



SYNERGY

OUR 55TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

JANUARY 2018

January Membership Meeting



The next regular meeting of the Chapter Membership will take place on Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 beginning with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., at Zio Fraedos Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, CA.

Mr. Eddie Bernacchi, our legislative advocate in Sacramento, will be our featured speaker at the meeting. Always one of our most popular guests, Eddie will share his insight on the most recent developments with our California State government and how they are likely to affect your business.

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 Tri-Tech Electric, Michael Dias of Contra Costa Electric and Sean McPeak of McPeak Electric for the three positions. Additional nominations can be made 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.

Finally, we will use the occasion of our January meeting to review any issues you may have for the forthcoming negotiations with the IBEW over the Inside Agreement. We will also be inviting all Contra Costa - based signatory employers that are not yet members of the association. If you know any of them, you could help by encouraging them to come to the meeting to see what NECA is all about.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Health and Welfare Fringe Benefit Rate Increase

CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN/CONSTRUCTION WIREMAN

Effective January 1, 2018

[Updated Cost Per Hour Sheet](#)



New Silica Rule Hammer Comes Down

OSHA's revised rule on how much respirable crystalline silica construction workers can be exposed to is finally being enforced, putting contractors in action and worry mode.

Issued in March 2016, the tougher standard slashes the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for crystalline silica. It goes from 250 micrograms per cubic unit of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), averaged over an eight-hour period, down to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and mandates a stricter monitoring and documentation regimen.



Contractors at the time were given a year to get ready, but in the spring OSHA (convinced that many remained far from compliant and operating under a new administration sympathetic to calls for less regulation) announced a three-month delay. Now though — ready or not — construction contractors must comply and are newly subject to OSHA penalties if they don't. But less than a month in, it's still unclear how well-prepared contractors were to meet the standard on day one, and also what OSHA's stance will be on the timing and scope of enforcement.

Tom Zind | Oct 16, 2017

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



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, 2018 through December 31, 2018*. Please read the [Return to Work 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 2018 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.

All 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.

POLITICO ALERT

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State Minimum Wage Increases January 1st

Please remember that in 2016 California passed legislation to increase the State minimum wage to \$15 per hour over time. Under the provisions of that law, California's minimum wage will increase on January 1, 2018 to \$11 per hour for employers with 26 employees or more and \$10.50 for employers with 25 or fewer employees.

Below is the mandated schedule to get the State minimum wage to \$15 by 2023:

<u>Effective Date</u>	Minimum Wage for Employers with 25 Employees or Less	Minimum Wage for Employers with 26 Employees or More
January 1, 2018	\$10.50/hour	\$11.00/hour
January 1, 2019	\$11.00/hour	\$12.00/hour
January 1, 2020	\$12.00/hour	\$13.00/hour
January 1, 2021	\$13.00/hour	\$14.00/hour
January 1, 2022	\$14.00/hour	\$15.00/hour
January 1, 2023	\$15.00/hour	



Improve Your Cash Flow with Proper Documentation, Change Orders, Delays and Inefficiency Claims

**Sacramento - January 25, 2018
San Bruno - January 26, 2018**

Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction

February 5, 6, 7, & 8, 2018

Advanced Estimating of Electrical Construction

April 18 & 19, 2018



**SYNERGY
eLinks**

**[NEW SILICA RULE HAMMER COMES
DOWN](#)**

**[THE TOP 50 ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS](#)**

**[NEBF TEMPORARY RETURN TO
WORK NOTIFICATION](#)**

[STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR 2018](#)

**IN MEMORY OF HENRY "HANK" DIAS
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:
[AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION](#)**



Cannon Place Photography

January 2018

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 HOLIDAY New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 NECA Zio Fraedos Pleasant Hill Board: 4:30 p.m. Chapter: 6:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14	15 HOLIDAY Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 LMCC Martinez Training Center 5:30 p.m.	17	18 JATT Martinez Training Center 3:00 p.m.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2018 Holiday Schedule

IBEW Local 302
Inside Wiremen and Sound & Communication



CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER
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