



# SYNERGY

OUR 50TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2013



## *New Class of Inside Apprentices Available*

We are pleased to announce that the Inside JATC is in the process of putting a new class of apprentices to work over the course of the next several months. The committee anticipates a class of about 20 apprentices this year. It appears that the occupation of a union electrician has made a remarkable comeback, and now is held in pretty much the same esteem it was many years ago.

This year we had more than 400 people come by to apply for the program. After screening for minimum requirements, 359 of those took the written test. The committee interviewed the 201 that passed to distill it down to the class selected. Because the caliber of individuals was so impressive, we will utilize the same list for next years' class.

One of the things that both our Inside Apprenticeship Committee and our Sound and Communication Committee do 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 more consistent results.

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 more than eight full days over the past three months to conduct the 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 of all of our contractors in the industry.

### **Contractors Signatory to the Inside Agreement**

Last month the Trustees of the various Inside Trust funds took action to modify their collection policy. Effective October 1, 2013, if an employer is delinquent, the initial funds received toward that delinquency will be allocated to satisfy any liquidated damages prior to any allocation to benefits. The change is an attempt to make it more difficult for contractors to postpone payment to the Trust funds when they become squeezed for cash. This change means your employees may not be eligible for health coverage even though you were only a few days late on the payment.

This change will not affect over 95% of our contractors as they pay benefits on time every month.

*Electrical  
Code  
Interpretations  
Committee  
Meeting*

The next meeting of our Electrical Code Interpretations Committee on Tuesday, **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, will feature Mr. Brian Gardiner from Associated Lighting Representatives, Inc. and Mr. Ryan Smillie from WattStopper. They will be reviewing the latest revisions to Title 24 that affect the Electrical Industry. You should be aware that the revisions go into effect on January 1, 2014 — less than five months from now.

If you plan to attend and have not yet signed up, do so now by clicking [here](#).

*State of California Building Code Acceptance Testing  
Contractor Certification Class  
September 18<sup>th</sup>*



Beginning January 1, 2014, the California Building Code Energy Efficiency section, Title 24, will require building owners to install comprehensive lighting controls on all new commercial construction, most retrofits and TI's. State regulations will also mandate that building owners have state certified testing of those lighting control systems - called Acceptance Testing.

NECA contractors who become certified lighting Acceptance Testing contractors will be able to self-perform acceptance tests on their own lighting controls jobs. Contractors who are certified will not have to hire outside acceptance testers.

To be best prepared to take advantage of the business opportunities presented by the newly updated Title 24, please join us for a four (4) hour contractor lighting controls Acceptance Testing training and certification class.

**Who May Attend:** NECA contractors and contractor staff are eligible for certification. Chapter Managers, business managers, chapter and local staff, training directors and JATC instructors are invited to observe the class.

**When:** Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Claremont Resort Hotel, 41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley, CA.

**Training Class Fee:** \$45.00 for contractor certification candidates (paid to the JATC which provides the instructor; TBD). No charge to observe the class.

**Registration:** Reply to Darlene Besst at NorCal NECA via email ([darleneb@norcalneca.org](mailto:darleneb@norcalneca.org)) or by telephone at (925) 828-6322.

*September  
26th*



# Electrical Industry Trust



Our Annual Meeting of the Electrical Industry Trust will be held at Ruth's Chris Steak House, in Walnut Creek, Thursday, September 26, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. Our September NECA Chapter Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Electrical Industry Trust and is open to all signatory contractors.

Each year the Board of Trustees report on the progress of the Electrical Industry Trust and the other Trust funds that are included in the \$1.35/hour contribution. Keep in mind the Electrical Industry Trust also funds our Apprenticeship program, and our LMCC, in addition to our Legislative Advocacy and Contractor Education Programs.

The Electrical Industry Trust will also be holding an election during this meeting to fill one Trustee position. Candidates should be a 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.

**Register Now by Clicking [Here.](#)**

**Location:**

*Electrical Industry  
Training Center  
Martinez, CA*

**Time:**

*8:00—11.30 a.m.*

**Cost:**

*Free of Charge  
to All Participants*

## ***"NFPA-70E" Seminar***

***September 13, 2013***

**View the story of Donnie Johnson; a before, during and after account of his "Arc Blast" accident. Click [here](#) and you will be directed to our web page containing link for the video.**



# Sound and Communication



Those of you that have called various IBEW hiring halls over the past year or so know that most of the skilled installers are already working. In an effort to meet the needs of our employers, the Sound and Communication Labor Management Cooperation Committee will be sponsoring a job fair at the Santa Clara Training Center on Thursday evening, September 19th. Arrangements have been made for employers to have private interview areas to take applications and speak to prospective employees. The effort is aimed at attracting some of the more qualified talent currently working outside of our NECA-IBEW system.

The Sound and Communication industry is promoting this event heavily. You won't find a less expensive method of filling gaps in your manpower needs. If this is a concern to you, start developing promo materials about your company and plan to man a booth at the job fair.

VOICE  
DATA  
VIDEO

SOUND AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
*of Northern California*

## **DO YOU KNOW ANY EXPERIENCED NON-UNION TECHNICIANS WHO WOULD BE GOOD FOR OUR COMPANY?**

Please bring them to the NorCal VDV job fair on September 19th from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Santa Clara County Electrical Training Center, 908 Bern Court, San Jose. **Enjoy food, drinks, and a raffle!**

We are looking for installers, technicians and senior technicians with at least two years experience. Audio/Video and Fire Life Safety experience is a plus!

At the job fair, NorCal VDV electrical contractors, as well as representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) will discuss immediate employment opportunities in the field. Those who qualify may go to work for the most qualified electrical contractors in Northern California and receive good wages, plus benefits such as superior health care and pensions.

Thank you for your help!



For More Information

**[www.NorCalVDV.org/JobFair](http://www.NorCalVDV.org/JobFair)**

**1-855-JOB-IBEW**

Or See the new NorCal VDV Facebook  
and LinkedIn Recruitment Sites

**[www.Facebook.com/NorCalVDV](http://www.Facebook.com/NorCalVDV)**

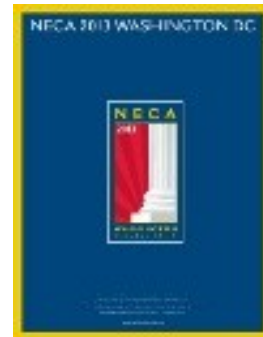
**[www.Linkedin.com/NorCalVDV](http://www.Linkedin.com/NorCalVDV)**



# NECA 2013 Washington DC Convention & Trade Show

**Oct. 12 - Oct. 15, 2013**

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC**



[Click here for  
full Convention  
brochure.](#)

## **The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on NECA Contractors at Labor Relations Special Session**

For over 60 years, NECA contractors have provided quality healthcare coverage to 26 million electrical workers, retirees and their families. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) would dramatically change how these plans are offered and administered.

Not only would the ACA affect the healthcare plans provided by NECA contractors, but the law itself continues to haphazardly morph in large and small ways, [like the Administration's recent decision to delay the mandate for employer-provided health insurance until 2015](#). The Labor Relations Special Session at NECA 2013 Washington DC will focus on how the Affordable Care Act will affect the multiemployer healthcare plans using the most up-to-date information available.



“Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on NECA Contractors” will be presented on Monday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. by a panel of experts. They will cover the most crucial issues surrounding the ACA for multiemployer plans for those employees covered by collective bargaining agreements, as well as employees outside the bargaining unit.

Multiemployer healthcare plans have not been part of the contentious debate over the ACA; rather, their concerns have been drowned out by more vocal opponents. The Labor Relations Special Session at NECA 2013 Washington DC will be your opportunity to learn how the law could affect your plans and your employees. [Make plans to be there in person by registering for NECA 2013 Washington DC.](#)

The “NECA Call to Action: Reform and Repair The Affordable Care Act” can be viewed and downloaded online at the following link: [NECA Call to Action](#).

**NECA 2013 Washington DC Convention**  
**Early registration rates available through September 13, 2013**

# Electrical Workers Health Plan

## Satisfies Employer Mandate



Between now and the end of the year you are going to be hearing more than you ever wanted know about the Affordable Care Act (ACA, Obamacare). Not that you would ever be concerned about whether a NECA-IBEW health plan meets the Minimum Value and Minimum Essential Coverage requirement, but if you did, we have good news.

Most of our Contra Costa based members cover their non-bargaining employees (office staff) under the Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Trust — the same plan their (Inside) union employees are covered by. We had our legal counsel for the plan review our coverage and they have determined it satisfies the individual and employer mandate. Click [Here](#) for a copy of their analysis.

**SYNERGY**  
eLinks

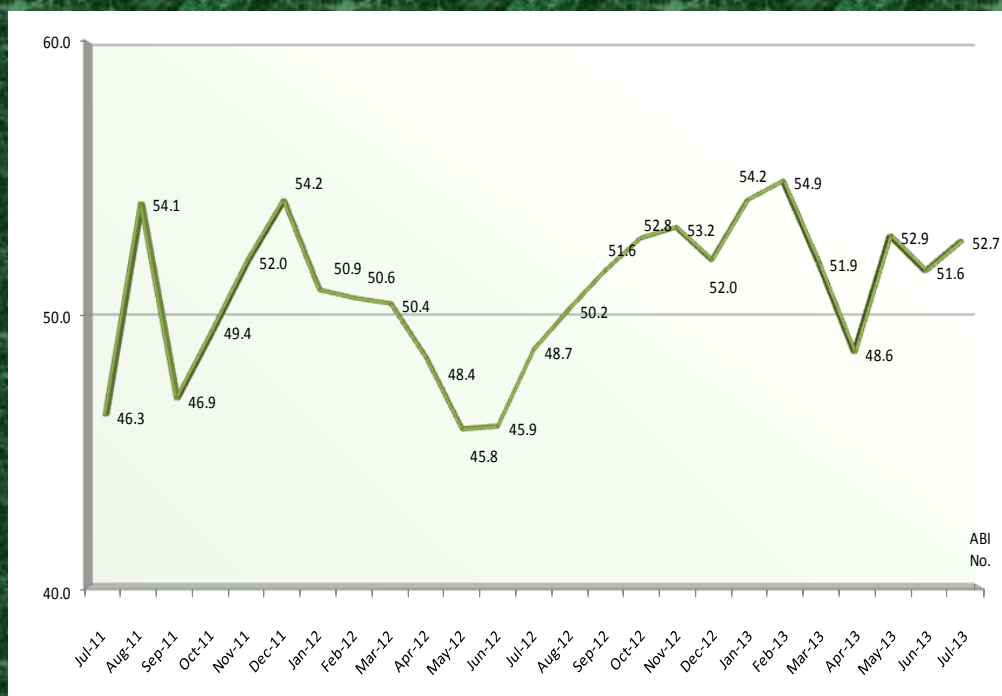
[NECA Convention  
Registration](#)

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Brochure](#)

[Personal Best](#)

## Architecture Billings Index

July 2013



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

Click [Here](#) to read full article.



# September 2013

*Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat*



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Martinez, CA 94553**

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Labor Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Electrical <u>Code</u>  Zio Fraedos Pleasant Hill  Sub: 10:30 a.m. Gen: 11:45 a.m.			NFPA-70E <u>Seminar</u>  Training Center Martinez 8:00 a.m.			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
JATC  Training Center Martinez  3:00 p.m.			Annual Electrical Industry Trust <u>Meeting</u>  Ruth's Chris Steak House Walnut Creek			
29	30					

NOTES: