



Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.

WATTS UP

5th Annual Mid-South IEC Tradeshow and Wire-Off Competition

May 8th, 2003

3:00PM to 7:00PM

Agricenter International, Memphis, TN

On the corner of Germantown Parkway and Walnut Grove

If you are an electrical contractor, master/journeyman electrician, low-voltage electrician, electrical engineer, electrical inspector, or work in HVAC or any other construction trade with an electrical connection, you wouldn't want to miss this year's exciting IEC Trade Show Expo. Over 50 vendors will be exhibiting their goods and services at the 5th Annual Tradeshow.

Many industry partners that will be attending as vendors has a great deal of knowledge that they would like to share with all of you. The more knowledge that you are armed with the more successful your business will become. They will be displaying their current products and ideas that you may not be aware of. It is a great way for you and your employees to see what is out in the electrical and communication Industry and what the IEC is all about.

Additionally, we will have our top 4th-Year Apprentices competing in a Wire-Off Competition where they will interpret schematics and develop a functional circuit. This event will draw a crowd all day. Come support the future estimators, foremen, project managers and Journeymen.

Also, with the implantation of the Voice, Data and Video apprenticeship school at the IEC, this years Tradeshow plans to be even more significant. Not only will there be vendors and customers from the Electrical Industry, there will also be information , vendors and Communication / System Contractors visiting the Tradeshow.

For vendor or general information, call the IEC office at (901) 682-3546 or visit the website at www.midsouthiec.com

1ST QUARTER—2003

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Need something notarize for free!
 Stop at the IEC Office
 JoAnna is a Notary Public

Applications
 In the first quarter of 2003 there have been 121 applications that have been available for the contractors to review.

**This issue...
2003 Membership Directory**

Contractor Members

AC Electric

453 Buntyn
Memphis, TN 38111
(901) 458-1187
Fax: (901) 458-1838
jayvw@bellsouth.net

Advance Electric

453 Distribution Parkway
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Airways Electric

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All Tech Electric

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2alltech@bellsouth.net

Allen Electric

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Anderson Electric

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ARC Electric

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Casey Electric

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(901) 487-8900
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Davis Electric

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(901) 752-5500
Fax: (901) 752-5700
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Dennis Electric

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Fax: (901) 377-5731
cdennis@denniselectric.com

Desoto County Electric

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Horn Lake, MS 38637
(901) 342-9141
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Dynamic Electric

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E&W Electric

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Memphis, TN 38133
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Ellendale Electric

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Encompass Electric

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Fax: (901) 368-3858
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Fred Baker & Son

612 North Main St.
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(901) 526-5868
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Fuchs Electric

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Gusmus Electric

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Heritage Electric

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Contractor Members

Magowan Communications

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Marathon Electric

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marathone@aol.com

Memphis Electric

3154 Park Ave
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(901) 327-0711
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memelec@aol.com

Mid-States Electric

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(731) 423-9482
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Overton Electric

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Point2Point Innovations

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Progressive Technologies

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dcbrubaker@progressivetechinc.com

Pyramid Electric

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anita@pyramidelectric.net

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rcody@clickl.net

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Memphis, TN 38118
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River City Electric

4841 Summer Ave.
Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 682-2990
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RT Carlock Electric

4806 S. Mendenhall Rd.
Memphis, TN 38141
(901) 363-4832
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crcarlock@aol.com

Sammarco Electric

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tim@sammarcoelectric.com

Signal Point Systems

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dkelly@sigpoint.com

State Systems

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Memphis, TN 38118
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ssibob@worldnet.att.net

Summerall Electric

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(901) 795-4455
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albonetti@summerallectric.com

TSI

Telephone & Data Systems

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Olive Branch, MS 38654
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roy@telephoneace.com

Definitions

Construction:

a sculpture that is put together out of separate pieces of often disparate materials

Leaders:

a person or persons who motivates and aids others to do things that they would not have normally done on their own

Association:

the process of forming mental connections or bonds between sensations, ideas, or memories and or an organization of persons having a common interest

Associate Members

American Home Inspectors

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bross002@midssouth.rr.com

Brown & Associates

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stephen.brown@b-associates.com

CED

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Cummins Mid-South

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Fax: (901) 522-8758
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Cutler Hammer

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Cordova, TN 38018
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Federal Alarm

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smrogers@fedins.com

First Light Lighting

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jmorris@firstlightsystems.com

First Tennessee Bank

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GE Supply

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Graybar

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Harris, Madden & Powell

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Fax: (901) 374-9377
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Jackson, Shields & Yeiser

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Fax: (901) 759-1745
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Leviton Mfg.

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Cordova, TN 38016
(901) 388-2001
Fax: (901) 388-4070
gjohnson@leviton.com

Menard, Gates & Mathis

6401 Poplar Ave. Ste. #250
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 761-3100
Fax: (901) 763-4576
gmathis@mgm-ins.com

National Equipment Services

7839 Monarty
Cordova, TN 38018
(901) 323-0009
Fax: (901) 758-7202
sgrossrents@aol.com

Nextel

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Cordova, TN 38018
(901) 842-5000
Fax: (901) 842-5001
andy.reed@nextel.com

Rental Service Corporation

2030 Fletcher Creek Rd.
Memphis, TN 38133
(901) 266-4005
Fax: (901) 266-4021
deewages@yahoo.com

Rexel Southern Electric Supplies

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paul@rppower.com

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Thomas & Betts

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Associate Members

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michelle.ward@xo.com

The Associate Members listed here are considered and viewed as the “Industry Partners” of our contractor members and of the IEC. In many cases, these Associate Members are also viewed as our friends. A great deal of contractor members have done business with these companies for many years. They are a part of the contractor’s business. Not only the present contractors have done business with them, but in many cases, the contractor’s fathers and for some...the fathers before them.

Many of these Associate Members have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help the IEC. Many of them not only has donated components for the students of the IEC to use and to learn on, but many have also taken the lead role by developing classes to aid the industry and helping the association in a myriad different scenarios.

The Mid-South IEC would like to thank all of our Associate Members. We would also encourage our contractors to keep these individuals in mind on your next business decision

Code Corner

By: David Greer

Jobsite Temporary Wiring

Article 305 of the NEC is relatively short (two pages), it is also one of the areas where electrical contractors tend to take a lot of short-cuts.

I think we as electricians tend to think that "it's only temporary" so why bother. This is a very dangerous position to take. No one wants to see their fellow employees hurt or even killed in on an onsite injury, especially due to the result of poor workmanship in our own field of specialty. And in this day of hasty lawsuits, well the problem is only compounded. Let's cover a couple of key issues.

Single conductors with pin-socket style lamp-holders are not an acceptable wiring means for jobsite temporary lighting installations. Conductors must be a part of a cable assembly including NMC. (“Romex”)

Article 305-4C.

All lamps must be protected by a lamp guard. All receptacles are to be protected by a Ground Fault circuit interrupter even if working in an existing building and using the permanent receptacles for temporary power.

Give Article 305 another look, the safety of not only your personnel, but all the other craftsmen on The site depends on it.

American Society of Association Executives Names IEC to Honor Roll

Alexandria, Va. — The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), in Washington, DC, recently named the Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc. to the *2003 Associations Advance America Honor Roll*, a national awards competition, for its Voice-Data-Video (VDV) Apprenticeship Program.

The IEC VDV apprenticeship program teaches people to work with all of the electrical/electronic technologies associated with building construction that are not associated with electrical power; that is, all of the data, communications, fire alarm, life safety, and security systems that are such important parts of building infrastructures.

“On behalf of everyone associated with IEC, I would like to congratulate Data Telecommunications Committee Chairman Sam Harrison as well as the entire committee,” says Gene Mini, IEC National President. “This award is a real testimony to the efforts and hard work of a number of IEC members.”

Now in its 13th year, the prestigious *Associations Advance America Awards* program recognizes associations that propel America forward – with innovative projects in education, skills training, standard setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community service. Although association activities have a powerful impact on everyday life, they often go unnoticed by the general public.

“IEC’s apprenticeship program truly embodies the spirit of the *Associations Advance America* campaign,” remarked ASAE President Michael S. Olson, CAE. “It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this program as an example of the many contributions associations are making to advance American society.”

For more information on the IEC National VDV Apprenticeship Program, please contact the Mid-South IEC office at (901) 682-3546.

10 Worst Excuses: Working safely...don't justify it

1. **I don't know:** Why didn't you ask before you started working?
2. **I wasn't paying attention:** What were you thinking about?
3. **I meant to, but:** But what?
4. **I forgot:** How can you forget about something as important as being safe?
5. **I didn't have time:** But you had time to be laid up as a result of an accident!
6. **It could happen to anybody:** Then why did it happen to you?
7. **We were just fooling around:** No comment!
8. **PPE is uncomfortable:** Would you be more comfortable with a cast on your leg?
9. **Rules are for fools:** And what would you call someone who deliberately ignores rules?
10. **I thought it would be okay just this once:** How many times do you have to take a risk before an accident occurs...just once

IEC National Announces Grand Opening of IEC PRIDE Store

Alexandria, Va. — In an effort to increase the Association's exposure and visibility, IEC National is launching an IEC PRIDE product line on its website.

"We all know that the most effective form of marketing is word-of-mouth, so we're hoping these great products will prompt people to talk more about the benefits of IEC," says Gene Mini, IEC National President. "After all, the merit shop philosophy is embraced by 85% of electrical contractors. We're proud to provide members with additional ways to display their IEC PRIDE -- *Promoting Responsible Independent Dedicated Electricians.*"

To access the store, visit the National's website at www.ieci.org , *Members Only* section and then *More Member Resources*. The IEC PRIDE store contains IEC apparel, jewelry, assorted merchandise, and office accessories.

Apparel includes: a baseball cap with T-shirt combination pack, a golf shirt, and a sweatshirt with the IEC insignia. The *jewelry collection* includes: an IEC key chain, watch, and money clip. The *IEC merchandise* section offers: a jumbo IEC Maglite flashlight, an IEC travel mug, and a license plate cover. The *IEC office accessories* section showcases an IEC padded portfolio cover and a pen/pencil set.

2002/2003 ELECTRICAL AND VDV SCHOOL SCHEDULE

SECOND SEMESTER SCHEDULE

- 4th Year– Monday January 13-May 12, 2003
- 1st Year –Monday January 13-May 12, 2003
- 2nd Year-Tuesday January 14-May 20, 2003 *
- 3rd Year-Wednesday January 15-May 21, 2003*
- VDV-January 16-May 22, 2003*
- Make-Up Classes Wednesday & Thursdays

IEC Members Vote on Proposals for *NEC* Code-Making Panels

Alexandria, Va. — At the 2005 *National Electrical Code* (NEC) Report on Proposals (ROP) Panel Meetings in Hilton Head, South Carolina, IEC members reviewed and voted on several important code proposals. IEC participates on 18 of 19 code-making panels. Each Code-Making Panel is responsible for different articles of the *National Electrical Code*, which is updated every three years. Anyone can submit proposals to change the *NEC*, and CMP representatives are charged with the responsibility of reviewing them, one by one. They then make recommendations to approve, modify, or reject the proposals.

At this meeting, important proposals repeated throughout several CMP voting sessions. Some proposals consisted of wording changes to reflect changing technical jargon or to add new information. Wording changes may seem minor, but in reality, they affect manufacturers, wiring instructions, U/L and other specifications industry-wide. For example, in CMP-1, the panel voted to accept proposal 1-2 to change the term “equipment grounding conductor” to “equipment bonding conductor” everywhere those terms appear in the *NEC*. This panel also voted to include the definition of “Neutral Conductor” in Article 100. Panel members accepted this proposal (1-122) in principle, and they referred this action to Panels 2, 4, 5, and 13 for comments.

Another example of additional text proposals occurred in proposal 1-172a, a revision to 110.16, which added precautions about flash hazards. “Switchboards, panel boards, industrial control panels, meter socket enclosures, and motor control centers, for other than dwelling occupancies, that are likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized, shall be field marked with a label indicating the incident energy available, or the rating of needed protective clothing in calories per square centimeter (cal/cm²), to warn qualified persons of potential electric arc flash hazards and to aid in the selection of flame resistant clothing and other personal protective equipment.” On CMP-3, Larry Ayer, Principal, said, “There was nearly two days of discussion and over 60 proposals on the Limited Combustible Cable and the use for it.” This new cable purportedly has less smoke and flame spread than Plenum Cable. The panel moved to accept Proposal 3-194 making Limited Combustible Cable an equal to Plenum Cable. Also on CMP-3, a proposal to add a Fine Print Note under Article 760 to reference ANSI/NECA 305-2001 for Fire Alarm System Job Practices was accepted.

Several panels were faced with proposals dealing with the change from “grounding” to “bonding.” CMP-4 voted to reject proposal 4-1 to change the term “equipment grounding conductor” to “equipment bonding conductor” throughout the *NEC*. “This is an issue that would have to be taken up by the correlating committee, and we would need direction from them,” said Terry Cole, CMP-4 Panel Representative.

CMP-5 also reviewed numerous proposals to change the word “grounding” to “bonding” throughout. “After extensive debate and a task group report, CMP-5 made a panel proposal (5-78a) to handle the change in code language deleting the word “grounding” and replacing it with “bonding,” said Ted Robertson, CMP-5 Principal.

Jerry Kent, Principal on CMP-6, said that they rejected proposal 6-1 to change “grounding” to “bonding.” He said, “The panel statement was general acceptance; however, the issue should have resided with Panel 5 first and then be reviewed on an item-by-item basis to ensure the global change does not affect the meaning of the written word.” Kent added that the hottest item for his panel was proposal 6-45, which deals with using raised ambient temperature to calculate the wire size for conduits installed on rooftops in direct sunlight. CMP-6 accepted 6-45.

CMP-8 rejected the grounding to bonding name change proposal; CMP-12 accepted it; and CMP-19 rejected the universal change. Bill Zanicchi, Principal on CMP-19, said, “This proposal is repeated at least 16 times within panel 19’s scope, which meant that the panel just rejected each one without discussion after rejecting the first one. I believe this change would clarify the admitted ‘confusion’ in the present language. It appears that panel 5 also sees merit in this proposal and accepted its concept by creating a panel proposal to change the term to ‘bonding.’ I applaud their efforts as I can only imagine the debate that went on in that meeting room.”

Demystifying the Apprenticeship Program and Process

The process of the Electrical Apprenticeship program and following the government regulations is simple one, however due to the Department of Labor laws and the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training regulations at times it sounds confusing. This article is designed to demystify some of the process and to review with you apprenticeship program 101 basics.

- **Training Hours** - the DOL and BAT regulations state that for an apprentice to graduate, they **MUST** have 8,000 hours of OJT and 576 classroom hours. Government regulations are black and white...it is or it isn't. When an apprenticeship program gets inspected by the government...and they do...the apprenticeship program **MUST** be able to show "documented evidence" that the apprentice has received the above mentioned hours. If the program cannot show "documented evidence", the program could lose its certification. This will not happen at the IEC. This is why the IEC tracks all of the OJT hours and has makeup classes in place for when a student misses a normal class, he/she can attend the makeup class to achieve the mandatory hours to be able to graduate and to move on to the next school year. When the IEC gets inspected, not only do we have "documented evidence" we have a "documented process" to show the inspectors that the IEC is following the compliance regulations and is doing due diligence.
- **The Apprentice's pay scale** - the compliance regulations basically states the more you know, the more you work, the more you should get paid...a little over simplified but you get the point. There is an apprenticeship pay scale that is registered with the DOL/BAT. This is another reason why the IEC tracks all of the apprentices' OJT hours which is to ensure that the apprentices are getting paid the scale. Again, when the apprenticeship program gets inspected we need to show "documented evidence" that due diligence was done to ensure that the apprentices were getting paid that scale. We understand that the contractors get busy in their business that's why the IEC provides this service of tracking all of the Apprentices' OJT hours for you and letting you know when the next raise is due.
- **Acceptance into the program** - DOL 101 states...you need to treat everyone the same and no one has priority. This is why when you want your employee to be accepted into the program they go through the "process". Any deviating from this process is again illegal as it pertains to the BAT regulations and the certification can be pulled.

We accept applications for the apprenticeship program 12 months out of the year. Whether the applicant is already employed with our contractor members or not. After the applicant completes the application they take an aptitude test in math and reading. Could you imagine trying to teach the NEC to someone that doesn't understand what they are reading or someone that we couldn't teach do a simple calculation of what type of gauge wire should be used for a specific job! These are basic skill sets that a future apprentice should bring to the table. You can't teach individuals how to read or give them math skills in an 8 hour crash course. After they pass the aptitude test, the IEC interviews these individuals for sincerity and prior job experience. When this process is completed, if this person is already working for a contractor member... great...we can register them with the DOL / BAT at any time. If this person isn't the IEC will attempt to place this person with a contractor member so that they may start their career.

All of this again is in the process of fairness, in compliance with DOL / BAT regulations and to ensure the apprentices that the contractors receive from the IEC are the best apprentices possible. Additionally that the apprentices receive a very good education with labs that aid in the reinforcement of their understanding of their new trade. All of this is completed and in the same breath of being "Contractor Friendly".



Senator Olympia J. Snowe Introduces Association Health Plan Companion Bill

Alexandria, Va. — On March 6, 2003, Senator Snowe (R-ME), Chair of the Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, held a press conference to announce the introduction of the Senate Association Health Plan (AHP) bill. Labor Secretary Chao will join Senator Snowe in the introduction of this companion legislation. The original cosponsors of the bill include: Senators Snowe, Kit Bond (R-MO), Jim Talent (R-MO), John McCain (R-AZ), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Norm Coleman (R-MN). This effort follows on the heels of the bipartisan introduction of the first-ever stand-alone bill on AHPs, also known as the *Small Business Fairness Act (H.R. 660)* in February in the House.

At the press conference introducing the House legislation, Secretary Chao stated that: "President Bush and this administration care deeply about expanding access to affordable health care" to the 41 million uninsured Americans. She also said that two out of every three new jobs are generated by small businesses.

Freshman Senator Talent added, "This bill simply says that small business ought to be able to afford health care as big businesses do."

AHPs allow small businesses to buy into group health insurance plans anywhere in the country, enabling them to pay much less than they now pay for small policies directly from insurers. The major obstacle to AHPs to date has been varying state benefit mandates. However, this bill would change that by allowing small businesses to be exempt from state-specific mandates.

"We are delighted that Senator Snowe has taken the lead on such an important small business issue," says Karen Brown-Mohr, Southern Maine IEC Chapter Executive Director. "We would like to encourage all IEC Maine members to write a letter of support and thanks to Senator Snowe for introducing such crucial legislation, which promises to bring much needed relief for small businesses in Maine."

IEC members have been especially hard-hit by the skyrocketing costs of health insurance because the majority of all IEC member companies have less than 10 employees.

Nancy Kolb, Office Manager at IEC member Red Rock Electric, Inc., says: "Our health insurance has gone up an average of 20 percent over the last three years. The company has paid for much of the increase in the past, but under current circumstances (the economy combined with the large expense of health insurance), we are no longer able to absorb this expense. We are now in a position where we need our employees to help pay for this benefit."

For more information or to see if your congressional representatives already support this legislation, visit the AHP Coalition website at: www.ahpsnow.com. A priority issue for IEC, AHPs will be a central point of focus at the IEC's Legislative Conference in May.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

New Electrical Contractor

E & W Electric	Chris Scott	(731) 642-5484
REC Electric	Robert Coody	(731) 467-1421

New Associate Members

Leviton	Greg Johnson	(901) 388-2001
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Classrooms and Conference room Available

There are many benefits of being a contractor member of the IEC. At times, many forget about all of the benefits that are available. One of the benefits that are available to our contractor members is the free use of the classrooms and the conference room.

As many of you may know, the Mid-South IEC has a top notch training facility with several classrooms. There may be times that you might need to hold “company specific” training and you would like to have a professional environment to conduct it in. Also, doing the training away from the shop sometimes drives home the importance of that specific training subject. The IEC classrooms are available for free to our contractor members to use.

Additionally, we have an upscale, professionally decorated conference room that you can use to have meetings with your customers, General Contractors or joint ventures to close that deal. This professional environment definitely portrays your company as that of 1st class.

To use any of these rooms, simply call the IEC office at (901) 682-3546 and reserve the specific room that you need.

For those that are not contractor members, we do rent these classrooms, with all of the audio and visual equipment included for only \$125 per day. As you know, if you go to a hotel to hold a class, it is not a classroom environment and you will pay 3 to 5 times our amount.

Call the IEC office for details.

**Mid-South Independent Electrical
Contractors, Inc.**

2814 Stage Center Drive
Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-682-3546
Fax: 901-682-4496

*You don't make a
reputation on what you
are going to do.*

We're on the Web!
www.midsouthiec.com



Independent Electrical
Contractors, Inc.

**Promoting
Responsible
Independent
Dedicated
Electricians**

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For a complete schedule of events, please visit our website at
www.midsouthiec.com and click on "calendar"