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THE CONTRACTOR'S NEWS

May 2011

WECA Members and Partners Gather in San Diego to Celebrate a Year of Merit Shop Success

On March 3, 2011, WECA hosted a gathering of members, political partners, elected officials and representatives of other trade associations at its special event "Celebrating a Year of Merit Shop Success" at The Omni Hotel in San Diego. The event brought together attendees from throughout the state to celebrate a year of unprecedented success in the fight for free and open competition in California.

From bans on project labor agreements in several cities and counties, to increased media and public awareness of the benefits of fair and open competition, 2010 was a banner year for merit shops in California. WECA hosted the celebration as a forum to recognize the partners who contributed to those efforts and made such success possible, and to look forward to the goals we hope to achieve together in 2011.

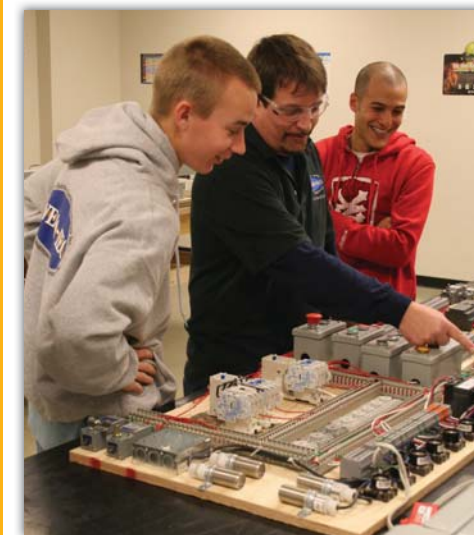
Joining WECA contractor members and staff at the event were representatives from industry groups Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction (CFEC). WECA also welcomed to the event several elected officials from throughout the state, including: San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio, State Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher, Oceanside City Councilman Jerome Kern, Escondido Deputy Mayor Mary Waldron, and San Diego County School Board member John Witt.

In addition to recognizing those who worked so hard on behalf of fair and open competition in 2010, a highlight of the evening was speaker Jim Morris, the inspiration for the Disney motion picture "The Rookie". Jim spoke to attendees about the importance of surrounding yourself with people who believe in your dreams and who will help you be successful in reaching your goals.

WECA also presented its annual awards at the event:

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WECA Hosts Members, Students and Friends for Open House Event at New Sacramento Facility



WECA Instructor Mike Moyer and some of his students conducted a motor controls demonstration at the Open House.

On March 16th, WECA hosted members, students and friends at an open house at the new home of the Association's Sacramento Training Center and Administrative offices in Rancho Cordova. WECA purchased the 47,000 square foot facility, located on the site of the former Mather Air Force Base, last summer to meet the growing demand for its electrical and low voltage systems training programs and completed the move into the new site last October.

More than 100 guests stopped by the open house to see the facility and meet WECA's staff

members. The event took place from 3:30 to 7 p.m. and included tours, hands-on lab demonstrations from WECA students and a presentation from guest speaker Greg Anderson, Human Resources Director at Rex Moore Electrical Contractors & Engineers. Anderson is WECA's current Apprenticeship and Training Committee Chairman and a member of the WECA Board of Directors.

In his speech, Anderson spoke about the Association's history since being founded in 1929, as well as some of the challenges and opportunities currently facing the organization and the industry. Some of the opportunities Anderson highlighted as important to WECA's future included: signs of a recovering economy and construction industry, new sectors and emerging technologies in green and renewable energy, opportunities to partner with other open shop organizations to achieve positive change in the political and regulatory spheres.

WECA Executive Director Terry Seabury said that while the open house offered a chance for the association's contractor members and industry suppliers to tour the new facility, it was also a chance for members of the general community to come learn about the quality training available from open shop organizations like WECA.

"We are very proud of the quality of our training programs and all the work our members, staff and instructors have put in to make us one of the top

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Need More Meeting or Training Space? Rent from WECA!

WECA is now offering state-of-the-art meeting and classroom rental space in our new location in Rancho Cordova. Room sizes vary with accommodations from 15 to 100 people. We offer the use of our General Purpose Room, Executive Conference Room, Classrooms, Hands-On Labs, and Computer Lab. All Rental Agreements include access to Common Use Areas which includes restrooms, hallways, break room, lobby and parking lot.

Rental space includes access to WECA's classroom and audio/visual equipment. The General Purpose Room, Executive Conference Room, and Classrooms include the use of a projector and screen, whiteboards, tables, and chairs. Point-to-Point Video Conferencing is also available in the Executive Conference Room. Lab Rooms include specific lab materials and tools for use, while Computer Lab rental includes access to computers with internet access for the group. Contact WECA at (877) 444-9322 or info@goweca.com for current rental rates; all rentals subject to rental agreement terms and conditions.

Open House, cont. from pg. 1:

resources for electrical training in California,” Seabury said. “The fact that we’ve been able to grow into a larger facility in order to meet increasing demand is a testament to those efforts. I’m just so pleased that we can host an event like this to show people all the valuable training programs and services WECA has to offer because of the investment our members have made in improving and growing this association.”

Photos: (left) Mika Suvivuo, a 5th year WECA Commercial apprentice, attended the event with his daughter Jacqueline. (right) Guests mingled and enjoyed complimentary refreshments during the Open House.



Celebration event cont. from pg. 1:

WECEF Champion of the Year, given to the industry supplier or member contractor who, in the past year, has demonstrated the most support and commitment to WECEF’s mission (furthering educational opportunities in the electrical trade) through the donation of time, money or materials to the WECA training programs. **This year’s winner: Butterfield Electric**
Member Contractor of the Year, given to the WECA member contractor who has contributed the greatest involvement and participation in WECA activities and issues that help promote and support the mission and goals of WECA. **This year’s winner: Rex Moore Electrical Contractors & Engineers**

Industry Partner Member of the Year, given to the WECA Industry Partner member who has contributed the greatest involvement and participation in WECA activities and issues that help promote and support the mission and goals of WECA. **This year’s winner: Cook Brown, LLP**

Advocacy Award, given by the WECA Government Affairs Committee to the individual or individuals who have made outstanding and fundamental contributions to advancing WECA’s legislative and/or regulatory goals in the political sphere. The recipients of this award exemplify the dedication and impact of WECA members and others who advocate on behalf of merit shop electrical contractors and their employees. **This year’s winner: Associated General Contractors, San Diego Chapter.**

Free Enterprise Award: WECA believes the essence of free enterprise is that business is governed by the laws of supply and demand, and not restrained by government interference, regulation or subsidy. The WECA Free Enterprise award is given to a person or group that embraces this concept and makes a concerted effort to advance that concept. **This year’s winner: San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio.**

Many thanks to all of our sponsors whose support made this event possible:

- **Silver Level Sponsors:** Bergelectric, Helix Electric and Rex Moore Electrical Contractors and Engineers
- **Table Sponsor:** H&D Electric
- **Half Table Sponsors:** Platt Electrical Supply, Vasko Electric, and System 3, Inc.
- **Cocktail Hour Sponsor:** Miller United Insurance Agencies
- **Registration Sponsor:** Solar Universe
- **Wine Sponsor:** Woodruff Sawyer & Co
- **Wine Glass Sponsor:** Cook Brown, LLP



AGC San Diego Chapter Executive Vice President Jim Ryan accepts the Advocacy Award from WECA Board Vice President Tim Bosley of Bosley Electric.



Thank You to our WECEF Donors!

The Western Electrical Contractors Education Foundation (WECEF) would like to thank those listed below for their recent donations to the foundation. If you or your business is interested in making a tax-deductible donation of cash, equipment or time, please contact Bob Bartlett at (877) 444-9322.

Royal Electric	Labor and equipment to move WECA sign	\$673.00
Klein Tools	Tool Display Board & Banner	\$350.00
System 3, Inc.	Labor (electrical work at Bleckely building)	\$375.00
Harrison Electric	Labor (electrical work at Bleckely building)	\$745.00
Butterfield Electric	Labor (electrical work at Bleckely building)	\$9,985.00
Vasko Electric	Labor (electrical work at Bleckely building)	\$4,130.06
Rex Moore	Labor (electrical work at Bleckely building)	\$2,000.00
Granite Elec. Supply	Electrical materials	\$1,000.00
Ewing-Foley Inc.	Fluke Ti20 Thermal Imager	\$4,000.00
Larrabee Company	Two 4', Two 6' and Two 8' step ladders	\$556.00
Cutler Hammer	Single Phase 25 KVA Transformer	\$2,000.00



Photos: (top right) Thanks to Jim Golly and M.P. “Jonesy” Jones from Eaton Cutler Hammer for donating a Single Phase transformer, which will help demonstrate “true single phase voltage systems” to WECA students. (bottom right) Thanks to Mike Olsen of Klein for donating three tools displays; 3rd-year VDV apprentices Fermin Garcia and Kevin DeRocker are shown here with the display that features Klein’s low voltage tool line. (bottom left) WECA VDV Instructor Steve Jatala with the Green Bull ladders donated to the WECA VDV lab by Tom Busalacchi from Werner Ladders (Larrabee Company).

Welcome New Members!

Cornerstone Electric
 (Commercial)
 Riverside, CA
 (951) 529-6592

California Systems Installation, Inc.
 (Commercial)
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA
 (909) 948-5533

Control Solutions, Inc.
 (Commercial)
 Loomis, CA
 (800) 972-0802

Control Electric, Inc.
 (Commercial)
 Corona, CA
 (949) 429-9900

Kite Electric
 (Commercial)
 Irvine, CA
 (949) 380-7471

Pioneer Electric Co.
 (Commercial)
 Windsor, CA
 (707) 838-4057

Reed Electric
 (Commercial)
 Roseville, CA
 (916) 532-9412

New Home Study Course Available for Understanding NEC Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Systems

WECA is now offering a 16-hour home study course for Understanding NEC Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Systems. This course is based on Mike Holt's *Illustrated Guide to Understanding NEC Requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Systems (for the 2011 NEC)* textbook and DVDs. The textbook contains hundreds of full-color illustrations to help the student see the safety requirements of the National Electrical Code in practical use, as they apply to today's electrical installations. The course addresses possible conflicts or confusing NEC requirements, tips on proper electrical installations, and warnings of dangers related to improper electrical installations. All topics are covered in relation to the 2011 Edition of the National Electric Code requirements.



Tuition for this course is \$198 per person and includes all textbook and DVDs. For more information on this course, please call (877) 444-9322 or visit the Electrician Trainee Program course catalog at www.goweca.com.

WECA Begins Trial of Changes to Apprentice Application Process, Including New Mechanical Comprehension Test

As part of WECA's ongoing effort to provide top-quality apprentices to our members and subscribers, and to continuously improve our apprentice program retention rates, we recently began a trial implementation of some changes to WECA's apprenticeship application process. Effective June 1, 2011, apprentice applicants will complete a trial mechanical comprehension test that consists of 68 questions as part of the application process. The mechanical comprehension test will be taken after the apprentice completes the math test, color test and two oral interviews that are currently part of the application process; applicants will be allowed 30 minutes to complete the mechanical comprehension test.

If this proves to be a successful trial, implementation is expected to become permanent sometime in 2012. For the future, WECA plans to replace the current math test and will revise the oral interview questions to more open-ended questions. For more information on these trial changes, please contact WECA Apprentice Program Administrator Zang Xiong at zxiong@goweca.com or (877) 444-9322, ext. 114.

Mark your Calendars!

15th of every month	Apprentice/Journeyman worksheets/payments due	Sacramento Region Office & Training Center
15th of every month	Dues and PAC contributions due for previous month	Sacramento Region Office & Training Center
May 24th June 28th July 26th	Apprenticeship & Training Committee Meeting	Sacramento Region Office & Training Center 9 a.m.
May 24th	San Diego Area Committee Meeting	San Diego Training Center 12 p.m.
June 9th July 14th August 11th	WECA Board of Directors Meeting	Sacramento Region Office & Training Center 9 a.m.

WECA Board Member Profile: Ian Vander Linden

For Ian Vander Linden, Vice President of Sales at K S Telecom, low-voltage contracting is a family affair. Ian's father Kent has worked in the voice-data-video (VDV) industry since graduating from college. Kent held a family meeting regarding the start of K S Telecommunications now K S Telecom, Inc. around the time Ian graduated from high school in 1994. Before long, Kent was heading up a small start-up business alongside the rest of the Vander Linden family: mom, Suzan was in charge of the books while Ian and his brother Eric were pulling cable at various sites across Northern California.



Though Ian earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Operations Management at Sacramento State University, his training in VDV came through hands-on experience gained in the field. After graduating from Sac State, Ian returned to K S Telecom in a sales role and has been helping build the family business ever since.

"Graduating from Sacramento State gave me an appreciation for the education side of things," Ian says. "I was never a 'book person' but I certainly understand the benefit of continuing education in the trade, especially when it comes to keeping up to date on the latest technology in our industry. Whether it's WECA, BICSI, or various other training opportunities, I believe we have to stay up to date and provide educated technicians along with office staff to our customers."

In keeping with his commitment to staying on top of industry credentialing and standards, in 2008 Ian "studied like crazy" and passed the BICSI Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD) exam. He calls the RCDD exam "the hardest (he's) ever taken."



Treating customers well is also paramount to the way K S Telecom does business. Ian's motto is "Don't cut corners and keep the customers happy". K S Telecom focuses on providing high-quality, customer-focused initiative in order to attract and retain clients through repeat business and referrals. Utilizing the WECA training is part of that approach because K S Telecom believes that well-trained technicians produce higher quality work.

K S Telecom joined WECA in 2008 after sub-contracting for Eric Nelson of Sathy Electric and Wes Owsley of Advanced Electric, who were both WECA Board members at the time.

"WECA is a great partner to have in your corner. WECA is proactive, knowledgeable and their staff is very responsive."

- Ian Vander Linden, KS Telecom

"I did a few low-voltage jobs with Eric and Wes. They kept encouraging us to join WECA and get involved in the Association," Ian says. "They believed very strongly in what WECA stands for and how it can help a business grow and prosper. Eventually I took their advice, we joined WECA and I have been very happy with my decision. Eric and Wes were right - WECA is a great association with excellent employees, training and members. I agree with WECA's view of fair and open competition and support their continued push for it."

With some nudging from Eric Nelson, Ian joined the Apprenticeship & Training Committee in 2009. Ian says being involved with WECA committees has allowed him to have more input and help grow the

Association's VDV training program. In late 2010 he was nominated for a spot on the Board. "This board position in 2011 has allowed him to provide VDV contractors a voice and a vote in the direction WECA takes as an association and a training program," Ian says.

"WECA is a great partner to have in your corner. WECA is proactive, knowledgeable and their staff is very responsive," Ian says. "The new WECA training center (in Rancho Cordova) is amazing! It has plenty of lab and classroom space. With us owning vs. renting means that the whole facility is basically a working lab. I'm excited for the students who get to take courses there. (VDV Program Manager) Steve Jatala has done an excellent job building the VDV program and I'm looking forward to the future of the program."

You can reach Ian at (916) 652-4735 or ivl@kstelcom.com.



Political Affairs Update



CSLB Fines C-10 Contractor \$1,000 for Employing Uncertified Electricians at a Residential Development in Rancho Cordova



In response to an investigation by the Construction Trades Compliance Program (CTCP), the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) has issued a \$1,000 fine to Fresno-based electrical contractor HDD Electric for employing uncertified electricians to perform electrical work at a K. Hovnanian Homes job site in Rancho Cordova. As a result of its investigation, CTCP notified the state agency that oversees electrical certification of its findings and submitted investigation reports to the CSLB.

"We're extremely pleased with the outcome of this investigation," says Brian Peters, head of CTCP. "This sends a strong message to electrical contractors, and the national homebuilders that subcontract to them, that they cannot ignore industry rules and regulations and continue contributing to the thriving underground construction economy in California."

The CSLB found that HDD Electric was in direct violation of California Labor Code Section 3099.2, which stipulates anyone performing work as an electrician for a C-10 electrical contractor must hold an electrical certification card issued by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). DAS is required by the California Labor Code to report violations to the CSLB.

CTCP is an independent, contractor-funded education and compliance program that focuses on identifying contractors throughout California that refuse to comply with industry regulations meant to guarantee safety and quality in construction. The compliance arm of CTCP undertakes efforts to investigate contractors who are suspected of violating industry safety and quality laws. Peters says that any evidence collected by the program is turned over to the appropriate State agency for further investigation and enforcement.

Common violations that CTCP focuses on include employing uncertified electricians, paying workers with untaxed cash payments and operating without legally required workers' compensation insurance. CTCP has set-up an anonymous tip line; citizens who would like to pass on information about a contractor who may be engaging in violating the regulations meant to ensure safety and quality in the electrical trade can contact Peters at (877) 334-1777 to make an anonymous report.

As Social Security Administration Resumes No-Match Letters, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services Announces I-9 Change

In a move that is certain to get the attention of I-9 compliance specialists and immigration counsel alike, the Social Security Administration (SSA) quietly resumed the sending of Social Security No-Match letters to employers this month (April 2011). Over the years, these letters (often referred to as simply "No-Match letters") have been sent to both employees and employers when the names or social security numbers listed on an employer's W-2 forms do not match SSA records. While the SSA's primary purpose in sending these letters is to provide notice of a database discrepancy which can affect future retirement or disability benefits, the letters have long been a source of confusion for employers, particularly as it relates to potential immigration and anti-discrimination issues.



In related news, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on April 14 a final rule adopting changes made by an interim rule to the Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9) process. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register and is effective on May 16, 2011. The main changes made by the interim rule and adopted by the final rule include: prohibiting employers from accepting expired documents; revising the list of acceptable documents by removing outdated documents and making technical amendments; and adding documentation applicable to certain citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Employers must complete Form I-9 for all newly hired employees to verify their identity and authorization to work in the United States. Employers may continue to use the current version of the Form I-9 (Rev. 08/07/2009) or the previous version (Rev. 02/02/2009).

President of Building & Construction Trades Council Appointed to High-Speed Rail Board



If merit shop contractors ever stop to wonder why political advocacy is important to their company's bottom line, consider the recent appointment of Robert Balgenorth, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, to a spot on the California High-Speed Rail Authority board. Balgenorth was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown (a Democrat) and is the second union-affiliated member – the other is Russ Burns, business manager of Operating Engineers Local 3 – on a board that is poised to give out billions of dollars in construction projects in the coming years.

The Authority is charged with overseeing the planning for the construction of California's high-speed train network, including evaluating technologies, criteria for awarding and selecting franchisees, routes and terminal sites; and a financing plan.

California voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond issue for high speed rail in November 2008. In January 2010, President Obama announced that California would receive \$2.25 billion in federal stimulus funding for the project. An additional \$624 million in federal funding was reallocated to California after Republican governors in other states rejected their portion of the funds because they sought to use the money on state projects other than high-speed rail.

Subcontractor Fined \$500,000, Barred from Bidding on Public Projects for Three Years for Violating Apprenticeship Requirements

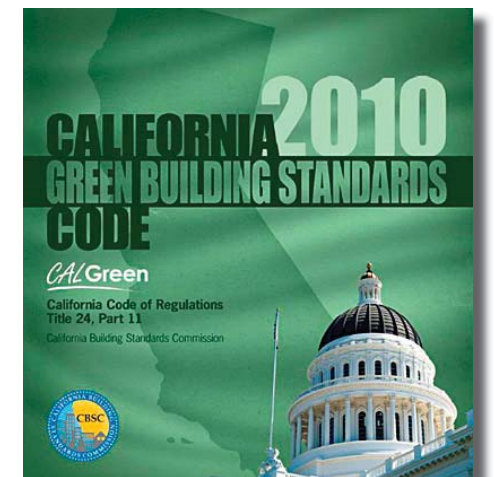
The Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) has fined a plumbing contractor \$500,000 and barred the firm from bidding on public contracts for three years after the company violated state apprentice training requirements on four projects in the Bay Area in 2006 and 2007. This is the second fine and ban for the contractor, Christopher J. Augusto Plumbing of Novato; the company previously settled with DAS in 2007 to pay a \$35,400 civil penalty and receive a three-year ban for similar violations on public projects in Berkeley and Danville.

California law requires contractors to employ apprentices on public works projects at a ratio of one apprentice hour worked for every five journeyman hours worked. WECA member contractors working on public projects should review apprentice training requirements on the DAS website for more details on how to comply with the law. For more information on the WECA apprentice request and dispatch process, visit the WECA Member Handbook at www.goweca.com or call (877) 444-9322.

California's New, Mandatory Green Building Code Now in Effect

Beginning January 1, 2011, the California Green Building Code went into effect. "CALGreen" is the first mandatory statewide green building code. The goal of CALGreen is to ensure that "every new building in California is built using environmentally advanced construction practices" by requiring reduction in indoor water use, diversion of construction waste from landfills, inspection of energy systems and use of low-pollutant emitting interior finish materials.

CALGreen represents a new approach to green building standards because, in contrast to LEED certification which looks at a project at one point in time, CALGreen looks beyond its completion. CALGreen requires a 20 percent mandatory reduction in indoor water use, mandatory inspections of energy systems for nonresidential buildings over 10,000 square feet and separate water meters for nonresidential buildings' indoor and outdoor water use. CALGreen also mandates field inspections while LEED and most point-based systems use paper audits to award points. Whether California's approach represents an emerging trend in green building standards remains to be seen.



For more information on WECA's advocacy efforts, contact Government Affairs Director Richard Markuson at (916) 538-2360 or richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com.