

Winter 2006-2007

Presidential Views

Greetings from the President:

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this body as President and ask that you, the membership, please participate to your utmost and know that I will try my best to move us forward. I know I'll make mistakes, please point them out to me, kindly, as soon as possible so that we can assure positive outcomes in all we do. We should strive to be a family in our association's relationships and endeavors, and should treat each other as brothers and sisters, with love and respect. When conflict occurs and we are weary of the battles, we will then stand united as a family, although I may have just had a disagreement with my big brother or even worst have failed to count his position.

Currently I'm working on comparing committee members to active member list and bylaws conformance. Three chair changes are being made; Awards, Education, Fire & Accident. Codeship is to stay as is except Henry and I are working on new vice chair & another member. Membership and PRPC have been very successful and request to remain as is.

With the new website we are going to post all meetings and events as soon as possible. Please inform me of your committee dates asap so that we may avoid conflicts, and please send Greg and myself notice of all industry events that you become aware of.

Lastly, please try to cultivate new members and broaden our scope. We have huge challenges in front of us and need to recruit members from all phases of our industry, without exception. Think of our possibilities if we were successful in recruiting existing parties such as: Manufacturers, Suppliers, Communication Workers, IBEW, NECA, CECA, AGC just to name a few. If we are to be effective we must find a way to interest more entities in what we are doing and bring them into our family for the good of all our industry, citizens, and members.

Respectfully,
Gary Mullis
President

Industry Events

[\(See NC IAEI Calendar\)](#)

New Faces and Places, Retirements

Cabarrus County Inspections has new inspectors on their staff, Terry Cauble and Jackie Boost. Welcome Terry and Jackie, we hope to see you at some of our meetings.

After 18 Years of dedicated service to the people of Eastern NC, Richard Dawson has retired. Richard has been inspecting State property installations for the Department of Insurance, and we thank him for all his hard work and his dedication to our Chapter.

Mitchell Bryant has taken over Richard's position, and will be the new State inspector for the Piedmont region of the State.

Mary Higgins has accepted a position at the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors as their new Office Manager.

Behind the Scenes

Much of our association's work is carried out by our committees. In the past year, some of our most active committees have been our Legislative Committee, Public Relations and Publicity Committee, and our Membership Committee. Our Board or Directors is also another hard-working group of dedicated association members.

The **Education Committee**, under the leadership of Mr. Jerry Burch had great success in 2006 with the organizing, scheduling and execution of our Continuing Education Seminars. Our four 2006 Seminars were a great success, thanks to many people, but especially our members of the Education Committee and some of our Chapter members who are always a great help. We owe a special thanks to Jerry Burch, Al Parris, Mitchell Bryant, Danny Thomas, Don Hursey, Julian Burns and Mark Ode, Mike Whit, Mary Higgins and all the other Chapter members that helped with the classes.

Visit our website at www.nciae.org and take a look at the committees, their chairmen and members. These committees are your opportunity to get involved, to make a positive contribution, and to enjoy some great fellowship.

Product Safety

The incident that never occurred. Joe Brown's mother, wife and children didn't cry and grieve for months. The family of Joe Brown didn't get together after the funeral. At the furniture finishing factory where Joe worked, the fire trucks and ambulance never came, and the building didn't burn to the ground. There was never a fire inside the control panel of the industrial machinery system Joe was in charge of, because the supplementary protectors were removed and replaced with actual circuit breakers. After the testing laboratory identified the problems with the machinery's electrical system, the electrical contractor made the changes that saved Joe. The electrical inspector for the County asked the owners of the factory about the certification of their manufacturing equipment, and they were not too happy about it. The inspector explained that they were in this situation because the (Industrial) machinery equipment manufacturer never had the system designed, tested or inspected for electrical safety. The County Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce complained, and made life miserable for the inspector. Unfortunately, they'll never know that the inspector, the contractor and the testing lab helped to save Joe's life, because Joe didn't die in the incident. The factory owner never thanked the inspector either because the building didn't burn down. It never happened, so most people never knew there was ever a problem. Our electrical safety experts knew, but they are on the job saving people from electrocution, explosion and fire. Fortunately, they stay on the job even if all they ever hear are complaints.

Is Industrial Machinery Electrical Equipment? Seems like a silly question, doesn't it? An NC House Representative is being pressured by a Chambers or Commerce and foreign-owned businesses to exclude "Industrial Machinery" from Electrical Safety inspections. NC House Bill 2843 threatens to cripple our electrical safety standards in North Carolina, and would exclude industrial equipment such as the equipment that caused the West Pharmaceutical disaster in Kinston. This bill NC HB 2843, was stalled in committee in the fall of 2006, but will most certainly be rearing it's ugly head again soon. In section 100 of the NEC (National Electrical Code), the definition of Utilization Equipment is "Equipment that utilizes electric energy for electronic, electromechanical, chemical, heating, lighting, or similar purposes". The bottom line? Industrial Machinery is most certainly Electrical Equipment if it is connected to the supply of electricity, no matter how much different parties want to quibble over definitions. As many of us know, there are those who will use (Or listen to) any argument no matter how un-informed or un-educated it is. The reality is that Electrical Industrial Machinery & Equipment has the same critical, life-threatening, property-disaster hazards as any other type of electrical equipment.

UL508A and Short Circuit Ratings. Effective May of 2006, all industrial control panels are required to have a short circuit rating on the manufacturer's nameplate. Look for this rating as an indication that the control panel manufacturer meets the new UL 508A requirements. Also, keep in mind that the testing laboratory Listing and Listing Mark should be visible, or visible when the enclosure door is open. Many people mistakenly point to a label in the panel that says "Listed Industrial Control Enclosure". This is only the Listing for the *Enclosure*, not the panel. An actual Listing label will say "Listed Industrial Control Panel", and should reference the UL Standard. It's also important to remember that the panel Listing does not cover any of the equipment outside of the panel (motors, sub-assemblies, wiring, etc).

Safety Reminders

Are you aware that Code Enforcement officials must meet the same Arc-Flash Personal Protection as contractors when inspecting exposed energized equipment?

NFPA 70E is a great guide for Arc-Flash Personal Protection, see section 130.7

Arc-Flash Personal Protection equipment is required if the system is inspected while it is energized. Here are a few of the items or issues that must be considered.

What type of equipment is required for Arc-Flash Personal Protection?

- All tools used to inspect energized equipment shall be rated at 1000 volts.
- Each person shall be fitted individually for all personal protective equipment.
- Equipment required: Face shields with UV protection, safety glasses with UV protection. These are a few of the items required, refer to NFPA 70E for more details.
- All arc-flash equipment shall be professionally cleaned monthly.
- All inspectors with facial hair shall wear a full face shield.

Can you avoid the use of this equipment by implementing a policy?

- Yes, implement a policy that no electrical equipment shall be inspected while energized. However, this is not a very practical approach for structures that are almost ready for occupation.

What are inspection agencies in North Carolina and other large jurisdictions are doing about Arc-Flash Personal Protection for their inspectors?

- Some are currently working on policies to protect their employees.

These requirements for Arc flash protection and Personal Protective Equipment are not going away. Currently, there are many inspection departments, electrical contractors and manufacturing facilities discussing exactly how these requirements will be implemented. We'll continue to keep you updated on this and related issues.

Accidents / Incidents

UNCC Tunnel Explosion. In our last two newsletters, we reported the original incident and an update. In a September 14th 2006 article, the Charlotte News & Observer reported on the OSHA determination. The N.C. Department of Labor has fined UNC Charlotte \$12,250 for violations cited after an April flash-fire and explosion that injured five workers, including an electrician who died in August. UNCC was cited for nine violations by the department's Occupational Safety and Health Division. All were deemed "serious" violations because of the "substantial probability" of serious physical harm or death to an employee. Six of the violations fell under a section of a code related to electrical power generation, transmission and distribution. The school said its preliminary findings show the explosion was caused by "mechanical failures in an electrical oil switch located underground in a manhole and a main circuit above ground that receives power from a utility-owned substation. The OSHA report said workers were not briefed before beginning work at the site. OSHA also said that workers entered the manhole (which had a 30-gallon mineral oil leak), without first checking for oxygen deficiency, flammable gasses and vapors, presence of atmospheric pressure or temperature difference and without evaluating whether there was hazardous atmosphere in the hole. Since the explosion, the university has offered "refresher" courses to workers on "lockout/tagout" procedures, confined space entry and Arc flash protection. A university representative said that the school has also reviewed its personal protective equipment (PPE) training.

Legislative Issues

The NC Ellis Cannady Chapter continues to monitor and intervene in Legislative Issues that affect the safety of our citizens. Thankfully, the NC Attorney General's office has been very active in the fight to keep our great State safe.

Public Duty Doctrine, In 2006, we attempted to get legislation introduced that would protect our Inspectors from personal lawsuits as a result of something that happened on an inspection site. This legislation never made it out of committee, and we need to consider ways to get this legislation back to the Capitol.

NC House Bill 2843 (HB 2843) was temporarily stalled in Committee, but expected to return in the winter session. This Bill would expose workers to electrical fire, electrocution and explosion hazards posed by Industrial Machinery. Remember.....it was non-certified industrial (machinery) equipment that caused the explosion and deaths at West Pharmaceutical in Kinston.

ZF Lemforder Appeal. This appeal to the NC Building Codes Council is still pending. Our electrical safety experts finally had a chance to testify, now we are awaiting a decision from the Council. This appeal is another attempt to exclude "Industrial Equipment" from inspections for electrical safety, even though electrical hazards were identified! Our next newsletter will include an update of this appeal.

NC HB 2843 legislation and the Lemforder appeal seek to take authority away from our local inspectors. Our local inspectors are sometimes the only people looking out for the safety of our citizens and our workplaces.

FYI

NC Ellis Cannady Chapter Promotional Items. Our chapter has some fine quality items for sale, including beautiful shirts, jackets, lapel pins, clipboards and many other imprinted products. Our promotional items will be on sale at our upcoming Continuing Education Seminars.

IAEI Trial Membership Cards. Remember to use these 6-month trial membership cards that come with your renewed card. If you can't think of anyone to sign up, contact another chapter member, or contact our Membership Chairman Robbie Brooks: brooks@ncbeec.org, or by phone: 919-733-2955.

IAEI Members are your Resource! When you have a question that you need help answering, or a situation you need to resolve, remember that your fellow IAEI members are there as your resource and your friends. This is one hidden strength of our organization, and can help you in your everyday challenges.

2005 NEC Code books . We still have 2005 NEC Code books available. Make sure everybody you know that uses the Code has an opportunity to have their own copy. Check our website www.nciaei.org for Code books available, as well as other educational materials and IAEI NC Chapter promotional items.

NEC Continuing Education Classes for 2007. As many of you know, continuing education is now a requirement for Electrical Inspectors as well as Electrical Contractors. We have four seminars planned for 2007, tentatively for Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte and Asheville. Our 2006 Seminars were very successful, and we plan to continue offering these Seminars every year.

Jobs:

Field Representative for Trade Association - Vacancy Announcement:

NEMA, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, is seeking a Field Representative for the Midwest area of the U.S. (the states in the regions of the Midwest Section of the IAEI). The individual will serve as an advocate for NEMA's member companies. The individual will work with industry and public and private groups and individuals to provide assistance and feedback on a wide variety of issues facing the electrical industry pertaining to existing and proposed laws, regulations and ordinances, as well as probable future legislative and regulatory trends.

This position requires working independently from an office set-up in the employee's residence. A comprehensive knowledge of the National Electrical Code as well as an understanding of the codes and standards development process of organizations such as NFPA, UL and the ICC is necessary. A background with the IAEI is desirable. Knowledge of the regulatory environment in the Midwest states is a plus.

Excellent writing, presentation and communications skills are necessary. Diplomacy and tact are important as well as an ability to understand the subtleties of issues. The ability to budget resources (funding, time, etc.) is critical. PC use, i.e. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, e-mail, etc., is required. The individual must reside in one of the states in the region. Extensive travel (50%) can be expected.

The position reports to the Technical Director of Codes and Standards in NEMA's Technical Services Department. Interested individuals should e-mail, fax or mail a resume, writing sample, salary requirements and a list of references to Vince Baclawski, NEMA, 1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1752, Rosslyn, VA 22209; fax: 703-841-3336; e-mail: vin_baclawski@nema.org.