

Short circuits around our area

New member joins LMCC

Greg Elder has been appointed as Business Representative for IBEW Local 76. Greg is a 1985 graduate of the JATC Inside Wireman's Program who has worked all across the Local 76-NECA Southwest Washington jurisdiction. He will also serve on the LMCC.

JATC festivities planned

Ceremonies for the 2007 JATC Graduation will be held on August 24 at the Olympia Red Lion Hotel. This year's graduating class will be substantially smaller than the previous three years, says Tony Lewis, JATC training director. He adds the smaller class reflects the downturn experienced by the industry during the two years following the 9/11 attacks. Dinner starts at 6 p.m.

Mark your calendar for golf

The annual IBEW-NECA Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 25. For the third straight year, the charity tournament will be hosted at Allenmore Golf Course in Tacoma. Rules will be four-man best ball.

LMCC joins push for lights

The LMCC has joined the City of Gig Harbor and Tacoma's 6th Avenue Business District in endorsing a plan to permanently light the Narrows Bridges. Mike Glasman, president of Groff Electric and a board member of Narrowsbridgelights.org presented the proposed public-private financed plan to light the bridges at the March LMCC meeting. Members passed a resolution endorsing the idea. For more information go to www.narrowsbridgelights.org.



Amaya winds down bridge work

Amaya Electric is in the final phase of the electrical work on the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The high impact project has generated over 60,000 man-hours for Local 76 wiremen. The crews overcame some of the worst winter weather on record to get the bridge finished on time in the once in a lifetime experience.

The photo above shows Local 76 Business Manager Gary Younghans and Amaya Electric Foreman Jim Miller on the deck of the new bridge.



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Business Manager speaks out

"We don't have enough of it and the only way to get more is to work together."

Those are the strong and direct words from Gary Younghans, the new IBEW Local 76 business manager when asked his views of the current state of the unionized electrical industry. By together, he means working though the partnership of Local 76 with the National Electrical Contractors Association of Southwest Washington.

Younghans was appointed by the IBEW Executive Board following the resignation of Mike Grunwald. He is a 35-year journeyman-wireman member of Local 76 and has served several years as a business representative on the local staff and as part of the LMCC.

As he surveys the market opportunities open to the partnership, he stresses that the main threat to our continued joint prosperity and growth

is not each other. Instead he says, "Our competition is outside the unionized industry and we will only beat them by focusing on common solutions instead of our internal challenges."

While admitting that this is easier said than done, he has several initiatives in mind to encourage growth. Among those are:

Maintaining a strong Market Recovery Program (the JOBS Program) and looking for ways to increase the already strong return rate on JOBS investment dollars.

Streamlining the LMCC procedures will facilitate faster decisions, encourage a broader range of solutions and be more effective in melding the IBEW-NECA partnership.



Gary Younghans stresses a point during a recent visit with NECA Southwest Washington members on the "State of the Industry."

Investigate creative ways to fill expected manpower shortages this summer.

Although the current construction market is robust, Younghans maintains that the partnership between IBEW and NECA cannot be ignored. It's much easier to build market share when we are financially strong than when the market enters a downturn in the future and we are in a weaker position, he

says.

Younghans says he is committed to providing the service and leadership to his members and working together with his NECA partners. "I want to find those important issues where we have common ground, focus on them and work hard to grow our unionized market share," he says.



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LMCC Partnership Committee
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IBEW Local 76 - NECA Southwest Washington



LMCC reorganization means more effective work

The Labor Management Cooperation Committee has reorganized its structure to better support the IBEW-NECA partnership.

Two major changes have been implemented according to Gary Younghans, committee chairman and IBEW Local 76 business manager.

"We've consolidated the six various subcommittees into two working

groups," he says.

The two new committees are Improving Cost Competitiveness; and Marketing, Education and Training.

Secondly, the format has changed so that the monthly meetings will now be used for both general topics and for subcommittee meetings.

With 25 members trying to meet

in a general session and six subcommittees every month, it was hard to get everyone's schedule matched up. By combining committees and doing all our business in a single meeting, members can meet their commitments to the LMCC and their work. It make faster and more effective decisions for increasing market share possible, says Younghans.

Thirty Years of Home-Grown Service and Expertise

Now approaching 30 years in business as a family-owned-and-operated company, Betschart Electric prides itself on its mix of large-project capability and intense customer service.

That attitude has served both customers and employees well since Dave Betschart opened his doors in 1979. With son Brandon now in charge of the company's daily operations as General Manager, that commitment is stronger than ever.

The focus on customers has led the company to be one of the leading South Sound companies performing design-build projects. Working with Vine Street Investors during the past 25 years, Betschart has finished over two million square feet of office space in Tumwater. The projects form the core of the Point Plaza Complex and the Tumwater Towncenter.

"Were expecting to capitalize on all of the design-build experience from Point Plaza and the Towncenter to really open up the private design-build market for us," says Brandon Betschart.

Combined with their industrial experience with projects such as the Lott Alliance Wastewater Treatment Plant in Olympia and Grand Mound Sewage Treatment

company, he says the company can count on its workforce and the workforce can count on its employees.

"A highly-trained and moti-



Tumwater Town Center is more than 250,000 sq. ft. of design-build work for Betschart Electric.

Plant; along with the Heritage Recreation Center in Puyallup, Betschart expects that industrial projects and sports field lighting will dominate their future portfolio.

"That doesn't mean we're not going to pursue other types of projects," he adds. "Our focus is on expanding work specifically in these areas."

Betschart is also proud of the environment it creates for its employees. With the average wireman having 25 years of trade experience and 10 years with the

vated workforce is the best thing we can offer our customers," says Betschart. "They may choose us for price the first time, but they come back for the service and reliability."

That stability is key to winning and retaining customers in today's risk conscious building environment.

Creating a Great Life at Betschart

"This is a great place to work!"

That statement sums up how Craig Ferrier, a foreman with Betschart Electric feels about the last nine years.

Having spent his last two years in the JATC Apprenticeship Program working at Betschart, he has been a full-time journeyman-wireman at the company for the past seven years. He was assigned as a foreman about six years ago and has been one since.

"The company allows you to grow professionally and it's also very family friendly," says Ferrier, the father of a 13-year old daughter and an 11-year old son.

Except for a few short breaks, he's worked most of the past five years on the Point Plaza and Tumwater Towncenter projects.

These are great design-build projects that give me a chance to help turn what looks good on

paper into real life. "I especially enjoy working with Dean Giove who does most of the design-build project management. I think we make a very successful team."

Like many IBEW journeyman-wireman, Ferrier took a special interest in the electrical trade while working general construction. The Chehalis native was looking for something special when he decided to apply for the JATC.

"I had friends who were union electricians and they showed me the caliber of training and the quality of life they could enjoy as IBEW members," he says.

Ferrier was also looking for a challenging trade and realized the amount of math and analytical skills required to be a journeyman-wireman were right up his alley.

"This trade is very challenging and rewarding," he says.

When he's not busy at work, Ferrier spends a little time on the golf course and a lot of time with his family. "You have to enjoy them while they're here, they grow up fast," he adds heading out the door after his last 10-hour shift for the week.



Craig Ferrier

FAST FACT

Since its inception, the Market Recovery Program has returned an average of six dollars in wages and benefits to Local 76 wiremen for every dollar invested in competitive grants.



Jubilee Lodge houses 18,000 sq. ft. of recreation for Jubilee Adult Living in Lacey.