Central Indiana Chapter
October 2026 Newsletter

NEW SOCIALS!

We're officially live on Instagram and TikTok! Follow along for updates and promotions for 2027 Convention, behind-the-scenes content from 2026 Convention and more engaging content – keep an eye out, you might end up on our page!

2026 Purdue BSC Career Fair









This past Friday, CIC NECA spent the day at Purdue's Bowen School of Construction Career Fair meeting students interested in careers in the construction industry. We had great conversations about the many paths available in electrical contracting and the opportunities within the Purdue Student Chapter.

It was great to see such a strong turnout from our contractors at the career fair as well. Events like this are a big part of how we build relationships with future industry leaders and connect them with opportunities at our member companies.

If your company is interested in joining us at future career fairs or student events, reach out to the chapter office. We'd love to have you there.

20 IN THEIR TWENTIES - 2026 IBJ HONOREE







Sam Lacher, Executive Manager of Central Indiana Chapter NECA, has been named as an Indianapolis Business Journal 2026 20 in Their Twenties honoree — recognizing 20 rising professionals in their twenties making a real impact across Indianapolis.

This accolade reflects the leadership, energy, and dedication Sam brings to our chapter and to the electrical contracting industry every day. We couldn't be prouder to see that hard work recognized on such an important stage. Congratulations, Sam, we're lucky to have you leading the way!

Read Full Article

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 2

2026 Labor Relations Conference

November 2 -4 | Hotel Valley Ho | Scottsdale, Arizona

Participate in

- Tailored learning opportunities alongside seasoned professionals and fellow participants.
- Delve into a wide array of topics in labor relations and workforce development, ranging from foundational principles to current, pressing issues.
- Broaden your understanding of subjects that directly influence your company and chapter.

Labor Relation Conference Registration

Dec. 4-5

2026 Winter Meeting

December 4 - 5 | Bottleworks Hotel | Indianapolis

- **Register Here**
- **Know Before You Go**



ONLINE WEBINARS

Oct. 13

Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction - Virtual Classroom

Tuesday, October 13 - Friday October 23, 2026

- This live online classroom brings the best of NECA's Basic Estimating program to a virtual environment. This class will cover the same objectives and activities as NECA's renowned in-person class.

Portal to Register

2026 CONVENTION



Bookmark these resources to stay up to date at this year's Convention.

- **2026 Convention Home Page**
- **Daily Schedule**
- **Resources - Tips & Tools, Text Updates, First Time Attendees + more!**

2026 Convention General Event Schedule

Sign up for live text updates at Convention by texting:
"NECA" to 771-999-NECA (6322)

2027 INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION

We're already planning for 2027 and want your input! Have a great idea? Have a great speaker in mind? **Let us know!**

CHAPTER UPDATES

New Contractor Resource Guide Available - Click to View

A reference guide for individuals opening a shop, becoming a new signatory contractor, or new to the industry

Annual Report for 2026 is in Progress

We're starting to pull together the 2026 Annual Report, and we want to make sure our members get the recognition they deserve. Did your company win an award this year? Wrap up a big project you're proud of? Hit a milestone worth celebrating? Please contact us and share!

Lafayette 668 & Muncie 855 Divisions Negotiating

Divisions 668 and 855 negotiations will begin soon.

NECAPAC UPDATE:

Help us reach our 2026 Political Leadership Council (PLC) goals.

NECAPAC supports advocacy efforts that strengthen our industry. Members can help us reach our goal by splitting larger donations into multiple contributions.

Please submit contribution forms through the chapter so your contribution is counted toward Central Indiana NECA's goals.

*You can submit your NECAPAC contributions at 2026 Las Vegas convention as well!

Goal:

28 Contributions | $14,100

Current:
10 Contributions
$8,205 Donations

Still Needed:
18 Contributions
$5,895 Donations

NECAPAC Contribution Form

NECA NATIONAL UPDATES

Insurance Coverage for Trades May Not Include A.I.
The U.S. power grid is entering a historic modernization "super-cycle," with utilities projected to invest over $1.1 trillion through 2029. This unprecedented infrastructure overhaul creates a massive, long-term pipeline of high-value projects for trade contractors. Position your business and workforce now to capture this booming demand.

Grid Rebuild Drives Super-cycle Job Growth
Using generative AI tools in your workflow could expose your business to hidden financial risks. Insurance companies in nearly every state are now filing to include AI exclusions in standard liability policies.
If an AI tool contributes to a jobsite error—whether in design, estimation, or scheduling—your carrier may completely deny the claim.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Fort Wayne withdrew its proposed data center task force

Ordinance Viewer

Kokomo approved new data center development standards, including setbacks and equipment testing limits

Read More

Tippecanoe County's data center zoning hearing was pushed to October 21

Read More

AES Indiana is seeking state approval for major grid upgrades tied to Google's Monrovia data center, which could mean big electrical work

Read More

LABOR RELATION RESOURCES

New MLU: Every Member Gets a Free Subscription

Since 1923, NECA's Manual of Labor Units (MLU) has been the go-to estimating resource for electrical contractors — and the 2025-2027 edition just dropped, free for every member. Your company's primary contact (or designated MLU recipient) should've gotten an activation email from NECA on Thursday, September 17, with instructions for the two-year subscription, which includes full access to the online labor units database plus an e-copy of the Manual.

Contact: **education@necanet.org** with any questions.

Need LR guidance, contract language, or tools? NECA's national Labor Relations resources are always available at neca.net.

Wage & Agreements Database

Pattern Agreement Guide & Agreement Language

Labor Relations Studies & Reports

NECA Regulatory Alert

FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

August 25, 2026

NEW SBA OVERHAULS

SBA is proposing a major overhaul of small business size standards. Right now, electrical contractors qualify as "small business" based on revenue (under $19M). SBA wants to switch to an employee-count model instead — under 550 employees, no revenue cap. That could open up federal contracting opportunities (Rule of Two, set-asides, subcontracting plans) for an estimated 1,800+ additional electrical contractors nationwide. Comment period is open until October 16.

SBA Size Standard Overhaul

A new Executive Order is putting foreign-made bulk-power equipment under scrutiny. EO 14420 (signed August 26) targets equipment like transformers, switchgear, protective relays, and control systems tied to countries under U.S. sanctions or arms embargoes — covering everything from new installs to gear already in the ground. If your work touches substations, generation interconnection, or utility-scale storage, this is worth a close read. DOE rulemaking is due by late December.

Foreign Grid Equiptment EO

New tariffs on foreign-made drones just kicked in. A presidential proclamation citing national security (mainly CCP-linked risk) puts tariffs on UAS, components, and docking stations — split into tiers: 100% on larger/thermal-imaging drones and docking stations (effective now), 25% on smaller drones with no thermal imaging (effective now), and 25% on remaining parts/components starting February 2027. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and the EU get a capped 15% rate; the UK gets 10%. If your crews use drones for site surveys, inspections, or mapping, expect equipment costs to climb — worth checking your suppliers' country of origin now.

New Drone Tariffs

GRANTS & TAXES

Looking into grants or tax credits for your business? The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) runs several programs worth knowing about for contractors and signatory employers:

- **EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing Economy)** — a refundable payroll tax credit tied to job creation, typically running 5–10 years for qualifying growth.
- **Hoosier Business Investment (HBI) Tax Credit** — a non-refundable credit against capital investment, up to 10% (higher for digital manufacturing or logistics equipment).
- **Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF)** — reimburses up to 50% of eligible workforce training costs over a two-year period.
- **Indiana State Trade and Export Promotion (IN-STEP)** — small business grants supporting export-related growth.
- **R&D and Venture Capital Investment (VCI)** Tax Credits — for companies investing in innovation or attracting outside capital.

Full program details and applications are available at iedc.in.gov, or reach IEDC directly at **iedchelp@iedc.in.gov**

Explore IEDC Programs

Refresh Your Safety Resources: NECA + SRI Partnership

NECA

SafetyResources
SAVING LIVES. SAVING COMPANIES.

Don't forget!

Your NECA membership includes free access to Safety Resources, Inc. (SRI): up to 10 hours of safety consulting per year, a 10% discount after that, a toll-free safety hotline, and discounted rates on audits, prequalification support, and more.

Check out the full guide

SRI is also rolling out safety classes for members, starting with CPR/First Aid, AED & BBP (20-person cap), plus topics like Arc Flash 70E, Fall Protection, Rigging & Signal Person, and Safety Leadership Training.

Interested? Contact:

Matt McCreery
317.435.7342
mmccreery@safetyresources.com

STATE OF THE UNION

Key: Book 1 // Book 2

LOCAL	INS	RES	VDV	JATC	Open Calls	CW/CE
305	12 // 60	X	0	0	4	0
481	25 // 69	X	0	1	105	4
668	41 // 8	X	2	11	2	CW: 34
725	110 // 4	X	0	0	8	72
855	54 // 2	X	0	0	0	509 solar
873	50 // 11	X	0	0	2	CE: 43

MANPOWER REPORT

August 2026 vs August 2025

305: 1,984 Employees/ 403,080 hrs

481: 4,719 Employees / 853,248 hrs

668: 700 Employees / 110,332 hrs

725: 959 Employees / 150,390 hrs

855: 363 Employees / 57,087 hrs

873: 401 Employees / 65,695 hrs

305: 821 Employees / 148,671 hrs

481: 3,599 Employees / 632,847 hrs

668: 666 Employees / 108,963 hrs

725: 1,087 Employees / 153,530 hrs

855: 480 Employees / 84,700 hrs

873: 310 Employees / 51,856 hrs

UNION UPDATE

- Inside **negotiations** are underway for **305's Inside and NEIMRA** agreements and 668 and 855 will begin soon.

- The Labor Relations Conference in November is ideal for those who sit on a Labor-Management Committee currently or those who aspire to serve in the future.
- New wage summaries have been distributed. Please note the updated format. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the chapter office.

ADDITIONAL INFO

There is a new **Lost Work Report Form**. Please be sure to fill out for **all work lost** to the **non-union**.

(Send to **dave.orman@necanet.org** & **office@indiananeca.org**)

Bluebeam is now a NECA Affiliate Sponsor!

Incentive Pay, Per Diems & Overtime

Employers using or considering incentive pay programs are encouraged to review these valuable resources. The NECA Labor Relations Bulletin provides guidance on incentive pay, per diems, and overtime calculations under the FLSA, while the ELECTRI International report explores the use of incentive pay throughout the electrical construction industry.

Link To Navigating Incentive Pay, Per Diems, and Overtime
(NECA Labor Relations Bulletin)

Link to Exploratory Analysis of Incentive Pay Utilization in Electrical Construction
(ELECTRI International)

MEMBER DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

Each member location needs to fill out the attached questionnaire so we can confirm your Accredited and Alternate Reps and keep our directory up to date. Email office@indiananeca.org once completed.

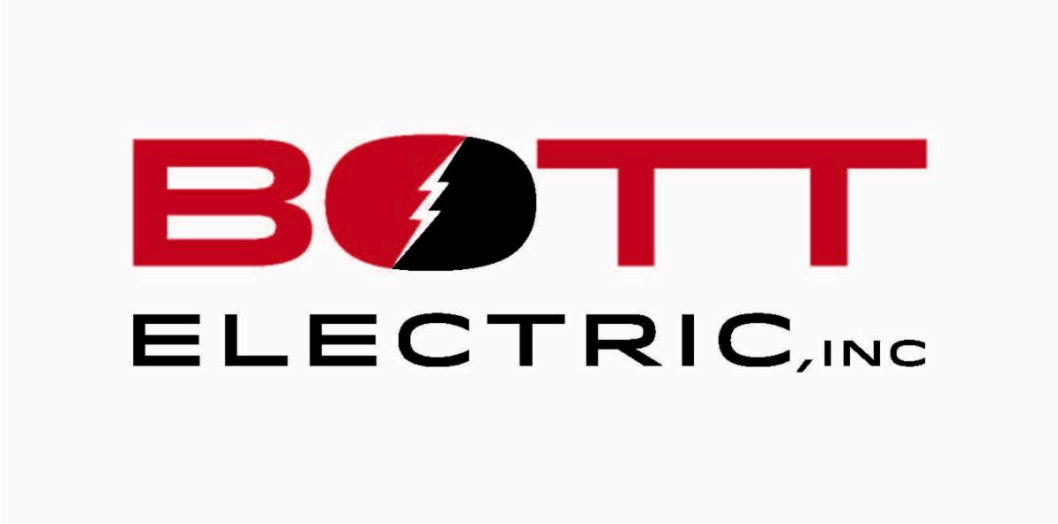
PDF Download

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Convention	October 4-7 Las Vegas, NV
Labor Relations Conference	November 2-4 Phoenix, AZ

Executive Management Institute	November 17-21 Washington, D.C.
CIC Winter Meeting	December 4-5 Indianapolis, IN
IBEW-NECA Benefits Conference	January 24-27 Waikoloa, HI

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month we're spotlighting Bott Electric, Inc., affiliated with IBEW Local 873

Bott Electric is a family owned and operated small business. We work on mostly residential jobs, however no job is too small. We offer experienced electrical services and would be happy to help you in any way.

Bott Electric Website

KEEP IN TOUCH & FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS

indiananeca.org **317.846.5680** **office@indiananeca.org**

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