



# WIRED IN



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We all know that organizing a good plan can bring great rewards. The old saying fail to plan and you should plan to fail. This holds true to all aspects of our life. All construction requires planning of some type. The IEC Chesapeake is always planning ahead for our needs from discount services, better apprentice training, workforce development and continuing education classes. This year we will be bringing new types of classes and certifications that will help provide contractors the training needed for the future types of technology coming into the electrical industry. Look closely at the upcoming events and classes for your ability to take advantage of planning for your companies future capabilities.

If you would like to join a committee and have not returned the sign up form please fax or mail this by the end of the month. Thanks to those who have continued on a committee and those who have recently joined in. Being involved is always beneficial to everyone.

Wishing you all continued success through the membership of the IEC.

Thank you,  
*Don Ord*  
*Aztec Electric Service Inc.*

### CONGRATULATIONS ROB OLYPHANT!

IEC Chesapeake is pleased to announce that Rob Olyphant, our Apprenticeship Coordinator, has passed his Electrical Masters Exam on the first go round. As all Master Electricians know, this is quite an accomplishment and something that Rob should be proud of. Good job Rob and thanks for your dedication and hard work in making our program work.



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# SAFETY

## JIM'S SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

January, 2009

### STUMPED BY THE CODE?

(Condensed from Mike Holt's article for EC&M)

Based on 2008 NEC

Q. Is GFCI protection required for receptacles above the counter of a break room in an office building?

A. If the break room has a sink and *permanent* provisions for food preparation and cooking (Art.100 Kitchen), the all 125V 15A, and 20A receptacles in the kitchen area must be GFCI protected (210.8(B)).

Q. If we are using self-grounding receptacles with MC cable and metal boxes, do we need to connect the equipment grounding conductor to the receptacle?

A. No. Receptacle yokes listed as self grounding are designed to establish the bonding path between the device yoke and a metal box via the two metal mounting screws (250.146(B)).

Q. Where does the NEC require removal of abandoned line voltage wiring?

A. The only time the NEC requires removal of abandoned line voltage circuit conductors is for cellular concrete floors (372.13), cellular metal floors (374.7), under floor raceways (390.7), information technology equipment if not installed in a metal raceway (645.5(F)), and temporary wiring (590.3).

Q. Can we put multiple Type NM cables through a single knockout?

A. Yes, you can put multiple Type NM cables through a single knockout but only if the termination fitting is listed for the purpose. Most termination fittings are only listed for a single cable connection, but there are some that are listed for two cables (110.3(B) and 312.5(C)).

Q. If an appliance is cord and plug connected, is a disconnecting means required?

A. No, a plug and receptacle can serve as the disconnecting means for a cord-and-plug-connected appliance if the plug connection is accessible (422.33(A)).



## MEMBERS' CORNER

### ASK THE DRUG LADY

#### WHICH DRUGS DO EMPLOYERS TEST FOR?

The Department of Transportation mandates that covered employers test for five illegal drugs (called the NIDA-5... national institute of drug abuse): marijuana (THC), cocaine, opiates (codeine and morphine) amphetamine (amphetamine and methamphetamine) and phencyclidine (PCP). Testing for alcohol also is required by DOT. By far, the illegal drug most frequently found in the system of American workers is marijuana. It is interesting to look at the percentage of positive test results by specific drug. One major lab reports that 55% of all positive drug tests are for marijuana and nearly 14% are for cocaine. A recent increase in amphetamine use through the U.S. is reflected in the 9% positive rate for amphetamines. Opiates are next at 6.3%.

The good news is that as a company initiates and maintains drug testing, positive rates begin to drop and typically stay low. One major drug-testing lab reported positive results of approximately 5%. Positive test rates vary depending on the testing situation...random testing, for example, can be as high as 6.6% and post accident can be as high as 5.7%. Pre-employment tests yielded a positive rate of 4.1% which is lower than both random and post accident probably because people avoid drugs prior to looking for a new job or because they're taking measures to pass a urine drug test.

For the most part, employers hold the key when someone tests positive. Depending on a multitude of circumstances, including how many times the employee has violated the company policy, employers can and will take disciplinary action. This includes termination. Much depends on the company's policy and the state and federal laws that may come into play.



According to the AMA, employers typically respond in the following manner:

- 63% refer the employee to counseling or treatment
- 22% dismiss the employee immediately
- 21% enforce a suspension, probation, or other disciplinary action
- 14% dismiss the employee, but only as a last resort
- 2% reassign the employee to other duties

Source: *Why Drug Testing?* By William F. Current

*Judy Swartley is the Managing Partner of Red Planet Substance Abuse Testing, Inc., which specializes in saliva-based drug and saliva-based alcohol programs. She's been involved with IEC for more than 10 years. To reach her call 610.866.7603 or jswartley@aol.com.*

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### FIRE MARSHALL'S OFFICE—DENNIS GENTZEL

A committee, approved by the State Fire Prevention Commission, has been appointed to consider the adoption of the new fire prevention code

which includes the 2008 NEC. The new Fire Prevention Code is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2010.

Source: *Electric League News & Notes* 4th Quarter 2008

### CONTRACTOR NEWS

**McLaughlin Electric Co. (Baltimore)** has expanded to the D.C. area by opening a shop in Springfield, VA. "Year-to-date, sales are up 41% at the 57-year-old company," the Washington Business Journal reported.

Source: *TedMag.com*

## GIL THOMPSON - ELECTRIC LEAGUE OF MARYLAND - COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

In a previous issue of News and Notes I wrote an article about alternative energy sources and their affect on our lives and the electric industry. After seeing actual large wind-driven power generators, I realized some people have already responded to the challenge of generating electricity by other means than fossil fuels.

Did you know that wind turbines in California produce enough electricity to power 4,000,000 homes? T. Boone Pickens plans to develop wind farms in Texas that will generate 4000 Megawatts of electricity which is enough power to supply 1.3 million homes.

Did you know enough solar energy falls on the surface of the earth every

40 minutes to meet 100% of the worlds needs for a year? Driving back from the mountains I saw a large project to expand an existing solar cell manufacturing facility. Near Hagerstown I noticed a large, new complex which will use special arrays to convert sun's heat into steam which, in turn, powers turbine generators

While relaxing in Ocean City I thought about power generation in development in Ireland. This new creation will take advantage of the relentless force of moving water in the ocean. The rocking motion alone will generate power to satisfy seaside customers.

With special photo-voltaic cells, fuel cells, Hydrogen-powered vehicles,

the Hydrogen super highway is close to becoming a reality. And, with the use of nuclear energy, solar cells, wind power hydrogen and bio-fuels, fuel cells, embedded solar power shingles, paint and special made asphalt (for roads and parking lots) with photovoltaic fibers, a new generation of generators is certainly coming too.

Wow! What a challenge! Wow! What an opportunity! We are on the cutting edge of new and innovative technologies that will produce thousands of jobs. Should we learn and educate ourselves for the task ahead?

*Source: Electric League News & Notes  
4th Quarter 2008.*



### **NEED SPACE FOR YOUR COMPANY MEETING?**

If you're planning a company meeting or training session, let us save you \$\$\$ by utilizing your association's facilities. Call the IEC Chesapeake offices at 800-470-3013 to reserve space for your meeting at either the Odenton or Chantilly Offices.



## VIRGINIA NEWS

### PAUL D. CAMP COMMUNITY COLLEGE – UPDATE

IEC Chesapeake and Paul D. Camp Community College (in Franklin, VA) are moving forward in their Pre-Apprenticeship initiatives for the

greater-Suffolk area and awaiting feedback from the attorney general to complete the final stages of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Next steps will be to discuss apprenticeship training and continuing education opportunities.

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### COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE ALLIANCE (CCWA) – UPDATE

IEC Chesapeake is working collectively with the Community College Workforce Alliance (in Chester, VA) on several continuing education ini-

tatives. In the month of March, IEC Chesapeake and the Community College Workforce Alliance will be offering a Journeyman's and Master's

Prep Course, as well as a Photovoltaic Systems and the NEC Seminar at the John Tyler Community College Campus in Chester.

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### CHANTILLY FIELD TRIP

IECC will be hosting the Arlington Career Center and Thomas A. Edison High School yet again for another field trip to the Chantilly training facility. These students are in their senior-year and have a strong interest in pursuing a career in the electrical

field upon graduating. They will be exposed to the new Computer Performance System (CPS) e-Instruction for interactive classroom exercises, as well as basic motor control labs. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd, from 9:00 AM to

12:00 PM, and sponsorship opportunities are still available on a first come, first serve basis (1-each available for Contractor and Industry Partner members). Please contact Mervin for more information at [mmunoz@iec-chesapeake.com](mailto:mmunoz@iec-chesapeake.com).

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### APPRENTICESHIP

IEC Chesapeake attended the Virginia Apprenticeship Council Meeting on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Confederate Hill Recreation Building in Highland Springs. Outstanding Apprentice Awards were presented prior to the meeting. Selecting top apprentices was a challenging task for the Committee,

which was eventually narrowed to the four recipients in the fields of Inside Machinist, Marine Design, and Electricity. Following the presentation of awards, updates were given to the Council by representatives of the Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association, US Department of Labor – Office of Apprenticeship, Division of

Registered Apprenticeship, and the Department of Labor and Industry. Also, it is with great honor that the Apprenticeship Council recognized the commendable efforts of Chairman, Dr. Steven Staples, for his distinguished years of service with the Council, with this meeting being his last as Chairman.

**THESE INDUSTRY PARTNERS  
SUPPORT THE IEC CHESAPEAKE AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!**

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN MIND WHEN MAKING YOUR NEXT BUSINESS DECISION:

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ADP                                   | MAURICE ELECTRICAL SUPPLY         |
| AFLAC/BENEFITS MART LLC               | MAURY, DONNELLY & PARR, INC.      |
| ATLANTIC ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORP         | MCLEAN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.     |
| BENECO                                | MID-ATLANTIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION |
| BRAZILL BROTHERS & ASSOC.             | MOBERN LIGHTING COMPANY           |
| CAPITAL LIGHTING & SUPPLY             | NORTHWEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION    |
| CONSTRUCTION LABOR CONTRACTORS        | O.T. HALL/IDEAL INDUSTRIES        |
| CUMMINS POWER SYSTEMS, INC.           | ONE SOURCE ASSOCIATES             |
| DENTAQUEST                            | PRE-PAID LEGAL SERVICES, INC.     |
| DOMINION ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., INC.    | RSC EQUIPMENT RENTAL              |
| DUILLES ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORP.         | REXEL                             |
| EATON-CUTLER HAMMER                   | SEE, INC.                         |
| ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS INC.           | SKILLFORCE INCORPORATED           |
| ELECTRONIC CASH SYSTEMS, INC.         | STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE        |
| FALCON COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS, INC. | THE JOHN G. WEBSTER CO.           |
| FEDERATED INSURANCE COMPANY           | THOMAS & BETTS CORPORATION        |
| FUELMAN                               | TOWER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION        |
| GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.        | TRADESMEN INTERNATIONAL           |
| GREENLEE, A TEXTRON COMPANY           | TRADESOURCE                       |
| IRONWOOD SALES & MARKETING, INC.      | UNIFIRST CORPORATION              |
| KLEIN TOOLS                           | UNITED ELECTRIC SUPPLY            |
| LAW OFFICE OF ANDREW H. VANCE         | Y.E.S. ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.    |
| LEVITON, INC.                         | ZANGER ASSOC./JUNO LIGHTING GROUP |
| LUTRON                                |                                   |



## APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

### A MEMBERS SUGGESTED GUIDE TO TRAINING YOUR WORKFORCE

Electrical Contractors can not afford to stop training our apprentices and electrical workers in a down economy.

During the last two recessions many contractors simply decided that training was too expensive to do during a down turn in business. Once business started to pick up contractors looking for helpers or apprentices were surprised to find that these entry level workers were not available. So this caused contractors to pay more for mostly unskilled workers than necessary.

Do you think that our competitors will stop training? We need to be smart about training, whether we have plenty of work or there is a major slow down.

Each Contractor should look at continuing to invest in the future electrical workers for their companies. This means you might want to plan out who you are willing to train. Here are some ideas other contractors use to limit investing in workers that quit or are terminated for cause.

1. Make sure you do a back ground check of all entry level workers.
2. Applicants must have good transportation, good drivers (records) and licenses, and hand tools.

3. Applicants should be given an aptitude test to determine if they have the basic ability to succeed.

4. No Applicant should be recommended for the IEC Chesapeake Apprenticeship Program if they have not been able to show the following basic life skills that allow your company to depend on the employee:

- A. Did the Applicant show up for work on time?
- B. How many unexcused days from work did Applicant have?
- C. Was the Applicant dependable and did they follow direction on the job?
- D. Did the Applicant graduate from High School and what was their grade point average?
- E. Was the Applicant able to get two written recommendations from the Contractor Members field foreman? (The foreman know best whether the Applicant would make a good Apprentice.)

5. Once the Applicant has met the requirements set by the contractor, the applicant must sign an apprenticeship agreement. This written agreement makes the Applicant responsible for all of the training cost,

if they fail the course, miss more than four days of class, or quit or are fired by the contractor. This is a confessed judgment note that protects the contractor from apprentices that fail to complete the agreement. Note: IEC Chesapeake has a sample agreement for your review.

6. The Apprenticeship Agreement requires the Apprentice complete the training program and to work for the contractor member for two years as a journeyperson.

7. Training of Journeypersons should be viewed by the same standards as the Apprenticeship Agreement. Continuing Education and special training should also be covered and agreed in writing with the Journey Person working for some period of time.

This plan allows the contractor to benefit in many ways. Including knowing the Apprentice or Journey Person will improve their skills and will perform better for the Contractor Member for a specified period of time. Better training by IEC Chesapeake means more profits for the Contractor members.

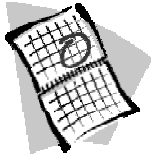
Jim Holt

Holt Electrical Contractors, Inc.

*Please note that the views in this article are those of the author and not those of the IEC Chesapeake Chapter.*

### WIRED IN AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

If you would like to receive the electronic version of Wired In please sign up online at [www.iec-chesapeake.com](http://www.iec-chesapeake.com). If you would like to receive only the electronic version and discontinue your paper issue please contact Carey at the IEC Chesapeake office at 800-470-3013 ext.103.



## 2009 LUNCH & LEARNS & EVENTS

January 27	12 Noon	Top 10 Things Subs Need-To-Know About Law	Chantilly, VA
January 28	12 Noon	Introduction to Solar Electric Market	Odenton, MD
February 17	12 Noon	Introduction to Solar Electric Market	Chantilly, VA
February 25	12 Noon	Security Check-Up for Your Business	Odenton, MD
February 25	12 Noon	Catastrophic Protection Systems	Odenton, MD
March 7	9:00 AM	4th Year Apprentice Wire Off	Odenton, MD
March 11	12 Noon	Lien Law & How to Collect Your Money	Odenton, MD
March 24	12 Noon	Lien Law & How to Collect Your Money	Chantilly, VA
May 13	10:30 AM	Golf Tournament	Ft. Washington, MD
June 6	11 AM	Graduation	Adelphi, MD
June 16	5 PM	VA Crab Feast	Fairfax, VA
July 21	12 Noon	Understanding Apprenticeship	Chantilly, VA
July 22	5 PM	Urbana Crab Feast	Urbana, MD
August 5	5 PM	Odenton Crab Feast (Tentative)	Jessup, MD
September 30	12 Noon	Inspectors Roundtable	Odenton, MD
October 20	12 Noon	Inspectors Roundtable/Officer Elections	Chantilly, VA
November	TBA	Casino Night	Odenton, MD
December 2	12 Noon	Holiday Open House	Odenton, MD
December 8	12 Noon	Holiday Open House	Chantilly, VA

### JANUARY CELEBRATION DAYS

<b>January</b>	23 Measure Your Feet Day	28 National Kazoo Day
20 National Buttercrunch Day	24 Beer Can Appreciation Day	29 National Puzzle Day
20 Penguin Awareness Day	24 Compliment Day	29 National Cornchip Day
21 National Hugging Day	25 Opposite Day	30 National Inane Answering Message Day
21 Squirrel Appreciation Day	26 Spouse's Day	31 Backward Day
22 National Blonde Brownie Day	27 Chocolate Cake Day	31 Inspire Your Heart with Art Day
23 National Pie Day	27 Punch the Clock Day	
23 National Handwriting Day	28 Fun at Work Day	

# **GOLFERS SAVE THE DATE**



**MAY 13, 2009**

**10:30 am – 6:30 pm**

**Tantallon Country Club**

**Fort Washington, Maryland**

**Look for the registration form to be sent out soon.**



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **NICET Level II Fire Alarm & Test Preparation Training** **February 6 & 7, 2009** **Odenton, MD**

Zenith Design Group

NICET Fire Alarm Certification is being required in the Fire Alarm Industry more and more. **Montgomery County, Maryland is presently implementing field installers of Fire Alarm Systems have documented training in Fire Alarm systems with NICET requirements around the corner.** In order to prepare you to take this test and to better understand the NICET testing process, IEC Chesapeake will be presenting this 16-hour Test Preparation Course. Designed specifically to assist you in taking the Level II test, it will also provide you technical knowledge concerning Fire Alarm Systems Operation along with Level I Requirements. The course will include a sample test and all students will receive a copy of the NFPA 72. Should you have any questions concerning this or other classes that IEC Chesapeake presents you can contact us at (800) 470-3013.

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### **Common Electrical Code Violations** **February 19, 2009** **Frederick, MD**

Are National Electric Code violations costing you time and money? Learn from an expert on how to make that installation right the first time. Marty Schumacher who has 17 years as an Electrical inspector from and is presently a plans examiner in Howard County will present this informative 5-Hour class that will focus on the top 10 violations he sees during the inspection process. We recommend you send anyone who is responsible for getting that permit approved and avoiding delays and re-inspections. Class will be based on the 2008 NEC and held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 between 3 – 8 pm at the Frederick Community College. Register on line by going to the IEC Chesapeake web site [www.iec-chesapeake.com](http://www.iec-chesapeake.com)

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### **Basic Estimating – Electrical Industrial/Commercial** **February 21 & 28, 2009** **Odenton, MD**

IEC Chesapeake is pleased to announce that we will be presenting a 9-Hour, Basic “Hands On” Estimating class that will focus on the Industrial & Commercial Principles of Estimating. at the Odenton Training Center. The class is scheduled to run on Saturdays, February 21 & 28 between 7:30 and 12 noon. This class will be presented by Ray Sofield who presently sits on the Md. Apprenticeship and Training Council and has over 50 years experience in the trade as a successful Electrical Contractor. Pricing of material, labor rates, establishing non-productive labor, prime cost and overhead percentage are only a few topics to be discussed. This class is designed to give a **very basic** understanding of Estimating to your employees with little knowledge of this important area of the trade. Should you have any questions you can contact IEC Chesapeake at 1-800 470 3013.

## IEC CHESAPEAKE

2008/2009 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Phone: (800) 470 3013

[WWW.IEC-CHESAPEAKE.COM](http://WWW.IEC-CHESAPEAKE.COM)

Fax: (301) 912 1665

<p><b>Top 10 Things Subs Need to Know about Law</b> IEC – Chantilly, Virginia Instructor: Andy Vance</p> <p>January 27, 2009 Tuesday 12 Noon – 2 pm</p> <p>2-Hour Lunch &amp; Learn <b>Limit: 25</b></p>	<p><b>Intro to Solar Electric Market</b> IEC—Odenton Training Center Alternative Energy Committee</p> <p>January 28, 2009 Wednesday 12 Noon – 1:30 pm</p> <p>1.5 – Hour Overview <b>Limit: 30</b></p>	<p><b>*NICET Level II Test Preparation Course</b> IEC – Odenton Training Center Instructor: Greg Kessinger Zenith Design Group February 6 &amp; 7, 2009 Fri./Sat. 8 – 4:30 pm</p> <p>16-Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 25</b></p>
<p><b>ARC Flash/Safety Guideline Overview</b> IEC-Chantilly, Virginia Instructor: R. Greenfield/Cooper Bussman</p> <p>February 11, 2009 Wednesday 1-3 pm</p> <p>2 – Hour Overview <b>Limit: 35</b></p>	<p><b>*Electrical Grounding &amp; Bonding – 2008 NEC</b> Frederick Community College Instructor: Bob Runyon</p> <p>February 14 &amp; 21, 2009 Saturdays – 9 – 2:30</p> <p>10 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 20</b></p>	<p><b>Top 10 Electrical Construction Site Code Violations</b> Frederick Community College Instructor: Marty Schumacher</p> <p>February 19, 2009 Thursday - 3 – 8 pm</p> <p>5 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 60</b></p>
<p><b>Ind/Commercial Electrical Basic Estimating</b> IEC – Odenton Training Center Instructor: Ray Sofield</p> <p>February 21 &amp; 28, 2009 Saturdays 7:30 – 12 Noon</p> <p>9 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 12</b></p>	<p><b>Basic Electricity for the Non-Electrician</b> IEC – Odenton Training Center Instructors: Rob Palmer &amp; Ron Greenfield</p> <p>February 21, 2009 Saturday 8 – 2:30 pm</p> <p>6-Hour Seminar <b>Limit:25</b></p>	<p><b>Catastrophic Protect. Sys. (CaPS)</b> IEC – Odenton Training Center Instructor: Chris Martin</p> <p>February 25, 2009 Wednesday 12 – 2 pm</p> <p>2 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 30</b></p>
<p><b>Understanding Fire Alarm Sys. &amp; Operating Components</b> IEC Odenton Training Center Instructor: D. Lajoie – Fire Lite</p> <p>February 12, 2009 Thursday – 12 Noon – 5 pm</p> <p>5 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 25</b></p>	<p><b>Intro to Solar Electric Market</b> IEC—Chantilly, Virginia Alternative Energy Committee</p> <p>February 17, 2009 Tuesday - 12 Noon – 1:30 pm</p> <p>1.5 – Hour Overview <b>Limit: 30</b></p>	<p><b>##+ 2008 NEC – Analysis of Change</b> Essex Community College Instructor: Wayne Robinson Feb. 28 &amp; March 7, 2009 Saturdays 9 – 2:30 pm</p> <p>10 – Hour Seminar <b>Limit: 25</b></p>

\*Courses available to meet Prince George &amp; Harford County Master Electrician Training Requirements

+ Courses available to meet Delaware and North Carolina Master Electrician Training Requirements

#Courses available to meet Virginia licensing renewal requirements effective 2008

Registration "On Line" at the IEC Website [www.iec-chesapeake.com](http://www.iec-chesapeake.com) or by calling the

IEC Odenton Training Center at: (800) 470 3013

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