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**Madison WI 53713**

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# Watts News

**January 2007**

## Winter Meeting

The temperatures don't feel like it, but it is nearly time for the Wisconsin Chapter Annual Winter Meeting. This year's event will be held January 26 – 27 at the Marriott Hotel, Madison. Starting with a cocktail reception on Friday evening, and continuing on through the closing banquet on Saturday night, it is sure to be another meeting you won't want to miss. Our general meeting starts Saturday morning with Leslie Ptak of OSHA, Karen Morgan from the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, and then our featured speaker, Fred Furland. Fred's presentation, "Disappearing Bottom Line" will begin in the morning, recess for lunch and discussion, and then will conclude in the afternoon. Our awards presentation, will follow the closing banquet Saturday evening, and the evening will conclude with musical entertainment from "A Touch of Brass." This year the theme of the closing banquet is "Hollywood's Red Carpet" so don your finest party apparel and come prepared to be given the star treatment as one of NECA's finest.

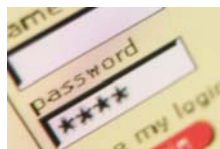


Minutes from downtown and the University of Wisconsin, the Madison Marriott West offers a dynamic blend of convenience, outstanding service and welcome amenities that make your visit a delight. And Middleton is quickly becoming an entertainment and shopping destination, featuring the many shops and restaurants of Greenway Station, adjacent to the hotel. Madison offers something for everyone, and it's no surprise it is one of our most popular meeting locations. We hope to see you there!

## Chapter Website Will Have Password

During the month of January, the chapter website will be undergoing several changes intended to make navigation more user friendly and proved direct access to information on educational opportunities through NECA's Management Education Institute as well as a link to the TruPro.org website. Additionally, access to area labor agreements as well as wage and fringe benefit information will be password protected. All chapter members will receive a correspondence in the near future with instruc-

tions, a username and password required to access this information. Contact Jennifer at the chapter office with any questions regarding these changes.



## Correction on

### Manpower Stats

The Manpower Statistics Report for the Month of October 2006 which appeared in last month's newsletter, had a statistical error, and the report was not accurate. We received several phone calls regarding the numbers, and have corrected the error. A new amended version of the October 2006 report appears in this edition of the Watts News, along with the November 2006 report.

### REMINDER

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 44.5 cents per mile for 2006. The primary reasons for the higher rates were higher prices for vehicles and fuel during the year ending in October. The standard mileage rates for business, medical and moving purposes are based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile.

## New ELECTRI International Papers

Wisconsin Chapter members will soon receive complimentary copies of two new publications from ELECTRI International, NECA's research foundation.

The first publication is "A Strategy for Improving the Electrical Construction Industry" was written by Dr. Perry Daneshgari, who presented the "Operational Cost Differences" seminar for our Chapter a year ago. In it, Dr. Daneshgari explores the role the ELECTRI International Foundation can play in helping NECA members to create greater cooperation between themselves and the architects, general contractors, suppliers and manufacturers, thereby increasing their productivity. His research focused on procurement, project management, organizational structure and technology and trends.

The second publication is "Fuel Cell Technology and Electrical Contracting, a Financial Analysis of the Fuel Cell Life Cycle" and was written by Russell Walters of Iowa State University. The research studied the life cycle of a 200 kW fuel cell unit in order to determine when fuel cells will become a feasible alternative to batteries and diesel-fueled generators.

The Wisconsin Chapter NECA is proud to provide these publications as a benefit of NECA membership. If you would like additional copies, contact Jennifer at the Chapter Office.

## The Changing World of Construction

Technology is rapidly and significantly changing the construction industry, and its importance is only expected to grow in the future. Computer software, especially 3-D drafting software has become one of the most widely used tools, allowing architects to design better projects. Now, many contractors are using 3-D models for marketing and to more effectively communicate with the customer on project specifics.

Additionally, wireless technologies have produced increased productivity for construction especially with the ability to search the internet, download specifications and documents, and check e-mail, all from a cell phone. Devices can capture up to the minute status on a project, hours and materials used, and any issues to be resolved. Some general contractors are even setting up websites for larger projects, which document the job progress, and allow all parties to document issues, and communicate with other contractors as well as the general contractor.

The use of these technologies and newer ones, will change the way a contractor orders materials, schedules labor, and can streamline the change order process, all providing better construction projects that are more profitable for all involved.

We've come a long way from HAL in "2001, a Space Odyssey".



## From the Desk of Attorney Kay

In a recent Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision, Stuart v. Weisflog's Showroom Gallery, Inc., the Wisconsin Court of Appeals addressed the application of Chapter 110 of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer

Protection administration rules to home improvement contractors making misrepresentations or failing to perform under a home improvement contract. While many electrical contractors might think that they do not engage in working under home improvement contracts, that phrase is broadly defined in § 110.01(4) of the Administrative Rules. It provides:

“Home improvement contract” means an oral or written agreement between a seller and an owner or a seller and a tenant or lessee of residential or non-commercial property, or a seller and a tenant or lessee if the tenant or lessee is to be obligated for the payment of home improvements made in, to, or upon such property, and includes all agreements under which the seller is to perform labor or render services for home improvements, or furnish materials in connection therewith.



Additionally, “seller” as that term is used in the “home improvement contract” definition means:

“Seller” means a person engaged in the business of making or selling home improvements and includes corporations, partnerships, associations and any other form of business organization or entity, and their officers, representatives, agents and employees.

While electrical contractors may not generally go out and solicit home improvement contracts, they may enter into such contracts with owners who are seeking to remodel their homes. Chapter 110 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code covers such work and the contracts between the homeowner and the contractor may be oral, unless the homeowner is asked to make payments in advance of the completion of the work.

Chapter 110 is directed at misrepresentations by the contractor as well as failed or delayed performance. Its provisions are broad and designed to protect a homeowner against any predatory practice by a home improvement contractor.

If any NECA contractor would like a copy of Chapter 110 of the Administrative Code, I will be happy to send a copy to the NECA office and a copy can then be provided to you.



**You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns - or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses.**

### January 2007

#### **January 3**

Madison Membership  
Janesville-Beloit Membership

#### **January 8**

Kenosha-Racine Membership

#### **January 13**

Indianhead Holiday Party

#### **January 17**

Northeastern Membership

#### **January 26 - 27, 2007**

Winter Meeting  
Marriott - Madison, WI

### Upcoming Meetings

#### **March 18 - 21, 2007**

Spring Conference  
Tucson, AZ

#### **July 26 - 28, 2007**

Summer Meeting  
Sheboygan, WI

#### **October 5 - 8, 2007**

NECA Convention  
San Francisco, CA

#### **January 25 - 26, 2008**

Winter Meeting  
Mall of America

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The OSHA website, [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) has a new section with "Quick Cards", handy reference cards that can be printed and posted on job sites, or distributed to employees. These easy to read cards are an excellent tool to use to remind employees of safety measures they already know, but it never hurts to be reminded. Go to the site, <http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/quickcards.html> and select the safety topic.



Have you got a code question for Tom? Let us know and we'll ask him to answer it in a future newsletter.

## Girls Recruited for Future Skilled Trades

The Wisconsin Women's Council has an unusual strategy. "Hook 'em when they're young." The Women's Council has partnered with the Girl Scouts of Milwaukee to reach pre-teen and teen girls and encourage them to consider the skilled trades as a career. The program called Pathways to Professions, emphasizes careers in science, technology and the skilled trades and showcases female professionals in these sectors. By seeing women working in skilled trades such as electricians or mechanical engineers, they realize they could also perform those jobs and can be capable of supporting their families.

Girls tend to do well in sciences and math until middle to high school ages, where they tend to lose interest. The hope is that by getting them to think about these careers early so they will maintain their interest in these fields and pursue these interests after graduation.

The Pathways to Professions program is targeted at expanding participation from low-income families and communities, and educates them on the paths available to them, such as apprenticeship, to obtain high-skilled, high-demand, high-paying jobs to secure their futures.

## Tom's Code Corner

**Question:** How is the State of Wisconsin interpreting 700.27 for selective coordination? Must the overcurrent protective devices be coordinated over the entire time frame, specifically the instantaneous range?

**Answer:** Yes. 700.27 and 701.18

Selective coordination means only the protective device closest to the fault will trip.

This means series rated systems cannot be used on an emergency distribution system.

Only those systems or circuits that fall under the scope of Articles 700 or 701 are required to be selectively coordinated.

Proposal 11-134 created the new requirement. The original proposal stated "All overcurrent protection devices in emergency systems shall be selectively coordinated to ensure proper isolation and localization of a fault by the overcurrent devices closest to the fault condition and preventing loss of power to other unaffected parts of the emergency system." There is an article on the subject in the August 2005 issue of Consulting-Specifying Engineer. It does mention using the adjustment on the instantaneous trip setting on power breakers to achieve coordination in this range. It also mentions that this technique is limited to switchgear construction. In other words, switch boards and panelboards are not listed to permit this technique to be used.

## MANPOWER STATISTICS

For the Month of **November 2006**

Local Union #	14	127	158	159	388	430	577	890	TOTAL
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Local Contractors: NECA	9	4	3	19	5	5	4	6	55
Non-NECA	34	14	16	20	16	15	10	18	143
<b>Total Local Contractors:</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>198</b>
Traveling Contractors: NECA	8	4	7	7	7	5	6	6	50
Non-NECA	3	9	4	1	1	5	2	0	25
<b>Total Traveling Contractors:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>TOTAL # OF CONTRACTORS - LOCAL AND TRAVELERS:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>273</b>
Contractors More Than Two Months Delinquent in N.E.B.F.	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	7
Total Number of Contributing Contractors in Area:	55	32	31	48	29	32	22	31	280
Employees: NECA	277	66	215	812	278	62	200	208	2118
Non-NECA	210	152	204	97	49	74	75	89	950
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYED:</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>3068</b>

<u>Union #</u>	<u>NECA Division Name</u>
127	Kenosha Division
158	Northeastern Division
159	Madison Division
388	Wisconsin Valley Division
430	Racine Division
577	Fox Valley Division
890	Janesville-Beloit Division
14	Indianhead/La Crosse Division

NOTE: These figures only reflect employees of contractors not more than 2 months delinquent in their N.E.B.F. payments.

The newest NEIS standard is NECA 411-2006, Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). The publication describes installation and maintenance procedures for static, three phase uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) rated 30 kVA or more and 600 volts or less, and covers UPS along with related battery systems installed indoors and outdoors for all applications. These solid state power systems provide continuous regulated AC power and are often used to support critical functions such as computer data centers and 911 call facilities which cannot tolerate blackouts or brownouts.

To order your copy, contact Jennifer at the Chapter Office (608) 221-4650.



## MANPOWER STATISTICS

Corrected Copy

For the Month of -- **October 2006**

Local Union #	14	127	158	159	388	430	577	890	TOTAL
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Local Contractors: NECA	9	5	3	17	5	5	4	6	54
Non-NECA	34	14	16	21	16	15	11	18	145
<b>Total Local Contractors:</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>199</b>
Traveling Contractors: NECA	8	4	7	6	8	5	6	6	50
Non-NECA	3	8	4	1	2	5	3	1	27
<b>Total Traveling Contractors:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>TOTAL # OF CONTRACTORS - LOCAL AND TRAVELERS:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>276</b>
Contractors More Than Two Months Delinquent in N.E.B.F.	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	6
Total Number of Contributing Contractors in Area:	55	32	31	45	31	32	24	32	282
Employees: NECA	289	53	141	581	275	57	199	199	1794
Non-NECA	215	169	219	96	54	72	68	86	979
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYED:</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>2773</b>

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14	Indianhead/La Crosse Division

The **2007 N.E.C.A. Midwest Regional Spring Conference** will be held March 18-21 at JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort and Spa in Tucson, Arizona. Cradled in the Tucson Mountains, the Starr Pass Resort is a luxurious retreat from the ordinary and is the newest upscale resort in Tucson. The area called Starr Pass is rich in culture, history, and scenic natural beauty.

The conference begins with a cocktail reception on March 18, and continues with meetings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings. A spouse breakfast program will be held on Monday morning, and the golf outings are scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. The 2007 Spring Conference will conclude with a banquet on Wednesday night featuring live entertainment. The Starr Pass Resort features a luxury spa offering all the latest in beauty and relaxation treatments to make your trip an enjoyable one. The area is home to many activities including horseback riding, jeep tours of the area, and, of course, shopping.

Registration information has been mailed to all members, and the registration deadline is rapidly approaching: Friday, February 9, 2007. The spring conference in Tucson promises to be a good one, so don't miss out.

