



IEC UPDATE

Summer 2010

A Message From the IEC National President

In early May, more than 100 of my fellow IEC members and I attended the 2010 IEC National Legislative Fly-In in Washington, DC. We were all working together and exercising our First Amendment right to petition the government. We spoke directly to decision-makers on Capitol Hill.

At the federal level, there are bills and regulations that threaten the way we conduct business, such as the union card-check bill; Project Labor Agreements; the new OSHA and ergonomics regulations; mandates to provide paid sick leave for all employees; blacklisting; and more.

What I truly enjoy is the act of engaging in our political process; meeting with legislators on Capitol Hill, learning about policy issues, and supporting the collective activism of our industry. Our government was set up so as to encourage private citizens to be actively involved in the process, and you don't fully appreciate the value of this until you take part in it.

The IEC National Office deserves to be commended for their efforts to prepare attendees for their meetings with their Members of Congress. The legislative briefings informed members of how to best present the issues to their representatives.

At the end of the day, even if we didn't see eye-to-eye on the issues with our Representatives and Senators, the meetings on the Hill were successful, and beneficial to the entire membership and

the merit shop industry.

This was an invaluable opportunity to not only explain issues such as the *Employee Free Choice Act* and the *Green Jobs Act*, but illustrate the impact that they have on small businesses struggling to operate in a difficult economy.

We have now begun shifting gears to the 53rd Annual IEC National Convention & Electric Expo. This year's convention will be held October 26-29, in Phoenix, Arizona. This is IEC's largest event and will feature educational sessions, a two-day Expo, and exciting networking opportunities. Visit www.ieci.org for more information.

I also want to extend a special thank you to this year's premier convention sponsor The Home Depot (see page 5 for more information). Their commitment to the electrical industry will go a long way to help this be the best convention to date.



I hope you can join us in sunny Phoenix!

Greg Haren
2010 IEC National President



Together, We Build America

For more information visit: www.ieci.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board continues to focus on growing the association even in a difficult economy. The Board passed the following motions during the most recent meeting:

- IEC National will provide up to \$10,000, along with other support to create a training program in partnership with the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) to be used in photovoltaic training.
- To approve the recommendation of IEC Texas to dissolve the chapter of IEC West Texas due to non-payment of dues for all of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010.

Also, the Board of Directors Retreat will take place July 18-20 in Louisville, Kentucky.

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING: The Curriculum Development Task Force completed content development of the newly reformatted fourth year curriculum as of April 10. The editing process for the 3rd and 4th year were completed in April.

Several chapters have asked if they could receive instructor manuals earlier than July 1 so that their instructors can start their lesson planning. The Committee has recommended that those chapters be provided the first nine lessons by June 1 as non-printable/non-reproducible .pdf files.

The Committee has named a Task Force, chaired by Mark Gillespie, to work with Pearson to develop a proposal for a new reliable approach to errata reporting and tracking.

Looking forward to the 2011-2012 school year, a conference call is being arranged with Pearson to start planning the process for updating the curriculum in accordance with the 2011 National Electrical Code. A notice will be going to the chapters shortly after this call advising them that we are looking for code knowledgeable instructors to assist with the review/ updating process.

IEC National Staff has been actively working with Pearson Education and ED MAP Staff to re-negotiate fulfillment terms and conditions and set pricing for the 2010-2011 school year. Final pricing and terms and conditions have been distributed to the chapters.

Discussions have been ongoing with Pearson Education related to the development of a lab manual to complement the IEC apprenticeship curriculum. A short survey will be sent to the chapters in May seeking input on their current lab capabilities/ configurations.

The second in a series of four planned instructor training videos has been completed and distributed to the chapters. In parallel with its work on the instructor training videos, the Committee has undertaken an effort to outline proposed parameters of an instructor certification process.

IEC Staff has been working with Pearson Education to determine the level of math and reading proficiency that is required for apprentices to be successful in the IEC Electrical Apprenticeship Program; and develop a recommended means of assessment and remediation. Pearson has subsequently provided its analysis of required math and reading levels and has made a preliminary proposal for an on-line math testing and remediation system which chapters could utilize as necessary. The Committee has reviewed Pearson's proposal and is recommending that the product they have be further developed and offered to chapters for use as they see appropriate.

The Committee is in the process of developing an initial training module on fire alarm to complement the lesson in the fourth year curriculum. Apprenticeship & Training Chair, Gary Golka, will be meeting via conference call with representatives of IEC Chesapeake to discuss a fire alarm project they have undertaken to determine if we can gain any efficiencies of scale by working together.

The Committee has requested that IEC Staff conduct a brief survey of chapters to develop a list of all employees of IEC members and chapters that serve on State Apprenticeship Councils.

The Committee has considered and responded to letters from WECA-IEC, Northern New Mexico IEC, and IEC Dakotas concerning curriculum use over the past few months. All of these concern modification of our curriculum for delivery, or statements of intentions to use alternative curricula. No submissions of alternate curricula have been received, and the committee is requesting that the Board give direction to chapters and to the Committee concerning enforcement or alterations of the MOP concerning usage. This issue is ongoing and is beyond the scope of the Committee it will now be reviewed by the Board.

[View Apprenticeship & Training Committee Minutes.](#)

AWARDS: The Awards Committee did not meet during the Legislative Fly-In but met via conference call on March 29.

On the call, the group reviewed the purpose and goals of the committee: To help spread the word and increase the number of award entries received; and to fairly evaluate the merits of each award entry based on information submitted. It was noted that

any committee member with a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the vote of that particular category. Tom LeMay has once again agreed to oversee the daunting task of assembling judges for the Construction Awards.

The committee encourages all chapters and members to submit qualified entries. We hope to once again surpass our entries from the previous year. All entries must be received at IEC National by **August 6**.

CODES AND STANDARDS: Several IEC members will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 9 -10 to attend the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee Meeting. The attending members are IEC's representatives that serve on Code Making Panels for the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC). The meeting is the culmination of the past three years of panel members debating proposals and comments submitted by the public. There is still one last hurdle to overcome; the public will be allowed to make a motion at the meeting which could alter the work already done by panel members. All NFPA members will have an opportunity to speak on all motions presented on the floor of the meeting and to present a final vote on the 2011 NEC.

In the next several months many local jurisdictions will adopt the 2011 NEC as the law of the land for electricians.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COUNCIL: Executive Director Council Chair, David Johnson, reported that most of the Executive Directors that were in DC met for a "fellowship breakfast." Executive Directors shared their "best practices" and spoke about some of the upcoming programs and opportunities. David spoke about the soon-to-be "Education Task Force" and that Executive Directors will be asked to participate in this new initiative.

FOUNDATION: The new IEC Foundation website is now live and can be found at www.iec-foundation.org.

The 2009 IECF Golf Tournament netted \$30,000. A donation of \$4,500 from this amount will be provided to the St. Louis Children's Nursery and the remaining \$25,500 will be put into the Foundation's Scholarship Fund.

A new Foundation event is planned for the 2010 IEC National Convention. Pedometers will be provided to all registered attendees to record steps while at the convention. Prizes will be awarded.

The 2010 IECF Golf Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona will be held at the Ocotillo Golf Course.

A campaign to IEC Industry Partners is underway to raise funds for the IECF Scholarship Program (see page 5 for more information). Both The Home Depot and Eaton Corporation have committed \$5,000. It is the Foundation's intent to provide 10 scholarships this year for \$2,000 each. As in the past, scholarships will be provided for both craft (apprenticeship students) and baccalaureate (college students with a major in the electrical industry).

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & PAC/PEF: The Committee discussed creating educational materials and webinars to educate members about the impact of the new health care law. National staff will work with committee members to create these programs.

The Committee also encouraged national staff to put together educational materials related to federal contracting, given that so much of the available work is currently tied to government projects. Many IEC members have never worked federal jobs, and the red tape can be intimidating and cumbersome. Staff will work with contractors who are experienced in federal work in order to create "how to" guides and webinars on this subject.

The Committee discussed ways to increase PAC fundraising. IEC National would like to recognize the excellent work done by the San Antonio chapter members to raise awareness about the PAC, as well as bringing in donations from members of the chapter. One suggestion from the committee involved having an annual award from National to the chapter that can raise the most PAC funds. The competition for this award would serve as a great example of how to raise PAC dollars.

[View Government Affairs Committee Minutes.](#)

[View PAC/PEF Committee Minutes.](#)

MEMBERSHIP: The data from the membership report through the end of March 2010 shows a drop of 3.3 percent of IEC contractor members and a 3.8 percent drop overall in membership since December 31, 2009. The data shows that approximately 80 percent of chapters have experienced at least some degree of membership loss, while 20 percent have experienced positive growth. The positive growth seems to be coinciding with areas of the country that have benefited from increased economic activity due to nearby military bases.

To help address some of these issues, the Membership Committee has requested that National staff update the membership recruitment and retention material that was developed roughly

four years ago and re-release it to our chapters. National staff has also developed two new business development brochures – one is intended for presentation to general contractors and the other for residential end users; both will be customizable by our member contractors.

The membership committee brings a recommendation in the form of a motion regarding dissolving the IEC West Texas chapter due to nonpayment of National dues. This chapter currently has two members, does not do any apprenticeship training and therefore this action would not have any adverse impact on apprentices employed by these contractors. The action would also free up this territory and allow IEC Texas to provide services to contractors there as members at large.

Motion: *To approve the recommendation of IEC Texas to dissolve the chapter status of West Texas due to non-payment of dues for all of 2009 through the first quarter of 2010.*

The motion was passed during the IEC National Board of Directors meeting.

The membership committee is planning to hold a membership growth summit meeting this summer to develop a long term strategy for the growth of IEC.

[View Membership Committee Minutes.](#)

SAFETY: The IEC National Safety Committee began creating rules and plans for announcing the 2011 IEC Safety Calendar. The committee plans to encourage children and grandchildren of IEC contractor member employees to submit a safety drawing for the calendar. The committee has been encouraged by the tremendous response from the Platinum Partners to help make the calendar a success by participating as sponsors. More information on the contest can be found in the safety section of the [IEC National website](#).

The Safety Committee discussed the following OSHA topics:

OSHA has increased the amount of penalties issued for serious violations from \$1,000 to between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

OSHA is on track to have a record number of inspections this year. There were more than 39,000 inspections in 2009; OSHA expects more than 42,000 in 2010.

The following were listed in Proposed Rule Stage of OSHA's Semi-Annual Agenda:

- Confined Spaces in Construction
- Exposure to Crystalline Silica

- Walking Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection
- Hazard Communication
- Cooperative Agreements

The following were listed in Final Rule Stage of OSHA's Semi-Annual Agenda:

- Electric Power Transmission and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment
- Cranes and Derricks in Construction

OSHA is planning to add an ergonomics column to the OSHA 300 log in the near future. This rule is also in the Final Rule Stage. IEC has opposed the change to the log.

Following the IEC National Safety Committee meeting, the Committee held an OSHA Alliance Implementation Team Meeting. The team discussed the status of ongoing and upcoming projects. IEC signed a two year Alliance Agreement with OSHA in 2008; that agreement is up for renewal on August 31 of this year. OSHA is in the process of changing their Alliance Program.

[View Safety Committee Minutes.](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: The IEC Workforce Development Committee plans to work with the Apprenticeship and Training Committee to assist Chapters submitting IEC's training program to their states Department of Education for approval. This will let others know there is approved competition for the National Center for Construction Education and Resource (NCCER) program.

Rene Jefferson from 4H was a guest of the Committee and she discussed opportunities for IEC to work with 4H at their National 4H Engineering Challenge (in Indiana during October) and the National Youth Science Day.

The Workforce Development Committee has been asked if the Workforce Development Video created last year could be used to create a 30 second promotion by a chapter. The committee plans to submit a recommendation to the Board on this request in the near future.

IEC will be represented this month at the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City, Missouri. IEC will be organizing the Industrial Motor Control Competition and have a booth at the event.

[View Workforce Development Committee Minutes.](#)



IEC Announces The Home Depot as the Premier Sponsor of the 2010 IEC National Convention

IEC National recently announced that The Home Depot will be the premier sponsor of the 53rd Annual IEC National Convention & Electric Expo. Scheduled for October 26-29 in Phoenix, Arizona, IEC members will have numerous opportunities to learn, connect, and profit at this leading industry event.

"I am excited to announce The Home Depot as the premier sponsor of IEC's largest annual event," said Greg Haren, 2010 IEC National President. "Their enthusiastic support of the electrical industry will help this year's convention positively influence all of the attendees and their businesses."

Expected to attract nearly one thousand independent electrical contractors from across the country, this three-day convention will feature 36 educational sessions in which IEC members will learn the latest in green technology, project management, estimating, and other business techniques. The event will also feature a two day Expo where attendees can learn from industry leaders, such as The Home Depot, about the latest products and services.

"The Home Depot is honored to sponsor the IEC Convention this year," stated The Home Depot's Merchandising Vice President, Electrical, Bill Hamilton. "The teachings of the apprentice program help grow the industry and The Home Depot is here for the IEC members to support them. The Home Depot looks forward to the National Convention in October."

More details about the 53rd Annual IEC National Convention & Electric Expo can be found at www.ieci.org.

IEC Foundation
Independent Electrical Contractors Foundation

2010 IEC Foundation Scholarship Program

The IEC Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2010 Scholarship Program. A total of \$20,000 in scholarships are available and will be awarded in increments of \$2,000 each.

Scholarships will be:

- Open to all IEC contractor and associate member employees and their children.
- Awarded in the following categories:
 - **Craft** (for students in IEC-approved apprenticeship training)
 - **Baccalaureate** (for college students majoring in an electrical industry field of study).

The deadline to apply is June 15, 2010

For further details and to apply, please visit the [IEC Foundation website](http://www.iecfoundation.org) or call Foundation Coordinator, Barbara Duncan at (502) 417-0157.

Learn. Connect. Profit.

53rd Annual IEC National
Convention & Electric Expo
October 26-29, 2010

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel and
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