



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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IBEW Local 82 volunteers at URS telethon

United Rehabilitation Services (URS) held their ninth annual telethon at WDTN TV Channel 2 studios on Sunday, December 6, 2009. As the presenting sponsor, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82 members volunteered to take calls from donors. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for the URS and was a huge success! They set a new record of collecting over \$110,000! Executive Director Dennis Grant and Development Director Tom

Parker were elated with the number of volunteers that participated in the telethon, and the amount of contributions collected. For over 50 years, United Rehabilitation Services has been providing hope for families around the Miami Valley. The URS began in the 1940's as an informal support group created by parents advocating for

their children with cerebral palsy. Founded in 1956 as an official organization, URS offers a wide variety of

services for people with disabilities and their families, including: adult daycare, adult latch key, augmentative communications, the Berry Hearing Center, childcare for six weeks to nine years, community employment, hearing aid sales and service, home-based personal care, in-home respite care, latch key program for youth 10 to 18 years old, physical therapy, occupational therapy, aquatic therapy, senior daycare, speech pathology and vocational training. IBEW Local 82, along with the



IBEW Local 82 Business Manager Nick Comstock (left) is interviewed by WDTN's Mark Allen.

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Meet Dayton Mayor Gary Leitzell

Recently elected Mayor Gary Leitzell has his work cut out for him. With the myriad of business closings in Dayton, high unemployment is a real obstacle to the growth and success of the city and the surrounding communities. The Miami Valley Alliance of Construction Professionals (MVACP) recently held a reception with Mayor Leitzell to discuss the future growth of Dayton. Over 25 construction leaders in the Miami Valley attended the meeting.

The MVACP is a partnership of Construction Contractors Associations and

their affiliated Labor Organizations. Their mission is two-fold: To maintain an active



Mayor Gary Leitzell (left) and Executive Director Western Ohio Chapter NECA Dan Neal discuss the role of the MVACP.

involvement in their industry's efforts to promote the best contracting practices, and to maintain an active involvement in their communities to advance the market interests of

their members and their skilled workforce.

The MVACP represents over 200 Miami Valley contractors employing thousands of highly trained, skilled craftspeople living in our community. Collectively their member companies generate an annual construction volume of nearly one billion dollars; who, in turn, contribute thousands of hours of payroll taxes to support their communities.

MVACP contractors and workers are committed to providing their customers with the highest level of construction experience and professionalism resulting in the optimum levels of job

productivity and project quality for an on time, on budget success story. What you can expect from a MVACP member:

- The best SAFETY record
- The best QUALITY craftsmanship
- Drug-free workplace program, including pre-hire testing for new employees, annual testing for all employees, random testing, and universal training for all supervisors and employees.

The Mayor

Born in McKeesport, PA in 1961, Gary's father worked in a steel mill after serving in the Air Force; his mother was a British overseas bride. Gary moved to England in 1970 and graduated from the University

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URS *cont'd*

Western Ohio Chapter National Electrical Contractors Association have worked with the URS in the past. Last June, they were a major sponsor for the annual Rubber Duck Regatta. "I can't think of a better organization to work with," says IBEW Local 82 Business Manager Nick Comstock. "The work they do with the children they help is phenomenal. It is a great partnership." After opening the telethon, Nick and several volunteers answered phone calls from donors. IBEW Local 82 members who helped out include Cathy Zelinskas, Charla Parker, Jim Taylor, Mike Evans, Bill Melke and Eddie Jaudon.



Charla Parker (left) and Cathy Zelinskas of IBEW Local 82 field calls from donors.



IBEW Local 82 volunteers at the URS Telethon: Jim Taylor (back row left), Mike Evans (back row right) with Bill Melke (front row left) and Eddie Jaudon (front row right).

The success of Excellence

The Code of Excellence program, developed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) is designed to provide increased value to electrical construction and maintenance users by enhancing the performance of signatory Employers and the efficiency and craftsmanship of IBEW workers. The program is intended to enhance the partnership between labor and management that is devoted to furthering common objectives by maintaining high standards of workmanship while improving competitiveness.

The basic objective of the program is to reinforce what every IBEW member should already be aspiring toward, true professionalism, excellent workmanship, and integrity on the job. A cooperative attitude can go a

long way towards meeting the needs of Employers and customers.

In addition, Code of Excellence training has become a part of the curriculum for apprentices in the JATC Electrical Training Program and for those members of the Construction Wiremen / Construction Electrician (CW/CE) program. This training is particularly valuable to these groups of students as they enter the electrical industry. The messages contained in the Code of Excellence will become integrated in their view of the industry and their attitudes toward work, co-workers, employers, and customers. They will see themselves as part of a team and understand how integral their performance is to the competitiveness of their employer and the success of an entire project.

To date, all of ESI Electrical Contractors employees are compliant, as are several workers for Chapel Electric, Kastle Electric and others. Let's hear what they have to say about the success of the program.

At ESI Electrical Contractors, all employees, including office staff have

been through the Code of Excellence training. "The training is required of all new hires as well," says Vice President Charlie Hartshorn. "The Code of Excellence training can only help our industry. It reinforces a positive mental attitude toward the quality of workmanship and customer relations. I want to thank the IBEW for embracing the training. I trust that new components will be added in the future to compliment the original concepts and that it will become a continually reinforced procedure with all our employees," says Charlie.

CEO of Kastle Electric Andy Stuhlmiller believes that the Code of Excellence provides a reminder to his employees to be more professional. "We have a great crew with exceptional performance skills. And we have new hires who have learned a great deal from the Code of Excellence training. It is a reminder to everyone that professionalism on the job is critical to their success," says Andy.

The eventual goal is to train all the members of IBEW Local 82 and their signatory contractors. Currently, over 500 IBEW members are compliant, along with every NECA contractor.

Mayor Leitzell *(cont'd)*

of London with a degree in geology and returned to the U.S. in 1982. He moved to Dayton in 1994.

Gary became involved in his neighborhood association and the Southeast Dayton Priority Board in 1999. He was elected President of the Walnut Hills Association for six terms and in January 2008 and again in 2009 was elected to chair the Southeast Priority Board. Like many residents of the city, Gary became frustrated dealing with City Hall.

"Some people, when frustrated with local government, opt to move. I chose to get involved and understand how our system works so that I could determine how to get problems resolved within my community. Throughout this endeavor, I have had to become quite creative in my thinking process and always encouraged creative thinking within the organizations that I preside over. Now I will do the same thing while serving as Mayor, injecting creative thinking amongst our elected officials and our city employees. I feel strongly that our city needs creative thinking," says Mayor Leitzell.



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Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

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Alternative Energy Installations...

a job for qualified Electrical Contractors

As facilities and homes use photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines or other alternative-energy-producing equipment, they must be able to send their unused electricity through utility lines to other locations that are experiencing higher demand. Obviously, that means the U.S. needs to invest heavily in repairing and expanding the country's transmission and distribution capabilities, which requires more highly trained IBEW linemen to handle the work.

In addition, it should be recognized that the installation of any type of grid-connected power-generating equipment must be performed by those within the electrical industry who have the proper training and experience and that such installations must be subjected to proper electrical inspection.

We're talking about mini-power plants perched on rooftops. It makes sense that any job that involves generating electrical current be performed by qualified electrical workers. Qualifying factors include training – such as that provided by the National Electrical Contractors

Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) – in electrical safety that extends beyond the wiring of electrical connections to include such things as proper grounding, load balancing and structural issues. In addition, IBEW/NECA members are well-versed in the National Electrical Code and other relevant standards. Solar installers by non-accredited programs typically lack such training.

Selecting an Electrical Contractor

As the owner of a construction project, your objective is to hire an electrical contractor that can handle their portion of the work in an efficient, safe, quality minded way. You want to be confident that they can oversee their own employees and meet your budget and timeline. What you don't want is an electrical contractor that you have to watch over. After all, you have more important things to do.

Training and Education

Make sure that the electricians hired by the contractor are well-trained in electrical wiring procedures, the National

Electrical Code (NEC) standards, and safety precautions. NECA contractors employ electricians who are graduates of a State accredited electrical apprenticeship program. Each journeyman must successfully complete five years in an extensive apprentice training program. On-going job and skill training continues throughout their career. The Building & Construction Trades Department (BCTD) found that union programs graduate about three times as many apprentices to journeyman status as do the non-union programs.

Strength of workforce

Talk to the contractor about the size of the company's workforce. If your job is running behind schedule, or going over budget, can the contractor increase or reduce the number of employees on the job in a timely manner?

Safety

The costs to a contractor when there is a serious accident can be tremendous. Fines by OSHA are a small part of the costs. The interruption of production on the job can

seriously damage the ability of a contractor to meet deadlines. The American Society of Safety Engineers recently reported that the indirect cost of an incident can be up to 10 times that of the direct costs. For every \$1 invested in an effective workplace safety program, \$4 to \$6 may be saved as illnesses, injuries and fatalities decline.

Drug Testing

Local Chapters of the IBEW and NECA joined forces to prepare a program that includes testing of management and electricians. Typically, early positive drug test rates average about 7 percent, but drop to between 1.5 and 2 percent after a testing policy is initiated. And think about this, contractors that don't have a drug testing program become a safe harbor for those who are using.

Competence of Management

Since 1901, NECA has been at the forefront in training, research, technology and standards development. For a NECA contractor in your area, visit the Western Ohio Chapter website at www.wocneca.org.

Circle of Excellence Award 2009 Winner – Mack Postell

WDTN Channel 2 employee Mack Postell, a member of IBEW Local 82, recently won the Circle of Excellence from LIN TV (the owner of WDTN). This is LIN TV's highest honor, comprised of an elite group of employees who have demonstrated the ability to go above-and-beyond the everyday, embrace change and make LIN TV an industry-leading multi-media company.

Their business is fast paced, demanding and ever-changing. It takes a special type of person to thrive in this environment, and this award is meant to honor those unique attributes that Circle of Excellence winners possess. **A vital component of this program is its policy of being employee-based and employee-administered.** Employees nominate their peers based on

the following criteria:

- Is committed to furthering LIN's mission to be an industry-leading multi-media company
- Embraces change
- Consistently exhibits an excellent work ethic
- Possesses leadership qualities
- Is forward thinking
- Is creative and innovative
- Is eager to learn new skills

and trades

- Is reliable and dependable
- Treats others with respect and kindness
- Takes the initiative to solve problems
- Goes "out of their way" to help others do their job well
- Inspires others by being industrious and possessing the qualities mentioned above.

Congratulations to Mack for a job well done!



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50 years for Chapel

Chapel Electric Co., LLC, a subsidiary of Quebe Holdings, Inc., has been a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association for fifty years. Since 1946, Chapel has ventured into a variety of different market sectors while becoming one of the nations' leading electrical contractors. Quebe Holdings has three units, Chapel Electric Co., LLC, Chapel-Romanoff Technologies, LLC (CRT) and Romanoff Electric Co., LLC in Toledo. The Quebe Holdings companies are leading electrical and technology business units operating on a national level, providing such services as electrical lighting, power generation systems, structured cabling, security, audio/video, and maintenance programs in virtually every sector of the economy.



CEO Dennis F. Quebe (left) receives a 50-year plaque from Western Ohio Chapter NECA President Jeff Collins.

The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

NECA Members

Aztec Electric, Inc.
Chapel Electric Company
Chapel-Romanoff Technologies
ESI Electrical Contractors
High Voltage Maintenance
Kastle Electric Company
Kastle Technologies
Maxwell Lightning Protection
Mutual Electric Company
Reliable Electrical Mechanical
Studebaker Electric
Union Lightning Protection
Wagner Industrial Electric
York Electric, Inc.

Affiliate Members NECA

Battelle & Battelle
Becker Electrical Supply
Copp Systems Integrator
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Heapy Engineering LLC
Riffle & Associates
Square D / Schneider Electric
Uptime Solutions

Contributing Contractors

Automated Controls
Bright Street Electric
Broadway Electric Service Corp.
Freedom Electrical Contractors
Glenwood Electric
Justice Electric
Lake Erie Electric
M.B.A. Electric, Inc.
Power Services
Precision Electrical Contrs.
Productive Electric, Inc.
Spurling Electric Co., Inc.
The W.G. Fairfield Co.
Triad Electrical
Westfield Electric
Wilson Sign Company

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