



SUMMER

OUR 49TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2012

Chapter Holiday Party

On January 1st of next year, we will begin our 50th year of operation as the Contra Costa Chapter, of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Inc. To celebrate the milestone, and in breaking with past practice, we are going to change the focus of our Holiday Party to a New Year Celebration on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Additional details will be forthcoming, but please reserve the day for what promises to be a party appropriate for the occasion.

Recognize These Guys???



The photograph above was taken at the Hotel Mac in Richmond in 1951, and represents the earliest picture we have of the NECA members in Contra Costa. At the time we were the Contra Costa Branch of the Northern California Chapter.

**Top Row (Left to Right): Jack Crabbe, Bill Gularte, Joe Burges, Frank Brown, Art Rogers, Andy Maser, and Ernie Kramm.
Seated (Left to Right): Van DeVentue, Vic Perero, Paul Pease, and Ben Freeburg.**



ONE ACCOUNT BALANCE YOU SHOULD CHECK EVERY YEAR

Do you remember the letter you received from the Social Security Administration each year showing your earnings history and projecting your SSA benefits? Well they are no longer mailing them out, so you need to retrieve the information on line at ssa.gov/mystatement. It will take a few minutes to set up your account, but you should verify that your earnings history is accurate.

Equally important, you should keep an eye on your projected benefits, and how they change from year to year. One has to believe that some combination of eligibility deferral or benefit reductions are in the offing.

Personal identity theft - protect your Social Security number
Your Social Security Statement
 Requested exclusively for "Work Worker"

July 2012

What's new:
 Social Security Number: 123456789012
 Date of Birth: 01/01/1950
 Social Security Area: 01-0000000000
 Social Security Number: 123456789012

What Social Security Means to You

This Social Security Statement will help you plan for your financial future. It provides information on your Social Security benefits and how they will change as you age. It also shows how your earnings history affects your benefits and how they will change as you age.

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Your Estimated Benefits

Retirement

Estimated monthly benefit	1,100.00
Estimated annual benefit	13,200.00
Estimated monthly benefit if you claim at age 62	850.00
Estimated annual benefit if you claim at age 62	10,200.00

Disability

Estimated monthly benefit	1,100.00
Estimated annual benefit	13,200.00

How Your Benefits Are Estimated

Your Social Security benefits are based on your earnings history. The higher your earnings, the higher your benefits. Your benefits are estimated based on your earnings history from 1950 to 2011. If you have worked in other countries, your earnings from those countries may also be included in the calculation.

Your Earnings Record

Year	Earnings	Wages	Taxes
2011	12,000	12,000	2,400
2010	10,000	10,000	2,000
2009	8,000	8,000	1,600
2008	6,000	6,000	1,200
2007	4,000	4,000	800
2006	2,000	2,000	400
2005	1,000	1,000	200
2004	500	500	100
2003	200	200	40
2002	100	100	20
2001	50	50	10
2000	25	25	5
1999	12	12	2
1998	6	6	1
1997	3	3	0
1996	1	1	0
1995	0	0	0
1994	0	0	0
1993	0	0	0
1992	0	0	0
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1952	0	0	0
1951	0	0	0
1950	0	0	0

How to Keep Your Earnings Record Accurate

It's important to keep your earnings record accurate. If you have worked in other countries, you should report those earnings to the Social Security Administration. You can do this by filing a report with the Social Security Administration.

Some Facts About Social Security

Social Security is a federal social insurance program. It provides retirement, disability, and health insurance benefits. Social Security is funded by payroll taxes on wages and self-employment income.

How Social Security Works

When you work, you pay Social Security taxes. These taxes go into a trust fund. When you reach retirement age, you can receive Social Security benefits from the trust fund. The amount of your benefits depends on your earnings history and when you claim your benefits.

Retirement Benefits

Retirement benefits are based on your earnings history. The higher your earnings, the higher your benefits. You can claim your benefits as early as age 62, but your benefits will be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

Disability Benefits

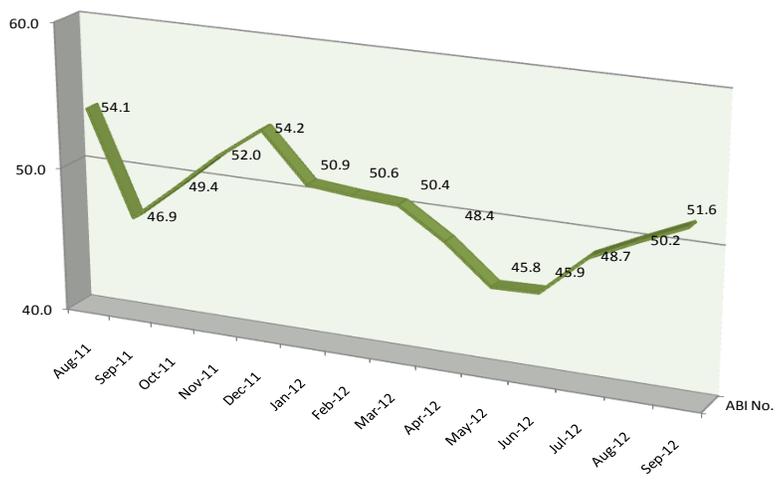
Disability benefits are for people who are unable to work because of a disability. To qualify for disability benefits, you must have worked long enough to be insured under Social Security and have a disability that prevents you from working.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is provided to people who are 65 years of age or older and have worked long enough to be insured under Social Security. You can also purchase health insurance if you are under 65 and have a disability.

ARCHITECTURAL BILLINGS INDEX

The American institute of Architects (AIA) reported that the September ABI Score was 51.6. Any score over 50 indicates an increase in billings.



Coming
November 30

Better Supervisor Tailgate Safety Meetings

A “How To” Approach Seminar

Our Electrical Industry Trust will be sponsoring the next segment of our Supervisor Safety Training on Friday, November 30th, with a two hour seminar on Tailgate Safety meetings, presented by Jeff Juhala, our Trust Safety Consultant. Lunch will be served at noon with the seminar beginning at 12:30 p.m. & concluding at 3:00 p.m.

Companies routinely tell Supervisors to do a “better job” on their Tailgate Safety Meetings. Supervisors are told to make it an important quality experience that not only relates the safety issues of the project, but also meets all the legal needs for the company. Few Supervisors are ever given any real training on “how to” actually do better tailgate meetings.

Covered Training Topics

Basics of a Good Tailgate Meeting

How to Improve Your Tailgate Meetings

Creating, Finding and Using “Primers” for Meetings

(sample primers will be provided)

Having a “Solid Conclusion” to Your Meeting

Waiting for and Creating “Responses” from the Group

Participants will also be given the opportunity to practice and receive positive and encouraging feedback from the trainers and other participants. The practice and feedback is the most powerful part of the entire training. Some participants have commented that it was uncomfortable at first, but ultimately the most important and helpful part of the training.

Plan to send at least one person from your firm that you charge with the responsibility of conducting safety meetings. We are confident they will discover what you have been missing in your tailgate meetings, and leave with knowledge, practice, and practical tools to do a better job. Registration for this seminar is free. If you wish to attend and/or have any questions simply email ss_ccneca@sbcglobal.net or call 925-372-3222 x10.

Location

Electrical Industry
Training Center
1255 Muir Road
Martinez, CA

Time

Lunch @ Noon
Seminar
Begins 12:30 p.m.
Ends 3:00 p.m.

RSVP

ss_ccneca@sbcglobal.net
925-372-3222 x10



Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction

NECA's Basic Estimating Class will be offered February 25-28, 2013, at the Northern California Chapter office in Dublin. This four-day workshop is for those with little or no estimating experience and is an excellent starting point for those individuals interested in pursuing a career on the management side in an electrical contracting company. The cost of the program is \$635.00 for NECA Members and \$800 for Non-Members, which includes all course material and lunch each day. NECA has created a one-hour online course, Introduction to the NECA Manual of Labor Units, that is now required of all Basic Estimating participants before they take this course. The online course provides clear instruction on the proper application of the NECA Manual of Labor Units when estimating electrical construction projects.

To register someone from your firm, contact Juanita Mitchell, at the NorCal, NECA office, (925) 828-6322. You may view more detailed information about the course by clicking the link below.

[Basic Estimating Course Information](#)

Date: February 25-28, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: NorCal, NECA Office,
6300 Village Pkwy,
Dublin, CA



We were well represented at this year's annual Electrical Contractors of California Golf Tournament by our Chapter Team:
 Left to Right: Skip Stewart, Crockett Electric;
 Tom Tatro and Gary Thorne of Contra Costa Electric;
 and Rick Henry, Del Monte Electric.

November Chapter Meeting

We have scheduled our next Chapter Meeting for November 27, 2012 at Jack's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, beginning with an attitude adjustment period at 6:00 .m.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. our November Chapter Meeting.

Electrical Code Committee Holiday Luncheon

The Electrical Code Committee holiday luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 20th, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill.

Like all Code Committee Meetings, the Holiday Luncheon is sponsored by our Electrical Industry Trust and is free of charge to all contractors, inspectors and Building Officials.

If you have not already done so, we would appreciate an RSVP via email (ss_ccneca@sbcglobal.net) or fax (925-372-0282) so that we can make adequate arrangements with a restaurant.

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Application Announcement

Our Inside Wireman's JATC will be taking applications during the month of January 2013 at the Training Center in Martinez on Mondays (except the Martin Luther King holiday) from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, be a high school graduate or equivalent, and must have a full year of high school algebra with a passing grade of C or better. Even at this late date, it is possible for a motivated individual to meet the math requirement by taking the self-paced algebra course offered by the Martinez Adult school.

Please distribute the announcement which can be downloaded from [here](#) to any individual that you believe would be an asset to our industry.

DECO TECH SYSTEMS, INC. in Walnut Creek, our newest Chapter member, comes to us after operating for a number of years as a non-signatory contractor.

MR. DAVID DICKSTEIN
 is the accredited representative. It isn't every day that we get a new Chapter member. Please help us make David and his staff feel welcome at future Chapter meetings.

SYNERGY eLinks

ssa.gov/mystatement

[Apprenticeship Application Announcement](#)

[Better Supervisor Tailgate Safety Meetings Registration Form](#)

[Personal Best](#)

November 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat



Contra Costa
Chapter
1024 Court Street
Martinez CA 94553
925-372-3222

Board of Directors

Casey Dias
Michael Dias
Rick Henry
Sean McPeak
Skip Stewart
Jim Szuch, Jr.
Ray Trebino
Randy Weber

Manager

Michael Geller

					1 <u>Health & Welfare</u> Training Center Martinez 1:00 p.m.	2	3
4	5 <u>JATC</u> Training Center Martinez 1:30 p.m.	6	7	8 <u>Retirement</u> Training Center Martinez 10:00 a.m.	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16 <u>LMCC</u> Training Center Martinez 2:00 p.m.	17	
18	19	20 <u>ELECTRICAL CODE</u> Zio Fraedos Pleasant Hill, CA Sub: 10:30 a.m. Gen: 11:45 a.m.	21			24	
25	26	27 <u>NECA</u> Jack's Restaurant Pleasant Hill, CA Bd: 4:30 p.m. Ch: 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30 <u>SEMINAR</u> Better Supervisor Tailgate Safety Meetings Training Center Martinez Lunch: Noon Seminar: 12:30		