



SUMMER

OUR 48TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

APRIL 2011



April 2011

JATT - April 14

Negotiations - April 12, 18, 25 & 28

Electrical Code - April 20

Easter - April 24



Contra Costa Chapter, NECA

New Officers

At their meeting on March 31, 2011, the Chapter Board of Directors held its election of officers.

Rick Henry remains as the Governor and Jim Szuch, Jr., as the President. Casey Dias is the new Vice President. Skip Stewart is the new Treasurer.

On behalf of all of our members, we thank the officers for the additional time, effort and patience involved in running the association.

workers comp insurance

Do Not Overlook The Dual Wage Rule Issue

Have you ever wondered why California has two workers comp classifications for electricians that do exactly the same thing? The reason is because NECA lobbied the Workers Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau for "rate relief" during the early 1980's. Our argument was that union workers were inherently safer because of their training, and that the state system was unfair to our NECA contractors because it is based on straight-time wage rates (payroll). Since union contractors had higher wage rates, they paid proportionally higher premiums, which worked to subsidize the rest of the industry. It took several years and lots of studies to substantiate our position, but that is why we have codes 5140 and 5190 today.

So apparently some unscrupulous employers figured out that if they just told their carrier that they paid the higher wage rate then they too could take advantage of the lower premium rate. The carriers have pushed back and in 2008 were successful in getting a requirement put on the employer to document the *hours of work* to claim the lower rate.

The WCIRB now dictates the number of hours worked by an employee MUST be documented with time cards or time sheets accurately showing start and stop times in addition to total hours worked. The insurance carriers are now required to verify the accuracy of these reports. If the records cannot be verified, then they (carriers) will be required to place the payroll in the low wage classification (highest rated class).

All carriers including those that provide the NECA/WEST Business Insurance, have this requirement. Make sure you have the necessary supporting documentation of start and stop times for each employee. If it is picked up on an audit that you have insufficient time card information, you will have to pay the lower wage classification (higher premium).

Electrical Code Interpretations Committee

April 20, 2011

RELEASED

New Title 24 Residential Lighting Design Guide

The California Lighting Technology Center of the University of California, Davis, has released a supplemental publication to the 2008 Residential Compliance Manual. The Title 24 Residential Lighting Design Guide is a resource of best practices and lighting designs to help builders, energy auditors and lighting designers comply with California's 2008 Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, which went into effect January 1, 2010.

The Residential Lighting Design Guide offers a technology overview for high-efficacy luminaires, switching controls, sensors and dimmers. It has a lighting design guide complete with room diagrams of several spaces in the home, and it includes an inspection and compliance checklist to help builders ensure homes are up to code.

Click Here to download: [Design Guide](#)

“Significant Changes in the 2008 NEC”

We have made arrangements for a short program on the changes you need to be concerned with in the 2008 NEC on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA.

The seminar will be held in conjunction with our regular meeting of the Code Interpretations Committee. We plan to present a short educational program beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the “Significant Changes in the 2008 National Electrical Code. The program has been designed for the benefit of both those who install and those who inspect electrical work. Steve Pouliot, formerly of the Contra Costa County Building Inspection Department, will cover the topic in a two-hour presentation. At the conclusion of the educational program, we will conduct our regular luncheon meeting of the Electrical Code Committee.

You may register by completing the attached form and faxing to 925-372-0282 listing the names of those from your firm that plan on joining us on April 20, 2011.

We encourage all of our contractors to attend the seminar. Zio's serves one of the best lunches in the area, and this is a good opportunity to find out what you will need to know about “the Code” for the next three years. The luncheon will be hosted by the Electrical Alliance of Contra Costa County and is free of charge to all participants.



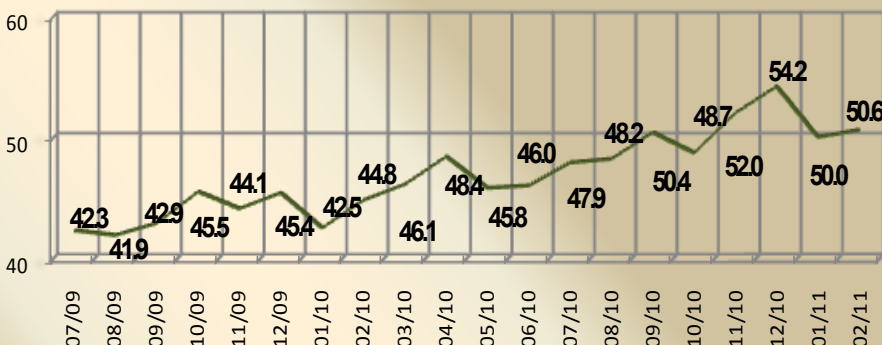
The 2011 NECA Convention and Trade Show will be held at the San Diego Convention and Exposition Center in San Diego, CA Oct. 22-25.

Early registration begins Tuesday, June 14, 2011.

<http://www.necaconvention.org>

architecture billings index

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported the February ABI score was 50.6 up slightly from a reading of 50.0 the previous month. This score reflects a modest increase in demand for design services (any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings).



ENCLOSURES

Calendar

Body Bulletin



April 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		<i>Negotiations</i>			JATC	
		Training Center Martinez 5:30 p.m.			Training Center Martinez 12:00 p.m.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<i>Negotiations</i>		Electrical Code		<i>Good Friday</i>	
	Training Center Martinez 5:30 p.m.		Zio Fraedos Pleasant Hill Program : 10:00 a.m. Meeting: 12:00			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Easter</i>	<i>Negotiations</i>			<i>Negotiations</i>		
	Training Center Martinez 5:30 p.m.			Training Center Martinez 8:30 p.m.		

NOTES:



**Contra Costa Chapter
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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