



Western Electrical Contractors Association Inc.  
9719 Lincoln Village Drive, Suite 303  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 453-0112/1-877-444-9322

PRESORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1884  
Sacramento, CA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Attention WECA members! Win Free Tickets to a Luxury Suite at a San Diego Padres Game

The WECA Conference is coming up in San Diego on Sept 24th and 25th and we want to reward our members for recruiting non-members to attend the Conference so they can learn about all of the great products services WECA has to offer. The main group outing at the Conference will be a cocktail reception in two adjoining luxury suites at the San Diego Padres final home game on Saturday, September 25th. Tickets are available for \$50 each to Conference attendees, **but any WECA member who refers a non-member to register for the Conference will get a ticket FREE!**

The WECA Conference is a great opportunity for electrical and low-voltage contractors and their key employees to network with their peers, industry vendors and service providers, as well as take advantage of some great training opportunities on the hottest industry trends. Visit [www.goweca.com/conference.asp](http://www.goweca.com/conference.asp) for full details.

### How to win FREE tickets to the WECA luxury suite reception at the San Diego Padres game on September 25th:

- You must be a WECA member to qualify.
- For every non-member you refer to register for the WECA Conference, you will receive a ticket to the WECA suite:
  - 1 non-member attendee registration referral = 1 ticket
  - 2 non-member attendee registration referrals = 2 tickets
  - And so on ...

For more information on the Conference or how to take advantage of the referral incentive program, contact Christine Hauser at (916) 889-7122 or [chauser@goweca.com](mailto:chauser@goweca.com).

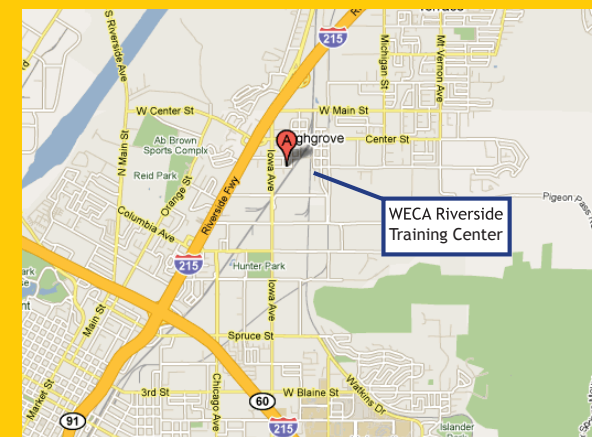


## Riverside Training Facility Now Open

WECA is excited to announce the opening of our new Riverside Training Center! The first WECA apprentices began attending classes at the facility on August 23rd; trainee and continuing education classes will follow sometime in the future. The WECA Riverside facility is a "training only" site and does not currently have an office or provide services for walk-ins, such as class sign-ups or a computer lab.

The WECA Riverside training facility is co-located at the current Associated General Contractors (AGC) apprentice training center at 1180 Spring Street in Riverside and includes a classroom and lab. Sharing space with AGC will allow for WECA apprentices to get more exposure to the other trade crafts currently taught in the AGC apprentice program: carpenter, cement mason, drywall lather, drywall finisher, heavy equipment operator, painter and laborer.

WECA apprentices were / will be notified by mail approximately 60 days prior to their class start date whether they will be attending classes at the San Diego or Riverside facility. For more information on the WECA Riverside Training Center, contact Christine Hauser at (916) 889-7122 or [chauser@weca-iec.org](mailto:chauser@weca-iec.org).



## 2010 WECA Conference: Top 5 Reasons Why You and Your Key Employees Should Attend

**1. The WECA Conference offers valuable training opportunities to help you grow your business!** Attendees can choose from a variety of breakout training sessions on hot topics and emerging trends, including:

- Solar power: business opportunities, industry overview and fundamentals
- LEED certification and energy management
- How to identify key performance indicators and increase cash flow for electrical contractors
- How healthcare reform will reshape the health insurance landscape for all employers
- Risk control, employee safety programs and how an employer can make a measurable improvement in his or her loss ratio
- Recent developments in employment/labor/prevaling wage law and expected tax law changes for 2011
- Prevailing Wage Tutorial: how to avoid common missteps

**2. Keynote Address from Jim Morris, inspiration for Disney's feature film "The Rookie":** Morris will deliver the keynote address to WECA Conference attendees on Saturday, September 25th with a message about overcoming obstacles and others' doubts to achieve success and realize your dreams in your business, family and community. After the keynote session, Jim will join attendees in WECA's suites at Petco Park to watch the San Diego Padres take on the Cincinnati Reds. Visit [www.goweca.com/conference.asp](http://www.goweca.com/conference.asp) for

*continued on pg. 2*



Continued from pg. 1:

## Top 5 Reasons to Attend the WECA Conference

a video of one of Jim's previous speeches or click here for more information on Morris' story and speaking background.

**3. Get an Update on the Outlook for California Construction and Specialty Contracting Industry:** Conference attendees will get to hear a California Construction and Specialty Contracting Economic Update from Ryan Ratcliff, Asst. Professor of Economics at University of San Diego and former primary author of the quarterly California Forecast for the UCLA Anderson Forecast ([www.uclaforecast.com](http://www.uclaforecast.com)). Mr. Ratcliff will give an update and take questions from the audience during dinner on Friday, Sept. 24th.

**4. Visit "America's Finest City": The WECA Conference will be held in San Diego, CA – nicknamed "America's Finest City" – on September 24-25, 2010.** In addition to Conference activities, attendees can enjoy local attractions such as Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, golfing at world class courses, wine tasting in San Diego's North County region. The WECA Conference also provides attendees with the opportunity to attend a San Diego Padres game in a suite at PetCo Park for a reduced price of just \$50 per person, which includes ticket price and in-suite food and refreshments!

**5. Valuable Networking Opportunities: The WECA Conference offers valuable networking opportunities for electrical and low voltage contractors and their key employees.** Attendees will have a chance to meet vendors that can serve their businesses, including industry suppliers, solar training and franchise partners, law firms, accounting firms, insurance brokers, and more.

**Don't miss out on the 2010 WECA Conference! Call (877) 444-9322 or visit [www.goweca.com/conference.asp](http://www.goweca.com/conference.asp) to register today.**

*Training topics at the WECA Conference will focus on three training tracks:*



**Green Energy**



**Integrated Systems**



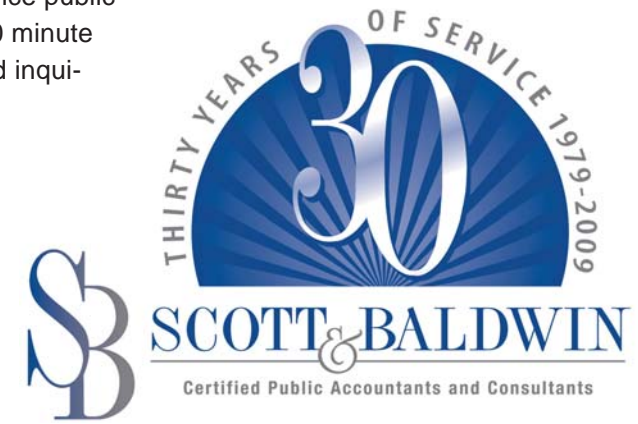
**Business Management**

## WECA Members: Call Scott & Baldwin for Complimentary Tax & Accounting Advice

WECA Industry Partner member Scott & Baldwin, CPAs, a full service public accounting and consulting firm, is now offering a complimentary 30 minute telephone call to all WECA members on tax and accounting related inquiries, such as:

- Individual or Corporate Tax Advice, for example: strategies to reduce tax liability before year-end, clarification on new tax laws and how they apply to you or your business, tax resolution options if the IRS/FTB or other government agencies are pursuing you for tax liability.
- Corporate Accounting Advice, for example: how to read financial statements, top ways to improve cash flow, internal control procedures to reduce fraud potential activities.

To take advantage of your complimentary call, contact Scott & Baldwin at (916) 722-2524 and use the reference code "GOWECA". Scott & Baldwin, CPAs performs consulting and compliance work for individuals, privately held businesses and not-for-profit organizations.



## New Look, Logo & Location for WECA!

WECA members and students may have noticed several changes that took effect this month at your Association, including a new WECA logo, website address and staff e-mail addresses:

**New logo and website:** As of Monday, August 2nd the WECA website is located at [www.goweca.com](http://www.goweca.com) and staff e-mail addresses now end with @goweca.com. Any bookmarks or "favorites" that point to our old address will still work by re-directing users to [www.goweca.com](http://www.goweca.com).

**New building:** to better serve our growing training programs as well as reduce expenses, the WECA Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of a new building to house WECA's Sacramento Office and Training Center. The building is located at 3695 Bleckley Street in Rancho Cordova and is just one exit up Highway 50 from our current location on Lincoln Village Drive. The new building previously housed a trade school so it is ideal for WECA students. The WECA offices and training center will move into our new location in late October. An open house is being planned and all members, students and friends of WECA will be invited.

For more information on these exciting changes, please contact WECA Executive Director & CEO Terry Seabury at (877) 444-9322 or [tseabury@goweca.com](mailto:tseabury@goweca.com).

**WWW.GOWECA.COM**

## Mark your Calendars!

15th of every month	Apprentice/Journeyman worksheets/payments due	WECA-IEC Sacramento Offices
15th of every month	Dues and PAC contributions due for previous month	WECA-IEC Sacramento Offices
September 8th October 13th	San Diego Area Committee	12 p.m. WECA-IEC San Diego Training Center
September 9th October 14th	WECA-IEC Monthly Board of Directors Meetings	9:00 a.m. WECA-IEC Sacramento Offices
Sept. 24th - 25th	2010 WECA Conference for the Merit Shop Electrical Industry	The Omni Hotel, San Diego Call (916) 889-7122 for details
September 28th October 26th	Apprenticeship & Training Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m. WECA-IEC Sacramento Training Center
October 16th	Northern California Apprentice Graduation	Holiday Inn Sacramento Northeast Call (916) 889-7122 for details
October 23rd	Southern California Apprentice Graduation	McCormick & Schmick's inside The Omni Hotel San Diego Call (916) 889-7122 for details

## WECA Ballot Measure Endorsements for November 2010

WECA has taken positions on the following November Ballot Measures:

**Oppose Proposition 19 - Legalize and tax marijuana.** This measure, which conflicts with Federal law, will jeopardize Federal drug-free workplace mandates. It also treats marijuana use different than alcohol by requiring an employer who suspects his/her employee of using marijuana to prove impairment before taking corrective or disciplinary action.

**Support Proposition 20 - Redistricting for Congress.** This measure will make congressional redistricting subject to the Prop 11 requirements and takes the boundary drawing away from the state legislature.

**Oppose Proposition 21 - Vehicle license fee for parks.** While the State Parks system is in dire need of capital for repairs and operation, this initiative raises the Vehicle License Fee and dedicates it to the Parks system. California needs a comprehensive budget solution – not a piece meal approach where every interest group goes to the voters to carve out funding for their specific interests.

**Support Proposition 22 - Bans state from borrowing or redirecting local funds.** Instead of addressing the state budget head on, the Legislature has taken dedicated revenue from programs and local agencies to cover over the State's structural budget deficits – pushing off to future years a real budget solution. Prop 22 will force the leaders in Sacramento to enact real budget solutions – not rob Peter to pay Paul.

**Support Proposition 23 - Suspends AB32 "Clean Air Bill".** AB 32 is costing California businesses billions – in an economy that cannot afford it. Prop 23 will suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the economy improves and unemployment is reduced and stabilized.

**Oppose Proposition 24 - Repeals corporate tax benefits.** Public employee groups have placed two measures on the ballot that would allow the Legislature to spend more and thus drive more business out of California. Prop 24 repeals many of the corporate tax policies enacted over the years to keep business from fleeing California.

**Oppose Proposition 25 - Majority vote for passing a budget.** The second part of the public employee package may seem reasonable on the surface, but has hidden changes that restrict the rights of voters to overturn actions taken by the Legislature. Prop 25 means higher spending and higher taxes and fewer California jobs.

**Support Proposition 26 - Two-thirds vote for approving fees.** General tax increases in California require a 2/3 vote so the Legislature routinely attempts to raise revenue by charging higher "fees" – passed with a majority vote. Prop 26 reiterates the long-held policy that raising the taxes requires a super majority and thwarts the subterfuge of raising fees in lieu of taxes.

**Oppose Proposition 27 - Eliminates redistricting commission.** Voters approved Prop 11 to take away from the Legislature the drawing of Legislative districts every ten years. It created a public panel that will draw districts fairly and reduce or eliminate the gerrymandering that has plagued California. Politicians – including former Speaker Karen Bass who used her state police bodyguards during her run for Congress – what to undo this reform and return it to the Legislature – so elected officials can perpetuate their policy of "selecting their voters" to eliminate competition.

**For more information on WECA's ballot measure endorsements, contact Richard Markuson at [richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com](mailto:richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com) or (916) 538-2360.**

### Welcome New Members!

**Lasko Electric**  
(Commercial)  
Santa Rosa, CA  
(707) 544-5182

**Datel Systems Inc.**  
(Commercial & VDV)  
San Diego, CA  
(858) 874-5701

**Cal Electric**  
(Commercial)  
Fairfield, CA  
(707) 422-4017

**BR Electric Co.**  
(Commercial)  
Wildomar, CA  
(951) 897-5813

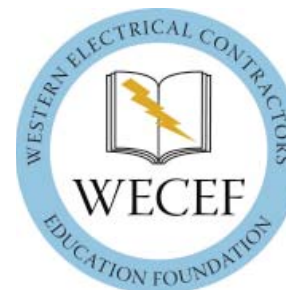
**Tow Electric Co.**  
(Commercial)  
Fresno, CA  
(559) 434-7432

**Sobka Electrical Contracting**  
(Commercial)  
San Diego, CA  
(858) 858-0949

**Barr West Electric**  
(Commercial)  
Ventura, CA  
(805) 676-1029

**Setpoint Controls**  
(VDV)  
Antelope, CA  
(916) 439-6548

## WECEF Scholarship Program Now Accepting Applications



The Western Electrical Contractors Education Foundation (WECEF) is now accepting applications for its next round of scholarship awards. Scholarships are awarded in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,250 per year to be used toward the cost of books, tools, and/or tuition. Applications for the current round of scholarship awards must be postmarked by September 17, 2010 and recipients will be notified of award decisions by October 8th, 2010.

New to this year's application is the addition of new WECEF Scholarship Essay Topics for applicants to choose from:

- (1) Describe the leadership and management capabilities and traits you feel are needed to be an effective field supervisor in the electrical construction field and why.
- (2) Explain what job site improvements that you think would help improve quality of work, increase productivity and/or reduce rework or improve safety issues you have experienced and state your recommended solutions and how they might be implemented.
- (3) Choose a cost saving idea you might have for your employer. Describe the situation, what your cost saving ideas are and list the steps for implementation of the idea and state whether it will most impact personnel, material or indirect costs.
- (4) Share your thoughts/ideas/suggestions on how alternative green technologies and "green" products, procedures and processes will impact the electrical industries scope of work and what you feel you need to learn and have more knowledge about in order to be more effective on the job.

**For more information on the WECEF Scholarship program, visit [www.wecef.org](http://www.wecef.org) or contact WECEF by e-mail at [tseabury@goweca.com](mailto:tseabury@goweca.com).**

### Discounted Solar Training for WECA Members is Now IREC/ISPQ Accredited and NABCEP Registered



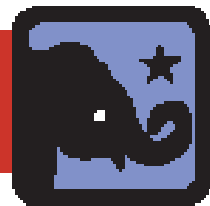
WECA Industry Partner member Solar Universe, Inc. has extended its \$200 discount for WECA members on its five day SunPro™ Tech training course. Now that it's IREC/ISPQ Accredited and NABCEP Registered, SunPro™ Tech graduates meet the prerequisite to sit for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners designed by trade professionals to turn beginners into SolarPros in

Entry Level Exam. SunPro™ Tech was a fast and effective learning environment. This intensive "learn by doing" program is offered in the state-of-the-art SolarUniversity vocational training facility and provides Contractors with hands-on solar training.

- IREC/ISPQ Accredited and NABCEP Entry Level Program Registered
- CSLB Licensed (C-10 & C-46), NABCEP Certified and Experienced Instructors
- Small Class Sizes, Limited to 16 Students
- IREC/ISPQ Continuing Education Provider Accreditation
- State-of-the-Art PV Solar Vocational Training Facility
- Hands-On Training Experience Includes Six Different Solar System Builds
- Presentations from Leading Solar Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Strong Focus on Job Safety and Quality
- Use of the Newest and Most Relevant Solar PV Products and Technologies

Michael Hynes, Solar University's Director of Training, says: "Quality solar training is a great investment! Solar University is half the cost of other courses and gives a more effective training experience. Our learn-by-doing style of training is the best and fastest way for Contractors to gain solar installation knowledge and confidence." The SunPro™ Technical Training Course is taught in Livermore and tuition is regularly \$1,595, however Solar Universe is offering a \$200 discount to WECA-IEC members.

**Get more details or enroll online at [www.SunProTraining.com](http://www.SunProTraining.com), or call Mike Hynes at (925) 360-0695.**



# Political Affairs Update



## EPA Grants Delay in Enforcement of New Lead-Based Paint Rule; NAHB to Sue EPA Over Enforcement of Regulations

A coalition of housing industry groups, lead by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), has announced plans to file a lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for removing the “opt-out” provision from its Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting rule.

The Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting rule (LRRP) applies to homes constructed before 1978 when lead paint was banned. Its opt-out provision, which expired July 6, let consumers allow contractors to bypass extra preparation, clean-up and recordkeeping requirements in homes where there were no children under 6 or pregnant women, thus avoiding additional costs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had previously agreed in June to a delay in enforcing the LRRP program training and certification regulation in response to requests from NAHB. As a result of the delay, individual contractors must apply to enroll in a training class by Sept. 30 and complete the training by Dec. 31, 2010.

As WECA reported earlier this year, the LRRP rule went into effect on April 22, 2010 and covers renovation work performed on homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978. After April 22, federal law required that any disturbance of paint of more than 6 square feet in a pre-1978 home be supervised by a EPA-trained and certified renovator on site. Fines for non-compliance were as high as \$37,000 per day.

In a letter to Jackson and Members of Congress dated March 22, 2010, the “Train and Certify” coalition (of which WECA is a member), asked for a delay in the LRRP rule’s implementation so that more remodelers and specialty contractors could become qualified under the LRRP program. Initially, Jackson denied the request but ultimately agreed to a delay amid severe shortages of trained and certified specialists to do needed work, including energy retrofit and repairs caused by flooding.

Contractors should visit the EPA Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting site <http://www.epa.gov/lead> for information about the new rule and nearby certification programs.

## State Rejects Union Appeal to Block Solar Apprenticeship Program

On July 29th the California Apprenticeship Council (CAC) voted 13-4 to reject a regulatory appeal filed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to block state approval of a non-union company apprenticeship program for photovoltaic installation. This means the first state-approved, state-regulated photovoltaic installation apprenticeship program in California has completed the regulatory process and is ready to train apprentices.

In 2009, the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) approved the application of a San Jose-based solar installation contractor, Renewable Power Solutions Inc, to operate a formal apprenticeship program for its employees working in six counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. Several construction trade unions then expressed opposition to the state’s approval of the program.

The IBEW initially declared in its formal appeal that was no need for the program, because as part of its electrical worker apprenticeship programs it was allegedly already training all of the workers needed for the solar installation industry. Its appeal ended up focused on technical arguments concerning the scope of solar installation work. Representatives of other unions – including the Carpenters, Laborers, Iron Workers, Roofers, Sheet Metal Workers, and Cement Masons – also declared that aspects of solar installation work actually fell within their trade jurisdictions.

An appeals panel voted 2-1 on July 15 that the state was justified in approving the program.

At the July 29, 2010 CAC meeting, union opponents of program approval declared that the entire industry should have determined the scope of the solar installation program. IBEW representatives contended that Renewable Power Solutions is an electrical contractor because it has a C-10 license, and therefore this proves solar work is electrical work. (The company actually has a C-10 electrical license, a C-46 solar installation license, and a B license.)

Aram Hodess, CAC commissioner (appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction) and business manager of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 159 in Contra Costa County, asked the owner of Renewable Power Solutions, José Radzinsky, to ask for a postponement of the decision so that CAC committees could consider the scope of work and develop minimum industry standards.

José Radzinsky refused to ask for a postponement, saying, “I want a decision today. There has been plenty of time to talk, I offered to meet, offered dates, and nothing worked out. My employees and my family have gone through enough...I can’t believe we’ve spent this much time on this – this is unique, I’m flabbergasted.”

Kevin Dayton State Government Affairs Director Associated Builders and Contractors of California spoke on behalf of ABC of California in support of the approval of the Renewable Power Solutions program: “ABC has state-approved apprenticeship programs for the electrical trades in four chapters, and we have no problem with the approval of José’s program. We aren’t afraid of competition, unlike some people in this room.”

Dayton also decried the involvement and interference of so many union lawyers in the room and derided the union argument that it was an outrage that a small contractor should set the scope of work for the solar installation program: “Everyone here had a chance to submit an application for a photovoltaic program – this panel should be commending José Radzinsky and the industry should recognized him has a leader for creating a much need it program and taking the initiative.”

Richard Markuson also spoke in support of approval of the program on behalf of the Western Electrical Contractors Association (WECA).

## Court Strikes Down Law that Protected Aggressive Picketing on Private Property

In a victory for merit shop companies in California, the State Appeals Court has invalidated the so-called Moscone Act, a 1975 law that limited the ability of state courts to issue any restraining order or preliminary or permanent injunction to stop a variety of actions related to labor disputes.

The court ruled that the owner of private property with some degree of public access (such as a grocery store) can obtain an injunction from a state court to stop activity such as picketing and handing out flyers on that private property even when it is related to a labor dispute.

As Attorney Robert Fried writes about the decision, “Perhaps most relevant for day-to-day picketing situations, it broadens the definition of private property in a way that is exceptionally useful to the merit shop contractor by noting that site access policies can limit the degree to which a site with some public access can nonetheless be considered private for purposes of limiting picketing. This means that site solicitation policies now become of much greater importance when unions become aggressive. The decision addresses policies that impact all forms of communication, so the ability to obtain relief in other kinds of organizing may, with careful planning, be considered greater now.”

The Moscone Act was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. However, the appeals court also declared a second, more obscure law to be invalid: Assembly Bill 1268, which was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in 1999.