

## From the President's Desk



*Robert Kohlmeyer*

Well, that was a quick three years. As I think back over the last

three years as President, I can only remember the good things that we have done to try to improve the electrical contracting business and hope that the changes made were beneficial.

I want to take a moment and thank all of the members who worked so hard over the past three years on committees, contract negotiations, trust funds and special meetings held with industry leaders and local government. I especially want to thank the Officers and Directors for their support and effort in helping run the NECA side of the industry. As I have said in the past, this industry does not run by itself. It runs thanks to the members of NECA who put in their time and effort so that the industry will survive and continue to keep abreast of the changes in technology and labor/management issues. Please take a minute to thank each of them personally if you have the opportunity.

Also, I would like to thank

*Please turn to PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE on page 4*

## Labor Management Cooperative Committee Sets PR Program, Establishes New Website, and Hey, We're on "Imus In The Morning"

The Labor Management Cooperative Committee formed by the Long Island Chapter, NECA and Local Union #25 IBEW has initiated a public relations and advertising program to promote to consumers the value of hiring electrical contractors who employ union labor. The multimedia campaign consists of print and radio advertising as well as a new website called "The Long Island Electrical Connection" with links to the LI NECA, Local 25 and JATC websites.

The ads, which use as their theme "Do It Right The First Time," have been scheduled for maximum penetration. They include radio spots on WBAB-FM, WHFM-FM and WFAN-AM.

There are also 10 second Traffic and Weather spots and advertisements in the Long Island Business News.

A major highlight in the campaign is a series of on-air mentions during the WFAN-AM "20/20 Sports Report" and a weekly live read by Don Imus during his morning show which is heard on WFAN-AM and seen on MSNBC. •



*Long Island Electrical Connection webpage*

## Thanks Bob and Jim

This year will conclude the three terms of the Chapter President Robert Kohlmeyer and Governor James Giorgio Sr. The Chapter expresses gratitude for the commitment of time and talent that has been given to advance the betterment of the Long Island Chapter. There are many Trust Fund Meetings, Committee Meetings and Negotiations Meetings that are always present with these positions, along with running a contracting business. Our Chapter has moved forward in many ways thanks to their tireless work. •

## CRK Contracting – Lean and Successful

Bob Kohlmeyer, finishing up his three year tour of duty as President of the Long Island Chapter is the consummate NECA contractor — quick to write to a local newspaper correcting



erroneous information on his industry (as shown below).

Grandson of a Local 3 journeyman, son and brother of Local 25 journeymen, Bob did his early electrical work at Nassau Community College before founding CRK Contracting. Bob has served as a contractor trustee to the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for 11 years. He emphasizes that the JATC is an important part of our industry and strives to maintain high standards for the program.

Bob runs his company lean. “I have to”, he says. “Or I can’t compete.” With a small staff and low overhead (he owns the building which houses CRK and several lessees), CRK typically employs 15 to 18 journeymen, but he is quick to point out that it isn’t unusual for him to hire additional journeymen for

jobs like the renovation of Oheka Castle (for which he was written up in *Electrical Contractor* magazine) and constructing a large casino on an Indian Reservation at Messina, NY. Normally, however, CRK does renovations and new construction for well-known area retailers such as Home Depot, Wal-Mart and Stop & Shop.

CRK became a NECA contractor in 1986 three years after Bob founded the company and Bob has been an industry mover ever since, involving himself in activities which will affect his business as well as those of his fellow contractors. He currently sits on Suffolk County’s Electrical Licensing Board.

He decries contractors who pay little attention to the Prompt Pay legislation which was passed more than a year ago and who yet complain about sluggish receivables. It is hard enough to get market share without getting hung up for payment, he observes.

Bob loves his work and is an important asset to the electrical industry on Long Island. Keep writing those letters, Bob. •

## NECA Board of Directors

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

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

**Secretary: Nicolaus Feldmann,**  
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**Treasurer: Joseph Gathard,**  
All Service Electric, Inc.

**Governor: James Giorgio, Sr.,**  
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of L.I., Inc.

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**Michael Bender,**  
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**Thomas Papa,**  
LPC, Inc.

**Stephen Cadieux,**  
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**Paul Dunn,**  
Mainline Electric Corporation

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

**Director Emeritus**

**Frank Hutton,**  
Hutton Electrical Contracting Corp.

**Chapter Manager:**  
**Roy W. Richey**

## A Properly Trained Workforce

*Text of a Letter to the editor, printed in Suffolk Life Newspaper  
written by Bob Kohlmeyer, CRK Contracting*

In reply to a letter from the regional director of the Associated Builders and Contractors regarding contracts and apprentice programs. I feel I must respond to clear up some misconceptions in that letter.

I am the owner of an electrical contracting firm that has a NYS apprentice program. I also am signatory with a union. I do not belong to a union, I only employ union members, well-trained workers. I also am the president of the Long Island Chapter of the Electrical Contractors Association, as well as a trustee in the JATC of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, a jointly run electrical apprentice program operated under the guidance of both labor and management. A five-year New-York-State-monitored school that trains electricians in every aspect of the industry, from commercial wiring, fire alarm installation, voice

and data installations, residential wiring and traffic signal installation and maintenance.

The comment that only union contractors bid on municipal contracts is wrong. New York State issues apprentice programs to any legitimate group or individual contractor that meets the standards of the state, not union standards. Yes, the process may take time, but so does everything else today.

The real reason for requiring approved apprentice programs is to be sure that the workers on these jobs are qualified in their respective trades and have been given legitimate and proper training, not, as stated, because they belong to some special interest groups.

I am very proud of the job we do training our workers. I welcome anyone to visit our training facility in Hauppauge, New York and see what real training is and

better understand why it is necessary. Open-shop contractors are afforded the exact same opportunities for training programs that union contractors have. These laws are referenced to not benefit special interest campaign donors, they protect the taxpayer from work such as electrical work, maybe in your own school building, being installed by a worker with little or no training.

To say that apprentice laws reduce the amount of bidders on a job and increase the cost of the project is ludicrous. The reality is that contractors with a proper apprentice ratio can actually reduce costs due to varying wage scales.

I welcome all of the readers with a sincere interest to contact the JATC of Nassau and Suffolk counties in Hauppauge or simply visit the following websites for more information: [www.lineca.org](http://www.lineca.org) or [www.lijatc.org](http://www.lijatc.org).

Can anyone challenge the comment that a properly trained worker will work safer and more efficiently?

*Bob Kohlmeyer, CRK Contracting*

*B est Wishes for a happy, safe and prosperous holiday season*

# National Convention — Los Angeles, CA October 16-19, 2004

The NECA National Convention and Trade Show held at the Los Angeles Convention Center was well represented by the Long Island Chapter with 29 members and guests in attendance. The Chapter Dinner was enjoyed by all at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant.

The Hospitality Suite served to allow members to discuss various convention programs and chapter concerns. All who attended the meetings agreed the guest speakers were the highlight of convention programs.



## President's Message

from page one

Roy Richey our Chapter Manager, who came on board when our good friend Michael Gilchrist left. I have worked well with Roy and am confident that Roy will continue to do a wonderful job with the new incoming directors.

We must also give a special thank you to James Giorgio, Sr. our outgoing Governor. His effort as Director, President, Governor and stunt man of the Long Island Chapter include such things as the creation of the Administration Maintenance Fund, two "A" Construction contracts, his work on the Nassau County Electrical License Committee, and not to mention, a few broken bones, all while performing NECA related duties such as golf

outings or attending a District Convention. Jim's contributions to the Long Island Chapter, NECA will become a part of our history that everyone will look back on and say thank you. I also want to say thank you, Jim.

So, three years, twenty-four Membership Meetings, three National Conventions, three Eastern Region Meetings, six District One Meetings, three Business Managers and two Chapter Managers and my term is over. That was a quick three years, and hopefully I have served all of you as expected.

Best of luck to the newly elected Board of Directors and Officers. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve this industry.

— **Bob Kohlmeyer**

## Calendar

### Meeting Dates

*General Membership*

November 18, 2004 (3rd Thursday)

February 17, 2005 (3rd Thursday)

March 24, 2005 (4th Thursday)

April 21, 2005 (3rd Thursday)

*Check the Chapter Website for industry meetings and keep in mind...*

### The LI Chapter Installation

**Dinner** will be held Friday, January 7, 2005 at Oheka Castle

**2005 Eastern Region Annual Meeting** will be held March 13 - 16, 2005 in Lucaya, Freeport, Bahamas (Our Chapter will host.)

## Long Island Chapter NECA Golf Outing, June 7, 2004

*The Long Island Chapter gratefully thanks these companies who either attended or sponsored a Tee Sign at the NECA Golf Outing, June 7, 2004*

A.C. Electrical Supplies, Inc.  
A.S.R. Electrical Contracting, Inc.  
Ace Wire & Cable  
Avon Electrical Supply  
B&G Electrical Contractors of L.I., Inc.  
Elemco Testing Co., Inc.  
General Electric Supply  
Hinck Electric, Inc.  
Eastport Associates, Inc.  
Johnson Electrical Construction Corp.

Kennedy Electrical Supply  
Michael's Electric  
Mid Island Electrical Supply  
New York Fire Detection  
Public Electric Supply  
South Shore Electric, Inc.  
Three Brothers Electric, Inc.  
The Wire Mold Co.  
Simplex Grinnell  
Spectrolume



The Long Island Chapter held its Annual Golf Outing at the Stonebridge Golf Links And Country Club in Smithtown on June 7, 2004. Our guest list included Eugene Coughlin, Nassau County Commissioner of Labor, Robert Dow, Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor and Don Fiore, Business Manager of Local #25 IBEW.

We were pleased to have three former Directors of the JATC; Walter Kraker, Dick Ericson, Don Fiore and the present Director, Christopher Kelly join us for dinner.

The Chapter expresses thanks to Bob Mauchan for being the Master of Ceremonies and his work in making the day a success.

**Save the Date for the 2005 Golf Outing at Stonebridge, Tuesday, June 7, 2005**