

THE CASCADE HERALD

SUMMER 2008



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DISTRICT 6 MTG 2
IN HAWAIITULALIP GEN 2
MTG FOLLOW-
UPLEGISLATIVE 3
CONFERENCE IN
WA D.C.WA EMPLOYERS 4
CONTROL TAX
COSTSNEW CHAPTER 4
EMPLOYEESEAFAIR 5
CRUISEDISTRICT 6 IS 5
GOING TO
DISNEYLAND!CHICAGO 6
CONVENTION3 MONTH 6-7
CALENDARTEATRO ZIN- 8
ZANNI'S EARLY
SIGN UP!YOUR NECA
"TO-DO" LIST!!!

SIGN UP FOR:

- District 6 Convention, Disneyland!—08/7-10/08
- NECA Convention & Show, Chicago, IL—10/4-7/08
- Teatro ZinZanni's Early Sign-up

CASCADE CHAPTER WEBSITE LAUNCH!

Sandcastle Interactive has been working vigorously exercising their creative juices to get our website completed. The estimated site launch date is July 7th. The website will be equipped with extensive information,

wage charts, agreements, full calendar of events, e-newsletters, job/resume postings, in depth member profiles, photo galleries, links and much, much more! We are very excited to bring our site up-to-date and provide

you with this wonderful tool!

CHAPTER MEMBERS GET SPECIAL
WEBSITE OFFER!

Need another reason as to why it's good to be a Cascade Chapter Member? How about a low cost, highly effective, easy to use, professional, guaranteed to improve your business website proposal?!

members at an all time low cost!

"A SCREAM of a deal!" -Michael Conkle, Sandcastle Interactive

Sandcastle is fun, friendly, professional and a pleasure to work with. Their goal is to not only give you a website, but a tool that brings you to success. What more could a person ask for?

Its good to be a Cascade Chapter, NECA member.



Sandcastle Interactive is not only redesigning our Chapter site, but is also extending their services to all Cascade Chapter

SANDCASTLE MEMBER
WEBSITE OFFER:

- Template driven design:
 - NECA Members provide logo
 - Choose from 5 different templates
- Each template is enabled with a Content Management System members can add & layout their own content within the template pages.
- Sections included within the templates:
 - Home Page
 - About Us
 - Services
 - Projects
 - News/Links
 - Contact Us
- Domain Name Registration assistance if requested.
- One-time set up cost: \$1,000 per member site!
- Hosting: \$25/month!

www.sandcastle-i.com

HAWAII—DISTRICT SIX MTG



Governor Paul & Donna Sorensen of Ewing Electric, Inc.

Our District Six Meeting was held in Maui, Hawaii (date). Attending from our Chapter was:



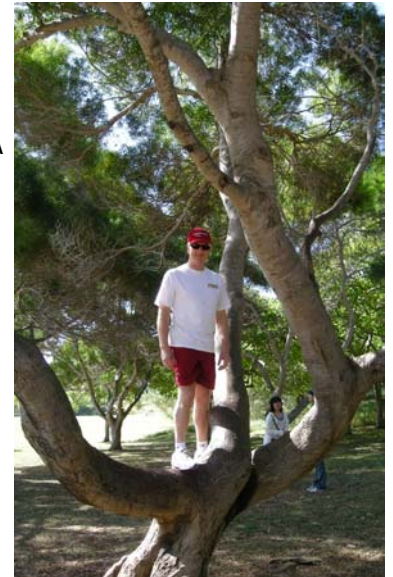
From Left: Nancy Sanders, Donna Sorensen, Peter Sanders & Paul Sorensen.

Vice President of District Six, Mel Buttrum; Governor Paul Sorensen; President Pete Sanders, Chapter Manager Cindy Austin and Sam Ewing attended the meeting as a guest. Accompanying them were Nancy Sanders and Donna Sorensen.

District Six Vice President Mel Buttrum chaired the informative meeting. The agenda included a Western Regional Report by Western Regional Manager Bill Kuhr; District Six Vice President Report

presented by Vice President Mel Buttrum; NECA Government Affairs Report presented by Executive Director of Government Affairs Lake Coulson; Discussion of the new IO Policy and Ed Hills' State of the Union II DVD; Brinks Decision; Chapter Reports; National Committee Reports and Upcoming Negotiations.

As always, after the hard work is done the Chapter had a great time in Hawaii and enjoyed the good company and great weather!



Paul Sorensen climbing a native Hawaiian tree.



From Left: Paul & Donna Sorensen, Sam Ewing, & Mel Buttrum.

SUCCESS AT TULALIP—APRIL 15, 2008



If you didn't happen to make it out to April's General

Membership Meeting

you truly missed out on quite the classy affair! The Tulalip Bay Fine Dining Restaurant did an amazing job giving us the royal treatment.

Upcoming events were discussed as well as the ECPAC & Local Political Contributions, Sandcastle's Member website offer.



Brad Crawford, David Ginestra & Erik Sorensen conversing.

President Peter Sanders of Snohomish Electric, Inc. started off the meeting with introductions and welcoming our newest member Jeff Palmer of Premier Electrical Services.

When the Tulalip Casino Hotel is fully up and running we will be sure to plan a General Membership Meeting there!



Kim & Pat Andrews of CK Electric Services, Inc.



David Sharpe of Excel Electric & Service, Inc. with guest Dee Dailey.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE—WASHINGTON D.C.

April 29 – May 1, 2008

More than 100 NECA Members marched in Washington (D.C.) and held over 300 meetings with legislators on issues of critical importance to the electrical contracting industry. Speakers were **Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA)** and **Norm Coleman (R-MN)** and Representative **Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.)** and each focused on their leadership of NECA legislative priorities. Several members reported progress regarding discussions with legislators on co-sponsorship of the 3% repeal legislation. Thanks are in order to **Dennis Quebe, Government Affairs Chairman**, who ran a great Committee meeting and served as Master of Ceremonies for the Legislative Conference. Thanks are also in order to **Mel Buttrum**, **Ciro Lupo**, and **Jeff Ohman** who introduced their member of Congress to the NECA membership.

NECA participates in 3% coalition meeting –

NECA Staff participated in a Government Withholding Relief Coalition meeting held at the U.S. Chamber to discuss strategies associated with repeal of the 3% withholding tax. NECA learned that **Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)**, and a member of the Senate Finance Committee, came on as a co-sponsor to the repeal legislation offered by **Sen, Larry Craig (R-ID)**. Discussed during the meeting was how to use new information in lobbying visits, including the Department of Defense study citing a 17% cost to implement the withholding provisions. **Cross-subsidization hearing held in Energy Committee; NECA referenced in Feingold testimony** – The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine the 2005 Energy A Policy Act and the implications of repealing PUHCA. The

hearing was conducted as a compromise to withdrawing an amendment proposed by **Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Russ Feingold (D-WI)** back in 2005. The withdrawal, along with a hearing, also required a Governmental Accountability Office report, detailing the impact of PUHCA's repeal. In particular, it studied utility companies' use of cross-subsidization, according to the GAO, this practice by utility companies has increased since 2005 and is "unfairly passing on to consumers the cost of transactions between utility companies and their affiliates." During Senator Feingold's testimony to the Committee, he contended that in addition to the increased costs that consumers face from phantom rate increases to subsidize the businesses utilities roll into their balance sheets, that small businesses and labor union – like the "IBEW and

NECA” – were competing against unfair market manipulation, Senator’s Cantwell and **Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.)** strongly criticized the federal agency, **FERC**, tasked with oversight of utility mergers and challenged the lack of federal standards that put our economy, consumers, and national infrastructures at risk. The Committee has recommended that further action be taken to protect consumers and businesses.

**Cascade Chapter Mem-
bers attending were:**

Chapter Manager Cindy Austin, District 6 Vice President Mel Buttrum of Service Electric Co., Inc., Chapter President Peter Sanders of Snohomish Electric, Inc., Secretary Treasurer Bruno Padilla of Electric West, Inc., Sam Ewing of Ewing Electric, Inc., and Terry Hicks of Seahurst Electric, Inc.

WELCOME SANDRA FLORES! —NEW CHAPTER OFFICE EMPLOYEE

We would like to take a minute to introduce the newest Cascade Chapter team member, Sandra Flores.

Sandra is new to the industry, but very ea-

ger to learn. She moved to Washington 12 years ago with her family and now lives in Marysville, WA.

Welcome to the Cascade Chapter, NECA!

Northwest +5

QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST

Give *your* Company an Advantage
Become a Northwest +5 Electrical Contractor
TODAY!

425-258-3294

WASHINGTON EMPLOYERS CONTROL TAX COSTS BY REPORTING NEW WORKERS

OLYMPIA—Employers in Washington state helped each other avoid approximately \$3.3 million in unemployment-benefit charges over the last year by promptly reporting their new employees to the state.

The Employment Security Department matches its records of people who are collecting unemployment benefits with new-hire information from employers to find people who continue to collect benefits after they've found a new job. When there is a match, the worker must pay back the money he or she received, and the previous employer's unemployment tax is not charged for the cost of benefits. Benefit

charges are used to determine an employer's tax rate.

From May 2006 through April 2007, the cross-match found 6,814 people who were claiming benefits after a new employer reported hiring them. Those matches represent about \$2.7 million in unemployment benefits that had been paid out. In some cases, the match was found before benefits were paid, totaling \$572,690 over the year. Employers were not charged for those benefits.

"A lot of overpayments happen because people don't report that they've found a new job," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen

Lee. "Employers can help us stop that fraud and save themselves money by reporting their new workers."

Employers are required to report all new employees to the Department of Social and Health Services child support program within 20 days of hire. They can report on the Internet at:

www.childsupportonline.wa.gov or call 800-562-0479 for more information. Proper reporting also reduces workers' compensation fraud and helps the state collect child support.

Matching records with other state agencies is just one way Employment Security fights unemployment fraud,

according to Lee. The department also cross-matches records with the Social Security Administration and with new-hire information from other states. It monitors telephone numbers and mailing addresses to uncover multiple-claim schemes, and investigates tips from the public.

Media Contact: Hilary Young

Audio: <http://fortress.wa.gov/esd/portal/info/newsroom/audiofiles/audionews/>

Questions?

Douglas Cheney
800-457-6202
dcheney@dshs.wa.gov
Employer Outreach Manager, Dept of Social & Health Services



Seattle's Summer Celebration

Get on the boat!



SEAFAIR CRUISE!



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Chapter Cruise Friday, August 1st! This years cruise theme is "Seattle Tropical!"

We are boarding the infamous My Girl charter vessel at Fisherman's Terminal in Ballard at 9:30AM, and cruising Lake Washing-

ton from 10:00AM docking at 3:00PM! The Blue Angels will be out again in all their glory soaring above our heads! Their will be fun, friends, food, drinks and laughter!

Don't miss out on another fabulous Cascade Chapter, NECA event! The RSVP's are rolling in fast and the boat is filling up! Get your

RSVP's in early to secure your spot and automatically enter your company in a prize drawing!

Hope to see you there!



DISNEYLAND HERE WE COME!

NECA's District Six Summer Conference in Disneyland is just around the corner! If you haven't signed up you better do it quickly!

The Bad News: This years destination is so popular that our discounted district room block with Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa is full and closed out. You can still get rooms at this location, but must pay the full

price of \$405.00/night.

The Good News: NECA has arranged for special room rates at two of Disney's nearby sister hotels.

- The Disney Hotel: \$300.00/night
- Disney Paradise Pier: \$270.00/night

You can use the same reservation phone number to get the rooms, remember to identify that you are with the

NECA Group. If you haven't made your reservations we strongly urge you to do so immediately.

As you may already know the early registration deadline was June 22nd, but you can still register with an additional \$10 late fee.

If you need any additional information you can contact Ashlee Boekenooogen at the Chapter office.



NATIONAL CONVENTION CHICAGO



It's time to start planning for the National NECA Annual Convention & Tradeshow

in Chicago, Illinois!

Cindy has already been out inspecting the area for the primo venue of choice in the great windy city during AEI (Association Executives Institute Meeting.)

Come this October we will be staying at the lovely Fairmont Chicago.

Registration and room blocks are now open as

of June 2nd.

If you would like more information regarding this event you can visit National NECA's web-site or go to:

www.necaconvention.org/

Feel free to contact the Cascade Chapter for details or additional guidance in making your arrangements.



Don't miss out on this years convention, it's an invitation to endless opportunities for you and your company.

To make your reservations for the Chicago National Convention go to:



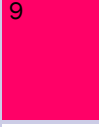


http://www.cmrhousing.com/NECA_C8/HandleReg.aspx?confNum=0&groupPasswd=CAS&redir=Welcome.aspx

JULY 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

KEY

- OUT OF TOWN MTG / EVENT
- MEETING
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
- HOLIDAY
- DEADLINES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 	2 	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9 	10	11	12
13	14 	15 	16	17	18 	19 
20	21	22	23 	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 		

- 1—End of Tri-District Post-Trip in Barcelona, Spain
- 4—Independence Day
- 9—Board of Directors Mtg
- 10—RES Mtg
- 14-15—ELECTRI Council
- 16—JATC Mtg
- 18—IBEW 191 Trust Mtg
- 19—IBEW 191 Golf
- 23—RSVP Deadline for Chapter Cruise
- 31—JATC Committee Mtg






AUGUST 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1—Chapter Cruise to SEAFAIR!
- 7-10—District 6 Summer Conference in Disneyland
- 8—Early Rate Deadline for National Convention in Chicago
- 18—JATC Committee Mtg
- 17-21—CIR, Washington D.C.

KEY

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3	4	5	6			
	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						








SEPTEMBER 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1—Labor Day
- 10—Board of Directors Mtg
- 11—Patriot Day
- 15—JATC Committee Mtg
- 16—General Membership Mtg, Tentative
- 22—Autumn Begins
- 25—IBEW 191 Trust Mtg

KEY

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www.necacascade.org

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CASCADE CHAPTER

T H I N K N E C A .



TEATRO ZINZANNI EARLY SIGNUP!

REMINDER: Save the date! This years annual Chapter Christmas Soiree is scheduled for December 12th at the fabulous Teatro ZinZanni located in downtown Seattle.

Due to the popularity of the venue and it being during the busiest part of the season, we have to give our final attendee count October 13th. After that date Teatro's will release our blocks unused seats to the public.

Consider this your 1st early registration notification and be on the lookout for this upcoming flyer in August!

