

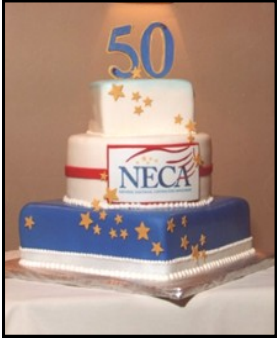


# SYNERGY

OUR 50TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

MARCH 2013



## *A Look Back . . .*

We want to thank everyone that made it to our Anniversary Party celebration last month. Hank and Dixie Cassady got the prize for coming the furthest – all the way from their home in Camden, South Carolina. Hank was one of six of our former Chapter Presidents that attended. The others were Ray Trebino, Doug Watson, Skip Stewart, Lloyd Diehl, and Michael Dias.

We have updated the video presentation that we put together for the event to CD format. For those of you that would like a copy, just call the Chapter Office or request one here [sspare09@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sspare09@sbcglobal.net).

In the process of putting the first part of the slide show together, we turned over a couple of stones and found some interesting short stories you might enjoy.

If I was offered the opportunity to travel back in time and meet any one individual who played an important role in the development of our industry, it would be, hands down, Nikola Tesla. While I gained a greater appreciation of the brilliance of both Edison and Tesla, what I found more interesting was the story within the story; Edison vs. Tesla, and how two of the smartest people to ever walk to face of the earth could treat each other so nasty. If you look at the cover of the February edition of Electrical Contractor Magazine (published by NECA, Inc.) you will see that rivalry may not be over. The linked article [“The Incredible Genius That America Ignored,”](#) (written by a rabid Tesla fan) should put you at ease if you worry about the fact that you too occasionally exhibit behavior that might be considered “slightly neurotic.”



Chapter President, Jim Szuch  
January 31, 2013

We have also attached a reprint of our [National NECA Newsletter from July 1991](#) detailing the early days of the industry, and how electrical contractors got their origin. It seems that the Edison Electric Illuminating Company could not keep up with the new demand, so “Mr. E” encouraged some of his foremen to act as contract installation companies.

Lastly, I came to a greater appreciation for what happened around here during the Second World War. One of the first Business Managers of Local 302, Red Lawrence, in [“Local Union 302 IBEW”](#) gives an account of a time the local had 11,500 members because of their marine unit that represented employees in the shipyards in Richmond. One of their biggest problems was to figure out how to get the \$25,000 to \$50,000 in dues they took in on a *daily* basis to the bank.

Like you, we look forward to bigger and better things over the next fifty years.

**On behalf of the Chapter Board of Directors and Staff and  
our National Association, we thank you for your continued support.**



Matt Montgomery of Bleyco Construction



Mike Durlinger of Bleyco Construction

# Congratulations are in order: Check Out The Bay Bridge Tonight

Congratulations to Ruth Bley and Chris Berge and their team at Bleyco, Inc. for what will be remembered as their contribution to the arts, which will officially be launched at 8:30 tonight (March 5, 2013).

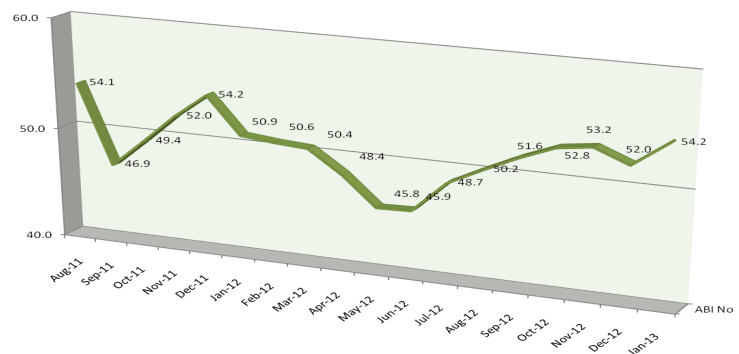
The old western span of the Bay Bridge between San Francisco and Treasure Island will show off 25,000 new LED lights into a light sculpture. The privately-funded 8 million dollar project is the largest sculpture of its kind in the world. Lights will flicker on and off and dim and brighten in waves and pulses on the 1.8 mile span for the next two years.



## Architectural Billings Index

The American institute of Architects (AIA) reported that the January ABI Score was 54.2.

Any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings.



## Synergy eLinks

### A Look Back . . .

[The Incredible Genius That America Ignored](#)  
[National NECA Newsletter from July 1991](#)  
[Local Union 302 IBEW](#)

### Sound & Communication

[Apprenticeship Applications](#)  
[Electronic Program Brochure](#)

### Personal Best





# Improving On-Site Productivity

## Material Handling, Site Logistics and Storage, and Crew Schedule

*Like all of our Trust-sponsored educational programs, this seminar is free of charge to any attendee sponsored by a firm signatory to our NECA-IBEW labor agreement.*

On Friday, March 22, 2013, the Electrical Industry Trust will host a half-day program that will address many of the issues and concepts necessary to successfully increase the productivity of on-site craft labor. As a result of taking this course, participants will know how to plan, measure, and take corrective action to increase field productivity, understand “real life” tools and techniques that will lead to increased productivity and more profit from projects, and be ready to implement and measure the results of what has been learned.

This course is being taught by Dr. Awad Hanna, Professor of Construction Engineering and Management at the University of Wisconsin, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Dr Hanna is considered a leading authority on construction productivity issues.

### Course Topics

- ✦ Extent of Construction Productivity Problems
- ✦ Definitions of Productivity
- ✦ Causes of Poor Labor Productivity
- ✦ Classification of Work
- ✦ How to Reduce Inefficient Time And Increase Your Profit
- ✦ Factors Impacting Productivity
- ✦ Productivity Measurements
- ✦ Daily Productivity Measurements
- ✦ Productivity Worksheet
- ✦ Performance Factor Report
- ✦ Methods for Identifying Ineffective Work and Lost Time
- ✦ What do you Track?
- ✦ Manpower Loading and S-curve
- ✦ Site Logistics
- ✦ Site Layout
- ✦ Deliveries
- ✦ Storage
- ✦ How to Keep Material Handling Alive

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

***This class is limited to 25 participants and we already have 20 people signed up. If you are planning to attend, kindly let us know as soon as possible.***

**LOCATION:**  
Electrical Industry  
Training Center  
1255 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA

**TIME**  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
Lunch @ 11:30 p.m.

**RSVP**  
[ss\\_ccneca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss_ccneca@sbcglobal.net)

925-372-3222 x 10

*If you wish to attend or send others from your firm, please RSVP via fax to 925-372-0282 or via email @ [ss\\_ccneca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss_ccneca@sbcglobal.net), so that we will have an accurate count for class materials and lunch. Click [here](#) to download registration form.*





Contra Costa Chapter, NECA  
Chapter Membership Meeting  
January 31, 2013



# March 2013



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

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<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	8	9
10 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	11	12 <b>Industry Trust</b> <b>Prima's Restaurant</b> 11:30 a.m.	13	14 <b>JATC</b> Testing 8:45—12 Noon Day 1	15 <b>JATC</b> Testing 8:45—12 Noon Day 2	16
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <b>Sound &amp; Communication</b> <b>Steering Committee</b> 11:00 a.m. Alameda JATC	20	21 <b>JATC</b> Testing 8:45—12 Noon Day 3	22 <b>Improving Jobsite Productivity</b> <b>SEMINAR</b> 8:30 a.m. Training Center	23
24	25	26	27	28 <b>JATC</b> Testing 8:45—12 Noon Day 4	29	30
31 <i>Easter</i>						