**POWERPOWERS**

**A Message from the Executive Manager**

**Affordable Care Act Threatens Health of Electrical Construction Industry**

**Reform Needed to Safeguard Responsible Employers and Workers**

For years NECA has been an advocate of healthcare reform. As employers that “did the right thing” by their employees and provided quality healthcare, we saw our industry threatened by the “free rider contractors” that provided no healthcare, undercut the market, and turned the construction industry into a relentless race to the bottom. To make matters worse, responsible employers were forced to pay into the uncompensated care pool to cover the cost of those same free riders when their workers got sick or injured.

For these reasons, we supported the healthcare reforms implemented by Massachusetts in 2006, and supported the effort to extend these same reforms nationwide through the Affordable Care Act (aka “Obamacare”). Unfortunately, the reality of the ACA doesn't match the promise. It’s proving particularly harmful to employer-sponsored, self-insured multiemployer health plans that predominate in the construction industry.

Employer-sponsored health insurance was established as a way to provide affordable quality coverage in the best interest of American businesses and their workers. Multiemployer health plans are operated and administered judiciously, by a board of trustees comprised of equal representation from labor and management. Most of these plans are self-insured in order to decrease costs to employers and increase benefits to participants.

The ACA threatens the viability of multiemployer health plans in four distinct ways: 1) the high employee threshold of the employer mandate, 2) the reinsurance fee, 3) the definition of qualified health plans, and 4) the lack of multiemployer specific administrative guidance.

**Support H.R. 3489 to Repeal Funding Mechanism for ACA Transitional Reinsurance Program**

It’s time to put partisanship aside. It’s time to come together and fix the problems that plague the ACA. The Greater Boston Chapter of NECA has joined with many major construction trade associations and building trades unions in supporting current bipartisan legislation in Congress, H.R. 3489. Introduced by Representatives

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**NECA Boston Chapter 2014 Board Directors**

**WEST NEWTON, MA — NECA Boston Chapter confirmed its 2014 Directors and Officers at its Annual Chapter Meeting in January. Incoming Chapter President Joseph Bodio, LAN-TEL Communications, will be serving a two-year term.**

Seated (l to r):
Michael McDonald, Secretary – McDonald Electrical Corp.
Joseph McCluskey, Jr., V.P. – E. G. Sawyer Co., Inc.
Joseph Bodio, President – LAN-TEL Communications
Paul Guarracino, Governor – J.M. Electrical Company, Inc.
William Weber, Jr., Treasurer – Gaston Electrical Co., Inc.

Standing (l to r):
John Penney, Director – John A. Penney Company, Inc.
David Noon, Director – J. & M. Brown Company, Inc.
Thomas Driscoll, Director – E.S. Boulos Company, Inc.
John Quincy, Director – Cruz Electric, Inc.
Ronald Koning, Jr., Director – State Electric Corp.
Gregory Sapochetti, Director – J. F. White Electrical
Herbert W. Aikens, Director – Lighthouse Electrical Contracting, Inc.
Glenn W. Kingsbury, Exec. Manager – NECA Boston Chapter

Board Members not pictured:
Kathy Guinee, Director – Aetna Fire Alarm Service, Co., Inc.
Stephen Scarponi, Director – Scarponi Electric

**NECA & Current Industry Legislation**

**BOSTON, MA — At the Annual Chapter meeting, Jim Smith and Emmet Hayes of NECA’s government affairs firm, Smith Ruddock & Hayes, spoke about such pending legislation as HB.1279 — an act pertaining to penalties for unlicensed work, the Indemnification bill and Telecom Licensing bill.**

CONNECTIONS is a quarterly publication of the Boston Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association / Electrical Contractors Association of Greater Boston, Inc., 106 River Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Phone 617-969-2521. Mission: CONNECTIONS is designed to provide information relating to current happenings in the electrical construction industry in Eastern Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire and to report activities of the Boston Chapter of NECA and its members. Your comments are welcome. We can be reached via e-mail at: info@bostonneca.org
Holiday light and sound extravaganza at Faneuil Hall Marketplace was proudly co-sponsored by NECA Boston and IBEW Local 103. Blink! showcased more than 350,000 LED lights decorated throughout Faneuil Hall dancing seamlessly with the holiday music of the Boston Pops. NECA Boston Chapter contractor John A. Penney Company provided state-of-the-art lighting installations.

Many thousands attended Boston’s newest holiday tradition, which opened brightly with the Faneuil Hall Tree Lighting Spectacular, broadcast on CBS Boston WBZ-TV. The ceremony included a special tribute to Mayor Thomas M. Menino and musical performances by the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, conducted by Keith Lockhart, and Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Paula Cole, along with the lighting of the 83-foot Christmas tree, the Northeast’s largest. The tree, brought to the Marketplace from Shelter Island, NY after surviving Hurricane Sandy, was decorated with 30,000 lights and also illuminated with 1,000 strobes. The six-week holiday light and sound festival performed nightly, November 23 through January 5, 2014. The event also included the New England Patriots Annual Toy Drive, collecting and distributing thousands of toys for needy children.

**POWERPOINTS ACA Needs Reform to Safeguard Responsible Employers and Workers**

Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), this legislation would repeal the current funding mechanism for the Transitional Reinsurance Program, authorized by the Patient Protection and ACA.

The Transitional Reinsurance Program is expected to cost the Boston electrical workers’ health and welfare plan upwards of $1.5 million over the next three years. It is an unfair burden to put on the industry, as we struggle to maintain quality healthcare for our 5,000 participants and their families. All construction trade health plans face the same dilemma. The construction industry simply cannot afford to absorb these additional costs.

NECA Boston supports repealing any and all provisions of the ACA that cause unnecessary disruption or will not work at all, and enacting meaningful healthcare reform measures that reduce health care costs, increase choices and access, and improve quality and efficiency.

NECA contractors seek to continue to provide quality, affordable health coverage through self-insured, employer-sponsored group plans to their employees. We urge Congress to work together to enact reforms to the ACA that will lessen the negative impact on businesses already providing solid coverage for their employees, ensuring our health care system remains viable for generations.
J. & M. Brown Provides Fit-out of 400,000 sf Brown Brothers Harriman 50 Post Office Square Headquarters in Boston’s Financial District

GC: Lee Kennedy Co., Inc., Quincy, MA; EE: RDK Engineers, Boston, MA; Architects: Dyer Brown Architects, Boston, MA and Habjan Architecture + Interior Design, LLC, Montclair, NJ

BOSTON, MA — In one of the city’s largest tenant fit-out and renovation projects in recent years, J. & M. Brown Co., Inc. (JMB) has completed electrical installations at the new 400,000 sq. ft. headquarter offices of Brown Brothers Harriman (BBH) at 50 Post Office Square, meeting an aggressive 6-month project schedule. BBH, America’s oldest financial institution and private partnership, and a world-leading investment banking firm, took occupancy in fall 2013, consolidating its 1,900 Boston employees in its new location in the heart of the Financial District.

J. & M. Brown’s multidimensional scope entailed comprehensive electrical installations in BBH’s 12 floors (7 through 18) of office space in the renovated, historic 18-story high rise, including: power distribution, emergency power, electrical systems, fire alarm, and lighting/lighting control systems. To ensure uninterrupted operations in the event of major power outages, the NECA contractor installed three (3) 800kW generators to meet BBH’s back-up power requirements.

The JMB project management team, lead by Bryan Greene, Robert Carabia, Mike Booker, Dennis Sheehan, and Kim Rodriquez, maintained an on-site construction office to foster close collaboration with all trades. At peak construction, the JMB team managed a skilled field crew of 75 IBEW Local 103 electricians, supervised by foremen John Mallett and Billy Joyce. To meet project schedule requirements, the crew worked night and weekend shifts.

Integral to the efficient construction process, J. & M. Brown conducted two weeks of pre-construction planning, creating a detailed electrical schedule to plot progress against the project milestone timeline.

Lee Kennedy Project Executive Scott Giles said, “This was a very tight, complex and demanding project. To provide a $70 million build-out in a six-month project schedule required a dedicated and skilled group of subcontractors. J. & M. Brown did a phenomenal job — they were instrumental in making it happen. Their entire project management team, was key to a well-coordinated build-out, and the J. & M. Brown crew of highly skilled IBEW tradesmen met the challenge.”

JMB PM Dennis Sheehan added, “Our ability to meet the aggressive schedule required close coordination with key vendors, including Milton Cat and Yale Electric. Working closely with IBEW Local 103, J. & M. Brown was ensured availability of the region’s most experienced electrical field crew to meet installation requirements.”

The 50 Post Office Square facility was occupied and lobby renovations were ongoing during the BBH tenant fit-out, adding to logistical challenges that were met. The BBH build-out coincided the revitalization of the landmark 50 Post Office Square building.

Under separate contract, the J. & M. Brown Fire Alarm Division provided base building fire alarm renovations at 50 Post Office Square, working with GC Suffolk Construction.

E.S. Boulos Completes Compressed Natural Gas Loading Facility in Bangor, ME

First Public Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station in Maine; Developer: Global CNG

BANGOR, ME - The E.S. Boulos Commercial Division has completed the fast-track electrical construction of the new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) loading station in Bangor, Maine. ESB met an aggressive three-month schedule, providing installation of the facility’s electrical service, power control systems, lighting, fire alarm, and security system. ESB PM Peter Lamb headed the project team with Foreman Brian Lane, supervising a field crew of six electricians based out of IBEW Local 1253 in Fairfield, Maine.

The Global CNG facility will be used to help Bangor Gas Company fuel its CNG-fueled vehicles and transport CNG for heating to commercial, municipal, and industrial customers both in the Bangor area and in other parts of the state.
BOSTON, MA—In Boston’s Innovation District, LAN-TEL Communications is nearing completion of the first phase of the $3.7 million tel-data build-out and security project for the new State Street Bank building located at 1 Iron Street – One Channel Center. 

The Norwood-based NECA contractor began telecom/data and security installations at the 11-story facility in August 2013. The project’s first phase includes providing structured cabling for the first seven floors, which will house 500 workstations per floor. LAN-TEL is also providing build-out for the facility’s MDF on the third floor and two IDFS on each floor. The building will be equipped with three separate paths of fiber optic backbone, allowing for complete physical redundancy in order to serve critical data needs of State Street Bank.

State-of-the-art security systems are also being installed at the building, including door access control, closed circuit cameras, and a stairway intercom system.

LAN-TEL PM Neil Gillis and GF Tom Horgan are managing a field crew of 22 Local 103 technicians and apprentices in the project. Installations and testing for Phase one were completed by the end of January and State Street began a phased move-in by the second week of February. The contractor is in initial stages of the project’s second phase, which is targeted for completion in May.

CableNet Systems Connects on LabCentral’s Technology Infrastructure at 700 Main Street, Kendall Square, Cambridge

NECA Contractor Teams with GC: The Richmond Group, Hopkinton, MA; A.J. B Consultants, Inc., Carlisle, MA; Architect: KlingStubbins, Cambridge, MA

CAMBRIDGE, MA—CableNet Systems, Inc., the Peabody, MA-based NECA Boston telecommunications contractor, has completed the data/technology infrastructure project at MIT’s LabCentral biomedical research facility at 700 Main Street in Kendall Square, Cambridge.

CableNet Systems specified and employed a Superior Essex Leviton Network Solution to meet the 27,000 square-foot facility’s IT requirements. The project entailed installation, termination and certification of more than 400 Category 5E cables, enabling connectivity throughout the facility’s lab settings and office areas. Installations of WiFi access points, Connecting Patch Cords and Server room rack design and installation were also integral to the project scope.

LabCentral is the first of its kind, shared research laboratory space, serving as a biotech Incubator for high-potential life-sciences and biotechnology startups. This first phase of the renovated, historic Kendall Square facility will support early-stage research for as many as 25 start-ups, accommodating 65+ scientists in a fully outfitted lab setting, comprised of 30 individual benches and 22 lab desks. The facility also offers promising, young research company tenants with conference rooms, event space, and administrative areas.

CableNet Systems handled the fast track, three-month IT project managing a crew of skilled IBEW Local 103 technicians, supervised by Project Manager Gary Wood. Installations were completed in November 2013, meeting LabCentral’s schedule requirements and opening.

LabCentral Vice President, Operations Margaret O’Toole directed the historic building’s build-out into the state-of-the-art wet lab facility.

LabCentral President and Co-founder Johannes Fruehauf and Director, Co-founder Peter Parker head the non-profit organization. LabCentral is supported by a $5M major grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and by the Novartis Institute of Biomedical Research and donations by founding sponsors Triumvirate Environmental and Johnson & Johnson Innovation. Admission to LabCentral is attained through a competitive review process, where only the highest-potential startups are selected. By the end of 2013, 10 early stage start-ups had begun operations at the Cambridge facility.

NECA Safety Professional Conference (NSPC) — May 19 – 21, 2014 • Chicago, IL

The ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY’s premier safety conference, 2014 NSPC will provide the most useful and current information on regulation, compliance, management techniques and standards development that impact safety and health in the industry. View details and register at www.necasafetyconference.com

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DORCHESTER, MA - On February 12, NECA Boston Chapter and IBEW Local 103 co-sponsored the Greater Boston “Electrical Industry Night” & Foreman Training Update at the Local 103 Union Hall, in Dorchester, MA. The event featured an electrical industry tradeshow with product demonstrations, followed by presentations on the state of the electrical industry by IBEW Local 103 Business Manager, Michael P. Monahan, Business Agent Donald Sheehan, and NECA Boston Executive Manager Glenn Kingsbury. An address on effective leadership was given by special guest speaker, Navy Seal Lt. Commander John Fussell, decorated for serving several tours of duty in Afghanistan. More than 325 IBEW Local 103 electrical foremen and supervisors attended, joined by NECA senior management professionals and JATC representatives. 125 second year Local 103 apprentices were also on hand to learn about the latest tools, software, and safety equipment available.

IBEW Local 103 Business Manager Michael Monahan and Navy Seal Lt. Commander John Fussell addressed IBEW foremen at Local 103 Union Hall in Dorchester.

NECA/IBEW/Wentworth Institute Educational Partnerships and Health & Wellness Program Highlighted

Foremen learned about Wentworth Institute of Technology’s Associate Degree program in Applied Science in Engineering Technology (AENT). Partnering with IBEW Local 103 and NECA Boston, Wentworth Institute offers the AENT program to graduates of the world-class JATC electrical and telecommunications training programs program. The acclaimed engineering college also offers an Advanced Training for Construction Management continuing education program through NECA Boston. Devoted to furthering educational opportunities for trade professionals, NECA and Wentworth also partner in an annual scholarship program. Also on hand were representatives from the NECA/IBEW Trust Fund Health & Welfare office, presenting foremen with our Health & Wellness Program information, a key focus of our organizations.

A Showcase of Innovative Products and Technologies Featuring Leading Electrical Industry Partners & Vendors


- ARC FLASH PROTECTION
- VDV, SECURITY
- CABLE TRAYS
- LED LIGHTING
- CONDUIT BOXES
- WIRE & UTILITY CABLE
- CABLE CONNECTORS
- PANELBOARDS
- FALL PROTECTION
- PPE
- FLAME RESISTANT APPAREL
- EMERGENCY & TEMPORARY POWER
- ELECTRICAL & TELECOM
- TOOLS – CABLE PULLING, WIRE & CABLE TERMINATION
- TEST & MEASUREMENT
- CLAMP METERS
- LED VOLTAGE DETECTORS
- SAFETY EYEWEAR
WASHINGTON, DC – On December 19, 2013, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) renewed the Electrical Transmission & Distribution Partnership, a collaboration of industry stakeholders to improve safety for workers in the electric line construction industry. This national strategic agreement works to reduce injuries, illnesses and deaths among power and distribution line workers. The partnership is comprised of ten of the nation’s largest electrical transmission and distribution contractors, and organizational members, including International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Edison Electric Institute (EEI), and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). This represents about 80 percent of the ET&D industry. Since its establishment in 2004, there has been a noticeable reduction in the injury, illness and fatality rates among the partners’ workers, which include close to 26,000 workers. Fatalities among these workers have dropped from 11 in 2004 to 1 in 2013.

The partnership develops and implements best practices that directly correspond to key hazards and operations associated with injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the industry. Practices include: fall protection, the use of specific insulating protective equipment and the implementation of safety checks. The partnership has also trained more than 33,000 workers and supervisors through industry-specific courses developed by the partners. OSHA and industry partners are in the process of expanding these courses to provide industry-wide training.

Secretary of the Department of Labor, Thomas Perez and Assistant Secretary, Dr. David Michaels addressed the members of the ET&D Partnership Executive Committee during the agreement re-signing ceremony, commenting on the importance and success of the partnership and that this model may be used as an example for other strategic partnerships.

Source: NECAnet.org

NECA, IBEW Join in OSHA 5-year ET&D Partnership

New members join NECA Greater Boston Chapter

NECA Boston Welcomes New Members: Maria Fallon Electrical Services, Pine Ridge Technologies and Pacific Electric Corp.

ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY NEWS

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SPRING 2014