

MECA
March 2011



The next MECA Annual Meeting and Tradeshow will be held on November 17, 2011 at Lombardo's in Randolph from 2:00-7:00pm- Tradeshow 7:00PM- Annual Dinner

The next Board of State Examiners of Electricians meeting will be held on March 28th at 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA

Make sure to check out the website at www.mecanews.com to see the location and date for your next Chapter Meeting!

2011 National Electrical Code Books with MA Amendments are now available. Call 781-320-9811 to order your book today or for more info!

MECA
105 Eastern Avenue, Suite 208
Dedham, MA 02026
781-320-9811

Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association

NEWS



Sting Nabs Unlicensed Electricians in Mass.

Note: While legally licensed electricians have no reason to be concerned by this story, it is nice to see the Board of Examiners is working to make life a little harder for those who thumb their nose at the law.

Copyright Associated Press
Thursday, March 10, 2011

BOSTON -- Massachusetts regulators say they have caught 20 unlicensed electricians who were advertising their services on Craigslist.

The state Division of Professional Licensure said it conducted a sting in which it contacted electricians who advertised on Craigslist but did not include a license number,

and asked them to come to a home to install a light fixture or socket.

When the contractors arrived, officials say they were asked by state investigators posing as the homeowners to produce license information. Officials said some of the unlicensed electricians did not use their last names or demanded cash for payment.

Those caught in the sting could face fines of up to \$1,000.

Consumers are advised to always make sure an electrician has a valid state license.



www.mecanews.com

Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association



Since 1935, MECA has worked hard to be a strong voice for the needs of electricians – whether a one man shop or one hundred man shop. MECA's goal as a value added resource is to pre-qualify, train, and hold accountable to a code of ethics, its membership. Through the foregoing, provide competent, well qualified electricians for potential clients of those companies. Membership in the Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association represents an obligation to the public and to the electrical industry to maintain the highest quality of business integrity, electrical ability and service.

MECA Executive

Board of Directors 2010

Mike DeMeo, President

DeMeo Electric, Derry, NH
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Jack Rich, Past President

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Lisa Podgurski, MECA Manager

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MECA Chapter Presidents

& Meeting Information

William Snow, Snow Electric

Boston Chapter President

781-789-0511 or psnow89846@aol.com

Mt. Vernon Restaurant, 14 Broadway, Somerville
4th Wednesday of the Month

Michael Pillarella, Pillarella School of Electrical Code and Theory

Bristol Chapter President

508-644-2000 or Michael@pillarellaschool.com

Venus de Milo, 75 Grand Army Hwy, Swansea
Last Wednesday of the Month

Paul Coleman, Allied Systems Technologies

Cape Cod Chapter President

508-771-6744 or pcoleman@alliedsystemstech.com

Riverway Lobster House, South Yarmouth

(Location may vary each month)

Date may vary

Mike DeMeo, DeMeo Electric

Essex Chapter President

978-265-5355 or mdemeo@demeoelectric.com

Angelica's, Middleton

2nd Thursday of the Month

John Keady, John Keady & Sons

North Middlesex Chapter President

781-910-6120

Princeton Station, 147 Princeton Street, North Chelmsford

3rd Thursday of the Month

Dave Gillen, South Shore Electrical Contractors

Old Colony Chapter President

781-844-8199 or Dave.gillen@comcast.net

Common Market, 97 Willard Street, Quincy

2nd Tuesday of the Month

Mike Mancini, Braza and Mancini

South Middlesex Chapter President

508-478-8808 or mikem@brazamancini.com

Restaurant 45, 45 Milford Street, Medway

Last Wednesday of the Month

Kenneth Page, Page Corp.

Worcester Chapter President

978-537-8437 or kpage@page-electric.com

Cristina's, 314 Central Street, Leominster

Last Wednesday of the Month

Paul McDonald, Paul McDonald & Sons

Pioneer Valley Chapter President

413-536-5244 or mecawmpvptr@comcast.net

Lidos, 555 Worthington Street, Springfield (Location may vary each month)

From the Executive Director

Marcus W. Muirhead



Board of Examiners Chooses New Executive Director

by Marcus W. Muirhead

After a long and grueling process, the Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians has at last chosen a new Executive Director: Don Drew.

Mr. Drew is well-known and highly respected figure in the Electrical Industry here in Massachusetts with decades of experience in many different capacities. He is a licensed master electrician, business owner, and former member of the Board of Examiners. Through many years of dedicated service to the Board of Examiners, MECA, and state and national code agencies, he has proven himself a talented leader, a skillful organizer, and a tireless advocate for the electrical industry in Massachusetts.

Mr. Drew has a well-earned reputation for honesty, integrity, and hard work. He is fair, thoughtful, and gracious in all of his dealings, and has a superior knowledge of the laws and regulations pertaining to the Board of Examiners, and all classes of electricians in the commonwealth.

Because of his unique blend of knowledge, experience, and industry - tempered by integrity and fairness - we believe that Don Drew will represent the board with great effectiveness. And...

Not a moment too soon!

Because the selection process wasn't followed precisely as the regulations state, Don was actually chosen for the ED position *twice*! After the first selection process was discovered to be faulty, the Board had to start from scratch, follow the regulations precisely, and make a new selection. Due to his impeccable reputation and outstanding qualifications, Don was again the candidate of choice.



As you all know, the ED's position has been unfilled since Richard Fredette resigned almost a year ago. This has left a tremendous void that has been keenly felt by the licensed community. Many processes that had seemed to happen automatically for so many years simply ground to a halt. Now, with a steady and experienced hand on the wheel, we look forward to a less tumultuous and more productive period ahead.

The last hurdle in this arduous journey is the Governor's approval of the Board's choice. I encourage every electrician to write Governor Patrick a letter expressing support for Don Drew, and be sure to send a copy to Tim Murray, the Lt. Governor. Let them know that we need an Executive Director of the Board *now*, and that Don Drew is the right man for the job.

Congratulations, Don, and all the best in this new endeavor.

Are the iPad & Smart Phone Killing Off Every Day Office Products

LONDON, UK--(Marketwire - Feb. 14, 2011) - As the digital world evolves and ever more complex devices are launched on a seemingly daily basis, Jesse Young CEO of Per DM Group one of the UK's leading outsource sales organisations wonders where the digital revolution will strike next in killing off what were common business tools just a few years ago.

"It appears that the common desk phone is facing extinction as sales have dropped by 90 per cent over the last 10 years almost in line with the inexorable rise of the mobile phone" says the Per DM CEO. "One wonders what is next to be consigned to the trash bin?"

With mobile devices now having in-built address books, diaries, calculators and spreadsheets it isn't difficult to forecast the demise of the Rolodexes or the Casio calculator as staple office brands.

Pixmania-Pro part of the Dixons Group has reported that the biggest surprise is the dramatic decline in the sales of USB memory sticks and compact discs. "This is a clear indication of the acceleration of the evolution of digital devices," said Jesse Young. "These were considered state of the technology only a couple of years ago."

In the past new business devices could be expected to have a considerably longer brand life as companies launched upgrades and added new models to their ranges.



Now with the rise in Cloud technology and ever more powerful mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads everyone is looking over their shoulder worrying about the next "killer" product.

"Brands can live forever" says the Per DM Group's CEO, "however they need to take their customer needs more seriously and work with them to deliver the user experience they want not what the manufacturer tells them they want."

At Per DM they work with innovative market leading organisations who see the value in improving their product offering and providing increased customer satisfaction. "It's a question of vision and belief that your brand can prevail in a very competitive market place," said Jesse Young.

According to Pixmania-Pro's managing director: "Just as we see trends, fashions and gadgets emerging in the home so too we see a similar pattern in offices. The good news is that for every product that slips off the list there is always a better more efficient, cheaper or environmentally friendly replacement."

It isn't difficult to see the trend here and it will not be too long before we see the iPad and Smart phones, as we know them, being challenged by an ever more intelligent, user-friendly, zero carbon footprint, solar powered, hands free usurper.

Hundreds Attend 1st Hearing on NH Power Project

Dateline, Pembroke, N.H.—The U.S. Energy Department is getting lots of opinions this week at a series of public hearings on a proposed project to bring hydroelectric power from Canada to New England through northern New Hampshire.



Several hundred people attended the first hearing Monday the 14th of March, in Pembroke. Supporters of the project spoke of the need for the construction jobs for the Northern Pass Project, but opponents expressed concern that land would be taken away from property owners and that it would harm tourism in the North Country.

More public hearings are scheduled in Franklin, Lincoln, Whitefield, Plymouth, Colebrook and Haverhill.

The Energy Department is gathering information from residents to put together an environmental impact study on the project.

Spring and Summer Courses

15-Hour Code Courses

April 30 & May 1, 2011

May 21 & 22, 2011

June 11 & 12, 2011

Time: 8:00AM-4:00PM

Instructors: William Laidler & Charlie Palmieri

Member: \$139, Non-Member: \$169

All courses will be held at the MECA Office

105 Eastern Ave., Suite 208, Dedham.

BUILDER CONFIDENCE EDGES UP ONE POINT IN MARCH

Copyright States News Service

March 15, 2011

Dateline Washington DC:

After four consecutive months hovering at the same low level, builder confidence in the market for newly built, single-family homes improved by a single point in March, rising to 17 on the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). This is the highest level the HMI has reached since May 2010, when the survey period corresponded with the final days of the federal home buyer tax credit program.

"Builders are cautiously looking forward to the spring home buying season in hopes that improving economic conditions will help bring more buyers to the table," said NAHB Chairman Bob Nielsen, a home builder from Reno, Nev.

"However, the same factors that have been weighing down the market are still very much in play, particularly competition from short sales and foreclosures, consumers' inability to sell their existing home, appraisals that are coming in below construction cost due to the inappropriate use of distressed properties as comps, and restrictive lending conditions for both buyers and builders."

"While many home buyers are still holding off on making a purchase, builders did indicate slightly increased optimism about the future with a two-point gain in the HMI component gauging sales expectations for the next six months," added NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "In fact, prevailing indicators portend some improvement in the overall economy, which should generate modest housing market gains later this year." But, he added, "Unfortunately, most small builders report that they are no more able to obtain credit for new construction today than they have been in the past year, and this is a major impediment that is keeping them from putting their crews back to work."

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for more than 20 years, the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index gauges builder perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores from each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor.

Two out of three of the HMI's component indexes held unchanged in March, including the component gauging current sales conditions (holding at 17) and the component gauging traffic of prospective buyers (holding at 12). Meanwhile, the component gauging sales expectations in the next six months rose two points in March to 27, its highest level since May 2010.

Regionally, HMI results were mixed in March. While the Northeast posted a one-point decline to 20, the Midwest held flat at 12, the South gained two points to 20 and the West gained four points to 17.





2011 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM



PHONE (781) 320-9811 FAX (781) 320-9812
MECA@MECANews.COM

2011 NEC CODEBOOKS (NFPA 70)

(CODEBOOKS INCLUDE MA AMENDMENTS)

MEC SOFT COVER:	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON MEMBER</u>
1-20	\$74.00	\$84.00
21-99	\$72.00	\$82.00
100+	\$70.00	\$80.00

LOOSE-LEAF:	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>
1-20	\$83.00	\$94.00
21-99	\$81.00	\$92.00

<u>HANDBOOKS (NFPA 70):</u>
MEMBER \$130.00
NON-MEMBER \$140.00

<u>TABS:</u>
MEMBER \$15.00
NON-MEMBER \$17.00

<u>MA AMENDMENTS:</u>
MEMBER \$7.00
NON-MEMBER \$10.00

<u>NEC POCKET GUIDES:</u>
MEMBER \$31.00
NON-MEMBER \$32.00

<u>NFPA 70E</u>
MEMBER \$51.00
NON-MEMBER \$58.00

<u>NFPA 72:</u>
MEMBER \$73.00
NON-MEMBER \$75.00

<u>NFPA 101:</u>
MEMBER \$75.00
NON-MEMBER \$80.00

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM/DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

___ MEMBER
___ NON-MEMBER

SHIPPING -EACH ADDITIONAL		
1 SOFT COVER	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 LOOSE LEAF	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 POCKET GUIDE	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 HANDBOOK	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 TAB	\$2.00	ADD. \$0.60

SUB-TOTAL \$ _____
 MA TAX (.0625%) \$ _____
 SHIPPING \$ _____
 TOTAL \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE

SHIP TO: (No P.O. Boxes)

WE ACCEPT M/C, VISA, AMEX, DISCV.

NAME: _____
 COMPANY: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____
 E-MAIL: _____

EXP. DATE: MM: _____ YEAR: _____
 PRINT: _____
 SIGNATURE: _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MECA
 105 EASTERN AVE., SUITE # 208, DEDHAM, MA 02026
 WWW.MECANEWS.COM

SkillsUSA Holds Wiring Competition

by Mike DeMeo

Exeter, NH- SkillsUSA held a wiring *competition* at the Seacoast School of Technology in Exeter on Friday, March 18, 2011.

Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. and the EBCA sponsored the event, with help from MECA member Gemini Electric, Inc., and the IAEI Granite State Chapter.

Students from Pinkerton Academy and Dover High School participated in the competition, unfortunately no students were sent from MST and Nashua this year. All the winners from the NH -SkillsUSA competition will be announced at the Awards Banquet at Dover High School on March 27, 2011. Winners of the event will compete at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City, Mis-

souri this June.

Massachusetts SkillsUSA had district competitions March 9-17, 2011.

Residential Wiring Winners:

1st place- Taylor Harvey- McCann VTHS

2nd place- Andrea Omar- Bristol-Plymouth VTHS

3rd place- Nick Creigle- Pathfinder VTHS

Industrial Motor Controls:

1st place- Timothy Carlson- Chicopee Comprehensive

2nd place-Conrad Mercer- Cape Cod VTHS

3rd place- Nicolas Santos- Diman RVTHS

The Massachusetts State Conference competition will be held April 28-30 at Blackstone Valley RTHS, Upton, MA and the winners will move on to compete at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in June.

Special thanks to Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc. for their participation in the Skills USA program



Good luck to all the future apprentices.

License Renewal FAQ's

Do all licenses need 21hrs of Continuing Education?

Yes, licensees must complete 21-Hours of Continuing Education before the renewal date 7/31/2010. A 15-Hour Code Class taken with a Board approved provider and 6 Hours of Professional Development

Should I mail a copy of my 15-Hour Certificate?

No, the approved provider will electronically submit your continuing education information to the Board. Do not mail any other documents with your renewal form.

Do I need to submit proof of completing the 6 Hours to the Board?

No, a record in the form of a certificate of completion must be kept by the licensee for three renewal cycles and must be furnished to the Board only upon request.

When will I get a renewal form?

Renewal forms will be mailed in May of this year. If you have moved you must ensure that the Board has been notified or you will not receive a renewal form. Address changes may be made online at www.mass.gov/reg/boards/el or by faxing your request to 617-727-9932. You may also mail your request to the address of the Board on your current license.

Resources

Massachusetts Department of Professional Licensure, 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA
Phone: 617-727-9931, Fax: 617-727-9932