

“Effective HR” Presents To The Long Island Chapter On Strategies For Protecting Your Business

At our March General Membership meeting, Rick Maher, the Managing Partner of *Effective Human Resources* gave a presentation called “The Simple H.R. Things You Can Do to Protect Your Business”.

Members learned that The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) is looking to collect more than \$1 Billion in fines from employers in 2013 and has launched an assault on small employers by setting a goal to conduct nearly 4,000 investigations of small to mid-sized businesses with the overall objective to obtain more than 100 indictments.

As Human Resource compliance becomes a bigger issue to all business owners, Rick talked about some simple protections like: Having an Employee Handbook, Proper Hiring Procedures, Sexual Harassment Policies and Wage and Hour Audits. Please feel free to contact the Chapter office for a copy of this valuable presentation. •

Johnson Electrical Construction Corporation Honored For Sandy Leadership

In the aftermath of superstorm Sandy many Long Island NECA contractors participated in rescue and rehabilitation projects throughout the area. Among them was Johnson Electrical Construction Corporation and its President Don Leslie, Jr., Director, Past President and Former Governor of the Long Island Chapter. Shown in the photo Don receives a commemorative token from the Long Island Contractor’s Association along with other LI leaders.



(l-r) Long Island Contractor’s Association Executive Director Marc Herbst presents Smithtown Councilman Robert J. Creighton, NECA Director Don Leslie, Jr. of Johnson Electrical Construction Corporation, Smithtown Highway Superintendent Glenn Jorgensen and Smithtown Councilman Kevin J. Malloy with shattered pieces of the Long Beach boardwalk to acknowledge their leadership in the recovery from superstorm Sandy at LICA’s recent Suffolk County Infrastructure Summit in Hauppauge. (Photo thanks to Smithtown Messenger)

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From the President...

By the time you read this summer will be coming to a close. However it also marks the peak of a season which can be very detrimental to Long Island, "Hurricane Season". Many of our communities along the south shore of Long Island are still underway with the reconstruction of their homes while others have not even begun. In speaking with Mayor James Ruzicka of Island Park, I learned that one third of Island Park residents are still not back in their homes.

While many of our contractors have worked to get our water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, and bridges restored, there is still much more work to be done, but limited funding and never-ending red tape with insurance companies and FEMA make the process very slow. In the aftermath of Sandy, New York State passed a law requiring certain gas stations in close proximity to evacuation routes to install generators. To that end, I recently met with the Long Island Gasoline Retail Association President, Kevin Beyer to discuss some of the many ways that our Long Island NECA contractors can assist in that process. Still the clock runs and time is of the essence. Are we really prepared if another Superstorm Sandy were to hit our Long Island shores?

Despite all of the recovery efforts our industry has been involved in

we have been able to move forward and get back to business. Recently the Long Island Chapter and IBEW LU25 completed our negotiations with a new three-year, mutually beneficial agreement in an effort to maintain costs associated with our businesses. I would like to thank the entire committee, Board of Directors and Chapter members for their input. Even with such a progressive agreement with our industry partners, we are all faced with increases in insurance, workman's compensation, continual tax hikes and fees that drive up our operating costs and it is this very type of business environment that force us to continue to review our business practices to ensure continued success.

Our staff at Long Island NECA has been hard at work and the tireless efforts of our Chapter Manager Pete Mastrococco leading projects for membership, process improvement programs, working with NECA premiere partners and increasing our office technology have not gone unnoticed. On the government affairs side, Charlie Gardner has been meeting with federal, state and local legislators and continues to champion our efforts on licensing and other issues critical to our industry. Holding it all together, Maryann Egel, who has been with us for many years, is the constant hard-working backbone



JOSEPH GATHARD

of our organization.

Additionally, each year at this time, we begin to prepare for the NECA National Convention, to be held this year in Washington, DC. The event will take place at the Walter E Washington Convention Center from October 12th through the 15th. This is NECA's 112th National Convention and offers a great opportunity to participate in various workshops and seminars, invaluable networking events and includes, what is expected to be, one of the largest industry-related trade shows in the country. The convention is a fun, educational event full of valuable information and camaraderie and I strongly encourage you to attend.

Finally, I want to thank all of our members for their ongoing support. Our Long Island Chapter is a great organization filled with interested and caring businesspeople that give selflessly to the industry they love and, as contractors, strive to offer our customers the very best in service and value. I ask that you continue to stay connected, attend our meetings and perhaps consider getting involved in some of our industry committees to better serve our organization.

—Joe Gathard

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Government Affairs

Charles Gardner
 Director of Government Affairs

Affordable Care Act Opposed by Long Island Chapter

On July 2, 2013, The Obama Administration announced a one-year delay of a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that requires businesses with more than fifty full time employees to provide adequate health care insurance or pay a \$2,000 penalty per employee.

This employer mandate was set to go into effect January 1, 2014, and is now postponed until January 2015. The delay, however, does not impact many other key provisions of the Act. This includes the enrollment for health coverage through the state exchanges for Americans that do not currently have health insurance that is still set to commence on October 1, 2013, with insurance coverage taking effect on January 1, 2014.

The Long Island Chapter, NECA continues to express its concerns with the many other key provisions of the ACA that will negatively impact the electrical construction industry and has written letters to all our federal elected officials emphasizing our adamant opposition to the implementation of the ACA.

NECA members may access the archived ACA Webinar for details on how health care reform will affect your business. Please contact the Long Island NECA Chapter office for more information. •

Long Island Chapter Supports Continuation of LIPA's Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program

In early June, The Long Island Chapter, NECA, in conjunction with Local Union 25 of the IBEW, sent a letter to Governor Cuomo supporting LIPA's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs.

The letter pointed out that, under these programs our Chapter Members and the IBEW electricians we employ have completed some of the largest solar projects in New York State. The Chapter requested that as the pending legislation is developed and implemented, steps be taken to ensure the progress that LIPA has made in these areas continues under the new management transition to PSEG. •

Legislator Kennedy Speaks on Important Local Issues

Suffolk County Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr. addressed the Long Island Chapter at the membership meeting on May 23rd. He brought the members up-to-date on the latest information for capital improvement projects planned by Suffolk County. He is a strong supporter of increasing the installation of sewers, especially in the Smithtown-Kings Park-Hauppauge area. There are also several roadwork maintenance and improvement projects in the works.

He spoke at length about the controversial John J. Foley Nursing Facility in Yaphank and explained his opposition to the County Executive's plans to shut down the operation of the nursing home.

In closing, Legislator Kennedy reminded members that he is always available to answer any questions or concerns that they might have about Suffolk County operations. He urged anyone with a question or problem to call him directly at 631-854-3735. •

Chapter Leadership Meets With "NYS Energy Czar" Regarding PSEG and Green Initiatives

On Monday, April 29th, Nick Feldmann, Paul Dunn and Charlie Gardner met with Richard Kaufmann in New York City. Mr. Kaufmann was appointed in February by Governor Cuomo as the State's Energy Czar and one of his responsibilities was to oversee the LIPA takeover by PSEG. Nick and Paul underscored the importance of LIPA's "green energy" initiatives and the rebate program that was running so successfully. They expressed their concern that such programs would not be discontinued and, in fact, should be expanded under the new management team. They cited the fact that LIPA's Green Energy Program was a leader among all New York State utilities. Mr. Kaufmann was very receptive to their pleas and pledged to remain in contact with the Chapter on all energy-related issues. •

I-9 Employment Verification Changes

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) has recently issued a revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. The new form must be used for all new hires after May 7 of this year and for re-verifying current employees whose work authorizations expired on or after May 7 of 2013.

While it is not necessary to replace current I-9 forms for employees who do not otherwise need to be re-verified at this time it is absolutely essential that Employers have a valid I-9 on file for each and every employee on their payroll regardless of whether or not they have been referred by a Union. Employers face financial penalties for non-compliance. •

Estate Tax Reform

Chapter sends letters supporting elimination of the tax

In 2001, Congress repealed the estate tax and its harmful effects on family-owned businesses. Unfortunately, the 2001 law created great uncertainty because it phased the top estate tax rate down to 45 percent in 2009 and increased the tax exemption to \$3.5 million, and it repealed it completely in 2010.

In 2011, the repeal expired and the estate tax climbed back to 35 percent with a tax exemption of \$5 million.

Recent action has increased the rate up to 40 percent. More needs to be done and NECA supports legislation that would eliminate the estate tax altogether. To

support this initiative, the Chapter has sent letters to several of our federal elected officials. •

Save these dates...

**September Chapter Meeting –
Thursday, September 19, 2013**

**NECA Board of Governor's Meeting -
Washington DC, October 12, 2013**

**NECA National Convention -
Washington, DC, October 12th—15th 2013**

**October Chapter Meeting –
Wednesday, October 30, 2013**

**November Chapter Meeting-
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

NECA Board of Directors

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Pat Santoro
Com-Bell Systems, Inc.

Chapter Manager:
Pete Mastrococco

Director of Government Affairs:
Charles Gardner

Long Island Chapter Provides Ongoing Professional Development for Its Member Contractors and their employees.

The Long Island Chapter of NECA has arranged to provide an online training course called "Contractor 101" for its members.

This basic introductory level overview of key topics in construction contracting is designed specifically for persons who are either new to the industry or for contractors who are experienced at the project operations level of construction and are moving into higher levels of management responsibility in their respective organizations.

Many of our contractors agree that this course is a valuable training tool that helps to "put it all together" and develop a strategic management perspective and knowledge base regarding the design and construction industry and provides critical information regarding many of the nuances specific to Construction Law and Labor Relations.

For more information on "Contractor 101" please contact Pete Mastrococco at the Long Island Chapter office. •

2013 Golf Outing

Once again Mother Nature cooperated and despite the ongoing threat of rain, we pulled off a beautiful day at the Baiting Hollow Club. On June 12th, the Long Island Chapter, NECA hosted its annual golf outing and this year's event was bigger and better than ever with sponsorship participation from several key industry partners and a roster full of family and friends.

"I would really like to thank Maryann Egel & Charlie Gardner for all of their hard work and especially the folks at Balco Enterprises, Milwaukee Tool, Eldor Contracting Corp, Certified Multimedia Solutions, Cooper Electric Supply, Simplex Grinnell, Star Fire Protection and Ken Feeley of Brazill Brothers in addition to many others for their generous contributions to our event," said Pete Mastrococco, of the Long Island Chapter.

Thanks to these great sponsors...

Platinum Level Sponsor – Balco Enterprises
Gold Level Sponsor- Milwaukee Electric Tool
Special Dinner and Tee Sponsor- Eldor Contracting Corp.
Silver Level Sponsors- Cooper Electric Supply,
Certified Multimedia Solutions, Simplex Grinnell
60" Flat Screen Television- Donated by Jon Cook of Star Fire Protection

Our All-Stars...

First Place Winners

Jon Cook, Joe Navaro,
Frank Amicizia, Chris Reilly

Second Place Winners

Jeff Smith, Jimmy Libretti,
John Wirth, Mike DiGuiseppe

Third Place Winners

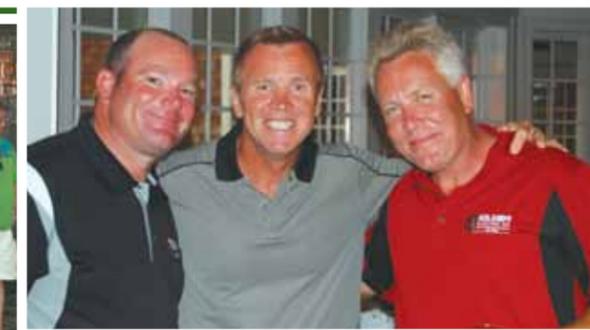
Pat Santoro, John Collesidis,
Steve Sharp, Jack Chen

Longest Drive

Jeff Smith

Closest to the Pin

Pete Davis



NECA

NATIONAL CONVENTION



WASHINGTON D.C.

Oct. 12 - Oct. 15 2013

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NECA Contractors Have Good Showing in ENR's Top Contractor List

Engineering News-Record (ENR) annually publishes a listing of the most successful contractors in the U.S. Firms are rated by total construction contracting-specific revenue, showing the most successful companies in the business--those with good business models and staying power.

Within ENR's 15 specialized categories, almost 33% of total revenue was brought in by electrical contractors, making it by far the largest revenue-generating category. On the most recent list, 30 of the top 50 electrical contractors are members of the National Electrical Contractor Association (NECA).

NECA-IBEW contractors are consistently at the top of the list for electrical work, including traditional installation and maintenance, telecommunications work, outside line construction and more.

The National Electrical Contractors Association, or NECA, has provided more than a century of service to the \$130 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across the United States. NECA's national and 119 local chapters advance the industry through advocacy, education, research, and standards development.

—MarketWatch •

“Peel And Stick” Solar Modules Being Developed

Solar energy devices that would be easy to install on residential roofs are being developed by Fraunhofer USA at its Center for Sustainable Energy Systems in Boston, according to an August 7th article on Forbes.com.

The company and its partners are looking for ways to develop “plug-and-play” solar energy systems that would reduce the need to penetrate the roof to install solar modules. A peel-and-stick module has been developed for flat roofs, but one has not yet been made for sloped roofs because of resilience issues, said Geoffrey Kinsey, director of Photovoltaic Technologies at the center.

“A major innovation on the electronics side is taking advantage of the ongoing revolution in compact, wireless smart electronics that reduce the need for human intervention. This would facilitate talking to utilities, checking for any ground and other electrical faults, and actively monitoring the system to make sure it's safe,” Kinsey said.

Kinsey highlights the critical role the utilities play. “We need to talk to utilities to understand how to best connect to grid, and figure out ways to ensure they have interest in making this stuff work.”