



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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Dennis F. Quebe receives Comstock Award

The National NECA Convention took place October 3 - 6 in San Francisco. This annual event showcases the latest technology in the electrical industry. It is also a time to recognize the contributions of the leaders in the industry.

The Comstock Award, which was established by the National Electrical Contractors Association's Board of Governors in 1959 in memory of industry pioneer L.K. Comstock, is the association's highest honor recognizing contributions in the complex field of labor relations. Dennis F. Quebe, CEO of Quebe Holdings in Dayton, Ohio has earned this honor through contributions made throughout his long and

distinguished career.

As a member contractor and officer of the Western Ohio Chapter, Mr. Quebe worked to establish innovative approaches to the competitive pressures facing contractors in his area as the market changed from an industrial base to a more commercially-oriented marketplace. An early advocate of modified crew structures, the Construction Wireman/Construction Electrical classifications, and more aggressive exercise of managements' rights under the agreement, he worked not only to restructure his own company, but to encourage the industry to change.

When the local defined benefit pension plan in his

area, like a number of others, faced serious challenges due to the economic upheavals in the 2000's, Mr. Quebe worked



Dennis Quebe, Chairman and CEO of Quebe Holdings (left) receives Comstock Award from NECA President David A. Hardt.

tirelessly and successfully with the local union to craft a workable rehabilitation plan to restore the pension to sustainability.

As District Vice President and then as National President, he broadened his view and worked diligently to implement these new approaches on a nationwide basis. Developing a "Labor Relations Agenda," Mr. Quebe strove to keep the membership of NECA informed, and himself and his Task Force accountable, by frequently updating the association's members on the progress the Task Force was making in achieving the benchmarks set out in the Agenda.

In consideration of this past and continuing efforts and achievements in building a more effective and competitive labor relations environment for NECA-represented electrical contractors, Dennis Quebe has earned the Comstock Award.

NECA Veteran status conferred on Greg Brush

NECA-Veteran membership status may be awarded by NECA's Executive Committee to any person who has represented a member company in good standing for at least 15 years and who is no longer engaged in the electrical contracting business. The request to have such status conferred is made by the managing executive of a NECA chapter wherein the former accredited representative held membership.

Gregory P. Brush, formerly of Kastle Electric and member of the Western Ohio Chapter NECA was recently awarded NECA-Veteran status.

Greg attended the University of Dayton and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1969. He went on to further his education by earning an MBA at the University of Dayton in 1974.

Greg began his career working with the DP&L Power

Plant and Substation Department for three years. From there, he moved on to become an Estimator and Project Manager with

Helldoerfer/ Castellini, Inc. Greg also worked for Wagner Smith, Inc. as a Project Manager from 1980 until 1986. He became President of Kastle Electric Company in 1987, and remained at the helm until his retirement.

During his career, Greg was a NECA Accredited Representative for Kastle from 1991 until 2013 and served as NECA President for the Western Ohio Chapter for five years. In addition, he sat on the board of the Dayton Electrical Trades

Apprenticeship Program for 18



Executive Director WOC NECA Mike Evans (left) presents NECA Veteran award to Greg Brush; with CEO Quebe Holdings Dennis Quebe, and President Kastle Electric Andy Stuhlmiller.

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New Solar Projects

The Cincinnati Police Headquarters District 3

The Cincinnati Police District 3 Headquarters is a showcase of environmental and economic stewardship. This building was designed and constructed with robust energy efficient enhancements and renewable energy strategies.

The increased roof insulation, wall insulation, and energy efficient windows are steps to maintain a tightly pressurized thermal envelop to reduce the heating, cooling and electrical loads. The building operates from a geo-exchange geothermal well system, water heaters, advanced equipment controls and LED lighting to maintain a perfect environment.

The photovoltaic solar panels are its own renewable energy source that creates as much electricity on a yearly basis as the building consumes. This makes the Cincinnati Police District 3 Headquarters a Net Zero Energy facility and pushed the

design build construction partnership to new levels.

The photovoltaic system was designed, engineered, installed, commissioned and tested by Kastle Solar, LLC. This was a turnkey service provided to the design team to accomplish the "Net Zero" target established by the city of Cincinnati. The system features 1,100 - 305 Wp solar modules, 2 - 150 KW inverters, a 100 KW parking canopy and roof-mounted arrays on the main building and on a small storage building.

The design will produce the same amount of power as the estimated power consumption of the operation in the building. Kastle coordinated all the underground, in building wiring as well as the installation of the roof systems while the building was under construction. The PV system was commissioned, tested and certified to operate by the utility prior to the targeted opening date for the City.

The Ohio Valley Adams County Schools

The Ohio Valley Adams County Schools (OVACS) set out last year to improve their cost to operate by over \$250,000 per



West Union Elementary School array.

year through energy management and using on site power generation with Photovoltaic systems installed on their schools. Kastle Solar, LLC in partnership with Energy Optimizers of Ohio designed and executed the project.

The solar systems are comprised of five separate metered locations. They are the Administration building, the Career Technical Center, West Union High School, West Union Elementary and North Adams High School. The total installation features over 1,700 - 305 Wp solar

modules, 20 string inverters, one roof mounted system on the elementary school and three separate field locations.

Kastle Solar, LLC designed, installed, tested and commissioned all five systems. The project was completed prior to the schools opening for the year.

This was important to avoid power shut downs during class time.

The project is also listed on the

General Attribute Tracking exchange. This process is managed by Kastle so that the schools can sell the environmental attributes of their solar power generation. These systems are under contract to sell this generation for the next two calendar years.

Each of the solar systems is monitored online and is integrated by the schools into their home page. Additionally, the schools have begun to use this power generation as a centerpiece of their district wide educational efforts.

BICSI Cabling Skills Challenge

The 2016 BICSI Winter Conference & Exhibition will be held January 31-February 4, 2016, in Orlando, Florida. As the leader in information and communications technology (ICT) education, the BICSI conference events provide an opportunity for attendees to expand their technical insight, networking base and familiarity with quality vendors essential to the future of the business. The Tenth Annual Cabling Skills

Challenge, where BICSI Installers and Technicians compete for the title of Installer of the Year, will be held on February 1-2.

Chapel Romanoff Technologies (CRT) is proud to announce, along with the Women in BICSI group, that they will be sponsoring

Ianthia Harris as the second female candidate (ever) to compete in the BICSI Cabling Challenge. This challenge features the world's best Information and Communications Technology (ICT) installers testing their skills and knowledge. The Installer of the Year is named at the annual BICSI Awards



Ianthia Harris

Banquet and receives a prize of \$5,000.00.

Competitors for the challenge are selected from a

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

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 website: www.wocneca.org
 phone: 937-299-0384
 fax: 937-299-7322

10th Annual Construction Career Expo

On October 6, 2014, the Miami Valley Building Trades Apprenticeship Group and the Miami Valley Alliance of Construction Professionals (MVACP) hosted over 600 local high school students and instructors at the 10th Annual Construction Career Expo. The goal of the Expo is to inform students about career opportunities in the Construction Industry through the apprenticeship training centers affiliated with the union building trades.

This year, the Expo was held at the Operating Engineers Training Center in Miamisburg. The Operating Engineers Training Center features a beautiful facility sitting on 150 acres. There is a 16,000 sq. ft.

all weather training arena, complete with an exhaust system. The building is



capable of handling various heavy equipment training exercises, rain or shine. The ground surrounding the facility enables field training such as loader, dozer, backhoe, scraper,



excavator and graders. There is also a 60,000 sq. ft. crane yard that accommodates CCO certification testing along with clamshell and pick and carry

operations. Forklift practical exams and CDL maneuverability functions are also available.

Randall Fox, Executive Director of the AGC West Central Ohio Division, presented a summary of apprenticeship training and informed the groups of the day's events.

Apprenticeship programs are looking for the "best of the best", those who take their education serious and show up on time and ready to work. When selecting a trades program, students need to choose the one that suits them



the best. It's not about which one pays more, because if you don't like what you do, no

amount of money will make you satisfied. There are 13-18,000 baby boomers retiring every day and there is a need



for skilled workers in the building trades. The opportunities are there!

Several apprenticeship programs set up exhibitors' booths with hands on experiences. The students

were able to lay brick, pour plaster molds, learn precision leveling, putt with conduit, participate in welding and torch cutting, build a tool box, and try their hand at operating a backhoe and

crane. For more information go to: www.daytonapprenticeships.org.

BICSI *cont'd.*

field of entrants based on qualifying criteria such as professionalism, quality of resume and work experience. Over the course of the two-day challenge, participants compete in events including copper and fiber installation; fusion splicing; firestopping; ground and bonding; cable assembly and cable trouble shooting. Scores are based on professionalism, resume, orientation (attendance and promptness) attitude, safety, tools and equipment, and attention to detail and aesthetics.

Earning the Credentials

Like professionals in other industries, information

technology systems professionals can earn certifications that set them apart and show they have additional training and credibility in the field. Building Industry Consulting Services International, started in 1974 as a professional organization for information technology systems and now known as BICSI, sponsors seven credentials for IT systems professionals.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women only make up 25 percent of the computer industry, as of 2012. IT is also more than just coding and computers. IT specialists deal with voice, electronic safety and security,

project management and audio and video technologies. In some areas of the industry, certification can enhance your career prospects.

CRT

CRT provides an extensive range of systems integration capabilities including design, installation and service of voice/data, audio and video systems, security, life safety and mass notification systems. Through their innovative system designs and the application of advance technology, CRT can provide a fully integrated flow of information, efficient communication and reliable security solutions.

Brush *cont'd.*

years. This committee sets the educational standards for the Electrical Apprenticeship program, interviews candidates, and incorporates new curriculum as technology advances. But most importantly, the members of the board serve as role models for these young students who will become the future leaders of the electrical industry. Greg's fortitude, dedication, and respect for others make him an exemplary steward of this industry.

Married for 44 years, Greg has two children and four grandchildren.



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The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

NECA Members

Chapel Electric Company
Chapel-Romanoff Technologies
ESI Electrical Contractors
GEM
High Voltage Maintenance
Kastle Electric Company
Kastle Technologies
Maxwell Lightning Protection
RMF Nooter
Sidney Electric Company
Stuebaker Electric
Wagner Industrial Electric
York Electric, Inc.

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Cougar Electric, Inc.
Electricity, LLC
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Mid City Electric
Power Pro
Power Services
Production Electric
Spurling Electric Co., Inc.
Triad Electrical
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Advanced Service Technologies
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Graybar Electric Co., Inc.
Heapy Engineering LLC
Riffle & Associates
Square D / Schneider Electric
Uptime Solutions

Western Ohio Chapter - NECA
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Dayton, OH 45439

12th Annual LMCC/IBEW/NECA Golf Outing, Walnut Grove, September 21, 2015



Winners (from left) John Harpest, Heapy Engineering;
Mark Neiheisel, Uptime Solutions; Greg Martz, Martz
Architects; and Andy Stuhmiller, Kastle Electric.
Congratulations!