

Welcome To A 'Different' Industry

We in the organized electrical construction industry are “different” from others. We stress cooperation, education, and new ideas. **Welcome to our world!**

Who are *we*, anyway? We are the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the electrical contractors who employ IBEW members, including companies with membership in the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

Our industry's history and traditions focus on the development of people with a good work ethic and academic abilities. Electrical work must be done by highly qualified individuals. No one is a “born electrician”—our work requires highly developed knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Improperly installed electrical work can kill entire families; this is not necessarily true of other construction trades. Substandard electrical terminations and below-Code installations can cause fires. Horrible systems installation errors can lead to electrocutions of those using our end-product.

There is, obviously, good reason for the “IBEW-NECA Team” to take what we do seriously.

Quality tradition

In the past 60-plus years, IBEW and NECA apprenticeship programs around the country have trained more than 300,000 electricians. These men and women came to our industry with, at best, a minimal knowledge of our craft. Each one “graduated” with “journeyman credentials” (registered and recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor). Each left apprenticeship with the potential for high-paying, challenging lifetime careers.

We're still at it. Our industry invests more than \$140 million annually in training. In addition to apprenticeship programs sponsored by our more than 300 local IBEW-NECA training organizations, we believe in lifelong learning—with “graduated” journeyman electricians returning for skill upgrade classes.

Our “end products” are the best-trained electrical journeymen anywhere—people who constantly upgrade their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Improvements

Our industry's great tradition and history does not stop us from adapting to today's social and business conditions. We've made these moves, among others:

Added college credit recognition for our training programs. Apprentices going through our five-year journeyman program can earn as many as 55 college credits.

Rededicated ourselves to lifelong learning. Attendance in skill upgrade classes in 1991 numbered only 8,000 journeymen. In 2001-2003, we averaged 65,000-plus annual registrations.

Adapted to changing local and social requirements. Once, apprenticeship classes were held at night; now, many local areas offer “day school.”

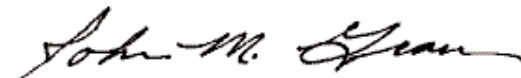
Outreach

We've invested millions of dollars in recent years to reach out to students, teachers, guidance counselors, parents, professional electricians who are not part of our team, and others, to tell our story.

Our story—what we offer, how we do it, and what it offers people seeking opportunity—is incredible. Please give the pages that follow a bit of your time; it could well pay off for all of us!



Edwin A. Hill
International President, IBEW



John M. Grau
CEO, NECA



Edwin A. Hill



John M. Grau