

Long Island

NECA

Wiring News Through The Electrical Construction Industry

SUMMER 2006

WIRE

Long Island Chapter National Electrical Contractors Assn. Inc., Hauppauge, New York 11788 631-291-9732

Chapter Headquarters Moves to Larger Space



Long Island NECA has moved to a new, larger facility in the heart of Hauppauge. The offices are in a first class luxury office building and provide substantially more space than did the old facility in Commack. Located at 200 Parkway Drive South in Hauppauge, the new Chapter headquarters has ample room for meetings and seminars. There is also additional office space available within the suite. The location is extremely desirable in that it is easily accessible to all major highways and offers plentiful parking. The move required a telephone number change to 631-291-9732. The new fax number is 631-291-9757. Our email remains the same: lineca@aol.com.

Visit our website at www.lineca.org

From the President...



Donald Leslie, Jr.

By the time you are reading this article, most of the summer will have already past, and though our membership meetings have been suspended for the summer, the officers, Board of Directors, and Fund Trustees have been busy meeting, both with the Union officers and trustees, and amongst ourselves.

In the meantime, as you know we have now moved into the new Chapter office in Hauppauge, after a long and arduous construction build out. The new offices provide much easier access for the membership, much needed additional space for future expansion, and meeting facilities for seminars, training, and some of the various meetings throughout the year. Situated at 200 Parkway Drive South, Suite 101, we invite you to stop by and visit anytime you are in the area.

As most of you are aware, the Unionized Electrical Construction Industry on Long Island has been slow for sometime now, and the immediate future still holds some question as to how many men we will be able to put back to work. I am hearing reports, that some of the "A" journeymen just getting back to work now, have been out some 22 months. With nearly some 400 men on the unemployment list at Local 25, our trust funds have certainly felt the strain of so many men out of work for so long.

While it is not easy, nor are there any "magic" fixes for the many problems currently faced in each of the trust funds, both the NECA officers and the fund trustees are working hard to ensure the viability of each fund, and to make sure we, as an industry, can provide the best possible benefits for the future.

Time for change in the Electrical Industry has come, and as I have mentioned in my past articles in the "wire", we at NECA are working hard to bring about the changes we need, and that our customers demand and deserve. But...change for anyone is not easy, and certainly, takes time. But we are committed to see this industry thrive in the years to come, and, with the help and understanding of the officers, business manager, and members of Local Union #25 IBEW, we will make the necessary changes, put the union membership back to work, and grow this industry to a level only imagined by our predecessors.

Again, change takes time, but time is one thing we are short on...When our customers are ready to move, both NECA and the IBEW had better be on "the same page", ready, willing, and able to service these customers....And I believe, with cooperation from the business office, we will be ready.

As the industry representatives for the entire management side of the unionized electrical industry of Long Island, I am confident when I tell you that the officers, the entire Board of Directors, and the Membership of the Long Island Chapter of NECA, stand ready to represent management and their needs, to make the necessary changes to GROW this industry, not just "survive" this severe business climate we find ourselves in.

I have personally "challenged" the business manager of Local 25 to join us in this venture, to look "far down the road, make the right decisions" for this industry, meet and exceed our customer's needs...Doing all of this Together with us, as a joint industry, one where we can all be proud of the changes we made, to accommodate today's market, and that of our future and making the industry better, more productive, more cost effective and profitable for all.

WE AT NECA ARE COMMITTED TO YOUR SUCCESS!

*Donald Leslie Jr.
President*

Setting the Record Straight on Union Contractors

Letter from LI Chapter Governor Bob Kohlmeyer, CRK Contracting To Suffolk Life

In reply to your recent editorial "Hurting The Small Local Contractors," Suffolk Life, February 22, 2006. Once again you continue to voice your thoughts without the facts. I am one of the small local contractors; the life blood of the Long Island economy you make reference to. And yes I have a union agreement and yes, work with an approved New York State apprenticeship program. But no, we are not a deep pocket union approved company you elude to in your editorial. We only hire union workers trained electricians - properly trained electricians. The type of workers that you should be happy are wiring your local school or movie theater or county building.

If you checked your facts, you would find that New York State has over 20 approved apprenticeship programs for just electricians. The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee of Nassau and Suffolk counties is only one of many. This is not a union run program - rather a trustee run school made up of both labor and management with paid teachers and a training director that works for the trustees. This program is fully funded by contractors, not the unions.

I am proud to be a contractor trustee of the Long Island JATC and welcome you to visit our training facility at any time and view for yourself this state of the art training school. It should also be noted that in 2006 we implemented a drug testing program for all apprentices in our school. Show me another program that can guarantee drug free apprentices.

This local law only ensures that contractors are providing properly trained personnel on the public works projects and has nothing to do with deep pocketed companies.

Further more, if you check with the New York State Dept. of Labor, you will see that they have an apprentice to journeyman ratio that is mandated on all NYS projects, both public and private; and again, have over 20 approved programs. Most of them are programs not affiliated with any union and anyone or any contracting company can get an approved program with very little effort.

Please try and get all of your facts in the future, prior to voicing your opinions. Perhaps after you have the facts your personal feelings will change.

Bob Kohlmeyer
CRK Contracting

Wicks Law Support

The Long Chapter of NECA vigorously supports the Wicks Law because it is far less expensive to the public and it prevents special interests from corrupting the bidding process.

“Mainline Electric – Come in”

A COVER STORY IN THE JULY 1969 ISSUE of *Electrical Construction & Maintenance* magazine displays a photo of an electrician installing wiring at a backyard swimming pool. Inside, the feature discusses the new and growing market for swimming pool work by local electrical contractors. Accompanying the story is a photo of a young man, clean-shaven with light brown wavy hair at work running wire to a pool.



Paul Dunn of Mainline Electric Corp. proudly shows that article. Now sporting a peppered beard and mustache with white wavy hair, Paul is, of course, that young electrician.

The era of backyard swimming pools gave Paul his start as a contractor and his career blossomed. With the help of his wife Eleanor, Mainline Electric was formed and flourished. In 1994 the firm moved to Huntington Station and shortly thereafter it became a union contractor and a member of NECA's Long Island Chapter.

Mainline now employs a staff of eight inside and from forty to sixty in the field. As President, Eleanor has played a feature role in keeping the business moving forward. But she remembers the early days when the business was in their home, balancing a child on one hip as she spoke on the phone to clients with 8 Dalmatian puppies underfoot. And she still remembers too, placing flyers on cars in parking lots to get the business going. •

Mainline Electric is one of the less prominent contractors in the Long Island area but it surely is among the homiest and most comfortable. Tucked away in a converted private house in a commercial area of Huntington Station, the only clue to the busy activity inside is the fleet of cars and trucks outside and a small sign on the door that advises “Mainline Electric – Come in.”

The focus is mostly on public works. There are a lot of jobs out there, Paul says, but the tricky part is getting them. That's not to say that Mainline isn't getting the work. It is. The firm's flagship job was the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City. He is especially

proud of this job, as well as the IMAX theatre which is egg-shaped and consists of poured concrete throughout. Mainline worked with this challenging engineering concept and never missed a single outlet hitting the spot. It was the most difficult yet most interesting project Mainline has worked. Paul credits his foreman on the job, Larry Baroletti, who, after long service with Mainline, is now retired but continues working at the museum maintaining their electrical systems.

Another of Mainline's more prominent projects was the Main Concourse rebuilding at MacArthur airport in Islip. “Its nice to get praise for a job done well and Mainline received lots of it for the MacArthur project, Paul comments. There again, the foreman, this time Joe Symington, is credited by Paul. The company has continued to work on MacArthur jobs including the Southwest expansion and parking. Tom Malone is foreman there now. All tolled, some \$7 million in work has come from the MacArthur complex.

Paul's career as an electrician began when he was a 16-year old doing custodial work at his church. He was good at handling electrical problems and his priest suggested that a parishioner who was an electrical contractor might need some help with a project he was working. Paul applied, was hired and started at the bottom—using a chisel and hammer to chop a line across a parking lot.

As a NECA member Paul can measure the pulse of the industry on Long Island. It

helps him stay in tune he says, and gives him an opportunity to have a say in how his firm is represented as a signatory to Local 25 agreements.

Work rules are often cited as a costly part of being a union contractor. Paul agrees but points out other advantages outweigh this. He maintains that it is actually less costly to be a union shop. The question of productivity



In photos: (top) Paul and Eleanor Dunn; (middle)(l-r) Phil Rosehill, Connie Ferrentino, Denise Boone; (lower left) Joe Symington (l), and Paul Zaun; (lower right) Jim Paulsen.

is important. After the IBEW distributed its video on productivity to workers, and he showed it, Paul could see a marked increase in productivity. Workers seem to be far more conscientious now about the time they spend on a job.

And that can mean a greater share of the market for NECA contractors like Mainline Electric Corp. •



Bana Electric Honored as 50-Year NECA Member

At the March 16th Chapter Meeting Michael Bender accepted a plaque from National NECA recognizing Bana Electric for its 50 years as a member of NECA. The award was presented by Don Leslie, Jr., President of the Long Island Chapter (shown at right above). Bana is the only firm with 50 years of membership in the Long Island Chapter. Bana Electric was founded by Mike Bender's father, Al Bender. Steve Bender, Mike's son, shown above, left, is the third generation of Benders to be active in our Chapter. Congratulations!

NECA Board of Directors

President: **Donald Leslie, Jr.**,
Johnson Electrical Constr. Corp.

Vice President: **Nicolaus Feldmann**,
Eldor Contracting Corporation

Secretary: **Joseph Gathard**,
All Service Electric, Inc.

Treasurer: **William Schumacher**,
Elemco Testing Co., Inc.

Governor: **Robert Kohlmeyer**,
CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc.

Directors:

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Bana Electric Corporation

Stephen Cadieux,
Roland's Electric Inc.

Paul Dunn,
Mainline Electric Corporation

James Giorgio, Sr.,
B&G Electrical Contractors of L.I., Inc.

Thomas Papa,
LPC, Inc.

Director Emeritus:

Frank Hutton,
Hutton Electrical Contracting Corp.

Chapter Manager:
Roy W. Richey

Calendar

Meeting Dates

General Membership

September 21, 2006 (3rd Thursday)

October 19, 2006 (3rd Thursday)

**Check the Chapter Website for
Industry Meetings and keep in
mind...**

**2006 NECA National Convention
and Show** will be held October 7-10
in Boston, MA.

Eastern Region Annual Meeting
will be held March 25-28, 2007
at ATLANTIS, Paradise Island,
Bahamas

Market Share Topic of Combined Labor/ Management Meeting

On March 14, 2006, the Chapter was invited to Local 25 IBEW headquarters to hear and participate in a presentation by Mark Breslin on how to increase the union market share of work on Long Island. Officers of Local 25, Directors and members of the Long Island NECA Chapter, as well as other Local 25 signatory contractors, were present. Members of the apprenticeship classes were also present along with their instructors.

The presentation had the interest of all present and furnished those in attendance with a way to work together to strengthen the union share of the work on Long Island. •



12th Annual Meeting NECA Eastern Region Palm Beach Aruba March 19-22, 2006



Bill Schumacher with Rhoda Bender

Bob & Ann Mauchan celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary while in Aruba



Christine Giorgio, Terry Giorgio, Vivian Papa



Jim Giorgio, Sr., Bob Kohlmeyer, Don Leslie Jr.



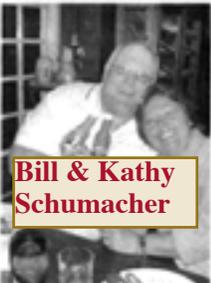
Janet Richey celebrated her birthday while at the Chapter Dinner in Aruba

Twenty six members of the Long Island Chapter attended the Regional Meeting in Aruba. The Chapter dinner was held at the Amazonia Restaurant where a good time was had by all. The Chapter Dinner made the local paper.

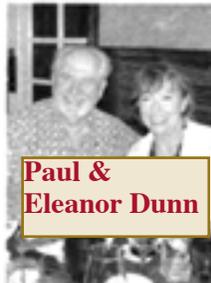
Aruba TODAY LOCAL B5 Thursday, March 23, 2006

At Amazonia Churrascaria

NECA, The National Electrical Contractors Association, enjoys Brazilian Style Hospitality



Bill & Kathy Schumacher



Paul & Eleanor Dunn



John & Jordana Casciano



Roy & Janet Richey with Mike DeNapoli

PALM BEACH – Staying at the Hyatt Regency, NECA members vacationing on the island experienced a most enjoyable evening at Amazonia Churrascaria, savoring a rich and varied salad bar with over thirty items and slow roasted meats carved table side by the roaming gauchos. NECA representing, promoting and advancing the interest of the electrical contracting industry since 1901, picked Aruba as its vacation destination and Amazonia Churrascaria for one of the company's outings.

The popular Palm Beach landmark hosts many incentive trips from the US, having the capability to deliver impeccable service and supreme cuisine to a great number of guests at the same time. □