Brava Electric & Telecom Completes Electrical Construction of Bow Market, Somerville, MA

from May 7-11. The annual construction trade association event, National Construction Safety Week, serves as a unique opportunity to pause, focus on safe practices, and foster further education and awareness while discussing the importance of making safe decisions on the jobsite.

Brava Electric's project scope entailed installation of the facility's power distribution, fire alarm system, lighting and lighting control systems, as well as the tele/data infrastructure to each of Bow Market's 34 boutique shops, restaurants, and brewery. Power distribution is provided from Eversource vaults into the development's main electric room. Brava installed a 1600A switchboard and supporting beams of the Bow Market development. Brava has also provided electrical fit-out for several of the market-place's tenants, including Remnant Brewing Company, a microbrewery located in the heart of the plaza. The brewery's electrical installations are elaborate, supporting state-of-the-art brewing equipment. Remnant Brewing's courtyard features can-erny/string lighting. Brava Electric's quality of work and especially the lighting accents were “phenomenal evening atmosphere.”

Gaston Electrical Participates In 2018 National Construction Safety Week

Importance of ladder safety and inspection highlighted during annual event

NECA Boston contractor, Gaston Electrical Co., Inc., based in Norwood, MA, recently took part in the 2018 National Construction Safety Week from May 7-11. The annual construction safety week event, organized by OSHA, united over 80 large construction firms to promote industry-wide education and awareness while discussing the importance of making safe decisions on the jobsite.

National Construction Safety Week invites construction companies to speak with their employees about jobsite safety through programs such as toolbox talks, policy reviews, and equipment inspections. 2018 marked Gaston’s fourth year as a participant – highlighting the company’s commitment to ensuring safe work environments for employees, project partners, and end-users.

During the week, Gaston Electrical’s Safety Director Rick Coakley visited over 20 active job sites, leading discussions on ladder safety, proper usage, and daily inspection protocols. Rick was also joined by Mike Weber, Gaston Principal, Nina Radzim, Director of Human Resources, and Tim West, Director of Marketing. Highlights of the week included visits to some of Gaston’s largest job sites including 250 North Street at Cambridge Crossing, AMGEN in Kendall Square, Residence Halls at UMass Boston, The Auerbach Center / Boston Celtics Practice Facility at Boston Landing, and Wayfair in Copley Square.

“We take pride in our corporate safety culture, so we’re continuously working to improve conditions and practices in the field,” said Coakley. “National Safety Week is a unique opportunity to pause, focus on safe practices, and foster further educational discussion with our most important asset – our skilled team. We’re also able to spotlight this commitment to safety with our clients – as many of these leading general contractors and fellow subcontractors share in the common mission to create safer workplaces for all.”

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

NECA Boston Members Advocate for Key Issues at NECA 2018 National Legislative Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On May 16th and 17th, members of NECA Boston Chapter Legislative Committee joined with Tremont Strategies Group in representing the electrical construction industry in Massachusetts at the 2018 National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. NECA Boston was represented at the conference by Dan Venezia, T&T Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Michael McDonald, McDonald Electrical Corp.; Joe Bodio, LAN-TEL Communications; Kathleen Guiney, Asta Fire Alarm Service Co., Inc.; Matt Guaresini, J.M. Electrical Company; John Rudicis, Sullivan & McLaughlin Companies; Joseph McCusker, Jr., E.G. Sawyer Co.; Sue Mailman, Coghin Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Michael Bergan and Liesl Sheehan of Tremont Strategies Group, and Kristen Gowin, Assistant Manager, NECA Boston Chapter.


Key legislative issues that were addressed included:

- Supporting the GROW Act authorizing innovative composite plans to modernize the Multiemployer Pension Plan system
- Allowing apprentices to utilize 529 education saving plans to finance ancillary apprenticeship costs
- Ensuring small businesses get paid in a timely manner on Federal construction projects and Reform the Administration of Change Orders
- Investing in our Nation’s Infrastructure – supporting passage of a robust, comprehensive infrastructure funding bill that addresses needs in all sectors – airports, highways, railroads, and public transit systems
- Enacting Federal Tax Reform
- Repealing the 40 percent Cadillac tax on contractors’ health plans

The NECA Boston office at 106 River Street in West Newton, MA, and IBEW Local 103 Union Hall at 70 Freeport Street in Dorchester are accepting donations from organizations in need.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NECA Greater Boston and IBEW Local 103 Partner with Red Sox in Baseball Equipment Collection Drive Benefiting Kids Gear for Baseball

NECA Greater Boston and IBEW Local 103, along with the Boston Red Sox, have teamed up to provide pieces of new and used equipment to children in need. The organization has donated to more than 30 youth organizations, shelters, and missions over the last eight years.

In conjunction with the equipment drive, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund will award a grant of $5,000 to Kids Gear for Baseball for the purchase of new equipment. In recognition of the grant, Cathy Bradley, Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, will present a ceremonial check to the Kids Gear for Baseball organization during their pre-game ceremony on Saturday, June 23.

This marks the 14th season the Baseball Tomorrow Fund has teamed with Major League Baseball Clubs to hold an equipment collection. To date, the initiative has provided thousands of pieces of new and used equipment and $1.7 million in total monetary donations to more than 200 organizations in need.

INDUSTRY NEWS

NECA’s ELECTRI International publishes two new reports: Quality in Construction – Improving Productivity and Rework by Establishing a Built-in-Quality (BIQ) Program and Best Practices for Electrical Contractors

The BIQ research, conducted by Professor Leroy Simonian, California Polytechnic State University, offers a new method in construction that uses a real-time, interactive process to increase quality and reduce rework. BIQ program focuses on the initial stages of a quality project by first identifying customer expectations, converting these expectations into requirements, developing design operations, and then transforming the work.

The second publication, Best Practices for Electrical Contractors is the result of a 2017 Early Career Award given to Dr. Brian Lines, University of Oklahoma. This study included a national survey that identified the top seven most effective change management programs recommended by NECA contractors. The interviews collected lessons learned and tangible examples of organizational change adoption.

ELECTRI International works to help electrical contractors meet today’s demands and tomorrow’s challenges by funding, conducting, coordinating and transforming research results into meaningful, useful educational and consulting programs. NECA Boston Chapter is a proud member of the ELECTRI Council, as a Diplomat level sponsor of the industry’s leading research organization.

Registration Opens for NECA 2018 Show & Convention in Philadelphia, September 29 - October 2, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center

NECA 2018 Philadelphia, the electrical industry’s leading trade show and convention, will feature more than 300 exhibitors, comprised of the industry’s leading manufacturers, distributors and service companies. Thousands of cutting-edge products will be on display with live demos on the show floor. The show will provide NECA contractors with best electrical industry practices and compliance information. Technical workshops will cover the latest information in Standards and Safety, Project Management, and Technology, Process and Innovation, Lighting & Controls, and much more—all designed to ensure NECA contractors are better informed in the industry. For further information and to register, visit neaconvention.org.

EDUCATION NEWS

NECA Holds Productivity and Profitability Workshop

On May 22nd, NECA Greater Boston member contractors attended a productivity and profitability workshop, conducted by Dr. Heather M. Moore, Vice President of Operations for MCA, Inc. The program presented productivity improvement principles that have helped other industries, such as automotive, manufacturing, commercial airplane producers, and the retailing industry which can apply effectively in the contracting industry. The program explained how to prepare for the new labor market realities and examined the principles that have increased productivity of labor, project, office management, and operational theories.


Dr. Heather M. Moore has taught numerous courses for NECA, IBEW, IEC, ABC, MCAA, and MCAA of Canada, and continues to conduct research on the ELECTRI Contracting Foundation. Dr. Moore was a contributor for the IEST Standard E2691 "Job Productivity Measurement” and coauthored three books on the Industrialization of Construction and the Future of the Industry. She specializes in process design and operations research.

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