

**MECA**  
**May 2010**



**The next MECA Annual Meeting and Tradeshow will be held on November 18, 2010 at Lombardo's in Randolph from 2:00-7:00pm– Tradeshow 7:00PM— Annual Dinner Please note our new location!**

**The Board of State Examiners of Electricians/Department of Professional Licensure has moved their offices to 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA**

**Don't forget to complete your 21 Hours of Education by July 31, 2010 to renew your Electrical License. MECA is offering a full schedule of courses through July.**

**MECA has begun its Pre-Sale for the 2011 National Electrical Code Book with MA Amendments this Spring. Check out the MECA Website at [www.mecanews.com](http://www.mecanews.com)**

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

**Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association**

# NEWS



## *Sprint and MECA form a Partnership*

Sprint and MECA have recently formed a partnership to bring increased benefits to our members. Sprint has developed specific value-driven discounts in an effort to gain mindshare from the members of the Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association. As a member of MECA you are entitled to these discounts.

The discount amounts are very aggressive and are considered to be "off-sheet" pricing that you just can't get at one of Sprint's retail locations. They have selected a handful of their most successful and valued Certified Business Dealer partners to work with MECA and their members. Their products will not only help MECA members save money on their wireless bill, but make businesses more productive and more efficient using Sprint products. Sprint has the fastest and most robust portfolio of devices and solutions, and offer the best value in wireless.

The offers that Sprint has for members of MECA are too aggressive to highly publicize or market, so the collateral they have is limited. Here are some main points.

Please remember the following bullet points are only price related; the solutions such as mobile broadband and GPS bring more value than a discount ever could.

- 22% off their already competitive Business Plans: This discount is among the highest Sprint offers. The percentage off is for plans over \$39.99.
- A net \$46.99 mobile broadband plan (this is capped at 5GB of usage), net \$56.99 for unlimited use. This includes Wi-Fi mobile hotspots in cars.
- A net \$19.99 Blackberry add on including Blackberry Enterprise Server.
- Enrollment into our Business Device Select Program offering your members the lowest available price without rebates on select handsets.

Please remember these discounts are only available through select partners with Sprint. Existing customers of Sprint are also eligible for the discounted program.

Call Tim Woodworth directly at 508-857-9066 if you would like to take advantage of the discount program.



**[www.mecanews.com](http://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

Stellos Electric, Nashua, NH  
603-882-3126

mdemeo@stelloselectric.com

#### Jack Rich, Past President

Atlas Alarm, Weymouth, MA  
781-337-8866

jack.rich@atlasalarm.com

#### Paul Coleman, 1st V-President

Allied Systems, Forestdale, MA  
508-771-6744

pcoleman@alliedsystemstech.com

#### 2nd Vice-President- Open Seat

#### Charles Wood, Treasurer

Wood Electric, Scituate, MA  
781-545-6938

welectric@comcast.net

#### Jay Gebhardt, Secretary

J.G Electric, Natick, MA  
508-653-3042

jgelectric@yahoo.com

## Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association

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Marcus Muirhead, Executive Director

marcus@mecanews.com

Lisa Podgurski, MECA Manager

lisa@mecanews.com

## 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

Yarmouth House (Location may vary each month)  
2nd Tuesday of the Month

#### Mike DeMeo, Stellos Electric

##### Essex Chapter President

603-882-3126 or mdemeo@stelloselectric.com

The Polish Club, 12 Cheever Street, Danvers  
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 mecawmpvcptr@comcast.net

Lidos, 555 Worthington Street, Springfield (Location may vary each month)  
2nd Wednesday of the Month

# From the Executive Director

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*Marcus W. Muirhead*



“Bad officials are elected by good people who do not vote.”

George Jean Nathan

Anyone who isn't living in a cave knows that there are some very big political races underway this year, headed for resolution this November. Among the offices in contention are: governor, lt. governor, state attorney general, state treasurer, state auditor, many US congressmen, and various state reps and state senators from all over Massachusetts.

The men and women elected to fill these offices will have a real and tangible effect on your life and your business. They will raise or lower your taxes; they will increase or decrease the size of the government; they will increase or decrease the scope of government; *they will work for an agenda you favor, or they will work for someone else's agenda.*

That's it for civics; here comes the math:

Recently an election was held in my town. There were some significant decisions to be made. I voted, along with about 25% of the eligible voters in town. Now, the community I live in is active and civic-minded, at least more than many municipalities, nevertheless only 1 of every 4 voters bothered to visit the polls. While many people decry the apathy routinely displayed by the voting public, I actually appreciate it to a degree. Why? Because everyone who stays home makes my vote more important!

In this most recent election, I voted for myself, **and THREE of my fellow citizens!** In past elections, I have voted for myself, and as many as 7 or 8 others. But wait, there's more! In the months leading up to this election I took the time to speak with my wife about the election. I spoke about both sides of the issues, and about which candidates I supported, and told her what my position was and why. I also spoke with several of my friends along the same lines. These were friendly, rational, low-key discussions. The result was that my wife and two other friends went to the polls and voted, in large part, to support my personal “ticket”. (Others may have, as well, but these are the ones I know of for certain.)

That means that my wife, my two friends, and I voted for a total of 16 citizens! I'm no genius in arithmetic, but I increased my influence as a concerned resident of Foxborough by a factor of, well, 16!



The election turnout this fall is expected to be high, somewhere around 45% to 50%. To keep the math easy, let's say it's 50%. That means you can vote for two, and everyone you bring on board can do the same.

MECA will be announcing political endorsements very soon. We hope that every member of the association will be motivated to vote, and to convince others to do the same. If the elections go well, it could have some very pleasant consequences for you and your business.

# Working Hot or Not - Inconvenience Doesn't Cut It

By: Jeffrey S. Sargent, necplus



the most current and comprehensive source of electrical information

Many people believe that working on energized conductors and circuit parts is an acceptable practice as long as the NFPA 70E® provisions for personal protective equipment (PPE) are followed. NFPA 70E does enable persons to perform energized work, but not at the *carte blanche* level of approval some seem to think the standard allows.

Historically, working on energized electrical equipment, because de-energizing the equipment was either inconvenient or posed logistical obstacles, has been a widely accepted practice in many of the areas of industry and electrical contracting. In some cases it may have been a rite of passage for a person learning the electrical trade. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 is relatively new compared to the age of the electrical industry and to how long electricity has been used in homes, businesses, and industry. We are living in an enlightened age when it comes to electrical safety, and the culture among practitioners is indeed changing. There are, however, still changes to that need to occur in the industry in order to fulfill the employee safety mission of NFPA 70E.

One cultural change that needs to occur is a dispelling of the notion that compliance with PPE requirements in NFPA 70E is a means by which persons can work on energized equipment at their convenience or at the convenience of those directing the work. Nothing could be further from what is specified in the OSHA requirements—which are federal law—or in [130.1\(A\)](#) of NFPA 70E. It is important to note that the requirements concerning energized work in the OSHA regulations and those in NFPA 70E are in lockstep; there are no deviations between the two.

The conditions for energized work are covered under three major headings:

1. The first heading introduces the concept of *greater hazard*. This concept states that continuity of electrical power to some processes or equipment essential to prevent a catastrophic or life-safety hazard is of greater importance than the electrical hazard to which the worker performing a task will be exposed. The rationale for permitting energized work is similar to the substantiation used to support [NEC® rules covering the criticality of continuous electrical power such as those in Article 695 for electric fire pumps where some of the normal requirements for circuit conductor and component protection are outweighed by the need to operate the fire pump](#). When it comes to working on energized equipment judgments of this nature, where competing interests have to be put on a figurative scale, have to be made carefully because of the inherent risks associated with working on energized electrical equipment.
2. The second limited provision under which energized work is permitted is a condition of *infeasibility*, which is an acknowledgement that there are testing and diagnostic tasks associated with the start-up or troubleshooting of equipment that can only be performed while the power is on. Continuous processes involving complex and extensive electrical systems are given as another example of where the condition of infeasibility can be considered in making the decision to perform energized work.

# Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development



The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development's Board of Review has enhanced its website to share major decisions in order to help parties, their attorneys, and their representatives better understand important aspects of unemployment insurance law. These key decisions are available electronically and in printable format on the Board of Review's website at: [www.mass.gov/dwd/bor](http://www.mass.gov/dwd/bor). The

website also allows users to search these cases by topic.

Several dozen decisions are currently available on the website, and the Board will post additional cases on an on-going basis. Paper copies of all of the Board's decisions will continue to be available at the Board's office at 19 Staniford Street in Boston during business hours.

The Board of Review is an independent quasi-judicial administrative tribunal with jurisdiction over appeals of unemployment insurance eligibility and tax disputes from the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The Board's decisions, which are the last step in the administrative appeals process for the unemployment insurance system in Massachusetts, set precedent that is binding on the DUA. The Board reviews over 4,000 appeals a year.

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## Working Hot or Not...Continued from previous page

3. The third condition permitting energized work is where the circuit voltage is *less than 50 volts to ground*. For the purposes of this standard, the 50-volt benchmark is considered "low voltage," but it is important to understand that under the right conditions—such as wet location contact—50 volts can pose a potential shock hazard to personnel. Large installations of batteries operating at less than 50 volts can provide enough energy to produce an arcing fault.

As qualified safety instructors advise, there are *no* provisions within the OSHA regulations or in NFPA 70E that recognize inconvenience as viable rationale to support working on energized electrical conductors or circuit parts. Proper planning and logistical coordination are necessary to implement an electrical safety plan that only permits energized electrical work under the limited conditions covered in [130.1\(A\)](#) of NFPA 70E.

Before determining the required level of personal protective equipment for a specific task, or indeed before taking any other steps in the process, it must first be determined as part of a hazard/risk assessment whether the task can be performed energized. Then and only then can the next steps be taken, such as deciding on the proper level and type of personal protective equipment.

*Jeffrey S. Sargent is Senior Electrical Specialist at NFPA. He serves as staff liaison to several NFPA technical committees and served as the executive secretary to the NFPA Electrical Section. Prior to joining NFPA in 1997, he served as an electrical inspector in state and municipal positions and as an electrical program instructor. Sargent is a licensed master electrician, a certified electrical inspector, and a member of IAEI.*

# The “Bakers Dozen”

*Lisa Podgurski, MECA Staff*



On May 4, 2010, Gubernatorial Candidate, Charlie Baker, outlined 13 ways to save taxpayers more than \$1 Billion dollars when he is elected as the next Governor of Massachusetts. These 13 steps reflect the first of many reforms Charlie Baker's Administration will enact if he is elected. The job of restoring Massachusetts' fiscal house will take time and plenty of hard work, but if we are willing to make the tough choices, Baker will be able to give the taxpayers the smaller, more efficient government they deserve.

*Below is a list of “Bakers Dozen”...*

1. *Reduce construction costs by increasing competition. Between \$75M to \$100M in savings.*
2. *Lower health care costs for cities and towns. \$100M in savings.*
3. *Implement real pension reform. \$50M in savings.*
4. *End Union Control of public contracts. Between \$75M to \$100M in savings.*
5. *Consolidate and shrink state government. At least \$400M in savings.*
6. *Reform Medicaid. Between \$175M to \$250M in savings.*
7. *Require proof of legal residency for state benefits. Between \$10M to \$25M in savings.*
8. *Conduct forensic financial analysis for benefits eligibility. Between \$10M to \$20M in savings.*
9. *Eliminate costly duplication of services for Medicaid and Medicare. Between \$50M to \$70M in savings.*
10. *Bring welfare reform in line with Federal standards. Between \$50M to \$75M in savings.*
11. *Offer incentives to state agencies to collect state revenues. Between \$15M to \$25M in savings.*
12. *Charge inmates room and board. Between \$10M to \$40M in savings.*
13. *Restructure overly generous public employee retiree benefits. Between \$50M to \$100M in savings.*

**To learn more about Charlie Baker and review his 13 point reform plan in detail, log on to: [www.charliebaker2010.com](http://www.charliebaker2010.com)**



## Spring and Summer Courses



### 15-Hour Code Courses

June 12 & 13th, 8am-4pm

July 10 & 11th, 8am-4pm

July 24 & 25th, 8am-4pm

Members \$130, Non-Mem. \$160

### Professional Development

OSHA-10 Hour Certification

June 19th, 7am-6pm

Members \$155, Non-Mem. \$185

Can be used towards 6 Hours of PD



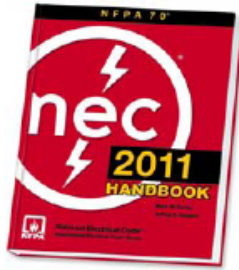
All courses will be held at the MECA Office, 105 Eastern Ave., Suite 208, Dedham.

Call the MECA Office at 781-320-9811 to register today!





# MECA Members 2011 NEC Pre-Sale with MA Amendments



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Add Your Company Logo for Free!

Yes! Print my company logo on my single order of 1,000 or more copies. Size of logo must be 3.5x2.5 for soft-cover or loose leaf code books.

Send high resolution TIFF file or JPEG file to: [lisa@mecanew.com](mailto:lisa@mecanew.com) or mail on disk to: MECA, Lisa Podgurski, 105 Eastern Ave., Suite 208, Dedham, MA 02026.

## Payment Information

**All orders must be prepaid to receive pre-sale rates**  
(Call for payment info for large orders of 100plus)  
**Prices are effective through June 30, 2010**

Check Enclosed (Payable to MECA)

Credit Card: Amex, VISA, MC, Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Fax completed form to: 781-320-9812, E-mail: [lisa@mecanews.com](mailto:lisa@mecanews.com), or mail form and payment to: MECA, 105 Eastern Ave., Suite 208, Dedham, MA 02026. For more information or to order by phone call, 781-320-9811.

2011 NEC Products	Retail Prices	MECA Member Pre-Sale Prices					Quantity	Total
		1-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+		
MA Soft-Cover Code Book	\$85.00	\$66.75	\$64.75	\$62.75	\$60.75	\$58.75		
Loose-Leaf Code Book	\$95.00	\$75.25	\$73.25	\$71.25	\$69.25	\$67.25		
NEC Handbook	\$149.00	\$114.95	\$112.95	\$110.95	\$108.95	\$106.95		
Tabs	\$16.50	\$12.50	\$12.35	\$12.06	\$11.80	\$11.50		
Pocket Guide Residential	\$32.00	\$27.60	\$26.60	\$25.60	\$24.60	\$23.60		
Pocket Guide Industrial	\$32.00	\$27.60	\$26.60	\$25.60	\$24.60	\$23.60		
*NEC Codebooks with Amendments will be shipped in January, 2011							Subtotal	
*Soft-Cover sold in boxes of 10							Sales Tax 6.25%	
*Shipping and Handling will be 2.5% of the total order.							Shipping 2.5%	
*Orders of 20 copies or more can be drop-shipped to your location with no additional charges. Please call the MECA Office at 781-320-9811 with any questions.							Total	

# May is Electrical Safety Month

## *The Daily Item*



Massachusetts had 825 electrical fires in 2008, making them the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

As a result, Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan proclaimed May as Electrical Safety

Month. May is also national Electrical Safety Month.

"In 2008, electrical fires were the second leading cause of home fire deaths in Massachusetts," said Coan, who urged residents to check their homes for potential electrical dangers and teach their children about electrical safety.

Jennifer Mieth, a spokesman for the fire marshal, said residents should examine electrical cords to make certain they are not pinched behind heavy furniture like couches or bureaus. Overloaded outlets also present a danger when more than one appliance is plugged into the same receptacle. Power strips, too, can become a hazard

when overloaded, as can lamps or fixtures fitted with light bulbs higher than the recommended wattage. Most lamps recommend 60 watts.

Electrical fires can often be traced to cords strung underneath room rugs, carpeting or furniture. "Move them to reduce the risk of fire from overheating," she said, adding that cords with frayed wires or cracked insulation should be replaced.

An extension cord not properly rated for the appliance it powers is another red flag, said Mieth, explaining that typical lamp cord extension cords cannot carry the electrical current needed for appliances such as space heaters or air conditioners.

Extension cords are made for temporary rather than permanent use, she said.

Residents who experience flickering or dimming lights, fuses or circuit breakers that trip frequently, or overly warm switch or outlet plates, should call a qualified electrician, or at least tell the landlord if renting the apartment or home.

The local fire department should be called immediately if there is an odor of burning, if sparks are coming from an outlet, if wires are arching, or a sizzling or buzzing sound is emanating from inside the walls.

"Firefighters can use thermal imaging cameras to locate excessive heat inside the walls," she said.

The fire marshal's office also offers tips on how to prevent shocks or electrocution. For instance, homes with young children should install outlet covers. When unplugging an appliance, pull the plug, not the cord. Keep electrical cords away from water. Keep ladders away from overhead power lines, including the electrical service to your home.

## **License Renewal FAQ's**

### **Do all licenses need 21 hrs 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](http://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