



SUMMER

OUR 48TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

AUGUST 2011

Changes Within . . .

I don't know about you, but the thing I find most rewarding about working in the construction industry is the interesting cast of characters you get to work with, through, around, etc. On August 1, within NECA, that cast will change slightly when Bill Kuhr will be resigning his position as the Director of the Western Region of NECA (District 6, 8 and 9). The good news is that Bill will be leaving to become the Executive Manager of the San Mateo Chapter of NECA, succeeding Patrick D'Antoni, who has now officially put out the "Gone Fishing" sign.

Our National Office Field Representatives, the Regional Director and the Labor Relations Staff in Bethesda are the cornerstone of what NECA was principally founded to do — develop, train and perpetuate an exceptional labor force for our employers. For the past eleven years, Bill has done a remarkable job representing the National Office with our Chapter, with the IBEW and with the industry, and we wish him all the best with his new position in San Mateo.

If you have ever played in one of our Chapter Golf Tournaments you will remember Patrick, as most of our tournaments have been Joint Tournaments with the San Mateo Chapter. Within NECA, Patrick has been one of our best analytical thinkers over the years and has played an important role in revamping the NECA West Business Insurance Program, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (ADR) for our Workers Compensation Insurance, and the NECA West Payroll and Fringe Benefit Bonding Program. Patrick recently retired to the Reno area, where we wish him all the happiness retirement can bring.

Beginning August 1, Bill Orgill will become the new Director of the Western Region of NECA. In addition to serving as a NECA Field Representative for our District 8 (Rocky Mountain area), Bill was also the Chapter Manager in the Oregon-Pacific-Cascade Chapter. Like his predecessor, his major asset (and perhaps the most fundamental skill set required of anyone working in this industry) is his wonderful sense of humor. Join us in hoping he can play a part in helping us get through and beyond what has undoubtedly been the most difficult period of time in the construction industry since the Great Depression.

"The Only Constant in Life is Change."

And Speaking of Changes . . . We currently have two openings waiting for volunteers to fill. Our Electrical Industry Trust, the sponsoring organization for our educational programs, legislative advocacy (Ron Barrow/Eddie Bernacchi) and management publications will hold an election at its September meeting. There is a vacant Trustee position. Candidates should be the representative of a Contra Costa based firm that makes contributions on a regular basis to the various Trust funds under the Inside Wiremans Agreement. If interested, please contact the NECA office to get the proper nomination form and procedures.

We also have one management Trustee position waiting for a volunteer on our collectively-bargained Health and Welfare Trust. The requirements are pretty much like the Electrical Industry Trust except there are no nomination forms required. You will learn "everything you always wanted to know about health care but were afraid to ask."

If you know of someone who might be interested in either Trustee position, please contact Mike Geller at the Chapter Office.

NECA 2011 SAN DIEGO

The perfect climate for powerful solutions.

October 22-25, 2011

- ✦ **Alternative Energy: Rules & Regulations**
- ✦ **Effective Fleet Safety Practices**
- ✦ **Lighting Retrofits: Benefits Beyond Energy Efficiency**
- ✦ **Managing Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Installations**
- ✦ **What You Don't Know About LED Lighting Can Hurt Your Business**

August 29
Early Registration Ends

September 19
Hotel & Registration
Cancellation

This will serve as a reminder that our National Convention and Exposition will be held in San Diego this year. In addition to being reasonably close, there are plenty of things to see and do to occupy any spare time you might have. Even if you do not have the time to attend the convention, you can still make arrangements to attend the Trade Show, which has a focus on Alternative Energy Systems and will have a full line of suppliers with new products for you to find out about. If you have never attended the Trade Show before, you could spend a couple of days, for a little more than the cost of plane fare and a night in a hotel (the registration for the Trade Show is \$85).

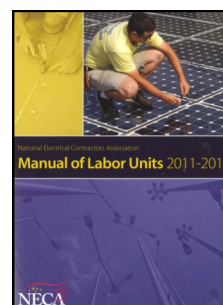
For more information:
NECACONVENTION.ORG

NECA Manual of Labor Units 2011-2012

The updated NECA Manual of Labor Units for 2011-2012 is now available. There are a number of sections that have received substantial revisions; Section 1: Integrated Building Systems, Section 5: Lighting Fixtures, Poles, Parking Lot Lighting, Section 9: Heating Equipment Connections, and Section 14: Alternative Energy Systems. We have had unusual interest in the Alternative Energy Systems, particularly the solar modules, among our members. We encourage you to make full use of this reference.

This publication may be purchased on a CD or as 500 page Manual. Visit NECA's Store on-line at the link below to obtain your copy. Member Pricing: \$65.00 Non-Member Pricing: \$195.00

<http://www.necanet.org/store/products/index.cfm/1055-10>



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FASB Proposal

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued a July 27 statement withdrawing a proposed requirement for employer's participating in multiemployer defined benefit pension plans to disclose withdrawal liability.

In a letter to members of Congress contacted by NECA, FASB provided the following:

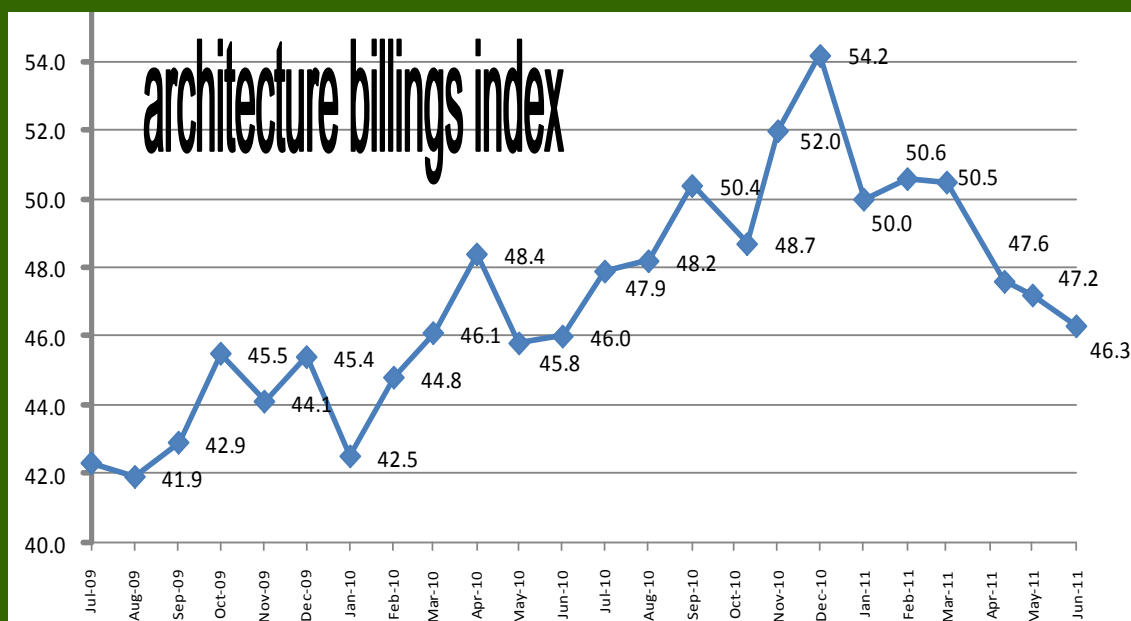
"In further response to your May 27, 2011 letter to FASB Chairman, Leslie Seidman, regarding the FASB's Multiemployer Plan proposal, I wanted to let you know that earlier today, the FASB completed deliberations and revised the disclosure requirements employers will need to provide for their multiemployer plans. Additionally, during its due process and redeliberations of this proposal, the FASB decided to drop its original proposal to require disclosure of withdrawal liabilities."

FASB had been redeliberating its original 715-80 proposal since the Spring and "decided to delete a proposal to require employers to disclose their withdrawal liability to all plans in which they participate, or provide a "point-in-time" estimate of its obligations with respect to the underfunded status of individual plans."

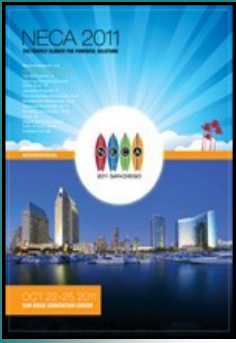
Instead, FASB approved a revised accounting standard with disclosures from an alternative construction-industry provided proposal that intends to provide more information about an employer's financial obligations to multiemployer pension plans, including, but not limited to:

- The amount of employer contributions made to each significant plan and to all plans in the aggregate.
- An indication of whether the employer's contributions represent more than five percent of total contributions to the plan.
- An indication of which plans, if any, are subject to a funding improvement plan.
- The expiration date(s) of collective bargaining agreement(s) and any minimum funding arrangements.
- The most recent certified funded status of the plan, as determined by the plan's so-called "zone status," which is required by the Pension Protection Act of 2006.
- If the "zone status" is not available, an employer will be required to disclose whether the plan is:
 - Less than 65 percent funded
 - Between 65 percent and 80 percent funded
 - Greater than 80 percent funded.
 - A description of the nature and effect of any changes affecting comparability for each period in which a statement of income is presented.

For public entities, the effective date of the new requirements will be for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2011, while for non-public entities, the enhanced disclosures will be required in fiscal years ending after December 15, 2012.



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported that the June ABI score was 46.3, almost a full point below the score of 47.2 from the month of May (any score above 50 indicates an increase in the billings).



August 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Health & Welfare Trust			Sound & Communication JATC	
		Training Center Martinez 1:00 p.m.			Training Center Martinez 9:00 a.m.	

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		JATC				
		Training Center Martinez 12:00 p.m.				

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Electrical Code					
	Zio Fraedos Pleasant Hill					
	Sub: 10:30 a.m					
	Gen: 11:45 a.m.					

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Early Registration Ends for NECA 2011 Convention					
					Carpenter Off-Day	

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Labor Day



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