraging software that yields contact-tracing reports to track potentially infected individuals so next steps can be automatically taken—such

as immediately revoking credentials.

- Optical turnstiles have gone touchless and frictionless in abbreviated designs while accommodating Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.



Turnstiles integrate with surveillance cameras and facial recognition kiosks, and user enrollment is processed at the turnstile.

- As summer 2021 pressed on, President Biden announced that millions of federal workers must prove they've received a coronavirus vaccine or undergo regular testing. Current identity credentials such as Transportation Worker Identification Credentials and Personal Identity Verification

cards will most likely carry this information as part of their identity processes for admittance to government and critical infrastructures.

New purpose for cameras

- Video surveillance steps up to the COVID-19 challenge with analytics and thermal detection capabilities that can be customized. For example, analytics can identify “no-mask” events or people with elevated temperatures, while monitoring crowds and capacities.

- Analytics and A.I. are increasing cameras' use in tracking suspicious activity as a precursor to potential violence or the presence of firearms or shots fired.
- With a smaller footprint, robots can function as quasi-receptionists or assistants in elder care, assisted living or education. They can also be used as a concierge service or for general facilities

management to identify chemical spills or other hazardous conditions.

Sensors come full circle

- Occupancy and motion detection track safe employee limits and monitor areas ready to be disinfected, while automated HVAC controls purify air on a continuous basis or as workers vacate an area.
- Glass-break sensors respond to shattering glass or certain acoustic levels to proactively notify about an intruder or safety breach. Devices are available to augment detection at the premises, including environmental, gas, hazardous chemical, humidity and others.

Security has evolved and transformed due to the pandemic, and systems integrators and other low-voltage contractors who pivot their businesses accordingly can satisfy customers' needs for a safe, secure and healthy workplace. (excerpts from September, 2021 issue of ECMagazine)



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Dayton Holiday Festival



Celebrating 48 years of being a Dayton family tradition, the Dayton Holiday Festival is the region's premiere holiday event. The Festival offers free, family entertainment so that everyone may enjoy the holidays. The Dayton Holiday Festival has become a local tradition, attracting multiple generations of families from around the Miami Valley each year. NECA and IBEW will once again be major sponsors of the Dayton Holiday Festival and Parade. In addition to updating any electrical requirements on the floats, lights will be installed throughout downtown.



The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

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ASIDACO, LLC
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