

Long Island

NECA

Wiring News Through The Electrical Construction Industry

WINTER 2007

WIRE

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



The Long Island Chapter, NECA 2007 Board of Directors and Officers have been elected as follows:

Officers

President: Donald Leslie, Jr.
Vice President: Nicolaus Feldmann
Secretary: Joseph Gathard
Treasurer: Paul Dunn
Governor: Robert Kohlmeyer

Directors

Michael Bender
Stephen Cadieux
John Casciano
James Giorgio, Sr.
Thomas Papa

Photos from the 2007 Installation Dinner at OHEKA Castle are on page 2

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Long Island Chapter, NECA Installation Dinner January 13, 2007



OHEKA Castle

The 2007 Long Island Chapter, NECA Installation of Officers and Directors Dinner held on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at the Oheka Castle was attended by over 110 members and guests featuring dignitaries from Nassau and Suffolk Counties, NECA, and Local Union #25 IBEW. The Honorable Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive was the Guest of Honor. Mr. Levy swore in the Officers and Directors.

(l-r) Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor Robert Dow, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Long Island Chapter, NECA President Donald Leslie, Jr., Nassau County Commissioner of Labor Eugene Coughlin.



Long Island Chapter, NECA President Donald Leslie, Jr. with his Daughter Brittany.



Donald Fiore, Business Manager, Local Union No. 25, IBEW addresses the Long Island Chapter, NECA members.

Long Island Chapter, NECA Vice President Nicolaus Feldmann with his wife Patricia.



Roy W. Richey, Chapter Manager-Long Island Chapter, NECA, (l) Maryann Egel, Administrative Assistant-Long Island Chapter, NECA, Donald Leslie, Jr., President Long Island Chapter, NECA. Celebrating Maryann's 25 years of service to the chapter.



Long Island Chapter, NECA Past President, Governor and Member of the Academy of Electrical Contracting William Klein (l) with Long Island Chapter, NECA Past President, Governor, Member of the Academy of Electrical Contracting and NECA District One Vice President Donald Leslie, Sr.

Long Island Chapter, NECA Director James Giorgio, Sr. (back), 2nd from left) with his wife Terry, Long Island Chapter, NECA Director Thomas Papa with his wife Vivian, and their families.



Long Island Chapter, NECA Director Stephen Cadieux (c) with his wife Geri and daughters, Jennifer and Keri with their escorts.



Roy W. Richey, Chapter Manager, Long Island Chapter, NECA and his wife, Janet.



Donna Zaphiris of All Service Electric, Inc. with her husband Peter.

From the President...

By the time you read this article, it is already March and this is my first chance to wish many of you a “Happy and Healthy” New Year and hopefully, a prosperous one.

While business to our west, (NYC) is showing signs of being a good year, with many projects bidding, and many more “on the books” coming quickly, we here in Nassau and Suffolk Counties will be waiting a while longer to see any improvement in our work picture.

Both County Executives have been busy trying to advance some major projects within their respective counties, but these projects take time to move forward, get accepted, and funded, not to mention the continued “NIMBYISM” that almost every project faces, so, I’m afraid it will continue to be “slow” in the construction industry, for at least the near future.

In the meantime, we at NECA continue to “keep ourselves occupied” with industry “issues”.

On Monday, February 26th, we began our “A” Construction Contract Negotiations with Local 25. In preparation for these negotiations, the trustees of the A.M.F. called a meeting of “all signatory contractors” to discuss both the up-coming negotiations and where the problems lie for the contractors, but also to discuss the “clarified” items that the chapter has worked on over the past year, and the topics that are in continued discussions with the local.

The meeting, held on Valentine’s Day at 7:30 am, was well attended, despite the first snow storm of the year hitting us that previous night. Topics discussed included:

- Graduating apprentices and the employers Right to keep them on as journeymen.
- The negotiated Drug testing Program for all “A” construction journeymen, and its current status.
- The “Job Specific” Code of Excellence Program.
- Business office policy, and our rights as contractors under the Managements Rights Clause of the Agreement and “what is, and what isn’t”.
- Local 25’s “Job Target” Program.
- The licensing of Journeymen, the Master Electricians License VS: a new “journeyman’s license,” and the union’s intent to have new legislation



Donald Leslie, Jr.

passed to address this issue.

- The “New” referral system, and what the elimination of the “slot system” has left the local to deal with.
- The condition of some of the fringe benefit funds and the effects that prolonged unemployment and delinquent contractors have on the funds, and, the trustees’ actions taken to collect “past due” monies.
- The problems created by the local signing “direct hire” agreements within the industry, with owners, NOT electrical contractors, putting the signatory contractors at a distinct disadvantage, and affecting the fringe benefit funds.

Many other topics were discussed, and I believe the meeting was both informative for all in attendance, and eye opening!

The NECA negotiating committee will now attempt to negotiate a fair contract, and resolve some of our major fringe benefit fund issues by the expiration of our current agreement. We will keep all interested parties advised of the negotiations status.

As you can see by the pictures in this issue of the NECA Wire, those of you that missed our installation dinner at OHEKA Castle, missed an extraordinary evening. Once again, the staff at OHEKA did a marvelous job, and from all the positive comments I’ve gotten, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Please feel free to “drop in” on one of our Monthly meetings, but watch the calendar, as we’ve had to “adjust” our meeting schedule due to the many commitments over the next few months. — **Donald Leslie Jr.**

Chapter's New Director is One-Third of Skilled Management Team

It has to be a good feeling to know that you are part of a trio of working entrepreneurs who can generate \$30 million in annual volume and provide jobs for some 115 people. Long Island NECA's newest Director, John Casciano, Sr. can enjoy that thrill. John

In the Spotlight

is one-third of a management team that operates A.S.R. Electrical Contracting, Inc. in Plainview. Robert Chaikin, Rudy Weissberg and John have built the company since 1994 when Rudy and John joined Robert who had already started A.S.R. in 1992. Under

York City as well, and while it rarely works beyond the five boroughs, A.S.R. is also licensed in New Jersey and Connecticut.

John's work as a tradesman goes back to the late 1960s, when, after serving with the Marines in Vietnam, he became a carpenter on high-rise construction in New York City. There, he worked with electricians and decided that their trade was better. He applied for apprenticeship in 1970 and began working at Local Union 25, IBEW. He became a licensed electrician in 1977.

John worked at Northgate Electric with his future business partner, Rudy.

He speaks fondly of his time at Northgate because "the owner treated his employees like family and maintained direct contact on an individual basis."

He cites still another reason for liking Northgate: "I met my wife Jordana at Marty's (Marty Bass, Northgate's principal) 50th Birthday." John found it hard to leave Northgate, but the opportunity of his own operation was compelling.

A.S.R. boasts

some interesting projects including: South Nassau Community Hospital (a 175,000 square foot wing); the Key-Span Training Facility; the Carl Icahn

Stadium on Randalls Island; the new Hall of Science at Flushing Meadows. Currently, they are working on the Staten Island Ferry Terminal Security System and the city's new swimming pool and ice rink in Queens.

The company has always been a NECA contractor working with both Local 25 and Local 3, IBEW. John has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the Long Island Chapter. He believes strongly in the advantages of union contracting and finds great value in his NECA affiliation. He cites the many helpful benefits of participation — of getting to know other contractors, sharing anecdotes, advising each other on mistakes and suggestions of better ways to handle situations.

A.S.R. boasts an office staff of fifteen, including the 3 partners, 3 estimators, 4 project managers, an engineer/draftsman and several office assistants. Multitasking is a real activity here.

In many ways, the company is a family operation and the partners envision a new generation taking over. John's sons John, Jr. and Michael are on staff as is Robert's son Richard. Robert's son Adam is expected to join too. The firm's controller, Linda, is Rudy's wife. Rudy and Linda's son James is an apprentice currently working on the Key-Span project, while their daughters Lisa and Jennifer pursue careers outside the electrical industry.

John's twin daughters Micaela and Adrienne, seniors at Brandeis University are looking at post-graduate schools but for the future... who knows?

John views the future as bright. While work has been slow recently, he believes many projects, especially in the city, are about to open up and there will be plenty of jobs.

Meanwhile, the Long Island Chapter looks forward to many years of benefit from John's expertise on the Board of Directors. •



(Above) Some of A.S.R.'s office staff including (l-r) Linda and Rudy Weissberg, Chris Zaun, John Casciano, Jr., Craig Zeunges, Dave Kempel, Richie Chaikin, John Casciano, Sr., and (front) Kim Johnson, Bridget Pagano.

(Below) Left – Controller Linda Weissberg.

(Below) Right – John Casciano, Jr. (right) discusses a project with Chris Zaun.



their combined management capabilities, the company has become a highly successful venture. They take on jobs not only on Long Island but in New

NECA/IBEW PROJECT GALLERY

The high degree of cooperation between Long Island's NECA contractors and Local Union #25, IBEW results in many significant and interesting projects. We would like to publish some of these in the NECAWire. The four photos shown here were submitted by Paul Dunn of Mainline Electric. If you would like to share some of your interesting projects, please forward the photos to the Chapter office along with any comments.



Above: Cradle of Aviation Uniondale Museum lighting plus a poured concrete, egg-shaped I-MAX Theatre.



Above: East Islip MacArthur Airport Renovations and Southwest addition.



Above: New York State Maintenance Garage and Salt Storage, Port Jefferson.



Left: St. Joseph's College, Patchogue.

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: **Paul Dunn**
Mainline Electric Corporation

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

Directors:

Michael Bender,
Bana Electric Corporation

Stephen Cadieux,
Roland's Electric Inc.

John Casciano
A.S.R. Electrical Contracting, Inc.

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

March 22, 2007 (4th Thursday)

April 26, 2007 (4th Thursday)

May 17, 2007 (3rd Thursday)

June 21, 2007 (3rd Thursday)

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

2007 NECA Eastern Region Annual Meeting will be held April 15-18, at ATLANTIS, Paradise Island, Bahamas

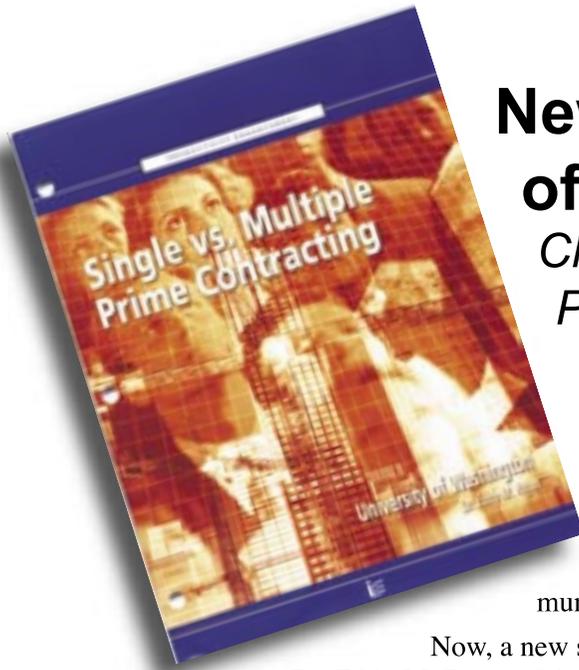
2007 NECA National Convention will be held October 5-8 in San Francisco

13TH ANNUAL NECA EASTERN REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ATLANTIS
PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

APRIL 15 - 18, 2007

If You Haven't Made Your Reservations Call The Chapter Office At 631-291-9732



New Study Reinforces Value of Wicks Law

Chapter Sends Letter to School Officials Promoting It

It's been protecting the public trust since 1924 but New York State's Wicks Law is still periodically attacked by General Contractors and misinformed School Board members who, despite many studies to the contrary, erroneously claim that single bidding on public works projects saves taxpayer dollars. The Wicks law mandates separately bid contracts for Construction, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing on municipal projects over \$50,000.

Now, a new study, *Single vs. Multiple Prime Contracting*, has been conducted by Dr. Eddy M. Rojas of the University of Washington. Published by Electri International, the Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc. Its findings reinforce the importance of the Wicks Law.

Based on a statistical analysis of project bids and final costs from a national sample of state construction projects, this study shows that public construction projects organized with multiple prime contracts tend to have 5 percent cheaper direct costs than projects using a single prime contractor. Moreover, about 80 percent of these savings are attributable to lower bid costs for multiple prime projects.

The NECA Long Island Chapter is promoting this new study. In a recent letter to School Board officials throughout the region, Chapter Manager Roy W. Richey proclaimed the results of the study. "In today's atmosphere of accountability and legitimacy, our communities, school districts and public agencies benefit from the Wicks Law even more so than in past years," Richey writes. "There are no studies that prove that

single bidding is more cost efficient. But there are many studies that prove separate prime contracting works to the public's advantage," he states. Included with the letter is literature explaining the benefits of separate contract bidding, and an invitation to refer any questions concerning the Wicks Law to him.

A copy of *Single vs. Multiple Prime Contracting* is available for review at the Chapter Office. •

Education, Membership, Safety Committee Meets; New Members Welcomed

The Education, Membership, Safety Committee met in January. Present were President Don Leslie, Jr., Chapter Manager Roy Richey and Committee Members Paul Dunn, Donna Zaphiris, Mike Bender, Charlie Hoyler, and Pat Santoro.

Among the items discussed were how to increase membership, the best location to hold Chapter Meetings and programs that will most benefit those in attendance.

Being considered is a program on Safety OSHA 70E with a follow up seminar. A speaker on Transportation and requirements for driving

construction vehicles are also under consideration.

Two new members have joined the Long Island Chapter. Welcomed are:

Al DePace

Advanced Sound Company

157 Rome Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735
(631) 667-0973, Fax: (631) 667-9117
e-mail: adepace@advancedsound.com

Christian M. Hedlund

Hedlund Electrical Corporation

120 Lake Avenue South, Suite 27
Nesconset, NY 11767
(631) 361-6717, Fax: (631) 361-4293
e-mail: hedlund@verizon.net

Chapter Golf Outing
Tuesday
June 12, 2007
Hamlet Willow Creek

National Convention



October 5-8
San Francisco