



# SUMMER

OUR 49TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2012

## *Chapter Holiday Party*

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**



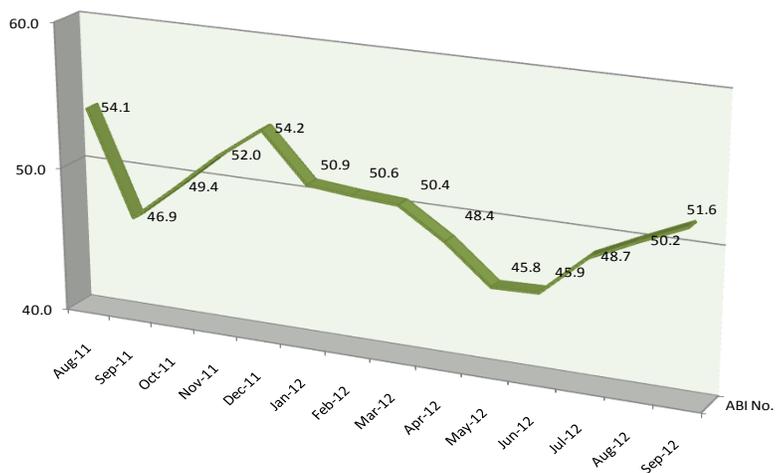
# ONE ACCOUNT BALANCE YOU SHOULD CHECK EVERY YEAR

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](http://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.

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