

From the President's Desk

As Spring approaches, we are all very hopeful that the construction market on Long Island will improve.



Robert Kohlmeyer

Our public works market seems to be holding, however, the private sector work seems to be less and less and the competition has become relentless.

On a brighter note, the District Meeting in Scottsdale was very well attended, and hopefully all who went had a great time.

We are all grateful that our governor and good friend Jim Giorgio, is well on his way to a full recovery from the accident he had while at the district meeting.

Our recent contract negotiations ended in May without a full and complete agreement. We mutually agreed to bring the open issues to the CIR on May 10th. Hopefully, once a decision is rendered, it will be in the very best interest of our industry. Although we were not able to completely agree locally, we have jointly made some positive changes to the agreement that we hope will make us more competitive and user friendly, as well as, continue to provide excellent wages and benefits for the union workers.

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“He Was a Mensch – A Class Act!”

An icon of our industry died on April 8th and left a legacy of endearment with the people who comprise the electrical industry on Long Island. Abraham “Al” Bender, founder of BANA Electric in Farmingdale was the patriarch of four generations of Benders, including his son Mike, grandson Stephen, and 2 1/2 year old Joseph, his great grandson.

Al was one of four founders of BANA, which is an acronym for the initials of each of the original partners. The firm began in 1955, spun off from Pearl

Air Conditioning and Electric of New York, a Local Union #3 shop. Al had been a member of Local #3 since 1938, and it was only natural

that BANA would be a union shop, employing members of Local Union #25 IBEW.

He set his sights on growth early on and by 1959, four years after the firm began, he had bought out all his partners, becoming sole owner. Under his guidance, BANA was one of the earliest members of the Long Island Chapter of NECA and has



Al and Mike Bender in 2003 with plaque commemorating Al's 65 years of service to NECA

Island Chapter of NECA and has

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Visit our newly designed website
www.lineca.org

AL BENDER from page one

been with the organization longer than any other company. Always looking to the betterment of his industry, Al became one of the earliest governors of the chapter, and was the first member to be inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting. He also served as President and as a Chapter Director. At the time of his death, was Director Emeritus.



With a staff of 35 to 40 BANA Electric has made its mark on the Long Island landscape specializing in public works-type projects, among which were the State University at Stony Brook (the first five buildings) and Brookhaven National Laboratories. Most recently, with the explosive growth of senior living, BANA has worked with several assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Now in its third generation of family management, the company operates under an enduring motto: "The

quality remains long after the price is forgotten."

Al secured the future of his firm by inspiring son Mike to earn a degree in electrical engineering after which Mike then joined the family business in 1963. That inspiration continued when Mike's son Stephen received his electrical engineering degree and came into the firm in 1993. Today, as they prepare for the 50th anniversary of BANA Electric next year, Stephen pretty much runs things. Mike, after 41 years, is easing himself into a more comfortable, less intense role.

Mike Bender remembers his father as caring and good-natured; a good father as well as a good businessman. Marty Bass graphically captured Al's spirit saying "He was a *mensch*; a class act." Don Leslie, Sr. who also had a close personal relationship recalls him as a mentor. "We met and became good friends through NECA, each of us serving on the board during the 1970s," he said. "That's what NECA is about. You meet and learn from your competitors."

Al left his mark and he is missed.

NECA Board of Directors

President: Robert Kohlmeier,
CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc.

Vice President: Donald Leslie, Jr.,
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Chapter Manager:
Roy W. Richey



Chapter Earns NECA Membership Award

The Long Island Chapter has received the NECA District One membership award for the greatest net gain for 2003. The award was presented at the Eastern Region meeting in Scottsdale, AZ. Shown at left with award plaque are Joe Gathard (left) of the membership committee and Chapter Manager Roy Richey. •

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS

T.J. Miskovsky
Harry Cannon
Eastport Associates, Inc.
92-94 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Robert J. Vecchi
JHS Electric Services, Inc.
1863 Newbridge Rd.
Bellmore, NY 11710

Michael C. Daly
J.P. Daly & Sons, Inc.
88A Brook Avenue
Deer Park, NY 11729

Kevin Schrage
K. Schrage & Son, Inc.
10 Normandie Lane
East Moriches, NY 11940

Mark Kassay
Three Brothers Electric, Inc.
6 Enterprise Dr., Suite A
East Setauket, NY 11733

Joseph P. Florio
**Welsbach Electric of
Long Island**
300 Newtown Road
Plainview, NY 11803

*And our Newest
NECA Member*
Bruce Haag
HMJ Electric Corp.
1409 Union Blvd.
Bay Shore, NY 11705

Code Seminar Held

The 2004 Code seminar was held March 25th at the Huntington Hilton. There were 40 attendees for the course presented by instructors Charles Hendry and John Cangemi. The seminar satisfied the Town of Hempstead and the Town of North Hempstead requirement of eight hours of continuing education for license renewal. •

Thomas S. DeNapoli Award Instituted

The children of Thomas DeNapoli, Sr. have instituted the *Thomas DeNapoli, Sr.* award to be given by the Mechanics Institute to a student demonstrating excellent achievement in the electrical technology program. The Long Island Chapter, NECA congratulates Thomas DeNapoli for having his name associated with this honor. •

Eastern Region Meeting

The NECA Eastern Region Meeting was held in March at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, AZ. 26 people attended from the Long Island Chapter and had a great time.



**NECA 2004
Convention
October
16-19, 2004**



WESTIN BONAVENTURE HOTEL

**L.I. Chapter
Golf
Outing**

**MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004
Stonebridge Golf Links
& Country Club in Smithtown.**

President's Message

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Our many hours spent in negotiations with Local 25 proved to be positive, and we believe the union administration fully recognizes the many issues that are continuing to inhibit our ability to expand our markets and to compete in the world that we now live in on Long Island.

I would like to personally thank the members who put so much time and

effort into the recent contract negotiations. As members you should take a minute to thank each of them should you get a chance. Their commitment to the future of this industry should be commended.

Let's all hope for positive changes this summer and a turn around in our industry. Hopefully, this message finds all of you and your families in good health.

Please try and attend the next meeting, and look for upcoming events in this newsletter. —**Robert Kohlmeyer**

Calendar

Meeting Dates

General Membership

June 17, 2004 (3rd Thursday)

September 9, 2004 (2nd Thursday)

October 14 (2nd Thursday)

Check Chapter Website for other industry meetings. And keep in mind...

National Convention will be held October 16 - 19, 2004 in Los Angeles, CA.

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

Members Tour JATC Annex, Discuss Programs at April 15 Meeting

A tour of the new JATC Annex in Hauppauge was a highlight of the April 15 General Membership meeting. Local Union #25 IBEW Business Manager Donald J. Fiore, Training Director Christopher E. Kelly and Units Manager John Elliffe hosted the meeting and discussed industry training programs. •



CRK Contracting Featured In Electrical Contractor Magazine

Congratulations to LI Chapter president Robert Kohlmeyer and his company, CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc., on being featured in Electrical Contractor magazine.

CRK's work helping restore America's largest residential renovation, the refurbishing of the OHEKA Castle, was the subject of an interesting story "Rebuilding An American Castle" in the February 2004 issue. CRK began work on the 126-room mansion, the former estate of financier and philanthropist Otto Kahn, in 1987 and has continued with the project since then.

OHEKA Castle is the location of the Long Island Chapter's annual Installation Dinner. •

Estimating Course A Success

On January 26th, the Chapter sponsored a Basic Estimating Course taught by Bob Mooty of the national staff. There were twenty three attendees for the five day course. The class was conducted at the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Building in Hauppauge. All who attended had praise for the instructor and course material. •

