



SUMMER

OUR 52ND YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

August 2015

NECA San Francisco 2015
<http://www.necaconvention.org/>



NECA's National Convention and Trade Show Comes to San Francisco October 3-6th

In case you have not already heard, NECA's National Convention and Exhibition is coming to the Moscone Convention Center in early October. In the coming weeks you will be hearing a lot more about this, not only from NECA, but from your suppliers and vendors that will be populating the Convention Center.

Although they are often mentioned in the same context, the convention and the trade show are really two separate events. The annual NECA Convention is primarily for our NECA members while the trade show is for everyone in the industry -- contractors, as well as manufacturers and suppliers.

The NECA Convention and NECA educational programs are first class, and they reflect that in the cost of registration, which can be purchased entirely or A La Carte. Those educational programs and most events will take place at various meeting rooms in the Moscone Center (South). This year, there are two special events that are included in the full registration package for the NECA Convention: The Opening Reception is at the Exploratorium on Saturday night, October 3rd. It is a private event just for NECA. In a like manner, the Closing Celebration will feature a private concert for our members featuring Kenny Loggins at the Warfield Theatre. View the full brochure at the following link: [NECA CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW 2015 BROCHURE](#).

The exposition (a.k.a. Trade Show, NECA Show) is essentially free as are the educational programs that take place in meeting rooms right on the exhibition floor. Those classes are generally 50 minutes long and begin at noon on Sunday, October 4th and continue to Tuesday at noon. We have secured 300 free passes for the Trade Show for the use of our contractors and their employees, our JATC instructors and apprentices and anyone else that has an interest in attending. Please call Sharon at the NECA office and let her know how many you need. At the very least, we suggest that a principal of your firm take the time to walk through the NECA Show to see the latest tools, products and equipment. The Convention/Trade Show only comes to San Francisco every five years or so. Please take full advantage of it.



Foreman Training

Class Begins September 17th

We want to make sure that all of our employers are aware that effective January 1, 2017, the “Foreman Call” provision in our Inside Agreement with Local 302 will require that an individual has completed the Foreman Training Class offered by our Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. At that time, if you want to call someone off the book as a foreman, they must have taken the class. (You will still be able to designate any of your existing journeyman as foreman, however.)

“Foreman Training” will be offered a number of times over the next year and one-half, and as-needed thereafter. The next class starts on Thursday, September 17th and is an 8 week, 4 hour per night program. If successfully completed, this class will meet the California requirement of 32 hours of continuing education every three years for an individual to renew their state certification. We suggest that you make all journeymen in your employ aware of this requirement and encourage them to sign up as soon as possible.

The foreman call provision has served our employers well, and we were understandably reluctant to add more stringent requirements. Because this class will make a journeyman electrician more employable, and more valuable to our employers, we would like to fill the class every time it is offered. Perhaps one of the best aspects of offering this class in conjunction with the new requirement is that it will draw both younger individuals that have an interest in growing as well as experienced foreman and put them in the same classroom. Think about the things you have learned when you heard someone raise a real-life question about how to handle a particular situation and you had two or three veterans debate the issue. Beats learning the hard way.

“ . . . it will draw both younger individuals that have an interest in growing as well as experienced foreman and put them in the same classroom.”

Ray Green from Contra Costa Electric is the instructor for the class. Ray utilizes the NECA Electrical Project Supervision (Level I, II, and III) as well as a number of outside resources for the class material. We are confident this additional training requirement will ultimately work to everyone’s benefit.

NEW CLASS OF INSIDE APPRENTICES AVAILABLE

Our Inside JATC is in the process of putting a new class of 20 apprentices to work over the course of the next several weeks.

One of the things that our Inside Apprenticeship Committee does a little differently than most of the other training committees is the interview process. The entire committee interviews each applicant (usually taking between 10 and 15 minutes). While not all members can make every single interview, the process tends to produce remarkably consistent results. It took the better part of ten days to complete all the interviews this year. We are not aware of any JATC that expends this much effort with the interview process.

At this point, we would like to say a special thank you to Tom Tatro of Contra Costa Electric, and Mark Thomas of Crockett Electric for giving up all that time over the past three months to conduct interviews. We would also like to thank Michael Dias of Contra Costa Electric and Skip Stewart of Crockett Electric for allowing them the time necessary to do this, as it benefits all of our contractors.

Still A Bargain

A number of the individuals selected for the program this year came from the ranks of the CW (Construction Wireman) workforce. We again remind you that the bargaining parties agreed to extend the "half price sale" on first year apprentices Health and Welfare contributions for the next three years. This represents a savings of \$6.55/hr and that rate is incorporated into the prevailing wage and is easily reported and fully supported through the NECA-Star system.

The reduced Health Trust contribution was implemented to make the apprentices more employable, as contractors are often reluctant to take on a green individual. The combination of selecting more people with electrical construction experience and the lower Health Trust contribution rate should begin to make an important difference. Remember; the CW classification was designed to be a temporary position. Apprentices, on the other hand, are still the future of our work force.

Employer Cost/Hour COMPARISON

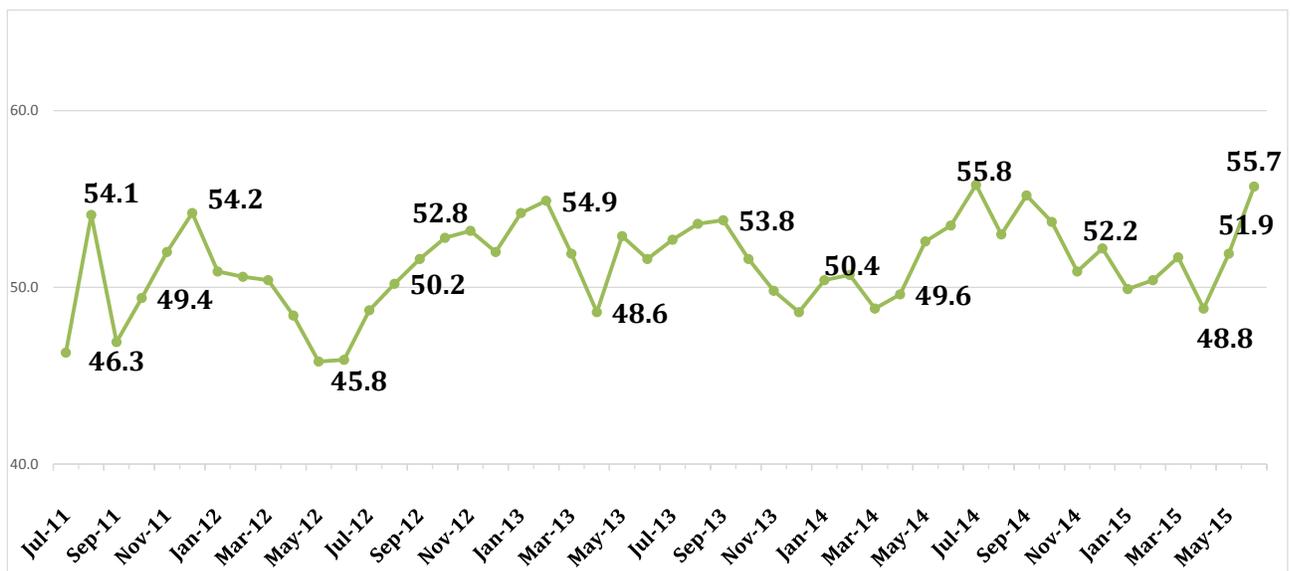
<u>Direct Cost Items</u>	<u>Apprentices Indentured after June 1, 2014 1st Period</u>			<u>Construction Wireman Level 1</u>		
	<u>Straight</u>	<u>x 1½</u>	<u>x 2</u>	<u>Straight</u>	<u>x 1½</u>	<u>x 2</u>
Wages	\$18.60	\$27.90	\$37.20	\$14.74	\$22.11	\$29.48
Health Fund	6.55	6.55	6.55	5.01	5.01	5.01
Pension Fund*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Industry Apprenticeship	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.85	0.85	0.85
National Pension (NEBF) (3% of Gross Payroll)	0.56	0.84	1.12	0.44	0.66	0.88
National Labor Management Cooperation Fund (NLMCC)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Social Security - 6.20% (Max. of \$90K) Medicare Portion - 1.45% (No Max.)	1.42	2.13	2.85	1.13	1.69	2.26
Federal Unemployment Tax (.6% on Max. \$7,000)	0.11	0.17	0.22	0.09	0.13	0.18
Workman's Compensation** 6.50/\$100 Straight Time	1.21	1.21	1.21	0.96	0.96	0.96
Liability Insurance** 6.00/\$100	1.12	1.67	2.23	0.88	1.33	1.77
State Unemployment 5.4% ** (On Max. of \$7,000)	1.00	1.51	2.01	0.80	1.19	1.59
Association Dues (1% of Gross Labor)	0.19	0.28	0.37	0.15	0.22	0.29
Direct Labor Cost/Hour:	\$32.27	\$43.77	\$55.28	\$25.06	\$34.17	\$43.28

Institutional building demand boosts architectural billings to 8-year high . . . [read more.](#)

- For the first time this year, architects in every region of the country reported increased billings in June, the American Institute of Architects reported on Wednesday.
- The AIA’s Architectural Billings Index increased last month to its highest mark since 2007, largely because of strong demand for new buildings from the education, healthcare, public safety and government sectors. In addition to an increase in demand for design services, inquiries were up in June, the index revealed.
- The June ABI score was 55.7, up from 51.9 in May. The new projects inquiry index reached a mark of 63.4, up from 61.5 the previous month.

June ABI 55.7

Any score above 50 indicates an increase and score below indicates a decline.



SYNERGY eLinks

[NECA CONVENTION WEBSITE](#)

[CODE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2015](#)

[NECA 2015 SAN FRANCISCO BROCHURE](#)

[CALIFORNIA AMENDS NEW SICK LEAVE LAW
BY ROGER M. MASON, ESQ.](#)

[NECA STORE](#)

[HOLIDAY MATRIX](#)



August 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

August 13, 2015

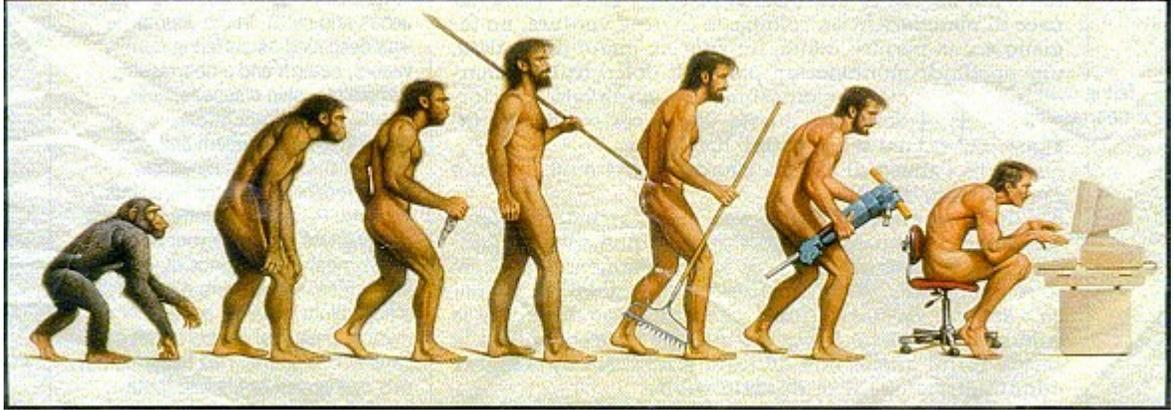
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**Last day for Early Registration
NECA San Francisco 2015**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				JATC Training Center 3:00 p.m.		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			RETIREMENT TRUST Training Center 9:00 a.m.			
30	31					



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