



**MONTEREY BAY CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**  
**NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**  
 13250 Paseo Barranco Phone: (831) 484-9456  
 Salinas, CA 93908 Fax: (831) 484-9495  
 E-mail: JLChamplin@gmail.com Cell: (831) 236-1393

## **NEWSLETTER: November 2010 – January 2011**

### **INSIDE THIS EDITION:**

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CW/CE**

**Cal Green Standards  
Published**

**CSLB Alert – License  
Renewal Fraud**

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### **Labor Relations General Session: Making the Most of CW/CE**

One important annual feature of the NECA convention is the Labor Relations General Session, which brings together NECA and IBEW leadership to discuss the workforce and management issues facing NECA contractors.



This year's session focusing on the Construction Wireman (CW) -- Construction Electrician (CE) worker classification agreements. IBEW International President Ed

Hill joined NECA CEO John M. Grau, NECA President Rex Ferry and NECA Vice President for Labor Relations Geary Higgins to answer questions about how and why certain actions had been taken in creating and rolling out CW/CE in terms of market-recovery initiatives.



"I've said several times this past year that Ed Hill gets it," Ferry said. "What's different about areas where CW/CE is working are two things: trust and integrity between management and labor. That's what really makes change like this possible."

"The agreements do not take the place of existing agreements," Hill said. "They're designed to help us go after work we are not currently doing. Now is the time for contractors to discuss with their IBEW counterparts what are our best chances to take advantage of those opportunities."

Four NECA contractors then offered their perspectives and insight about how CW/CE agreements were successfully implemented in their areas: Doug Palmer, Tri-City Electric, Davenport, IA; Chris Odell, Gill Simpson Inc., Baltimore; Joe Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh Electric, Wilkesbury, PA; and Martin West, Twin City Electric, Monroe, LA.

"CW/CE's strengths are that it works really well on the right project," Palmer said. "The downside is our hands are tied on the type of work CWs can perform. And this concerns our workers who wonder how they're going to get ahead."

"One of the best aspects of the CW/CE program is the training commitments," Odell said. "It formalizes both an education and mentoring relationship for employees and employers. There are particular types of work CW/CEs excel at – prefab and production/installer work. It's not a silver bullet, but it's a fighting chance."

### **SAVE THE DATE CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY SCHEDULED**

**Mark your calendar!  
Chapter Christmas  
Party  
Friday, December 10th  
Fresh Cream  
Restaurant  
Carmel, CA**



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**Invitations will follow!**

## **POLITICO ALERT CAL Green Non-Residential Building Standards Guide Published**

Earlier this year, the California Building Standards Commission adopted the first-in-the-nation mandatory Green Building Standards Code (CALGREEN) requiring all new buildings in the state to be more energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Taking effect on January 1, 2011, these comprehensive regulations are designed to achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and water use to create a greener California.

The First Edition of the "Guide to the Nonresidential CALGreen Code" is now published and can be viewed on the Building Standards Commission (BCS) website. In addition, the California Green Building Standards Code Book is also available on the BSC website. Both documents can be viewed and printed at the following link:  
<http://www.bsc.ca.gov/CALGreen/default.htm>



### **Safety Group Report**

#### **Working Safely with Solvents**

**SOURCE:** State Compensation Insurance Fund

Solvents are so common in many work places that workers forget how dangerous they are. Although solvents can be used safely, health problems can result from skin

contact with solvents or from inhalation of their vapors. In addition to the health hazards, many solvent vapors are flammable and explosive.

One of the most common health hazard associated with exposure to solvents is dermatitis. Contact dermatitis can develop from a single or from multiple exposures. It can leave skin susceptible to a short-term infection or to a chronic condition. Exposure can also result in sensitization to the solvent, which is a delayed allergic reaction that often becomes more severe with subsequent exposures.

One big danger with solvents is that they can cause trouble before you realize what's happening. Depending on the type and concentration of the solvent, exposure effects can range from mild respiratory irritation to severe damage to body organs and systems. In extreme cases, overexposures to solvent vapors can cause respiratory failure and death.

When working with solvents, it's important to know what solvents are being used and what steps should be taken to protect against harmful or dangerous exposures. To optimize safety follow these suggestions:

- ✓ Know what solvents you're working with.
- ✓ Read the labels and the material safety data sheets of the solvents. They list the hazards, health effects, and safe handling procedures.
- ✓ Make sure the workspace is properly ventilated.
- ✓ Use recommended gloves, eye and face protection, boots, other protective clothing, or barrier creams as required.
- ✓ If respiratory equipment is used, make sure it gives

appropriate protection for the exposure.

- ✓ Take care when pouring solvents from one container to another, as fire or explosions can occur from static electricity buildup.
- ✓ Clean up solvent spills promptly.
- ✓ Never wash your hands with solvents.
- ✓ Prohibit welding, cutting, soldering, and other sources of ignition in areas where solvents are used.
- ✓ Store flammable solvents in well-ventilated areas constructed of fire-resistant materials.
- ✓ Ground and bond all tanks and equipment storage.
- ✓ Install readily accessible fire extinguishers in storage and works areas.

As with other toxic substances in the workplace, the preferred methods of hazard control are substitutions of a less toxic substance in an operation, local exhaust ventilation, and enclosure.





## Beware of License Renewal Fraud

Sacramento — The California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) has learned that some states are experiencing incidents of license renewal fraud. Licensees receive notices in the mail that instruct the contractor to send their renewal fee to a name and address that is different from the regulating government agency.

Do not be fooled if you receive this type of notice. In California, all renewal forms and fees should only be sent to:

**Registrar of Contractors  
CSLB  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
P.O. Box 26999  
Sacramento, CA 95826**

Licensees can easily determine if they are approaching their renewal date by clicking on the CSLB website's "Instant License Check" link to see if their license is nearing its expiration date. Every two years, CSLB mails a courtesy reminder notice to active licensees approximately 60 days before their expiration date. The notice includes the renewal application that must be completed and returned to the CSLB with the appropriate fees. Please use the pre-addressed CSLB envelope provided in the notice or write the above address on your envelope when submitting your renewal application and fees.

Inactive licenses are renewed every four years. If you believe

you have been a victim of license renewal fraud, please contact the CSLB at (800) 321-2752.

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Associate Members - Please let us know if you have any product or industry information that you would like to have added to the newsletter. We would be happy to distribute information for you!



## NLMCC Launches Updated Website

The National Labor Management Cooperation Committee recently unveiled their new website. It is filled with information from Local LMCC's around the country as well as career information and video testimonials. Take a moment to view the new website at [www.nlmcc.org](http://www.nlmcc.org)

## NECA Defends its Right to Perform Electrical Work at Governor's Solar Workshop

Recently, the Office of the Governor held a workshop on workforce needs for large scale solar projects in the state of California. State personnel and agencies that participated in the workshop included Michael Picker - Senior Advisor to the Governor for Renewable Energy Facilities, Manal Yamout - Special Advisor to the Governor for Renewable Energy Facilities, Paul Clanon - Executive Director, California PUC, Barbara Halsey - Director, California Workforce Investment Board, John C. Duncan - Director, California Department of Industrial

Relations, David Rowan - Chief Deputy Director, CA Department of Industrial Relations, Chris Graillat - Project Manager, Workforce Development, California Energy Commission and Paul Feist - Undersecretary, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Over all, the workshop was positive as large solar developers such as NextEra Energy Resources, BrightSource Energy, Tessler Solar and FirstSolar provided an overview of the many large scale solar projects that they have planned for construction in California over the next several years. The contentious portion of the workshop came during the public comment period. While **ALL** sectors of the construction industry, including labor and management, provided a uniform message that the industry has ample tradesman and available contractors who possess the necessary skill sets to construct the proposed projects, the laborers and carpenters delivered comments stating that the work connected to these projects can and should be performed by less expensive basic craftsman. In anticipation of these assertions, NECA and the IBEW had organized a well rounded group to provide testimony on behalf of our industry and in a strong showing made it very clear that NECA contractors and their IBEW employees are the best trained and most efficient workforce available to perform the construction of these projects. We would like to thank Tony Schults - Division Manager of Rosendin Electric, Don Davis - Chair of the Statewide Electrical JATC, Bernie Kotler - Director of Green Energy Solutions for the IBEW-NECA California LMCC and Dennis Morin - Director, Sacramento Area JATC for their time and participation in the workshop but most importantly for their comments in defense of the union electrical industry's rights to perform solar electrical work.



## What Do You Know About Veterans Day?

**Veterans Day** gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. However, most Americans confuse this holiday with **Memorial Day**, reports the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What's more, some Americans don't know why we commemorate our Veterans on November 11. It's imperative that all Americans know the history of Veterans Day so that we can honor our former servicemembers properly.

### A Brief History of Veterans Day

**Veterans Day**, formerly known as **Armistice Day**, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to

honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the **Uniforms Holiday Bill** ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on November 11th.

*Did you know..... The first light bulb lasted a mere 150 hours and that 10 years later, Edison introduced one that lasted 1,200 hours? The average light bulb today lasts 1,500 hours.*

**There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange? Hard to believe for such an important color? The same is true for the colors purple and silver. But, who cares about silver and purple...they are not pumpkin colors!**



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

#### Meetings and Events:

November 11, 2010  
**Veterans Day Holiday**

November 13, 2010  
**Training Center Work Day**  
8 am to 2 pm

November 25-26, 2010  
**Thanksgiving Holiday**

December 10, 2010  
**Christmas Party**  
Fresh Cream, Carmel

December 16, 2010  
**Board Dinner Meeting**  
4:00pm  
Location TBD



# JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

Ed Sudyka, Training Director  
Debra Frame, Admin. Asst.  
831.633.3063 office  
831.633.3068 fax  
trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz County

## JATC VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13 FROM 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

May I be of service?



Reconfigure our Solar PV training module

How can I help?



Can I make a difference?

Install a timer in the electrical room for under building fan control



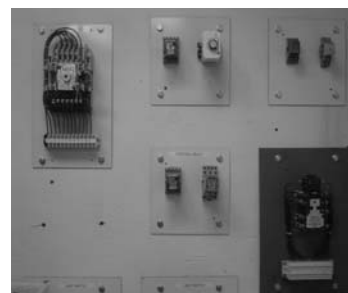
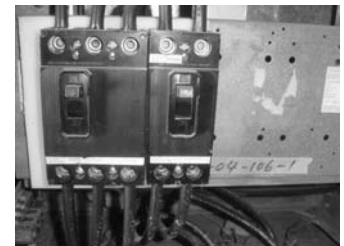
Wire in a 3 phase 15 amp receptacle in the classroom for the transformer trainer



We'll have the parts and materials, you bring your skills and your tools!

What can I do?

Hang new project boards for motor control



**Saturday  
Nov. 13 from  
8 a.m. to 2  
p.m. Be  
there!**

Many hands will make light work! Lend your hands and your talent and come on down!