



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



Published for members of NECA, Western Ohio Chapter • IBEW Local 82 • Miami Valley Business Community

October, 2011

## OHIO ENERGY SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

OHIO ELECTRICAL LABOR / MGMT. COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The first statewide Ohio Energy Solutions Summit was held September 30 at the Toledo Electrical Training Center (JATC). The event was sponsored by the Ohio Electrical Management Cooperation Committee (OELMCC) which represents state members of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The Summit showcased new energy efficient technologies and demonstrated the capabilities of the members of the OELMCC installing these systems.

Toledo JATC Training Director Dave Wellington

opened the Summit with a thank you to the various companies and the Ohio Department of Development for their assistance in the installation of a new wind

turbine, used for both power and for training purposes. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and State Representative Matt Szollosi addressed the crowd of 300 about the challenges and accomplishments made by the State of Ohio in the development of alternative energy manufacturing and installations.

Also speaking at the event were NECA President Rex Ferry and NECA CEO John Grau. "What we're seeing here today is the next chapter for our industry," Grau said. He emphasized that, "the driving force behind much of our economic growth is conservation and sustainability – how to keep

the lights on when natural resources may be reaching their limits. NECA and the IBEW are positioned to lead the way in bringing such alternative energy to our customers. This job remains



Wind turbine ribbon cutting ceremony at Toledo Electrical Training Center.

true to our founding principle of bringing electricity to where it's needed. Do it in a way that is safe. Do it in a way that doesn't waste time or money."

In 2009, the OELMCC received a 4.8 million dollar "green energy" training grant (Ohio GROWs – Green and Renewable Opportunities for Workers) from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to train electrical journeymen and apprentices in the areas of wind turbines, photovoltaic systems and building automation. Since then, training has been taking place in 19 facilities throughout the state. Recently, the OELMCC was awarded an FMCS grant to educate Contractors and Journeymen in a "Facilities Energy Audit Program." These seminars give them the tools to perform Preliminary Energy Assessments (PEAs) for new and existing clients, in order to help them become more energy efficient (and reduce utility costs) in their businesses.

Through these programs, electrical contractors and workers have learned that energy solutions combine

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## SAFETY EXPO 2011

The third annual Safety Expo was held on September 15 at the Crossroads Expo Center. Sponsored by the Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) of the Western Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractor's Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

Local 82, the event featured safety equipment exhibitors, speakers, and demonstrations by safety experts. Over 150 attendees had an opportunity to learn about the latest in personal protective equipment and speak with industry experts.

The Joint Safety Committee of NECA and IBEW Local 82 was instrumental in coordinating this outstanding event.



NECA Safety Director Jerry Rivera (center) with Toledo JATC Instructors Ray Struffolino (left) and Nathan Eaton (right).

Exhibitors included safety clothing and electrical personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturers and distributors: Argus Hazco, Brite Ears, LLC, Dupont, Honeywell Safety Products, MSA, Red Wing Shoes, Riverside Uniforms, Salisbury, SVS Vision and Tyndale. In addition, several local electrical distributors participated this year as sponsors of the event. A big thanks to Becker Electric, FD Lawrence, Graybar, Richards Electric Supply,

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## Energy Summit *cont'd*

energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, integrated in a holistic way. By looking at the big picture of energy use, the NECA/IBEW team can



The G-PAD.

recommend and install the best overall solution to minimize energy use, maximize energy efficiency, and—if it makes sense for the property—create

energy from solar, wind, or other renewable sources.

The Summit also included several breakout sessions hosted by a variety of experts in the energy market. Sessions included Electric Vehicle Market Potential, Installation of EVSE Equipment and information on an Ohio Grant Program for EV Infrastructure Projects. CEO Bill Spratley of Green Energy Ohio spoke on the future of renewable energy in Ohio. NECA contractors held seminars on solar installation projects and how to obtain financing. NECA Student Chapters from

Bowling Green State University and Youngstown University were challenged to present Energy Audits on a



The Electric Vehicle tent.

particular facility. In addition, wind turbine rigging demonstrations and climbing tower demos took place throughout the day.

The Summit also hosted a Trade Show with vendors from throughout the state

focusing on alternative energy (solar and wind) technology, energy efficient lighting, and EV charging stations.

Most renewable energy technologies are electricity-generating equipment, so it's essential they are installed properly by professionals with solid training and experience in electrical systems. OELMCC members are in the unique position to educate consumers about the best renewable and energy-efficient options for their needs and to safely and successfully complete these high-tech installations.

## Safety Expo *cont'd*

WESCO, and Wiseway Supply for their support.

Speakers included NECA Safety Director Jerry Rivera who discussed "Safety, a Unified Approach." Drake Drobnik from e-Hazard participated to cover arc-flash safety. MSA gave demonstrations on the latest in fall protection gear. And DP&L also returned to demonstrate power line safety with their program "Think Hot, Stay Safe."

Door prizes were also contributed by all the vendors. A big thanks to all of those who volunteered to make the Safety Expo a great success!



## Apprentices *earn degrees*

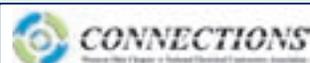
Ohio's Joint electrical Apprenticeship program, sponsored by NECA and IBEW, is the first apprenticeship program to be recognized by the Ohio Board of Regents as a pathway for an Associate Degree. Not only that, *it is the first in the nation.*

The state's articulation and transfer policy provides basic concepts, requirements and guidelines for assuring efficient and appropriate transfer from one post-secondary institution to another during the course of a students' undergraduate education. In Ohio, a Technical Associate Degree requires a total of 60 semester hours. Under the new agreement, an apprentice's work in the IBEW/NECA Electrical Trades Apprenticeship program qualifies for half of those requirements. Apprentices would need to take a non-technological curriculum to

complete the remaining course hours for graduation.

"It is great to see the NECA/IBEW Apprenticeship Program recognized by the leaders of the higher education community in Ohio," says Brian Damant, Manager of the Central Ohio Chapter, NECA. "Our member employers pay privately for apprentices' higher education. Our IBEW apprentices receive training, healthcare, a pension and a job, but until now, their training didn't count towards transferable college credits. We believe this agreement will be a remarkable benefit for NECA employers and their IBEW apprentices." A well-trained workforce is the main ingredient for a successful electrical installation.

NECA represents over 700 contractors, who employ over 10,000 IBEW represented electrical workers across Ohio. Ohio boasts eight NECA chapters, 20 IBEW local unions, with 19 joint training centers.



October, 2011

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

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## Senators visit electrical training center

The Dayton Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee

(JATC) recently had the opportunity to showcase their training center to some notable visitors. Ohio Senators Bill Beagle, Peggy Lehner, Thomas Niehaus, Tom Patton and Chris Widener paid a visit to the Dayton facility to learn about the electrical apprenticeship program offered by the JATC.

Nick Comstock, Business Manager of IBEW Local 82 kicked off the program by explaining how the apprenticeship program works

in practice. Members of the program begin working on the job from day one. In addition,



(from left) Senators Bill Beagle, Peggy Lehner and Thomas Niehaus.

they also attend classes in the evening. Each year, their wage increases, as do their job skills. All of the apprentices and Journeymen are required to take the Code of Excellence class, which is a program that monitors their performance. "Continuing education for both Journeymen and

Contractors is also essential to keep our members up to date with the latest technology, including the new energy markets of solar, wind, and building automation," says Nick.

Western Ohio Chapter Executive Director Dan Neal also reviewed the recent Ohio Energy Solutions Summit which took place in Toledo on September 30.

"This event showcased our capabilities to be the leaders in alternative energy installations," says Dan, "and it all begins here, at the apprentice level."

Training Director Dick Brooks guided the Senators on a tour of the facility which included a conduit bending demonstration, a visit to the confined space training simulator, a demonstration of new lighting technology that



Senators get a first hand look at energy efficient technology.

provides energy efficiency to buildings, and a first-hand look at how solar modules operate.

## Dan Neal wins Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Danal W. Neal

The NECA Association Executive Distinguished Service Award, established in 1989 by the NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association) Board of Governors, recognizes a staff executive or chapter manager who has made significant contributions to the association and the industry.

The 2011 winner, Dr. Danal W. Neal, holds a PhD in Technological Education, Labor Relations and Labor Economics from the University of Tennessee. It has served him well – and has benefitted the industry – as he has long contributed as both an educator and a first-rate manager of NECA-IBEW labor relations.

Neal has been the Executive Director of the Western Ohio Chapter, NECA since 2000. Since 1989, he has been a faculty member at the National Training Institute, sponsored by NECA, IBEW, and the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training (NJATC) to provide in-depth instruction for electrical industry trainers and trainees, NECA contractors, and IBEW members. In fact, he founded and teaches a 600-level course on Labor Relations and History for NTI graduates.

Dan has also served as chairman and secretary to the Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) and was the driving force behind many innovative programs, including the development of a joint IBEW-NECA newsletter (*Connections*); stepped-up participation in community affairs; and the local implementation of the Code of Excellence program (a program to improve job performance among signatory contractors and union members). Moreover, he has brought Western Ohio, NECA to the state and national forefront in all areas of association involvement.

## Construction Career Expo

The Sixth Annual Dayton and Miami Valley Construction Career Expo was held Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Coliseum Building. Sponsored by the Miami Valley Alliance of Construction Professionals (MVACP), the event provided a unique and interactive learning experience about the Miami Valley Construction Trades. The construction industry is one of the nation's largest employers, with over 6 million workers.

Over 700 high school juniors and seniors with their instructors participated in the expo. Students were bussed to the Expo from 9am to 1pm. Twenty different schools, programs and career tech centers participated.

Breakout sessions were incorporated so students could learn about how to become an apprentice, the types of programs available, and wage scales. Exhibitors included various union construction trades: Bricklayers, Carpenters, Electricians, Ironworkers, Sheet Metal Workers, Operating Engineers, and Laborers.



Hands-on experience at the IBEW Local 82 booth with Training Director Dick Brooks.



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### 2011 NECA Convention San Diego, October 22-25

This year's program steps up the emphasis on green electrical construction with a new Energy Forum. In addition there will be more Technical Workshops and a Safety Roundtable.

Over 200 exhibitors will be attending, to showcase the latest products and technology in the electrical industry.

### Winners of the 2011 LMCC / NECA / IBEW Golf Outing



From left, Dave Wallace, Reed Elsevier; Mike Fisher, Debra Kuempel; John O'Brien, Power Services; and Tom Lambe, FD Lawrence.

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

#### NECA Members

Aztec Electric, Inc.  
Chapel Electric Company  
Chapel-Romanoff Technologies  
ESI Electrical Contractors  
High Voltage Maintenance  
Kastle Electric Company  
Kastle Technologies  
Maxwell Lightning Protection  
Mutual Electric Company  
Sidney Electric Company  
Studebaker Electric  
Wagner Industrial Electric  
York Electric, Inc.

#### Contributing Contractors

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Cougar Electric, Inc.  
DeBra-Kuempel, Inc.  
Glenwood Electric  
Lake Erie Electric  
M.B.A. Electric, Inc.  
Power Services  
Productive Electric, Inc.  
Spurling Electric Co., Inc.  
Triad Electrical  
Wave Electrical Services  
Wilson Sign Company

#### Affiliate Members NECA

Battelle & Battelle  
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Heapy Engineering LLC  
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Square D / Schneider Electric  
Uptime Solutions

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