



SUMMER

OUR 54TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

OCTOBER 2017

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Sound and Communication Agreement

Negotiations over our Sound and Communication Agreement began in September, and will hopefully conclude by the end of October. If the parties are unable to reach agreement on their own, the Council on Industrial Relations (CIR) will resolve any remaining items during the second week of November. Our new agreement will become effective on December 1st.

Here are the condensed versions of the [issues submitted by NECA](#) and the [issues submitted by the IBEW](#). The IBEW has requested a serious wage increase (\$4 - \$5) in each of the next two years.

If the NECA/IBEW portion of the construction industry has a success story, our Sound and Communication Agreement would be among its best. Our employers working in the eleven different IBEW locals in Northern California are on pace to work over [4 million manhours](#) this year. By comparison, our Contra Costa Chapter, NECA/IBEW Local 302 Inside manhours are running at about 1 million. We know that these negotiations are important for all of our employers, and we will do our best to get the very best agreement we can.

POLITICO ALERT

www.PoliticoOnline.com "Connecting you to California"

1127 11th St., Suite 747 / Sacramento, CA 95814 / (916) 444-3770 / FAX (916) 442-6437

SB 465 Follow Up

Does a Contractor's History of Legal Settlements in CA Indicate Poor Workmanship?

Should every legal settlement, arbitration and judgement that your company has been involved in be publicly posted online by the Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB)? This is the public policy question being asked after the Berkeley balcony collapse tragedy in 2015. It was later revealed that the contractor who built the apartment building in question had a prior history of being involved in multiple construction defect settlements. The California Legislature has tasked the CSLB to determine if this information could be used to better protect consumers in the future if it were to be made publicly available online for every contractor in the state. You may remember SB 465 from the 2016 legislative session. That measure originally would have required reporting of all settlements, arbitrations and judgments to the CSLB. The measure was amended to a study bill at our request.

The survey below is intended to help CSLB establish if this information is helpful in their consumer protection directive. NECA and other statewide contractor organizations have testified that this potential "metric" is not a good indicator of contractor competence or responsibility Here's why:

- **Everybody Gets Sued in Construction Defect Claims --** Construction defect claims often include every contractor on a job regardless of their involvement in the disputed work. Lawyers' hunt for deep pockets - \$\$\$ is a big reason; and
- **Insurance Companies Compel Settlements Regardless of a Contractor's Innocence --** Insurance companies often encourage settlement regardless of a contractor's work being in question due to the excessive cost of litigation in California. "Get out early, get out cheaper" is the mantra;

Settlements Do Not = "BAD CONTRACTOR" – Due to the litigious nature of lawyers in California, there is not necessarily a linkage between the number of legal actions a contractor has been involved in and the competence or responsibility of that contractor. It may mean nothing more than that contractor has performed a lot of work in California.

If you are concerned about the prospect of having to divulge all your company's litigation history to the CSLB and this information being publicly posted online, please take a moment to respond to the CSLB questionnaire below. All responses are anonymous.



Your voice is important to CSLB! Today, we're asking for your input on a significant issue.

They are in the process of putting together a report for the state Legislature under Senate Bill 465 (Hill). The report will look at whether CSLB's consumer protection mission would benefit by requiring licensed contractors to report specific court judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements.

They are asking for five minutes or so of your time to complete a survey which will be an important component of the report.

Your answers are completely anonymous. You will not receive any further contact from CSLB or any other party based upon your taking this survey.

Please take the survey that best applies to your situation:

[I am a Licensed Contractor](#)

[I am a Consumer](#)

Make It Your Business to Fight the Flu

Every year, influenza, or the [FLU](#) affects not just our health, but often the bottom line for many businesses. Regardless if an employer is large or small, the flu can be a big disruption and its true financial impact may be more than you think.

CHECK LIST FOR: [Reducing the Flu at Work](#)

What are the top five things employers can do to battle cold and flu season in the workplace?

Provide flu shots. Schedule cross-contamination surface cleanings — everything from the doorknob to the coffee pot, countertop and phone can be covered in germs. We recommend an antimicrobial surface coating that will stay on a surface throughout the day to help disinfect surfaces.

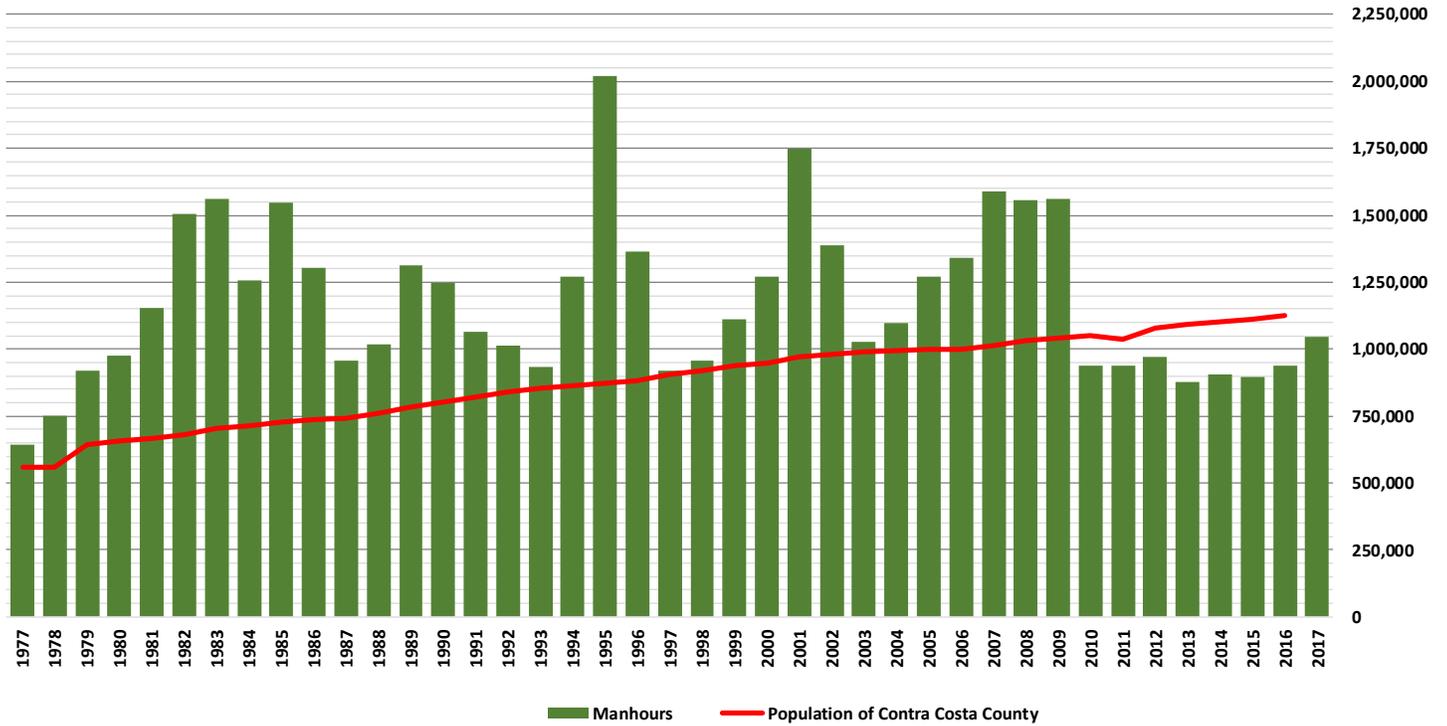


Encourage sick employees to head home. For colds, most individuals remain contagious for about five to seven days, and pressuring employees to work despite feeling under the weather can impact a company's productivity and morale.

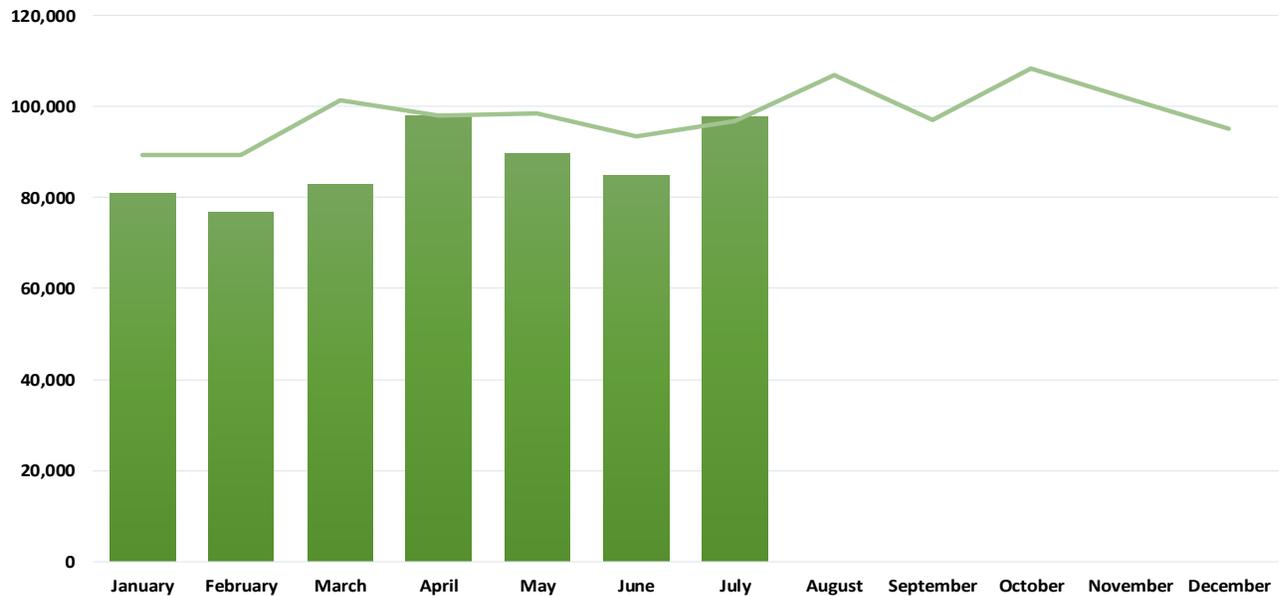
Place hand sanitizers in high-traffic areas such as the kitchen or conference room and near employee workstations. Consider installing hands-free appliances such as automatic sinks and toilets, automatic soap and paper towel dispensers, as well as airflow hand-dryers. Also encourage employees to wash their hands multiple times each day, especially after using the washroom or before eating.

IBEW Local Union 302 Inside Wireman/Maintenance Manhours Worked

(Current year total projected on data available to date.)

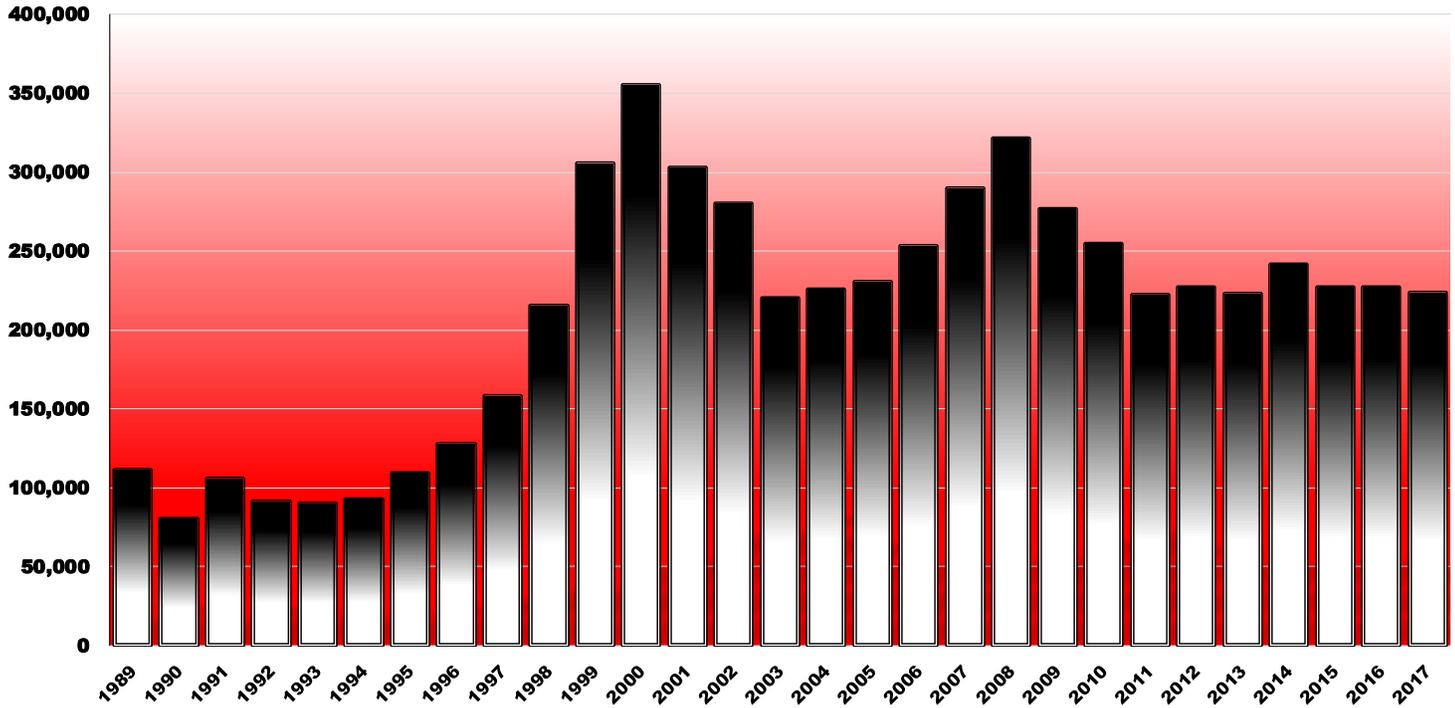


2017 Compared with Historic Average

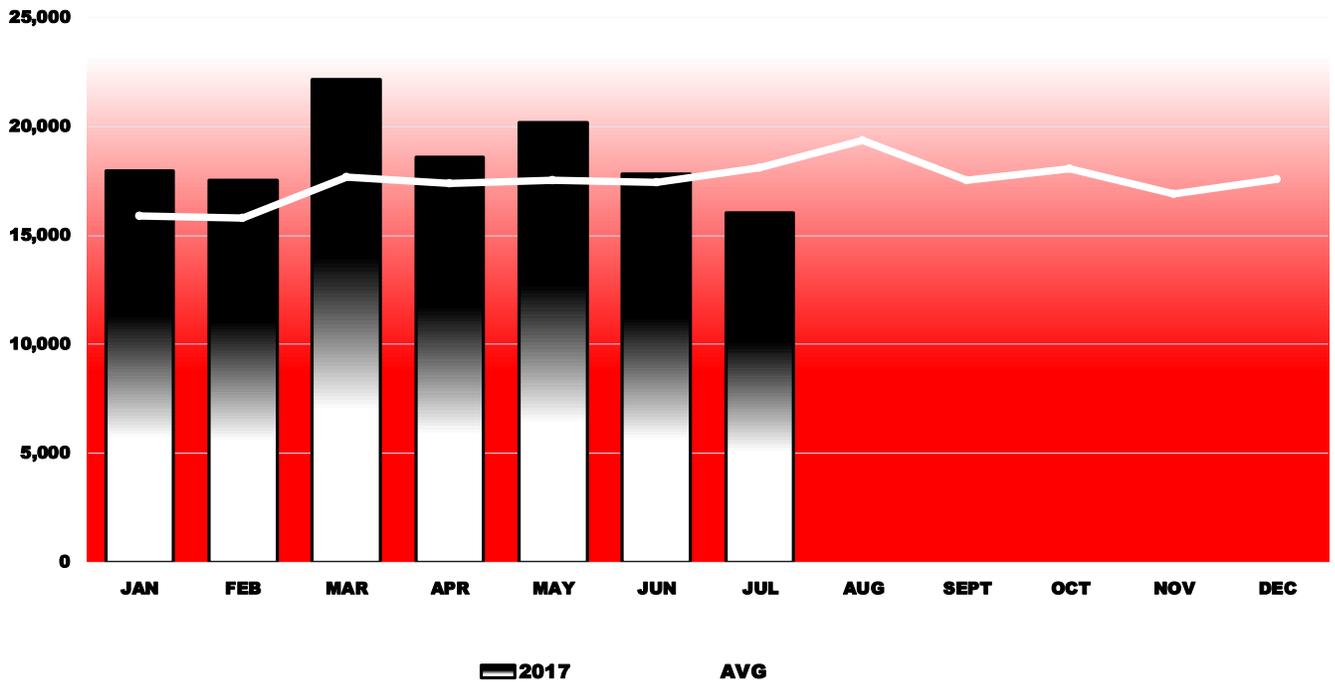


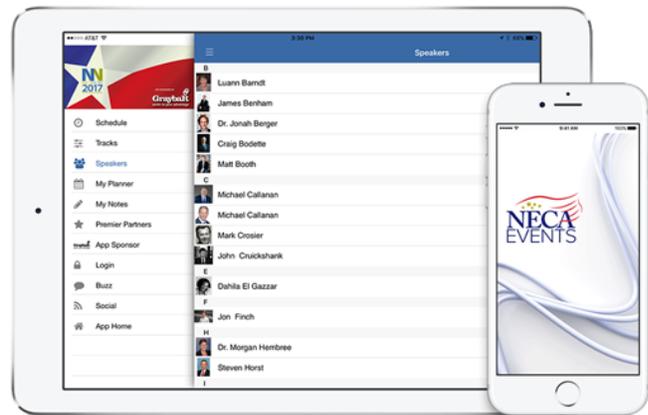
IBEW Local Union 302 Sound and Communication Manhours Attributed to Contra Costa County Employers

(Current year total projected on data available to date.)



2017 Compared with Historic Average





Click [here](#) to view full schedule of events. Click [here](#) to view the full brochure for NECA 2017 Seattle.

SYNERGY eLinks		
<u>HOLIDAY MATRIX FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCALS</u>	<u>CHECK LIST FOR REDUCING THE FLU AT WORK</u>	<u>NECA 2017 SEATTLE</u>
<u>NorCal Sound and Communication JATC New Website</u>	COMSTOCK'S ARTICLES <u>GET FOCUSED</u> AND <u>MONO-TIZE YOUR LIFE</u>	SOUND AND COMMUNICATION NEGOTIATIONS <u>ISSUES SUBMITTED BY NECA</u> <u>ISSUES SUBMITTED BY THE IBEW</u>

October 2017



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 NECA Board of Governors Seattle
			11	12	13	14
October 7th - 10th 2017 NECA Seattle						
15	16 Sound and Communication Apprentice Interviews	17 Inside JATC Martinez Training Center 3:00 p.m.	18	19 Electrical Industry Trust Primas 11:45 a.m.	20	21 The "BOB" Golf Tournament 21st-22nd
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				



CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER
1024 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 372-3222
www.ccneca.org