



SUMMER

OUR 49TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

AUGUST 2012

NECA WEST Fringe Benefit Bond Fund

The Bay Area Chapters of NECA have a unique fringe benefit bonding program for our members that has been around so long that most of you probably take it for granted. In fact, you might not even realize that you are part of the program. For that reason we need to provide an update, convey some changes to the program and layout your options.

In the "old days" a contractor was required to post a fringe benefit bond in each local union where he/she had an active job. The bonds were fairly inexpensive. They were a pain to manage because they typically had different expiration dates in each local. As fringe benefit costs crept up through the years, the cost of the bonds rose commensurately. Having multiple bonds was not only expensive for the contractor, but also inconvenient for both the contractors and the staff of the Local Union (s). This is one example of an expense that a non-signatory contractor will never incur.

Under the NECA West Fringe Benefit program a contractor would post a one-time deposit with the NECA West Trust and that would cover all work performed in Locals 302, 595, 180, 332, 617, 340, 234, and 551. In other words – all of Northern California with the exception of San Francisco.

The initial employers posted a one-time deposit of \$1,000 to participate in the program. Eligibility for the program is based on the promise of timely fringe benefit payments. If a contractor is not timely with payment in any of the locals, the right to participate ceases.

With the most recent downturn, we have experienced some casualties within our ranks and now find it necessary to make some minor changes to the program. Effective August 1, 2012, any new contractors wishing to participate must post a \$2,500 non-refundable deposit with the Trust. Existing participants must increase their deposit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The practice of refunding deposits to contractors that close their business will cease on October 1, 2012.

Firm's currently participating in the program will be receiving a letter in the next several days inviting continued participation in the program (provided you are current in all locals). If you wish to continue, we will need your additional deposit by October 1, 2012. If you chose not to, you may simply opt out of the program and provide your own bond according to the collective bargaining agreement provisions in each Local Union you have work in. "Welfare bonds" as they are known in the insurance industry, are typically purchased through your insurance agent and are generally for one year. If it has been awhile since you priced coverage for this, we think you might be pleasantly surprised at what a cost savings the program has been for you over the past twenty years. It is to our knowledge the only such area-wide (multi-Local) program anywhere, and we continue to encourage you to take advantage of it.



Safety On The Job

One of the major services that our National Office of NECA provides is access to just about anything that an electrical contractor would need with regard to Safety in the Workplace. The publications, software, and training courses help our members maintain safe worksites, develop their own corporate safety programs, and comply with OSHA regulations.

[On The Job Safety | NECA](#) is a link that will take you to the NECA Website Page where you will find the full menu of Safety Resources, Publications, Webinars, and Safety News articles.

Safety Web Page

NECA and Intec have joined together to bring a safety site [eSafetyline](#), with a monthly safety related topic. This month's topic is Material Safety Data Sheets. You will find information addressing the safety topic along with related links and news articles to assist you in addressing the topic for your company safety meetings.

On the home page there is also a link to "[Calendar](#)" which you will see the current month with four different days containing additional material to conduct your bi-weekly safety meetings. There is a Safety Talk outline, Discussion Questions, and a Meeting/Training Attendance Roster provided for each of the four sessions on the current months safety topic. At the bottom of the current months calendar there is a picture of a "file cabinet" that acts as an archive of previous months safety talks.

NECA 111TH Annual Convention
September 29—October 2, 2012

Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino
 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South
 Las Vegas NV 89119

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 16th

We currently have a block of rooms blocked for our members that will be attending the NECA Convention. Rooms that we do not have reserved with individual names by Thursday, August 16, 2012, will be released.

For more information:
[NECA 2012 LAS VEGAS](#)

Please call the Chapter Office for any assistance.
 (925) 372-3222

SYNERGY
eLinks

[Monthly Safety Talk Calendar](#)

[NECA 2012 LAS VEGAS](#)

[Personal Best](#)



August 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat



**Contra Costa Chapter
NECA**
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			1	2	3	4
				INDUSTRY Training Center Martinez 12:00 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Health & Welfare Training Center Martinez 1:00 p.m.		Retirement Training Center Martinez 10:00 a.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		JATC Training Center Martinez 12:00 p.m.				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					<i>Carpenter Off-Day</i>	