2018 NECA Boston / IBEW Local 103 Electrical Industry Night Focuses on New Technologies, Safety, and Leadership

Foreman Training update features tradeshow; NEC safety presentation by Michael Johnston, NECA Executive Director Standards and Safety; leadership seminar by Michael Callanan

The event, attended by several hundred Greater Boston union electrical industry foremen, began with a trade show featuring innovative new products. Industry-leading manufacturers exhibited, including Greenlee, Milwaukee Tool, 3M, Wesco, Trimble, Thomas & Betts, Graybar, Klein Tools, Westex, and others. The trade show was highlighted with product demonstrations by Trimble and Blue Beam. Industry foremen were provided a hands-on view of technology that is making work in the field more efficient than ever. Following the exhibition, Michael Johnston, NECA Executive Director Standards and Safety, presented a seminar on New Technologies - New Rules. He discussed the National Electrical Code (NEC), which has been the cornerstone of the electrical industry for over 120 years. The presentation took a high-level look at significant challenges facing the industry, and how the NEC is being shaped in a more progressive fashion to remain as relevant as ever to keep pace with new technologies. An overview of specific growth areas and the progression of the electrical industry and the NEC was provided, as foremen and general foremen were kept current with important safety code issues.

Gaston Electrical Near Completion of Electrical Construction at Boston Celtics’ Auerbach Center at Boston Landing

Gaston Electrical Contractors, Inc., based in Norwood, MA, is nearing completion of the installation of a 4000-amp electrical service for the new, world-class 250,000 SF Boston Celtics practice facility at Boston Landing. The NECA Boston contractor’s core and shell electrical scope also includes installation of a 1MW life safety generator, as well as complete power, lighting, fire alarm and mechanical power installations for three levels of the parking garage, four tenant levels and two mechanical penthouses. The Auerbach Center is scheduled to open in June 2018.

IBEW Local 103 Pays Tribute to JATC Greater Boston Director of Training Jim O’Connell at Special Reception

On March 15 at the Venezia Restaurant in Dorchester, IBEW Local 103 hosted a special event honoring recently retired JATC Director of Training Jim O’Connell for his dedicated service to the electrical industry. The event was attended by colleagues from Greater Boston JATC, IBEW Local 103 and NECA Boston Chapter.

Jim’s remarkable career spans 47 years as a member of Local 103. He began his apprenticeship with Local 103 and Anthony Electric in June 1971 and graduated with his Journeyman Electrician License in 1975. He received his Master License the following year while working with Guzovsky Electric. Shortly thereafter, Jim attended Fitchburg State to attain vocational teaching certification. He started teaching at the JATC in the mid-1980s and was elected an Executive Board Member of Local 103. During this time, he worked as a General Foreman with Mass Electric Construction, and was employed as an electrical inspector in the Town of Westwood. Jim ran many significant projects during his time, with Mass Electric, including: Mass General Hospital, the Fanueil Hall restoration, General Motors in Framingham, as well as Polaroid and Raytheon buildings. Jim’s final project with Mass Electric was the Genzyme project in Allston, before he accepted an electrician position with the MBTA.

Jim worked for the MBTA for six years prior to becoming a Business Agent for IBEW Local 103. As an agent, he represented Local 103’s MBTA members, Telecommunications members, and a variety of other organized labor initiatives. He also served as a Trustee for the MBTA Pension Board until 2016.

JATC Greater Boston Training Director Chris Sherlock, Local 103 Business Manager, Lou Antenucci, IBEW Boston President Michael McDonald, recently retired JATC Training Director Jim O’Connell, Boston NECA Executive Manager Glenn Kingsbury and NECA Boston Assistant Manager Kristen Gowin.

In 2012, Jim was appointed to the position of Training Director for the Greater Boston JATC. His insightful leadership guided the JATC through the transition from evening school to the current day school program.
On Thursday, March 29, IBEW Local 103 hosted a reception in celebration of Women’s History Month. More than 65 Local 103 women members, NECA contractors and politicians were in attendance. The event was spearheaded by Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonelli and Business Agent Kenell Broomstein. NECA is proud to have been well represented, as Assistant Manager Kristen Gowin, Board member Kathleen Guinee of Aetna Fire Alarm Service, Susan Mailman of Coghlin Electrical Contractors, and Vicki Chapman of Chapman Construction Group, were among the events notable speakers, sharing their stories and vision with other women in the industry who work, live and serve in Massachusetts.

On Tuesday, April 10, NECA Boston proudly joined with IBEW Local 103’s Health Benefit Plan and the Electrical Construction Trust Fund Office in co-sponsoring the 2018 Annual Blood Drive & Wellness Event at the Local 103 union hall in Dorchester. Hundreds of Plan participants volunteered in making blood donations to the American Red Cross, as well as learning vital aspects about their general wellness and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Free screenings and exams were by generously provided by area leading healthcare and wellness organizations. Participating companies included AllOne tobacco cessation, Apex Medical Associates, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Davis Vision, Delta Dental, Elevate Nutrition, Elliot Physical Therapy, Impact Melanoma, Interactive Health Services, Modern Assistance Programs, Novo Nordisk, Quincy Hearing, and South Shore Smiles.

IBEW Local 103, NECA Celebrate Women’s History Month with Women in Electrical Construction

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For a complete directory of NECA Greater Boston Chapter member firms, call 1-877-NECA-IBEW or visit us at www.bostonneca.org.