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A Publication of the Electric Association • www.eaichicago.org • volume 17 • no 1 • spring 2013



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
EA Welcomes
New President
Richard Jamerson**

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Our Mission:

To provide members of the electrical industry of Chicagoland and their employees with formal educational opportunities, professional development, information exchange, and member services.

— and —

To serve as the interface between various organizations serving the same industry, and foster the interchange of ideas, product knowledge, and programs in order to create the best external environment possible for conducting business in the electrical industry.

Periodicals Postage paid at Merrill, WI 54452-9998 and at additional mailing offices.

Electric Association
Carrie Spaeth
Executive Director

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Carrie Spaeth
Electric Association

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Publisher
Little Creek Press
A Division of Kristin Mitchell Design, LLC

Art Directors
Kristin Mitchell & Dana Gevelinger

Advertising Sales
Beth Vander Grinten
Little Creek Press
608.692.2384
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Electri-CITY (ISSN #1096-9993) is a publication of the Electric Association, One Energy Center, 40 Shuman Blvd., Suite 247, Naperville, IL 60563. Phone: 630.305.3050. It is published in January, April, September and December by Little Creek Press, 5341 Sunny Ridge Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565, 608.987.3370.

Printing at Inkworks, Inc., Madison, WI 53589.

For advertising information, contact Beth Vander Grinten at Little Creek Press.

Subscriptions included in Electric Association membership dues; non-member subscriptions: \$15 per year.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Electric Association, One Energy Center, 40 Shuman Blvd., Suite 247, Naperville, IL 60563.

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President's Report *introducing Richard Jamerson*

The Electric Association Welcomes a New President

AT the Annual Meeting of Members last December, the Electric Association officially welcomed a new President, Mr. Richard Jamerson. Richard (Rick) Jamerson is the Co-President of Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, based in Northbrook, Illinois.

Richard Jamerson received a BS in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, and joined the company in 1980 as a project manager. He worked closely with his father, Charles Jamerson, Howard Bauwens, and Ken Bauwens at Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors. He integrated a computerized accounting and job costing system at Jamerson & Bauwens in 1981. He became a stockholder and was named Vice President in 1994 and became Co-President in 2005. Richard has handled the project management on projects for Lutheran General Hospital, Kemper Financial Services, The NutraSweet Company, North Park University, and many others. He holds the City of Chicago Supervising Electrician License for Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors.

In 1999, Richard joined 15 other participants in re-writing the 2000 Chicago Electrical Code. This was the first comprehensive update of the Code since 1970. He is a member of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and currently performs electrical inspections on an as-needed basis for the Village of Northbrook, IL where he also serves as the Chairman of the Electrical

Commission. He is on the Executive Committee of the Electrical Contractors Association of Chicago. Richard serves on three non-profit Boards of Directors. Outside of being President of the Electric Association of Chicago, he currently serves as the Vice President of the Raven Theatre, a non-profit theatre company based in Chicago whose mission is dedicated to performing arts that illuminate the American experience. He also serves as the Secretary for the Riverwoods Preservation Council, a non-profit group of residents dedicated to preserving the ecological heritage of Riverwoods. Richard sings with "The Men of GBN", a men's chorus at Glenbrook North High School. Richard serves as a Trustee and the Building Commissioner for the Village of Riverwoods. Richard is married to Susan and they have five children between the ages of 25 and 30. In his free time, Richard is slowly restoring and renovating his Prairie Modern home with his wife Susan and plans on adding an apiary at his Riverwoods property.

As EA President, Richard started off his tenure this year with record-breaking attendance at the ChicaGO Green 2013 Conference. Over the next two years, he will oversee a future planning initiative as well as an intensive evaluation of the association's activities and program to ensure that we are providing the most valuable services to our industry. If you have suggestions or would like to be a part of this important planning initiative, please contact the Electric Association office. ●

Director's Report by Carrie Spaeth



Record Attendance at *ChicaGO Green 2013* Thank you to our sponsors & volunteers

THE Electric Association hosted the annual "ChicaGO Green 2013" Conference on January 24th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. A record breaking attendance of over 400 registrants came out to learn about the latest green building technology – over 100 more attendees than any previously held conference.

In case you missed it, a few of the highlights include the keynote session on the new Illinois Energy Code, the Electric Vehicles and over 50 Exhibitors displaying the latest technology in green construction today. Special thanks to KSA for throwing an amazing after party! You can view all the photos from the conference on the Electric Association's Facebook page.

If you have an interest in green construction, and would like to be a part of the planning committee for future conferences, please let us know. We are always looking for new people to join our team! Associations thrive because of the dedicated volunteers working to accomplish great things for the betterment of our industry.

ChicaGO Green 2013 was one of the largest events held by the association over the past decade, and it could not have been organized without the help of a very hardworking committee. I would like to publicly thank these individuals for their help and contributions to ChicaGO Green:

Our Planning Committee:

Thomas Scherzer, GE
Mark Gibson, Agents Midwest
Kevin O'Shea, Shamrock Electric
Harry Ohde, IBEW Local 134
Stefan Lopata & Matt Nemshick, Kelso-Burnett
Kevin Kennedy, Advance Electrical
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Electric Golf Club Update by Amy Kasser

Electric Golf Turns 90!

Ninety years ago, in a galaxy far far away, (okay, maybe this galaxy and not so far) some gentlemen came up with the idea of the Electric Golf Club to promote friendly and cooperative relations throughout the electrical industry. We are pleased to say their vision continues to this day! Happy birthday to us!

Bob Fife, Houston Wire and Cable, ended his year and a half presidency at the All-Industry Dinner Dance on February 9th. Patrick Conrardy, from The Conrardy Company, takes over...

Disclaimer: Okay, no more nuns! I had seen the act once before and it was funny. This clearly was not. The lady hired (they sent a different woman) was only supposed to speak a short time and stick to the script. I kept thinking, "I wish I had a hook!" We promise no more comediennes (in this case, I use that term loosely). – Patrick Conrardy, EGC President 2013

Receiving the J. P. Simons Award at this year's dinner dance was Mark Nemshick. Mark has served for many years as the Executive Vice President of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County. Congratulations Mark, well deserved!

Burndy's Reggie Mueller received the President's Award. Reggie was the Electric Golf President in 2007 and continues to support the club, making him a great choice to receive the award.

The Electric Golf 2013 Season begins May 16th with an outing at St. Andrews. Dues invoices will go out in a few weeks. If you're not already a member, please give me a call and we'll get you set up. Join us, we're a fun group! ●

Left: Mark Nemshick receives the J. P. Simons Award from David Hardt from Hardt Electric.



Center: 2012 EGC President Bob Fife and his wife, Joanne.



Right: Reggie Mueller and his wife Pam, show off his President's Award presented by Bob Fife.



Bottom: Standing L to R: Steve Gigac (1987), Dan Fink (1992), Amy Kasser (2009), Jim DeFrancisco (2005), Chuck Currie (1991), Jim Paplaczylk (2000), Al Rzeczkowski (2001), Bob Fife (2012), Mike Strawn (1999), Rob Fosberg (2003), Bruce Bradfield (2004) Seated L to R: Ed Zastawny (2006), Carl Otterness (1993), Dan Bertagna (2010), Reggie Mueller (2007), Bill Simons (1977)

EGC Past Presidents



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Key Components of the New "Illinois Energy Conservation Code"

Featured at the CEE's 10th Annual Technical Forum & Tradeshow, May 6th, 2013

THE Consulting Electrical Engineers (CEE) are pleased to host their 10th Annual Technical Forum and Tradeshow on May 6, 2013 at the Union League Club of Chicago. This event features a technical forum for engineers, specifiers, designers, project managers, and others during the afternoon, followed by a table top tradeshow that evening.

The technical forum, presented by Mark Thorsen LC, will feature a presentation on the key lighting components of the newly enacted Illinois Energy Conservation Code (IECC). All new commercial and residential construction (for which a building permit application is received by a municipality or county) must now follow a comprehensive statewide energy conservation code. Renovations, alterations, additions, and repairs to most existing commercial and residential buildings must follow the Illinois Energy Conservation Code. The Law requires design and construction professionals to follow the latest published edition of the International Energy Conservation Code which is currently the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1, 2010 "Energy Standard for Buildings except Low-Rise Residential Buildings."

The IECC is designed to help protect the environment and reduce energy consumption. By following an energy conservation code, property owners can reduce air pollution, moderate energy demand and stabilize energy costs and electric, oil, and gas supplies.

The efficient gains of the 2009 code set a new baseline for International Energy Conservation Code-compliant homes and buildings, and while there will be regional variability and uncertainty in the technology penetration, preliminary estimates from U.S. DOE suggest the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code saves 10.8% of energy spent for heating, cooling, water heating, and lighting while the 2012 IECC saves 32.1%.

New Product Showcase & Table Top Tradeshow

A New Product Showcase displaying the latest technology will be on exhibit in the CEE's technical forum ballroom on the 5th Floor of the Union League Club. A special area will be designated for new product displays for the engineers to view before and after the technical forum. The tradeshow will take place in the main ballroom on the 2nd floor. We accommodate up to 52 Exhibitors in the main ballroom. Exhibitors and attendees can learn more about the event and register online at www.eachicago.org.

**LEARN MORE about the event and register online at:
www.eachicago.org.**



ABOUT THE EVENT

Engineers, designers, project managers, specifiers and others interested in attending this event can learn more and register online at www.eachicago.org. Each attendee receives two professional development hours towards their license renewal. Additionally, participants are eligible to win dozens of great raffle prizes such as gift cards, sporting event tickets, electronics and more. Each attendee that visits twenty exhibits in the tradeshow will be entered into a special grand prize drawing that will take place that evening.

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Exhibitor Set Up
- 3:45 p.m. Engineer Check-In & New Product Showcase opens on 5th Floor of the Union League Club
- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. CEE Technical Forum, 5th Floor of Union League Club
- 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. Scholarship & CEE Award Announcements
- 5:45 p.m. - Tradeshow Opens, 2nd Floor Ballroom, Includes Dinner Buffet & Open Bar Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Grand Prize Raffle Drawing
- 8:00 p.m. Event Conclusion



Technology Survey Sheds Light on Industry Tech Trends

NAED recently conducted a co-branded survey with the Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC) and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) to gather important data about how electrical contractors use technology. Electrical distributors can use the survey results to create more value for electrical contractors, make the supply chain more efficient and reduce costs.

The survey questions covered five categories:

- Online Business Activities;
- Important Website Features;
- Searching for Electrical Products Online;
- Use of Mobile Technology; and
- Demographics

Survey Highlights

Nearly all (98%) of the respondents search online products catalogs and 85% indicated product spec sheets are the most important website feature. More than two-thirds (79%) routinely make online purchases.

Demographics

While individual responses are confidential, more than two-thirds of the respondents were 45 or older and 65% had more than 25 years of experience in the industry.

Complete survey results can be downloaded at naed.org/strategictechnology. Additional technology research is planned for the first quarter of 2013. ●

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation required by Title 39, United States code 3685. Publication Title: *Electri-CITY*. Publication number: 1096-9993. Filing Date: July 12, 2007. Frequency: quarterly. Number of issues published annually: four. Annual subscription price: \$15.00. Mailing address of office of publication: Electric Association, One Energy Center, 40 Shuman Blvd., Suite 247, Naperville, IL 60563. Mailing address of general business offices: Little Creek Press, 5341 Sunny Ridge Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Name and mailing address of publisher: Kristin Mitchell, Little Creek Press, 5341 Sunny Ridge Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Name and mailing address of editor and managing editor: Carrie Spaeth, Electric Association, One Energy Center, 40 Shuman Blvd., Suite 247, Naperville, IL 60563. Owner: Electric Association, One Energy Center, 40 Shuman Blvd., Suite 247, Naperville, IL 60563. Known bondholders: none. Total number of copies (net press run): 1,500 average last 12 months, 1,426 last issue (Winter 2012). Paid circulation-mail subscriptions (Outside County): 1,414 average last 12 months; 1,396 last issue. Paid In-County Subscription: n/a. Total paid subscriptions: 1,414 average last 12 months; 1,396 last issue. Free distribution by mail: 0 average last 12 months; 0 last issue. Free distribution by mail (Outside-County): 0 average last 12 months; 0 last issue. Free distribution by mail (inside-county): n/a. Free distribution by mail (Other Classes Mailed): n/a. Free distribution outside the mail: 113 average last 12 months; 100 last issue. Total free distribution: 113 average last 12 months; 100 last issue. Total distribution: 1,527 average last 12 months; 1,496 last issue. Office use: 67 average last 12 months; 5 last issue. Returns from news agents: none. Total: 1,597 average last 12 months; 1,501 last issue. Percent paid or requested circulation: 92.5% average last 12 months; 93.3% last issue. I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete. Signed: Kristin Mitchell, Publisher.



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The Common Good



*Craig Martin,
Chapter Governor*

ONE of the greatest things about associations is the opportunity for groups of people to band together for the common good of their membership. A great example of this was the recent passage of legislation to remedy the effects of an Illinois Supreme Court Decision from a few years ago (Cypress Creek), which substantially weakened the lien rights of contractors, as well as everyone downstream in the payment chain. The Electric Association joined in with NECA, IMSCA, the Building Trades and a legion of other trade associations to voice support of HB3636. With a great outcome, it looks like it might make sense to do more of these activities together in the future.

However, when I think about efforts to promote the common good in the electrical industry, the projects of NECA's research foundation, Electri International, immediately come to mind. In January of this year, the Electri International Council, made up of electrical contracting firms, manufacturers, suppliers and vendors, conducted our annual winter meeting. The members of the Electri Council engaged in the selection of four major research projects for 2013 and held significant discussions on other industry issues.

The ELECTRI research agenda selected for 2013 includes:

- **Change Order Protocol for Electrical and Low Voltage Contractors**, Matt Syal, Michigan State University
- **Next Steps to Portability as a Means to Improve the Industry and Benefit IBEW Membership**, Justin Reginato, California State University, Sacramento
- **Best Practices for CE/CW Implementation**, Todd Sirotiak, Iowa State University
- **Customer Side Smart Grid Installations - Preparing for the Future**, Thomas Korman, CalPoly, San Luis Obispo

Council members also received project updates on two current research initiatives: Change Order Overhead Percentage Guidelines and EC2020 – Strategies for EC Business Development.

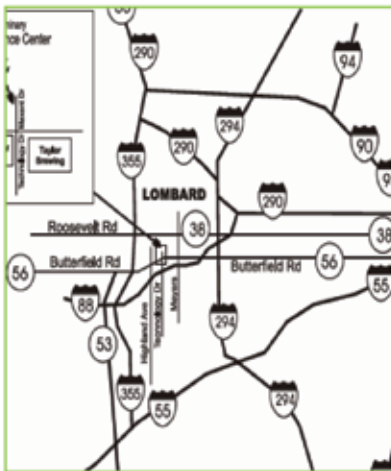
Electri International not only drives the agenda for industry research, but the group also serves as a think tank on many emerging issues. This year, there was a facilitated discussion entitled The Industrialization of the Construction Industry. Council members broke into four round-table groups to fully review topics such as Labor Structuring and Management, Managing Field Operations, Managing the Supply Chain, and Modeling and Simulation.

Of course, the organization is not just about industry discussions and networking. This group turns out tangible, deliverable products. The newest published research, among a long list, is a study entitled "Combining Charging Station Installation with Energy Efficiency Upgrades: An Emerging Market"; researched by Lonny Simonian, Dr. Thomas Korman, PE; and David Phillips from California Polytechnic State University.

These are just a few of the many examples of what can be achieved through collective efforts in the electrical industry. If you want to find out more about any of these topics, please contact the NECA Chapter office at (630) 876-5360. ●



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- Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 7:50am – Session 1: **The Evolution of Multi Array Connectivity**
- 8:50am – Session 2: **PON (Passive Optical Networking) Technology**
- 9:50am – Break
- 10:00am – Session 3: **Network Security**
- 11:00am – Session 4: **The Economics of Data Center Air Flow Containment**
- Noon – Event Conclusion

Registration Fees:

EA / CTF / BICSI / 7x24 Members: \$45 Non Members: \$75

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ECA Legislative Activities

THE Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) is a construction trade association that provides business and labor relations services to nearly 700 electrical contractors in Cook County, Illinois. The ECA is also known as the Chicago and Cook County Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). The Association works with its industry partner, Local Union #134, IBEW to negotiate and administer labor agreements, coordinate apprentice and journeylevel training, as well as promotion of the industry on behalf of these employers.

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Legislative Committee is one of the most active of the ECA Standing Committees. Committee members keep in contact with the legislators that affect small business in Illinois, as well as nationwide. The Committee is able to work with ECA at-large members, as well, in discussing business issues with elected officials. The following lists a few of the many activities the ECA Legislative Committee was involved in throughout 2012.

On the state level, a recent Illinois Supreme Court ruling known as "Cypress Creek" greatly impacted the construction industry in Illinois. This ruling significantly changed the terms of payment to contractors and lenders in a mechanics lien foreclosure as defined in the Illinois Mechanics Lien Act. The vast majority of the funds would then go only to the lenders. Subcontractors and other lien claimants were mostly cut out of the equation. The ECA worked to have this ruling reversed by the Illinois legislature. The Association worked with the Illinois Mechanical and Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA) to host a Lobby Day in Springfield on March 6, 2012 for all interested participants in the construction industry to meet with their legislators. The issue was heard in Veto Session later in the year.

The ECA Legislative Committee continued to follow its progress. The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) met with Illinois Senator John Mulroe and Representative Kelly Burke to discuss the "Cypress Creek" matter. They both agreed to assist the ECA along with the lobbying group, Illinois Mechanical and Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA) with the effort to reverse the "Cypress Creek" ruling. We thank Senator Mulroe and Representative Burke for working to alleviate such a difficult impediment that faced the construction industry. We also thank our Legislative Committee members, ECA members-at-large, other trade association groups, as well as signatory contractors for their assistance with this issue. The bill was passed in January 2013 and subsequently signed into law by Governor Quinn.

NECA's 2012 Legislative Conference and the Political Leadership Council (PLC) Summit were in the Spring of 2012 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C. NECA contractors were able to participate and demonstrate leadership on behalf of the electrical construction industry at this conference which focused on NECA's legislative priorities - policies aimed at job creation, pension



*David Witz,
Continental
Electrical
Construction
Company,
ECA President*

It is through the participation of our member volunteers that has kept the Association on the forefront of the industry.

relief, reducing the estate tax, procurement reform, payroll fraud/misclassification of independent contractors, and tax incentives designed to create jobs for NECA contractors. The Chicago and Cook County Chapter, NECA was well represented during the Conference and Summit. A number of at-large Chapter members, ECA Legislative Committee members and Chapter staff were able to visit with our Illinois representatives in Congress or their aides to discuss the various construction/sub-contractor issues. The Chapter looks forward to participating with the Spring 2013 NECA Legislative Conference.

We thank those that are able to participate and appreciate their continued efforts on behalf of the Association, as well as the industry. We invite all to participate in the various legislative activities, ECPAC and ECAPAC events that occur throughout the year. The above information is a sampling of the year-round activities of the Association. It is through the participation of our member volunteers that has kept the Association on the forefront of the industry. We hope that all signatory contractors within the Cook County area will make the commitment to the industry and join our Association. Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 or by fax at: (708) 483-8689 or visit our website at: www.ecachicago.com for membership information. ●



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The Electrical Industry Team Together in Fight Against Cancer

The Chicago Electrical Industry Community Outreach (CEI) was formed in 2011 by a group of local Electrical Contractors, Distributors, Reps and Manufacturers. Together they united the electrical industry for a common community cause... for the first time!

Not exactly sure what and how to proceed, the group limited the membership to work out the kinks and develop the strategy and procedures. We are now in our third year and ready to involve as many interested people as possible.

Partnering with the American Cancer Society's Walk & Roll we are able to engage companies and their employees, not just to raise money, but also raise awareness to help fight against a cause that has touched everyone. We wanted an event that connected the people by honoring survivors and caregivers affected by the disease and remembering those we've lost. We wanted people to know that they are not in this alone.

Participants can walk, run, bike or skate while raising money for a great cause. Walk & Roll is the longest running cancer event of its kind.

This year's date is April 27th. Please join the Electrical Industry Team together in a fight against cancer by joining or donating to one of the CEI companies. Please contact Rick Marder at rmarder@cecco.com, rkerman@stnr.com or rporter@hubbell.com if you have any questions.

Remke Appoints Mark Sweeney as Company President

Remke Industries is pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2013 Mark Sweeney was appointed to the position of President/Chief Operating Officer.

In his new role, Mark will be responsible for all revenue & operations and will continue to direct the sales and marketing teams as well as the Flexible Solutions Center. "Mark's elevation to President/COO is very timely and important to our future" said Tom O'Gara, CEO of Remke. In order to meet the goals and objectives we have for Remke, our strategy requires that we align ourselves to manage not only today but for tomorrow as well. Our Strategic Plan calls for additional personnel to meet our growth needs, but none more important than continuity and succession of management. Based on Mark's experience and ability, our Board of Directors has endorsed him to lead Remke into the future as President and COO. Mark joined Remke in 1988 as National Sales Manager and was promoted to Vice President in 1992.

For 50 years, Remke Industries has been manufacturing one of the largest and most diverse lines of electrical connectors. We are committed to the highest standard of quality – meeting or exceeding our customer's requirements & expectations.

Remke Appoints Tom O'Gara CEO

Remke Industries is pleased to announce that as of January 2013 Tom O'Gara assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer.

As Chief Executive Office (CEO), Tom will be responsible for the strategic initiatives of the company and he will continue to direct the finance, IT and human resources functions. Tom had been president of Remke since 1985 and joined the company as sales manager in 1978 when he was hired by the company's founder John Remke. "Tom's leadership will be vital as we continue to transform Remke from what was primarily a products manufacturer to a customer-driven organization. His focus on making the business better for over 30 years will continue to be a guiding force for me, the management team and employees at Remke," said Mark Sweeney, Remke's President/COO.

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Divane selected as Chair of the ELECTRI Council

Daniel J. Divane, IV has been selected by ELECTRI International – The Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc., to serve as 2013-2014 Chair of the ELECTRI Council. His name was nominated by Dennis Quebe, Chairman of the ELECTRI International Board of Trustees, and

was accepted unanimously by the ELECTRI Council at its Sept. 30th meeting in Las Vegas.

ELECTRI International leads the electrical construction industry in business research and education. The ELECTRI Council is comprised of the major contributors to the Foundation (Foundation for Electrical Construction, Inc.) and represents the leaders in the industry. The ELECTRI Council has established a solid base of financial and philosophical support for the Foundation's programs. As Chair of the ELECTRI Council, Divane will work closely with contractors, industry allies, and the academic community to ensure that the ELECTRI research agenda meets the industry's needs. He will serve as champion for Foundation-driven educational programs and for the Talent Initiative, designed to attract the best and brightest college graduates to the EC industry. For his two-year term as Council Chair, Divane will also hold the position of Vice Chair on the ELECTRI International Board of Trustees.

Divane is third generation in the electrical construction business and currently serves as President of Divane Bros. Electric Co., Chicago. His involvement with ELECTRI follows in the footsteps of his uncle, Bill Divane, who was one of ELECTRI's founding contributors. Dan Divane has served ELECTRI as a member of the Program Review Committee and Investment Committee. His firm has been active on several research task force groups for ELECTRI.

Dan Divane is active in the industry as he currently serves on the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Executive Committee. Dan also is Chairman of the ECA Research and Development Committee and serves on three other ECA Committees: Insurance, Legislative and Membership.

In accepting the nomination, Divane told the ELECTRI Council, "One of my primary goals as Council Chair will be to make a real effort to energize many more NECA chapters and get them to participate in ELECTRI's programs and, of course, support the Foundation financially." Divane also noted his strong interest in working to achieve the Talent Initiative Challenge Grants set in place by Southern Contracting and O'Connell Electric. He explained, "As the father of six, I am constantly thinking about what the next generation will look like for our industry. ELECTRI's efforts to bring us into contact with the best and brightest young college talent is exciting and very necessary." Divane also thanked outgoing Council Chair, Darrell Gossett (ERMCO, Indianapolis) for his exemplary term and for his efforts to help boost the Foundation's financial asset base. Mr. Divane looks forward to continue serving the electrical construction industry in his new role as ELECTRI International President.



Ed Marinelli Recipient of NEMRA Thomas F. Preston Award

Electri-Flex Company is pleased to recognize Edward J. Marinelli, President of Electri-Flex Company, Roselle, IL, as the recipient of the NEMRA Thomas F. Preston Manufacturer of the Year Award presented at the 43rd annual NEMRA Conference in Chicago, IL February 1, 2013. This is the second time Electri-Flex Company has been honored with this award with the first one being awarded in 1989.

Electri-Flex Company Representatives comment on Ed's contribution to the electrical industry and achievement of this honorable award:

"He is truly passionate and committed to building strong relationships with his NEMRA partners. He has demonstrated his concern for his Representatives over many years and has gone out of his way to forge personal relationships with many of them as well as business relationships. I have never worked as well or as hard for any other National or Regional Manager as I have for Ed."

"I have worked with Ed for many years and cannot think of a finer recipient for this honor. Ed represents all that is good in our industry. His business policy has always centered around loyalty; to his customers, company, and representatives, and you will find that all of us who have been fortunate enough to know him are fiercely loyal to him. Ed is guided by his strong faith and takes great joy every day in being able to do business with his friends."

This award honors individuals within a manufacturing firm who have shown outstanding business leadership, business integrity and steadfast support of the independent electrical manufacturer's representatives and NEMRA. The Thomas F. Preston Award is named in honor of NEMRA's first Executive Director who served in that role from 1969 to 1986 and began being awarded annually at the NEMRA Conference since 1979.

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- Facebook: Electric Association, Inc.
- LinkedIn: Electric Association of Chicago (Group)

The Electric Association is providing ways for you to expand your online presence. We've tried to keep our various online presences dedicated to conversations about ideas, issues and interesting electric association-related subjects. Posts that sell products or services are deleted from the Facebook page and LinkedIn group. ●



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