



OUR 56TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

January 2019

HAPPY *New Year*

Small changes add up to big results.

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE NEW YEAR

⇒ Inside Trust Funds Transition to Self-Administration.



On January 1st, we officially began the process the self-administration of the Electrical Workers Health and Pension Plans for IBEW Local 302. This is a big step for us. Our hope is to provide a higher level of service to our plan participants (your electricians) at a lower cost. This is important when you consider that between Health, Retirement, and NEBF, you are now spending more than \$25/hour on every journeyman in your employ.

1330 Arnold Drive, Suite 250 * Martinez, California 94553 * 925-500-8718

Email: anthony@ccewbenefits.com alannah@ccewbenefits.com

⇒ Wait a Minute Mr. Postman!

Last fall we began the requirement for all employers under the Inside Agreement to utilize NECA/Star for reporting benefits for Local 302 Inside personnel. If you pay by ACH Transfer, it will no longer be necessary to mail anything to the Depository (Union Bank) in San Francisco. See below for ACH Transfer instructions.

ACH Transfer Instructions

Contra Costa County Electrical Workers IBEW Local 302
Union Bank Routing#: 122000496
Lockbox Account #: 2391000490

⇒ **CW/CE Fringe Benefit Depository Now the Same as Inside.**

For those contractors utilizing the CW/CE (Market Advancement Initiative), the depository has been the NECA office in Martinez. Effective January 1st (for hours worked in December 2018), that depository will be the same P.O. Box in San Francisco that you use for your Inside benefits. Please make your accounting/payroll department aware of this change. We will require NECA/Star for this function over the next several months, but if you need to use our Excel Spreadsheet in the interim you may access it [here](#). Like the Inside, if you use NECA/Star with ACH transfers, there is nothing to mail to the bank.

⇒ **CW/CE Health Contribution change** will be effective with January hours-worked, February benefit payment. It appears the increase will be in the neighborhood of \$0.20 - 0.25/hour. We will advise the when the bargaining parties establish the new rate.

⇒ **Inside Agreement Wage/Fringe Adjustment.**

On Monday, February 25, 2019, there will be a \$2.00 increase in the Inside wage/fringe benefit rates. We will provide the specific allocation in next month's newsletter. This will be the only adjustment in the package during the next year.

⇒ **IRS 2019 Mileage Rates.**

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the rate for 2018. See Notice 2019-02 [here](#).

⇒ **Tax Reform for Businesses.**

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/the-highlights-of-tax-reform-for-businesses>



January Membership Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Chapter Membership will take place on Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 beginning with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., at La Finestra Ristorante, 1419 Moraga Way, in the Town of Moraga. The Italian/Sicilian restaurant closed last summer in Lafayette after a [huge fire](#) and is now located in the Moraga shopping center across from Safeway (formerly Terzetto Cuisine) and offers plenty of parking.

There are a number of significant developments unfolding in our National Association that will determine the future course of NECA. [John Grau](#) has announced that he will be retiring later this year after serving as the CEO of our National Association for more than 32 years. Finding a replacement for him is taking place at this time, and is the subject of a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors next week in Dallas. Rick Henry, our Chapter Governor will report on the outcome at our Chapter meeting on January 29th.

Also, pursuant to the Chapter Bylaws, an election will be held at the January meeting to fill three positions on the Chapter's Board of Directors. The Chapter nominating Committee has nominated Casey Dias of Watson Electric, Rick Henry of Collins Electric and Jim Szuch of Elocin Construction. Additional nominations can be made at the meeting by any member in good standing. As is the case in all Chapter matters requiring a vote, only the accredited representative or designated alternate will be eligible to vote at the January meeting.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



NECA's Giamberardino Recognized as One of the Hill's 2018 Top Lobbyists

DEC 14, 2018

The National Electrical Contractors Association's work in Washington has received high praise from *The Hill*, one of the top publications covering Capitol Hill.



Marco Giamberardino, NECA's Executive Director of Government Affairs, was listed as one of the top lobbyists for associations in 2018. [View the complete list](#)

According to *The Hill*, Giamberardino ranks among “the most distinguished and accomplished professionals from the influence world who are on the front lines of the nation’s most consequential political and policy battles.”

It continues: “The lobbying world faces new pressures and is under greater scrutiny than ever. But the select few on the list have demonstrated their ability to wield influence and deliver results on Capitol Hill and in the administration on behalf of clients and groups seeking a voice in Washington.”

NECA is coming off the heels of one its most successful conventions. For the first time in its history, a sitting U.S. president appeared at the annual event, as Donald J. Trump spoke before thousands of members of the electrical industry during NECA 2018 Philadelphia in October.

“NECA continues to make major progress in the nation’s capital on behalf of our members,” Giamberardino said. “Our legislative wins, combined with the historic presidential visit this fall, confirmed we are making an impact where it matters.”

NECA - ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS of CALIFORNIA TRUST

2018 End of Year Legislative Report

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INTRODUCTION

The California Legislature concluded the 2018 legislative session on September 30th which was the deadline for Governor Brown to sign or veto legislation. NECA once again had a very successful legislative session with victories in the areas of Private Attorneys General Act "PAGA" reform (AB 1654), excavation safety (AB 1914), prompt payment protection (AB 1565), pre-qualification (AB 2030) and the expansion and enforcement of the skilled and trained workforce requirements (AB 3018 & SB 914).

NECA also took the leading role in opposing or amending dozens of measures that would have been harmful to our contractors and the industry overall.

Enclosed is an [overview of the pertinent industry legislation](#) that was passed during the 2018 legislative session. All of the newly enacted laws will become operative January 1, 2019, unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like additional information, please contact the Politico Group office via email at bernacchi@politicogroup.com or by phone (916) 444-3770.

Complete text of legislation can be found on our website www.politicoonline.com. Look under "Find a Bill" in our quick links and enter the bill number.



PLAN OF BENEFITS FOR THE NEBF

Temporary Return to Work Amendment

The Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF) and the National Employees Benefit Board have approved a *temporary* Return to Work Amendment to the Plan of Benefits for the NEBF. This temporary amendment permits certain eligible retirees to return to covered and contributory employment for a period of time without a loss of pension benefits from the NEBF.

The temporary amendment is for the period of *January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019*. Please read the [notice](#) carefully as this amendment does not apply to all retirees or to all electrical employment.

Also, in an effort to assist participating JATCs with utilizing pre-age 65 retirees as instructors, the Trustees have approved pre-age 65 retirees with a pension effective date during calendar year 2019 to utilize this amendment as long as they are working as an instructor in a JATC where such instructors are contributed on. In addition to the normal procedure explained in the attached notice; the only additional requirement is that the individual must completely retire for one full month before returning as an instructor.

NEBF eligible retirees will receive a copy of the notice which will be mailed this month. We wanted you to have this information in advance should you receive any questions from your members.

Should you have any questions, please contact the NEBF at 301-556-4304.

BASIC ESTIMATING OF ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION



Sponsored by
the Northern California Chapter, NECA's
Member Services Committee

Instructor: Bob Mooty

Dates: Monday - Thursday
January 28, 29, 30 & 31, 2019

Time: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Place: Zero Net Energy Training Center
14600 Catalina Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

Cost: \$990.00 NECA Members
\$1,100.00 Non-Members

Note: Classes are subject to cancellation up to two weeks in advance of the class in the event sufficient registration is not received. Please register today to avoid cancellation. No refunds one week prior to class.

Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction

Small mistakes in an estimate can have a huge impact on your bid's bottom line and this course provides the tools needed to be both comprehensive and competitive. This course will discuss the process for assembling an estimate including: developing material lists, applying labor unit data, material takeoff and application of direct job costs, overhead, and profit.

Following this class, participants will be able to:

- List types of mistakes found when estimating electrical construction projects and how to avoid them
- Describe the parts of an estimate
- Explain the importance of establishing the true cost for a project
- Develop an estimate to provide job management information
- Discuss how labor units can be used to competitively bid projects
- Explain the difference between a competitive bid and simply a low bid

Target audience: Individuals who are new to estimating or are looking to hone their skills. **Prerequisite:** An understanding of electrical construction and the application of electrical material and completion of NECA's Introduction to the Manual of Labor Units online course (included with registration).

Duration: Four-days

Continuing Education Hours: 24 Hours

Complete the registration form and e-mail or fax to: juanitas@norcalneca.org, Fax: 925/828-6392
Northern California Chapter, NECA
5934 Gibraltar Dr., Suite 205
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Phone: 925/828-NECA

**Space is
Limited
Register soon!!**



- ☐ Method of Payment: Utilize education fund credits. (Northern California Chapter members only.)
- ☐ Check enclosed.

1st Participant Name _____ Phone Number _____

2nd Participant Name _____ Phone Number _____

Company _____

Principal Signature _____

Email Address _____

Email Address _____

Business Address _____

Phone number _____

6 Powerful Questions to Make the New Year an Awesome Year

At this time of year, we often make resolutions of what we want to achieve--most of which fall by the wayside before the spring blooms appear.

Here's a different approach: Ask yourself a few powerful questions at the beginning of the year. Then check in with your answers weekly or monthly and adjust them when you need to. The focus becomes growth and development, not trying to meet an all-or-nothing ultimatum.

Spend some time with these questions before the start of the new year:

1. What should I start?

What new habits, skills, adventures, or ventures, do you want to begin? Remember you can always start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can. You don't have to be great, you just have to start. Don't hope for it; don't plan it. Get it started.

2. What should I stop?

What's been keeping you stuck? Think about the things that kept you playing small--the bad habits, the negative thinking. It may be a matter of giving up something that isn't working to free yourself up for another option that might serve you better. Don't worry about failure or what you have to lose but focus on what you have to gain.

3. What should I do more of?

Sometimes it's exactly right to want more: More laughter, more love, more fun, more happiness, more family, more good times, more adventures, more playtime. More learning. More peace, more understanding, more forgiveness. Think of what worked for you and nourished you this year and how you made it happen.

4. What should I do less of?

What did you have too much of? You may want to give yourself less negativity, less fear, less busy-ness, less overscheduling, less overthinking, less stress, less anxiety, less lack of sleep. (You get the point.) Remember, the more of the bad stuff you let go of the more room you're clearing out for the good.

5. What should I continue?

Maybe it's something that's working that you want to make a habit of. Maybe it's an area where you haven't yet found success and you need to keep seeking. Success comes when you continue to do the things that work and continue to learn the things you don't know.

6. What should I be grateful for?

It's so easy to get busy and caught up in the day-to-day that we forget to take the time to say "thank you." Or "That's wonderful" or "How beautiful" or "Wow." When you express gratitude you notice that you have enough; you connect with all the ways you're wealthy--whether it's financially or being rich in love and friends and good colleagues, personal gifts like intelligence and talent, even having food on the table and a roof overhead. Finding time to reflect on gratitude is one of the most powerful practices you can begin .

The great thing about these questions is that you can apply them to any area of your life. Schedule a regular time to review and reflect on your answers and see how you can do better.

Here's to a successful year and a successful life.

NEBF 2017 ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE



January 2019

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 <u>New Year Holiday</u>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Inside Apprentice Applications Local 302 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.	15	16	17 <u>Inside JATC</u> Martinez Training Center 2:00 p.m.	18	19
20	21 <u>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday</u>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Inside Apprentice Applications Local 302 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.	29 <u>NECA</u> Cobra Experience Board: 4:30 p.m. Chapter: 6:00 p.m..	30	31	1	2



CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER
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