



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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## Kastle Electric brings solar to Kettering

**W**hy install solar? Kettering City Schools decided that an annual savings of up to \$20,000 in utility bills was a pretty good reason, especially when the project was completed in only five weeks during the summer break.

A group of High School accounting students took this on as a class project, doing research and working with Solar Integrated Resources. The student's conclusion was that installing solar panels on the middle school roof could produce about 30% of the school's power requirement and provide a significant cost savings. One hundred percent of the power generated would be used on campus. Kastle

Electric was selected for the installation of the 300 KW solar array and the district



*Inverters at KMS.*

entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Integrated Resources to purchase the power generated by the solar array at a discount to the price of power on the open market. Solar Integrated Resources arranged all the financing with no costs incurred by the schools system.

Kastle Electric installed 480 panels on both the North

and South middle school buildings. The system is connected to the internet and is available to the students to monitor the solar production in their own classrooms. The power generated is available to run any electrical load on the campus. So if the middle school load is satisfied, the power flows into the rest of the campus to be used in the cafeteria or to run the air conditioning.

According to President of Kastle Electric Co LLC, Andy Stuhlmiller, "This project was challenging for Kastle Electric because of the staging of the equipment. We had a small window of time for the installation. We could not lift all of the panels and equipment on

the roof at the same time. So Kastle had to work out a logistical plan that lifted the panels as they were needed to keep the work flowing. Also, the main power to the campus



*Solar installation in the South Unit.*

had to be shut down to facilitate the final connections." He continues, "Kastle Electric's Jason Hardin, who has more than 25 solar installations under his belt, organized the resources and ultimately was successful in delivering the project on time and without interruption for the school."

## IBEW Celebrates 125 Years

**T**he 39th International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Convention was recently held in St. Louis, where IBEW was founded in 1891, and celebrated their 125-year history. The IBEW is a building trades union which represents electricians (or inside wiremen), in the construction industry and linemen and other employees of public utilities. IBEW also represents workers in the

computer, telecommunications, broadcasting and other related fields. The IBEW is committed to the advancement of wages, benefits, and working conditions of all electricians. Their objective is not only to secure employment, but to elevate the intellectual and social conditions of their members and families and support the community through volunteer efforts.

**Henry Miller Museum**  
Showcased at the Convention was the Henry Miller Museum, the former boardinghouse where Henry Miller and nine other delegates founded the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891. Locals and individuals from across the U.S. and Canada contributed the \$6 million required for the renovation. Local 1 of St. Louis did their research to determine what the building looked like at the turn

of the last century to restore it for posterity. Located on a nearly vacant block, the first floor, then a saloon, was converted into the museum, with display cases showing pieces from Local 1's collection, including some personal items of the founding fathers and a copy of the original minutes from the AFL affiliation. Miller's room, located on the second floor was also restored. There is also a space for meetings and events.

*Cont'd pg.2*

## 125 years, cont'd.

Henry Miller's America was still a country of pioneers, and only recently connected by advances like the continental railroad, the telephone and the advent of electricity. The very success of the industries that spurred the growth of the United States depended on the work of those who erected the power poles and connected the lines, risking and often losing, their lives in a dangerous trade. After speaking with other workers at an expo in St. Louis in 1890, Miller saw a pattern of long and dangerous days for meager pay, with little training. A union was the clear answer, and with help from the American Federation of Labor, Miller and others came together and formed the first St. Louis electricians' union,

Local 5221 of the AFL.

But Miller knew that true bargaining power could only come from a national union. So he set out to make it happen. Everywhere he went, he talked about the benefits of organizing. Among the locals chartered in those early years were Chicago; Milwaukee; Indianapolis; New Orleans; Toledo; Pittsburgh; Cincinnati; Duluth; Philadelphia; and New York. Through the 1890s, unsafe working conditions and substandard wages prevailed, but the adoption of an apprenticeship system promised a better future for the industry. Miller remained president until 1894 and died two years later.

Fast forward 125 years, and the IBEW now represents nearly 750,000 workers and retirees in the electrical industry in the United States and Canada.



Left: a photo from that era of a building on the same block as the Miller house. Right: The Miller house before construction began earlier this year.



Artist's rendering of the completed Henry Miller Museum.

# 11th Annual Construction Career Expo

On October 12, 2016, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. The event was held again 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. The building is capable of handling various heavy equipment

training exercises, rain or shine. The grounds surrounding the facility enable 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 the 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.

Several apprenticeship programs set up exhibitors' booths with hands on experiences. The students were able to lay brick, pour plaster molds, participate in welding and torch cutting, build a tool box, and try their hand at operating a backhoe and crane. For more information visit:

[www.daytonapprenticeships.org](http://www.daytonapprenticeships.org).



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

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# Why become an apprentice?

*Personal journeys to becoming an electrical apprentice.*

## **Joshua Rowe**

Joshua is a second year apprentice with an interesting career path.

Even though his father, Jack, is a retired IBEW82



*Joshua Rowe*

member and a teacher for the apprenticeship program for many years, Joshua headed down a different path.

As a musician, Joshua decided to attend college to earn a recording engineering degree. He worked in the industry outside Nashville, producing music for a variety of artists for a couple of years. However, the music industry left him disenchanted and he decided to move closer to home. In Dayton, he ran a restaurant for eight years, hoping to own it at one point. But that never came to pass and he began looking at his career options once again.

So Joshua went to his father to discuss the

possibility of entering the electrical apprenticeship program, wondering if being in his thirties made him too old. His Dad said, "Absolutely not." So Joshua applied and was accepted. He worked with Studebaker Electric during his first year which gave him a well rounded experience, working on a wide range of projects. Joshua was recently

rotated to Wagner-Industrial Electrical and is working on the Hobart Arena renovation.

"The electrical industry offers a wide variety of career paths," says Joshua. "Since I have a minor in electronics, I would like to specialize in network design work, PLC programming, or blueprint design. Down the road I would like to teach in the apprenticeship program."

## **Jessica Sparks**

A first year apprentice, Jessica also changed her career. A bartender for sixteen years while raising a daughter, she decided to look for a career

with a future, that included a pension and health benefits. Her fiancé is a Journeyman with IBEW Local 82 and he encouraged her to take a look at the apprenticeship program.

Jessica is 40 and was concerned that her age would hinder her chances of getting into the program. And although she wasn't accepted on her first try, she applied again the next year, and was accepted.



*Jessica Sparks*

"I love the work so far," says Jessica. She continues, "It is a great feeling to actually see what you have accomplished at the end of the day. I can say....look, I did that! And the apprenticeship program pays for school, and I make great wages. So I am getting an education without any debt. And great benefits. You can't beat that."

Jessica is currently working with ESI Electrical Contractors and has worked

on the new addition at Good Samaritan Hospital.

## **Colten Combs**

Colten's father always told him that regardless of the career path he chose, he must have a trade to fall back on. So Colten attended the

Greene County Career Center (GCCC). He also competed in the Skills

USA electrical competition. Colten then earned a scholarship to Wright State University in mechanical engineering and worked summers for Kastle Electric. One day he realized that he liked his summer work better than he liked college, so after two years, he opted to apply to the electrical apprenticeship program. Of all the applicants for the program this year, Colten was ranked number one.

As a first year apprentice, Colten works with Kastle Electric. He has been working at a correctional facility installing instrument controls. "The technology in the industry changes rapidly," says Colten. "I enjoy the challenge of learning something new every day."



*Colten Combs*

## *About the electrical apprenticeship program...*

The Electrical Training Alliance offers the best electrical training in the area. For the last seven years, their graduation grade point average of 89% has been well above the national average. Training is sponsored by the Western Ohio Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82.

Recently, the program has expanded the instrumentation class for 5<sup>th</sup> year apprentices by adding a second level of classes. BICSI certification for copper and fiber are now a part of the course curriculum for installer/technician apprentices. They continue to roll out the blended learning system in the inside wireman program and in August of 2017 they will begin using the blended learning system in the installer/

technician program. Blended learning is comprised of online and traditional classroom work.

The Construction Wireman/Construction Electrician (CW/CE) program, implemented several years ago for pre-apprenticeship workers now has an established curriculum for CW classes and this program is instrumental in filling apprentice openings.

Two apprenticeship programs are offered: a five year Inside Wireman program which includes installation of conduit, electrical wiring, fixtures, and electrical apparatus; and the Teledata Installer Technician program is a three year training program, which includes work on various systems including LANs, fire alarms, nurse call, HVAC control and security systems. For more information visit: [www.daytonohiojtc.org](http://www.daytonohiojtc.org).



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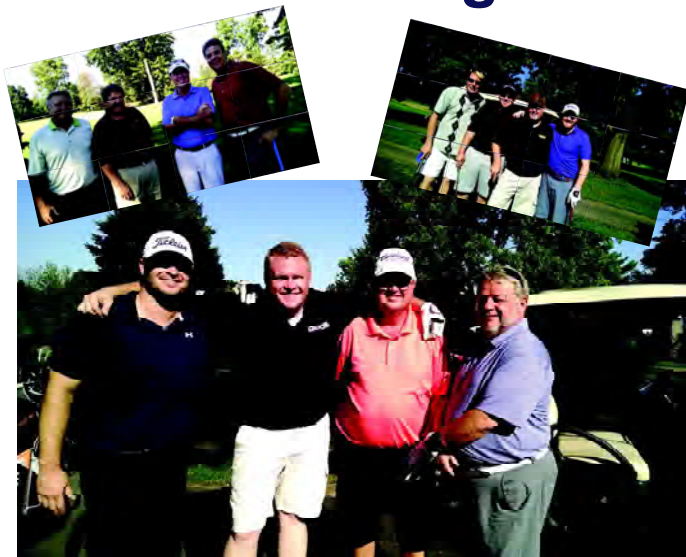
- IBEW 125th Anniversary
- Kastle Solar at KMS
- Construction Career Expo
- Electrical Apprenticeship



[www.wocneca.org](http://www.wocneca.org)



## 2016 Golf Outing



Winners from left: Mike South, Chapel Electric; Chad Cox, Chapel Electric; Randy Stewart, Becker Electric; and Herb Hammel, Hawkins Sales. Congratulations!

The 13th Annual LMCC/NECA/IBEW Golf Outing took place on Monday, September 19 at Walnut Grove Country Club. Over \$2,000.00 was raised for the First Tee of the Miami Valley.

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

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