



Independent Electrical
Contractors, Inc.

WATTS UP

3RD QUARTER—2001

The IEC Chapter's throughout the Nation voted NO on changing IEC's name change

The National Convention was a huge success this year and a lot of good information came out from it. However, the main conversations that took place was whether IEC should change it's name to AECC (Associated Electrical and Communication Contractors). These hallway conversations started the first day of the convention and lasted for 5 solid days. Everyone had a different angle or viewpoint on the name change AND if the name was to be changed, what should it be changed to. The National Board of Directors Meeting was held on October 4th. At this time is when the rubber was to meet the road and the decision was to be made. Both sides had the opportunity to stand up, and in front of several hundred people, speak their mind and try to convince the opposition on how to vote. The voting was done in a roster format. They called out every Chapter by name and asked for their vote. At the end, the vote was 39 against the name change and 25 for it.

The overwhelming pulse of everyone was that the Contractors are very proud of being "Independent" and we should never loose that designation. Additionally, that this Association was developed and is maintained to aid the "Electrical Contractor" to be successful and we should never loose that sight...and it won't be.

IEC however, will move forward with the VDV (Voice Data and Video) Training for all of it's members. With this BAT certified training, an Electrical Contractor can start a low voltage department within his / her organization. Now that we know the direction that National IEC is taking, our local Chapter will be discussing ways to implement the new VDV program. (see page 5 for details)

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HELP OUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

If you run across any of your customers, or anyone that is looking for a place to have a training session. Let them know that your IEC Association has 3 classrooms to rent during the day, 5 days of the week. The classrooms are outfitted to seat up to 45 students at a time for a fee of \$100 per day. Just have them call the Chapter office at 682-3546 for details.



Applications

For the first 3 quarters of the year, we have had 419 applications that have been available for the Electrical Contractors to review for hire.

IEC's National Convention



The National Convention was in Las Vegas this year (somebody had to do it) from October 1-4. I would like to thank the following Mid-South Electrical Contractors for attending this years convention: Anderson Electric, Arc Electric, Gusmus Electric and Sammarco Electric. Besides the large tradeshow, there were numerous classes that were available for everyone to attend. Some of them were: Improving your workforce, How to Increase Your Workforce Productivity, The Fiscal Physical, Time Management, Marketing for today's Electrical Contractor and even Fiber Optics Made Easy. Besides the oblivious enjoyment of being in Vegas, a great deal of it was educational.



There are new things to learn in the electrical trade



The last evening at the convention



One big happy family !!!

Everyone that attended appeared to walk away with a new idea, a new thought or heard of a way to be successful in today's industry. Additionally, most everyone walked away with a better understanding of what IEC is all about and how IEC can help you be more successful. New relationships were formed between contractors and between contractors and vendors. Most got to see the new products that are out on the market and how some new products will help you save time and money. All that being said...the 2001 National Convention was a success. I would encourage the Contractors that couldn't make it this year to really consider attending next years convention...there's no limit on what you might walk away with.

IEC's National Wire-Off

In conjunction with the National Convention was the National Wire-Off Competition. This past May when we had our Trade Show here in Memphis, we also had our local wire-off competition. The winner of that wire-off was Jason Phillips from Anderson Electric. Jason then represented our Chapter at the National Wire-Off Competition...this was the Top Gun Competition of the Apprentices throughout the Nation.

Jason, and all of the Apprentices around the Nation was scored in 3 different categories. They were: an oral interview, a written test and particle application (the wire-off itself). Jason represented our Chapter very well. Unfortunately, he did not win the event. However he did come in 9th out of 19 Apprentices. That's not bad. We are very proud of Jason and wish him the best of luck and success in the future.



The Most Often Cited Electrical Code Violations In The Field

Residential:

1. Receptacle spacing
2. Metal water pipe bonding
3. NM cable support
4. Panel dead fronts
5. Equipment grounding conductor/electrode at separate building
6. Bonding of grounded conductor at service
7. Switched outlet in attic or crawl space in attic
8. Bonding of metal box
9. Concrete encased electrode
10. Bond to hot metal water piping
11. NM cable 1 1/4" back from framing edge
12. Separate grounded from grounding at sub-panels

Commercial:

1. EMT support
2. Fixture support
3. AC/MC cable support
4. Loose EMT fittings
5. Clearance
6. Box support
7. Overcurrent protection exceeds conductor size
8. Open knock outs
9. Motor disconnects
10. Receptacle GFCI protection
11. Rooftop service receptacle
12. Number of bends EMT
13. Separate grounded from grounding at sub-panels

Mid-South IEC's 5th Annual Golf Tournament

The Mid-South IEC held it's Golf Tournament on September 24th at the Olive Branch Country Club. Fun was had by all. We had a great turnout with 76 golfers hitting the links. This tournament was full of "prizes and give aways". We had over 85 door prizes for the players to receive. Everyone walked away from the tournament a winner in one form or another. Thanks to Gene Mathis, every par 3 had a hole in 1 contest, and on hole 13, we even had a new Harley Davidson sitting there waiting for someone to take it home. Unfortunately, no one won it. However, Greg Rhodes from Rhodes Sales came within 3 feet of winning the Harley at that Hole In One Contest.



Where do you think it went?



The Winners of the Tournament
 Jack Brooks, Tony Edge, Phil Everett and Mike Stephens

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and all of the companies that donated door prizes. It's because of companies like yours that help make Associations like ours successful...thanks again.

David Ekmark won the Grand Door Prize of a UPS system donated by Computer Environment



Upcoming Elections

The election for the Board of Directors is upon us. In accordance with our bylaws, the Board of Directors is a 2 year position, with 50% of the Board rolling off every year. Additionally, a nominating committee was established and came up with a slate of candidates that will make up the proposed Board for 2002. This slate of candidates was presented and approved at the last Board meeting. The following is the makeup of the current Board of Directors and proposed Board of Directors for 2002:



Current Board of Directors		Proposed Board of Directors for 2002	
Tim Sammarco	President	Tim Sammarco	Past President
Stan Bond	staying on	Stan Bond	staying on
John Dennis	staying on	John Dennis	staying on
Anita Haines	staying on	Anita Haines	staying on
Rodney King	staying on	Rodney King	staying on
Melvin Long	staying on	Melvin Long	staying on
Bobby Carlock	rolling off	Randy Davis	nominated
Karl Ekmark	rolling off	Jay Dickey	nominated
Frank Fuchs	rolling off	David Ekmark	nominated
Tony George	rolling off	Frank Fuchs	nominated

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... the election for the Board of Directors will be held at our November's General Membership Meeting which will be on November 29th, at 11:30AM at Pappy's Jimmy's. Nominations from the floor will be taken at that time. After the Board of Directors is voted on, the new Board itself will have a meeting and vote for the new officers of our Association. The new Board of Directors and the new Officers will take their office on January 1, 2002.

Additional Training for our Apprentices...your employees

We would like to thank Brambles and RSC for putting together a much needed scissor lifts and boom lifts training for our 3rd and 4th year Apprentices. They taught these 4 hour classes during the evening on their own time. Additional, these students received safety certificates validating their completion of the course. Applause is given to these two fine companies for helping our Apprentices to be a cut above...great job!!!

Low Voltage Training for The Mid-South Chapter...yes or no?

We have mentioned in the past the IEC National is now offering a 2 and 3 year Apprenticeship Program in the low voltage arena. This new Apprenticeship program is know as VDV (Voice Data and Video). The 2 year Apprenticeship program is designed for a Data Telecommunications Cabling Installer designation, and the 3 year Apprenticeship program is designed for a Low Voltage Technician designation. Both of these programs are approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, The Department of Labor and BICSI.

We at Mid-South IEC have spoke to several Electrical Contractors that strongly believe that there is a need in our community for this type of training. Several of our Members already do this type of work and would like to increase their productivity and education in low voltage work, and several contractors would like to start a new division for this type of work.

We have not went full speed ahead on the VDV program due to we wanted to wait for the outcome of National and see the direction that we were going to take. Being that we are not changing our name and not brining Communication Contractors into our fold, the Chapter is strongly considering moving ahead and developing this program. But before we do, we need to hear from you, the Contractors on: is there really an interest, which Contractors would have Apprentices attending the program, if you don't currently have any low voltage Apprentices if IEC would get them for you...would you hire them and so on. Before we spend a lot of energy and resources towards this project, we need to ensure that our Members would use this program. Therefore, we will be discussing this VDV program and asking for your input and feedback at the next General Membership meeting on October 25th at 11:30AM at Pappy's and Jimmy's. We strongly encourage attendance by everyone so that we may hear your input and move in the direction that you want.

Associate Members

These Industry Partners Support IEC!

Please keep them in mind when making a business decision:

American Home Inspector Training Institute	Menard, Gates, and Mathis
Brambles	Nextel
CED	Rental Service Corporation
Cummins Mid-South	Siemens
Cutler-Hammer	Southern Electric Supply
Federal Alarm	State Systems
First Light Lighting	Stewart's Wholesale
1st TN Bank— David Warlick	Thomas & Betts
GE Supply	TVESCO, Inc.
Graybar	Two Bill Supply
Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Cantrell	XO
LKS Organization	

What Employees Do On Their Own Time Is Their Business! Or Is It?

By Federated Insurance

Your employee is driving one of your company trucks. He is running late as he quickly returns to the shop for some materials he has forgotten. As he passes through a school zone, he fails to notice a car pulling to a stop in front of him. He suddenly brakes, but can't stop in time. A young mother and child are critically injured.

Your driver is cited for speeding and careless driving. Within days both he and your company are named in a lawsuit... keeping in mind, he was driving your truck representing your company.

As the owner of the business, you find yourself on the witness stand facing the family's attorney. He asks you if you knew that your driver had received three citations for speeding in the past two years. How would you respond?

The Court may ask if you knew of these violations and, if so, why did you allow an unsafe driver access your vehicle? If you didn't know, why would you give your company vehicle to someone that you know nothing about as far as their driving record. This is a no win situation that too many unprepared business owners experience unnecessarily.

In many states the personal driving record of employees can be used in litigation against employers IF those employees are involved in accidents with company vehicles. The harsh reality is that what employees do on their own time **CAN** become your business. You may disagree...but some courts won't.

Every business owner may benefit from establishing a Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) Program. The good news is that an MVP Program is easy to establish. Here are some simple steps:

- 1 Establish and communicate firm and fair standards of driving performance, both on and off the job.
- 2 Order MVR's on potential new hires and annually on driving employees.
- 3 Compare the MVR's to the standards for safe driving that you established.
- 4 Stick to you plan. Counsel and document performance reviews with drivers. If employees' MVRs do not measure up to your standards, do not allow them to drive company vehicles.

Walt's Tech Tips

Every so often I get asked various computer questions by Contractors and their Staff on, how do I...?

As always, I am very happy to teach anyone ways to make their life easier on the computer and make the computer work for you...not you for the computer. Thus this area of the newsletter..."Walt's Tech Tips". In each quarterly newsletter, I will list one or two tech tips that will help you on the computer.

- Right Mouse Button - Have you ever tried to find under the pull down menus, where's the copy command, how do I change the font and so on. The answer in most cases is in you hand...specifically, the right mouse button. If you click the right mouse button you will see a pop-up menu that has most of the common commands that you are looking for. The 3 most important aspects of real estate is location, location, location. The same is true with your mouse pointer BEFORE you right click. Where is the pointer at?

Try this, from your desktop (the main area of windows), place your mouse at different locations THEN right click, you will get different pop up menus. Example: move the mouse pointer over the start button, then right click, you get a certain menu. Place the mouse in the middle of the screen, then right click you get a different menu. Place you mouse over the time in the right hand corner, right click, you get even a different menu. As you play with this, you will see that WHERE the pointer is BEFORE you right click will determine what menu you get. Within the Windows environment there are over 400 different menus that are available to you. Again...the answer in most cases is in your hand.

- Has your internet connection seemed to have slowed down when you are surfing the internet? When you are on the internet, your computer makes a copy of EVERYTHING you have seen...both pictures and text. This information goes in to,...let's call it a bucket. When the bucket gets full of information, it slows down your connection. So every so often you need to empty the bucket. To do this is simple. If you are using Internet Explorer, click on:

- Tools
- Internet Options
- A new window will appear, ensure you are under the General tab (on top)
- In the center of that window is an area labeled Temporary Internet Files
- Click on Delete Files
- A new window will appear and click Ok...that's it
- Then click OK again to get rid of the window

Not only have you emptied the bucket, but you also have freed up some valuable disk space that you can use later.

Goodbye from Bettina

Fond Farewell

I just wanted to write a brief note, thanking each of you for making my experience with Mid-South IEC so very wonderful. It was with great difficulty that I chose to pursue another career path. I wish each of you and IEC great success in the future and will think of you often. If I can ever be of any service, please do not hesitate to call me.

Best Wishes for Continued Success,

Bettina Jackson

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*“We remember those
we lost... We honor,
those that serve.*

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**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”