



# THE WIRE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Harry J. Sassaman*



As I embark upon what I expect to be my final year as president of NECA's Northern New Jersey Chapter, all signs point to an outstanding twelve months for this organization and the industry it faithfully serves. First, I am delighted to note that 2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of the chartering of the Northern New Jersey Chapter. I have always been proud to have been affiliated with this chapter and the colleagues with whom I have become acquainted, against whom I have competed and with whom I have worked with over the years; I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to associate with such an esteemed group. Second, it looks like after many years, we will finally be experiencing an extended period of expansion for our industry that I hope will benefit all of my colleagues. As for our

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Princeton Public Affairs Group

On Tuesday, March 13th, Governor Phil Murphy delivered his first budget address, outlining his spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2019. The \$37.4 billion spending plan embodies a number of initiatives that the Governor discussed on the campaign trail, including increasing funding for public education and NJ Transit, legalizing recreational marijuana, increasing income taxes on millionaires, and restoring the sales tax to 7% from its current 6.875%. The Governor has also proposed raising the Earned Income Tax Credit, creating a new child care tax credit, and increasing the limit for property tax deductions on state income taxes from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

While the Governor's budget address outlines his recommendations to the Legislature, it is up to the Senate and Assembly to deliberate on those recommendations and formulate a budget bill. Throughout this process, both Houses of the Legislature will hear from organizations, advocates, and members of the public on the Governor's recommendations. That process begins in late March and will continue through mid-

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Chapter, we are planning another year of outstanding educational and social programming and we expect the continued deliverance of an outstanding suite of valuable services and features to our membership. While our organization has been growing, I am aware of the fact that there are contractors who have not yet decided to become members. I would encourage those firms to take a look at what we offer our members- we strive to provide outstanding value for contractors of all sizes and disciplines and we would be delighted to have your firm as part of our team moving forward!

One of the events that the Chapter is looking forward to with great anticipation is NECA's Annual Convention and Trade Show. It has been fifty years since the event was last held in Philadelphia and, being located so closely to our own chapter's jurisdiction it would provide a great opportunity to participate in the finest trade show offered within the electrical construction and VDV industries. The event which takes place from Saturday, September 29th through Tuesday October 2nd normally attracts many thousands of industry participants from around the country; this year promises to draw more than 10,000 attendees. The national organization is putting together an outstanding package of educational events and entertainment for those registering to attend the entire conference as well as packages for those who might only be interested in attending for a single day or for participating in certain events attached to the convention. In addition, the Chapter will be hosting a reception on Monday evening on the reconditioned 4-masted ship Moshulu in conjunction with the Southern Jersey and Connecticut Chapters for our respective members and associate members. We certainly hope to have you join us for this outstanding event and will be sending out additional information as it becomes available to us; if you are interested, please contact the Chapter Office for details.

Finally, you may have noticed the white paper circulated on the Chapter's smartphone app detailing the potential financial liabilities faced by contractors partaking in the practice of illegal "double-breasting." This is the practice, permissible under certain circumstances, of operating a company that contains union signatory and non-union entities. Although such an arrangement can be advantageous to an individual contractor, it comes at the expense of damaging the union sector of the industry. And, while the concept of having "the best of both worlds" and trading work between the two entities can certainly seem to be enticing, if done improperly, it can leave a contractor open to huge financial liabilities. The practice of "double-breasting" appears to be growing within the jurisdictions comprising our Chapter and is a matter of increasing concern to many on our Board of Directors. Indeed, many loyal IBEW contractors are losing work to those who have charted this course. It is safe to say that there exists a significant amount of misinformation regarding the nature of "double-breasting" as well as the financial damages that can be suffered if it is done improperly. Accordingly, we commissioned the aforementioned white paper to provide union-signatory contractors with information regarding the dangers they can face by operating in such a fashion. For example, many believe that if the IBEW or its leadership is aware of such an arrangement, it inoculates a contractor from sanction. Many contractors who operate under this structure brazenly flout it with thinly disguised activity in open contempt of the industry, the IBEW and perhaps even the law. I would recommend that all IBEW-signatory contractors take the opportunity to read and review the white paper because it may help them make a decision that can save them from sanction via the grievance process contained under our agreements or even potentially in a legal venue.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**THE SOUTHERN NJ, NORTHERN NJ AND CONNETICUT  
PHILADELPHIA NECA CONVENTION COCKTAIL PARTY**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018 PM**

**6:00-9:00 PM**

**MOSHULU (PENN'S LANDING, PHILADELPHIA)**

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May. Once deliberations conclude, the Legislature will make changes to the Governor’s recommendations and will send him a budget that often reflects a combination of both the Governor’s and the Legislature’s spending priorities. At that time, the Governor can choose to either sign the budget as it is presented to him, or to make changes using the line item veto.

To date, the Legislature has largely remained silent on many of the Governor’s proposals as they internally review and vet the spending plan. However, Legislative leadership has expressed concern about raising taxes on millionaires at this time, and many members of the State Senate have publicly expressed concern with legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

New Jersey’s Constitution requires that the budget be passed by June 30th, and Princeton Public Affairs Group will continue to keep NECA apprised of this process.

## 3RD ANNUAL NECA BIG EAST BASKETBALL NIGHT

On February 28, 2018, the Northern New Jersey Chapter of NECA held its 3rd Annual Big East Basketball Night at the Prudential Center. The Seton Hall Pirates faced the 4th ranked Villanova Wildcats. After a rough back-and-forth start, the Wildcats held off the Seton Hall Pirates to win, 69-68, in overtime. The Villanova vs Seton Hall game showed everyone what the Big East basketball is all about heading into the conference tournament.

The Chapter reserved a private suite with close to 70 members and their guests. Attendants enjoyed a fun filled night with food, drink, networking and a very close game for Seton Hall! The Northern New Jersey Chapter would like to extend its appreciation to those members who attended and supported the night. A special thanks to our sponsors who helped make this event a success:

- Damin Sales
- Double G Partners
- Graybar
- Milwaukee Tool
- Thomas & Betts
- True & Associates
- Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.



# HONOR ROLL OF 2017-2018 ELECTRICPAC CONTRIBUTORS

**President’s Club (\$3,000+)**

Century Electric, Inc.

McPhee Electric, Inc.

Millennium Communications Group, Inc.

Modern Electric Co.

Scholes Electric & Communications

Spark Electric Co.

Tore Electric Co., Inc.

**Chairman’s Club (\$1,500)**

Sal Electric Co., Inc.

**Gold Club (\$500)**

Atlantic Transformer Services, Inc.

Boz Electrical Contractors, Inc.

Maul Electric, Inc.

Eric Sivertsen

Star-Ko Electric Services, Inc.

**Founder’s Club (\$1,000)**

Matrix NAC, Inc.

Mehl Electric Co, Inc.

Valiant Power Group, Inc.

**Silver Club (\$250)**

Multi-Phase Electrical Services, Inc.

Power Electric Company, Inc.

**Ambassador’s Club (\$750)**

Electro Maintenance

Star-Lo Electric, Inc.

Star-Lo Communications

**Bronze Club (\$100)**

ABG Electric Co., Inc.

Hockenbury Electrical Co., Inc.

Tangent Cable Systems, Inc.



Have you made a contribution to ElectricPAC? Visit our website at [www.NECANNJ.com](http://www.NECANNJ.com) to learn how!

## NECA CALENDAR

### April · May

**4/15-4/18 NECA EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

PLACE: CARLSBAD, CA

**5/2 JOINT MIDDLESEX & MONMOUTH OCEAN DIVISION**

PLACE: THE OYSTER POINT HOTEL (RED BANK)

TIME: 5:30 PM

**5/7 VOICE-DATA-VIDEO DIVISION**

PLACE: CHAPTER OFFICE (MOUNTAINSIDE)

TIME: 9:30 AM

**5/7 HIGHLANDS DIVISION**

PLACE: 3 WEST RESTAURANT (BASKING RIDGE)

TIME: 12:00 PM

**5/8 HUDSON-BERGEN-ESSEX DIVISION**

PLACE: IL VILLAGIO

TIME: 12:00 PM

**5/10 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD**

PLACE: CHAPTER OFFICE (MOUNTAINSIDE)

TIME: 2:30 PM EXEC 3:30 PM BOARD

**5/28 HOLIDAY — MEMORIAL DAY**

**5/29-5/30 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAREER DAY**

PLACE: NJ CONVENTION & EXPOSITION CENTER (EDISON)

TIME: 5/29 4:00-8:00 PM

5/30 8:00-1:00 PM

## HAZTEK OFFERING ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO MEMBERS

In 2017, HazTek's partnership with the Northern New Jersey NECA Chapter was a proven benefit to members and their companies by providing members with access to one of the best, most experienced safety resource in the country. This year, HazTek will expand its services at no additional cost to NECA members.

HazTek will continue to provide:

- A review of written health and safety plans or policies
- A full company Safety Assessment, or an OSHA compliant site safety audit w/ full written report
- Provide consultation regarding basic construction safety & health-related issues

In Addition, HazTek will provide for NECA:

- Two OSHA compliance/Safety Education programs
- Scheduled OSHA consultation or Accident/Incident Investigation (up to 2 hrs.)

HazTek has extensive experience and a proven track record of effectiveness working with electrical contracting firms of all sizes at facilities and work sites in wide-ranging industries. Many HazTek health and safety professionals are former electricians and craftsmen. They have in-depth knowledge of the industry-specific challenges electrical contractors face, enabling them to employ safety solutions that will keep your employees safe and your project moving.

HazTek employs a staff of over 200 employees, including over 170 full-time, salaried field professionals with various certifications and experience levels - including several CIH specialists. By maintaining a reliable team of full-time safety professionals, HazTek is flexible and can respond quickly.

HazTek Inc. is a leading provider of comprehensive safety management services designed to protect workers by enhancing workplace safety. Since 1997, HazTek has been partnering with companies across many industries to eliminate accidents and create a culture of safety that reduces costs – while improving employee productivity and morale. With offices nationwide and over 160 salaried field professionals, HazTek is a full-service, objective safety partner that protects people, property, and the environment.

Contact Kevin Ridge at 609-500-1714 or via e-mail at [KRidge@haztekinc.com](mailto:KRidge@haztekinc.com) to schedule your FREE assessment today.

To learn more about HazTek Inc. and the services they provide visit them online at [www.haztekin.com](http://www.haztekin.com)





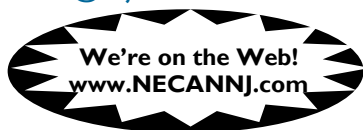
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Treasurer .....	Terry Craig
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