



Date: August 15, 2008

Memo To: Members of the Board of Governors, NECA

From: J. Michael Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer

Subject: Ordinary Proposals/Resolutions

In accordance with Section 8.8 of the NECA Bylaws, the attached proposals were properly submitted for review and action at the October 4, 2008 meeting of the Board of Governors, being held at The Fairmont Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

The attached proposed changes, if adopted, shall become effective immediately unless otherwise indicated.

JMT/dsj
Attachments
pc: Chapter Presidents
Chapter Executive Managers

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ORDINARY PROPOSAL #1 - Re: Category I Referral Group I Change (Submitted by the NECA Executive Committee)

WHEREAS, the current Category I referral language was adopted to provide an efficient resource for employers to timely secure additional qualified workers when needed; and,

WHEREAS, the referral language contains priority “Groups” to help provide for a stable local workforce in a non-discriminatory manner; and,

WHEREAS, the current language allows an individual to be registered on the highest priority Group in more than one local union area at any one time; and,

WHEREAS, this multiple listing has created problems for employers, employees, and local unions in fully benefiting from the referral system and maintaining a stable work force; and,

WHEREAS, a modification to the Group I referral language would restrict Group I registration to a single local union area while allowing the individual worker the ability to designate the referral area of his choice; and,

WHEREAS, this modification would streamline and speed up the referral process.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that NECA, through its Board of Governors, shall reaffirm its support for and acceptance of the Group I Status Language being made Category I.

Actual Language to be added to the Group I definition:

“Group I status shall be limited to one local union at a time. An applicant who qualifies for Group I in a local union shall be so registered electronically and remain on Group I in that local union unless and until the applicant designates another local union as his or her Group I local union. If an applicant qualifies for Group I status in a local union other than his or her home local union and designates that local as his or her Group I local union, the business manager of the new Group I status local union shall, by electronic means, notify the business manager of the applicant’s former Group I status local union.”

Comment from NECA National Office:

While not a universal problem, the ability for a worker to sit on Book I in more than one location can create difficulties, especially in metropolitan areas where there are several local unions in close proximity. For example, depending on how the local runs its referral system, it can delay filling calls when there is a knot of individuals at the top of the list who are working out of town, but still must be contacted or at least considered before the call can be put out for local workers who are actually interested in taking local jobs. These delays can be particularly troublesome on quick turnaround and short call jobs. It prevents qualified and more available “local” workers who are stuck below this knot of “out-of-town” applicants from rising to the top of the book. Further it affects the contractors’ ability to maintain a stable workforce when his employees can be actively available for work in other jurisdictions, waiting for a “better job” and willing to leave as soon as one comes along. The IBEW informs us that its local unions also have problems with this arrangement in terms of administration and resentment within their membership, although it is the impact on our member contractors that led the Executive Committee acting as NECA’s Labor Relations Committee to approve this change.

This proposal is recommended **FOR** adoption.

ORDINARY PROPOSAL #2 - Re: New Standing Policy on Energy Independence (Submitted by the NECA Executive Committee)

WHEREAS, the health and continued growth of the U.S. economy depend on reliable sources and distribution of electricity; and,

WHEREAS, sources to create that electricity should not be limited to a few existing fuels that are finite and exhaustible; and,

WHEREAS, electrical contractors are key to the creation, delivery and utilization of electricity.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that NECA, through its Board of Governors, shall affirm its support for and acceptance of the following policy:

Policy 18
Energy Independence

The U.S. economy and national security depend on affordable, reliable electricity. The electrical industry advances economic growth and productivity, promotes business development and expansion, and provides solid employment opportunities to American workers — both directly and indirectly. Since electricity is the fuel that runs our homes and businesses, growth in the use of electricity has coincided with growth in the nation's Gross Domestic Product ever since the end of World War II.

Our nation's access to affordable, reliable electricity depends on the smooth performance of a complex system. That system includes the generation of power, transmission, distribution and the installation and maintenance of the systems within buildings. Each of these elements is interconnected. Then, too, electricity, in its origin and delivery, is connected to other sources of energy. Any breakdown in these connections could have disastrous impacts on both the economy and the security of our nation.

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) supports a multi-faceted approach to making the United States energy independent and commits its active participation in helping implement an energy policy premised on independence. Our association's efforts include working within the legislative and regulatory arenas and with other relevant entities to help improve electric reliability and infrastructure investment, maintain the diversity of all available fuel resources including nuclear energy, enhance energy efficiency, and increase use of renewable energy sources. NECA also encourages traditional producers of energy to embrace new methods that would create jobs, increase resource yield, and promote environmental and economic sustainability.

Electrical contractors who construct and maintain the infrastructure to generate, transmit, and distribute electrical power play a key role in the move towards domestic energy independence. The electrical contractors of the United States will be vital in ensuring the independence, security, and prosperity of America's economy.

Comment from NECA National Office:

This proposal is recommended **FOR** adoption.

ORDINARY PROPOSAL #3 - Re: Counterfeit Electrical Products (Submitted by the NECA Executive Committee)

WHEREAS, NECA, as evidenced by its standing policies, has long supported fair trade, free enterprise, ethical contracting practices, equitable contract procedure, honoring of specifications, electrical safety and product guarantees; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that counterfeiting and piracy cost the U.S. economy between \$200 billion and \$250 billion each year; and,

WHEREAS, electrical products are being counterfeited by unscrupulous manufacturers and are often disguised with misleading labeling and packaging bearing forged manufacturers' trademarks and testing laboratories' listing marks; and,

WHEREAS, counterfeit electrical products are making their way into the electrical construction supply channel and are being purchased, resold and installed — knowingly or unknowingly — by electrical contractors; and,

WHEREAS, counterfeit products are typically manufactured from inferior materials and are not tested and inspected for safety, resulting in substandard performance and increased risk of fire and electrocution, they pose potential hazards for the electrical workers that install and service them and for the end-users; and,

WHEREAS, counterfeit electrical products deceive and endanger consumers and harm the reputations and revenues of legitimate manufacturers, distributors, and contractors; and,

WHEREAS, the reputations and business fortunes of NECA-member contractors are unnecessarily exposed to irreparable damage because of the proliferation of counterfeit electrical products.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that NECA, through its Board of Governors, shall affirm its support for collaborative industry efforts to eliminate the presence of counterfeit electrical products in the supply chain.

Be it further RESOLVED that NECA shall take independent action to educate its members, their customers, the industry, and the public about the potential liability, economic cost and threat to public safety posed by counterfeit electrical products.

Comment from NECA National Office:

This proposal is recommended **FOR** adoption.