

The Board of State Examiners of

Electricians

Notice of Public Hearings

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 141 § 2 and c. 30A the Board of State Examiners of Electricians will hold a public hearing relative to proposed amendments to the Board regulations at 237 CMR 13.00 and 237 CMR 17.00. By the proposed regulations at 237 CMR 13.00, the Board is defining its education and experience requirements for licensure for out of state and out of country applicants as well as for those applicants whose education and experience was obtained while in the military. By the proposed regulations at 237 CMR 13.00, the board is further defining the continuing education requirements for local inspectors of wires. The hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on March 15, 2007 at the Board's Offices at the Division of Professional Licensure, 239 Causeway Street, 2nd floor conference rooms, Room 206 and at 10 a.m. on March 16, 2007 at the State Office Building, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA. Interested parties will be given an opportunity to present testimony orally or in writing at these hearings. A copy of the emergency regulations may be obtained at the Board's Web Site or by contacting the Board at 239 Causeway ST., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02114 (617-727-7374).

For additional information and complete text of policy changes log on to: <http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/el/press.htm>



MECA
105 Eastern Avenue, #208
Dedham, MA 02026

MECA
Winter 2007



Don't wait until the July, 2007 deadline to complete your mandatory 21 hours of education! Call 1-800-231-MECA to register today!

15-Hour Code Course
April 14 & 15th
8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Instructors: Bill & Charlie
MECA Office
105 Eastern Ave.
Dedham, MA

Evening Class!
15-Hour Code Course
May 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2007
5:00 PM-9:00 PM
MECA Office
105 Eastern Ave.
Dedham, MA

Members \$155
 Non-Members \$185

For additional information contact MECA at 800-231-6322 or register on-line: www.meca-network.org

Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association

NEWS



Federated Insurance and MECA form a Partnership



As one of our Member Services, we try to locate the best possible insurance programs for our members. We are pleased to announce our partnership and support of Federated Insurance as the recommended insurance carrier for MECA.

Federated is experienced in working with state and national trade associations like ours. Over 400 associations are recommending Federated for their members. Federated has been in business since 1904 and has a highly trained field marketing staff ready to serve you. They have the experience and financial strength to serve our members now and in the future.



We encourage you to take the time to talk with your Federated Marketing Representative when they call. We are confident you will hear some valuable ideas to help you with decisions regarding your commercial insurance program.

Our Bristol County Chapter President, Michael Pillarella, has already met with his Federated Insurance Representative. Mike offers his views on switching to Federated below...

Change is always difficult. We are creatures of habit. We like the status quo. We sit in the same seats in class, go to the same coffee shop, and are very reluctant to change banks, suppliers and worst of all insurance companies.

Ever read your insurance policies from

cover to cover? Are your employee's tools covered? Are you covered when they take the company truck or van home? If your employee lives in another state does your workman's comp. cover them? How do their driving records affect your cost?

Does your insurance provider specialize in the type of coverage you need? My contracting company has had the same insurance agent for many years and I was very apprehensive about changing. I was even apprehensive about entertaining the thought of changing.

Federated made a presentation to our Board of Directors, indicating what they could offer through their network of employees: education, loss prevention, the life insurance necessary for successful transition and continued operation and SAVINGS. I was intrigued enough to want to listen. Listen and question I did. I was given advice on the removal of one of my drivers because of his driving record. This simple act help reduce my exposure.

Lorne Lawless was one of the Federated employees with whom I dealt. He didn't hesitate to "tell it like it is". And I did not hesitate to inundate him with question and "what if" scenarios. Lorne has a solid industrial background, so, like many of the Federated people, he knows where we are coming from.

Give them a try. As I told them, "We'll see what happens when audit time comes".

-Michael Pillarella, EMI Electric

www.meca-network.org

From the President's Desk

It was my understanding that the deregulation of the electric utilities would be a good thing. Good for the consumer, good for the economy, and good for the electrical contractors who serve as the connecting link between the distributor of power and the customer who uses it. With the mergers that have occurred, efficiencies of scale and standardization of installation and service connection procedures should have made everyone's life easier. But if this contractor's experiences are representative of those that other electrical contractors are having to endure (and based on my conversations with many of you, they are), then I must say that the response time and efficiency with which utilities deal with service requests are as poor as I have encountered in my twenty plus years in the electrical industry.

Recently a customer called for service because of a loss of power in a tenant occupied unit ; a utility representative had previously been called and made the determination that a problem in the premise wiring system was the cause of the outage – the utility equipment was not at fault. A representative from my firm quickly determined that the meter and socket had failed, requiring the replacement of both the meter socket and the meter itself. Replacing the socket was easy. Getting a new meter quickly was darn near impossible. First , the utility representative said to notify them when the socket was replaced and they would send out a new meter. After replacing the meter socket and enclosure, the field electrician called the utility for a replacement meter. No can do, replies the new person on the end of the line. We need an

inspection approval. No problem; the local wiring inspector goes out of his way to inspect and call in the new installation. We need a service request number, says the utility representative on the other end of the phone. Not necessary for this type of emergency repair, we/the local inspector say. Can't match up the meter numbers/ account numbers to the customer address, says the utility rep. Not really our problem, we say. Finally, after the local wiring inspector spends over an hour on the phone, utility person agrees to send out a service department person with a new meter. Meanwhile, since the meter socket is in bypass mode to keep the business and its computers up and running, the socket cover can not be closed and secured. Operations manager insists that since the open socket and its live parts are accessible to building personnel, the installing electrician may not leave the unit unattended. Three more hours go by. Finally, utility trouble person shows up at five thirty. Doesn't have meter. Refuses to install jumpers so meter enclosure can be closed and locked. Meter finally shows up the following day.

If you really want to waste some time, try to get a service installation design and approval. My firm initiated a service request for a 400 ampere 480 volt supply for a customer in the middle of November (different utility, same sad tale). After a couple of weeks, a notice came back requiring a deposit of two hundred and fifty bucks before a (utility) company representative would even drive to and look at the site. It's now February, and the project is scheduled to begin in the design phase



sometime this month. Maybe. Maybe not. Who do I call to find out? Don't know, really. Because company policy apparently doesn't allow us direct access to a/the person who is actually responsible for our project. So we call the same number we always call, and deal with an intermediary who really doesn't know that much about the technical aspects of what we're trying to accomplish, and we get funneled over to the voicemail machine. Always the voicemail. And sometimes the recipient of our message calls back within the week. Sometimes not. Maybe this project will be finished before summer begins. Maybe not.

So to the people in charge of our electrical utilities, I say: You're fascination with systems and forms and compartmentalization of functions within your respective organizations isn't working. The procedures that I, my colleagues, and your customers have to endure are cumbersome, impersonal, inefficient, frustrating, and expensive. If you continue down this road, I dare say it will ultimately guarantee a return to the very same regulation that so many worked so hard to unshackle the utilities from in this Commonwealth. If that is your wish, keep doing things the way you're doing. It should do the trick.

*John R. Funderburk
President, MECA*

Odds & Ends

Legislature

The re-write of 141 has come to the forefront once again. There are a few versions floating around but it is almost certain that one of these versions will be passed. MECA is on top of the issue and will update you as more information becomes available.

The S-License is now being enforced by the Department of Public Safety.

Although the law was put into effect in the late 1990's it has not been enforced until now. Not sure what the S-License is and don't think it affects you? Then think again. Log onto www.meca-network.org or www.mass.gov for more information.

MECA Tradeshow

Thank you to all our vendors and supporters of the 2006 Annual Tradeshow/ Dinner. We could not have had another

successful show without you! We are already looking forward to next year. The 2007 Annual Tradeshow/ Dinner will be on November 1, 2007. Make sure you save the date, we look forward to seeing you all there!



Chapter News

**Boston Chapter
President: TBD**

Chapter Meetings

March 28 & April 25, 2007, 6:30PM
Mount Vernon Restaurant
14 Broadway, Somerville

Boston Chapter Meetings are in full swing! Gerry Cardillo from Boston Electric and Telephone has been kind enough to run the meetings until the Chapter is able to announce a new President. Keep your chapter thriving, attend a meeting and bring a friend!

**Essex Chapter
President: Mike DeMeo
978-352-9994**

Chapter Meetings

April 10 & June 12, 2007
Social: 5:30pm, Dinner: 6:00pm
Angelica's Restaurant
Route 114, Middleton



On November 22, 2006, Al Allain of Allain & Sons suffered substantial damage to his business of 60 years and his home due to the Danvers Explosion. Al and his son Jason have spent the past few months putting their shop back together. Although it was a tedious task, they managed to keep it business as usual!

**North Middlesex Chapter
President: John Keady**

Chapter Meetings
March 15 & April 19, 2007, 7:00PM
Skips Restaurant
119 Chelmsford St., Chelmsford

**Bristol County Chapter
President: Mike Pillarella
508-644-5050**

Chapter Meetings

Every 4th Tuesday of the Month
White's of Westport
66 State Road, Westport

One of our own members, Mike Pillarella has recently been licensed by the Commonwealth of MA, Department of Education to operate a private occupational school: *Pillarella School for Electrical Code & Theory* in nearby Assonet. You would think that Mike would be very busy as President and Owner of EMI Electrical Contractors and President of the Bristol Chapter of MECA. But, Mike has always had a love for teaching being both an electrical instructor in the public, vocational school systems and a MA and RI Provider for many years. Further, Mike has an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's Degree in School Administration.



The Pillarella School for Code & Theory is set up to serve a broad base of educational needs. Classes include: Continue Education classes for journeymen, master electricians, system contractors and technicians

In the coming fall, a 600 hour journeyman's and a 150 hour masters' program classes will be started. This is something that Mike is highly looking forward to. As the whole licensing procedure was complicated to say the least, Mike would like to offer his thanks to Richard Boudreau for his help and support.

The Pillarella School for Electrical Code & Theory will be offering special opportunities to our MECA members to help them advance their education. Please call the school at 508-644-2000 or visit our website at www.emielectric.com.

**Old Colony Chapter
President: Dan Cleary
clearyds@msn.com**

Chapter Meetings

March 13 & April 10, 2007
Social: 6:30pm, Dinner: 7:00pm
The Common Market
97 Willard Street, Quincy

www.meca-network.org for the latest in Chapter Meeting Information

**Pioneer Valley Chapter
President: Paul McDonald
mecawmpvcptr@aol.com**

**Worcester Chapter
President: Ken Page
978-537-8437**

**Cape Cod Chapter
President: Paul Coleman
pcoleman@alliedsystemstech.com**

**South Middlesex Chapter
President: Mike Mancini
508-478-8808**

Chapter Meeting
March 28, 2007, 7:00PM
Bella Costa
Route 30 & 126
Framingham