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Editorial Approval - The Board of Directors

Editor - Joseph J. Mikulas

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Office Manager/Recording Secretary

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The views reflected herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC. or its Board of Directors.

General Membership Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.  
Welcome all. For cancellations of any meetings, listen to WALK-97.5

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 2023  
TIME: 7:00 PM, SHARP  
PLACE: Courtyard Marriott  
5000 Express Drive  
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
(631-612-5000)

PROGRAM:

**Robert Szalay 631-512-3933**

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 6:** There will be a “pre-meeting” program at 6:00 pm sharp, *for members only*. Wally Boorum of Sunrise Benefit Solutions will present. However, you **MUST PRE-REGISTER** to attend. See details on page 6. **PLEASE SEE YOUR EMAIL OR SCECA WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION.**

EDITORIAL:

As SCECA continues to work in keeping our members current with the latest information members need, we have begun a “re-branding” process. (See our new logo below.) Those who attended our February General Meeting had a chance to see our new logo, and hear about planned changes. Board member Brian McAuliff has been the catalyst in this endeavor. You can also see from his February program, that the information he shared will help fill your “tool pouch” with knowledge, and the ability to offer clients the technology they want and expect.

MEMBERSHIP:

**Rob Tschoke 631-475-1111**

*New members are welcome to attend a SCECA General Meeting, so please consider bringing a friend to see what we’re about, and consider joining SCECA. There is a Membership Application on the last page of this issue of “The Light.”*

SCECA CEH CLASS:

Do you need to renew your Suffolk County Master Electrical License? If so, do not forget that you need to provide certification of eight (8) Continuing Education Hours. SCECA’s next class is being offered in April. Please go to our website or call the office for details, and to reserve your spot.



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## **TECHNICAL ARTICLE**

Robert A. Szalay, SCECA President

Why do these AFCI breakers keep tripping? Did you know that AFCI breakers have ground fault detection technology incorporated into their design? Well, they do. This is not intended as GFCI (class A) protection, but the technology is part of providing arc fault detection since ground faults typically result from arc fault conditions. From what I have researched, there is no standard ground fault detection current level; it varies from manufacturer to manufacturer. For instance, some AFCI breakers will trip with a ground fault current of 50ma or greater. Other AFCI breakers may have detection in the 200ma range. It is this ground fault detection feature that causes breakers to trip when circuits share a neutral. An example of this is a problem a customer had with newly installed AFCI breakers. Circuits were relocated from a load center with AFCI breakers to a transfer switch with new AFCI breakers. The old AFCI breakers never tripped, but the new ones tripped intermittently. It was discovered that the neutrals for these circuits also connected to a neutral from another circuit in a splice box. The old AFCI breakers were found to have a 200ma ground fault detection threshold, so they never tripped. The new AFCI breakers had a 30ma threshold. Once the neutrals were properly separated, the problem was solved. In my next article, I will share information on how to troubleshoot AFCI tripping issues. Stay tuned!

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**When:** March 16th 6-6:45PM (One hour before general meeting.).

**Where:** Courtyard by Marriott Long Island MacArthur Airport,  
5000 Express Drive South Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 (*Same as General Meeting 1st Floor*)

**RSVP:** [scecaelect@gmail.com](mailto:scecaelect@gmail.com) to reserve your spot

IT HAPPENED AT THE LAST MEETING:

If you missed this one, you missed a great meeting. *(Yes, your editor was not in attendance; Florida weather was not really a difficult choice!)*

SCECA Board member Brian McAuliff discussed new technologies in battery storage, lighting control and integration. He emphasized the need for contractors to guide clients to the right products and service and meeting their needs, thereby improving their own profitability.

Ron Linsalato of **Southampton Town** reviewed some recent changes as they apply to electrical work in the town.

In addition, UI Supplies AV & Electrical of Plainview demonstrated some state of the art materials/equipment.

1 - \$90 cash prize was won by Diane Mullahey.

3 - \$85 cash prizes were won by Rob Tschoke, Mike Towers and John McGinn.

\$100 attendance award was drawn for Keith Ray (#1227-A) who was present to win and donated the prize to the TPSF!

*(It pays to attend, & we are grateful for Keith's generosity!)*

**Winner must be present & dues current, to win!**



**David Jolly of Integrity Fire Solutions in Moriches and Diane Mullahey-Senior of Executive Insurance Brokerage & Financial Svs. In Bohemia were sworn in by Secretary Dave Kennedy, with VP Rob Tschoke**

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## **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR NEWS:**

Any member who has attended our SCECA General Meetings has heard the newsletter editor request items of interest for this newsletter. Board member Ralph Lambiase has submitted some pertinent articles from EC&M. Following is a summation of these articles.

### ***Number of Women in Construction Hits All-time High*** (by Annabel Rocha)

Consumers have become increasingly aware of the need to “include” a diverse work force. As a result, we have seen the increase of women in U.S. construction. According to the article, an August, 2022 survey indicated that 14% of women helped comprise our U.S. workforce. However, the author also stated that the percentage of women in the electrical workforce was lower than those in general construction.

By far the largest increase of women in the construction industry consisted of Hispanic women. The increase was stated to be up 117%, over a six-year period. Furthermore, their positions tended to be more toward the working side rather than desk jobs.

Ms. Rocha referenced the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo: A program is presently in place, which supports “inclusivity.” The secretary expressed the goal of creating opportunity for another million women over the next decade.

***(MORE ON PAGE 16)***



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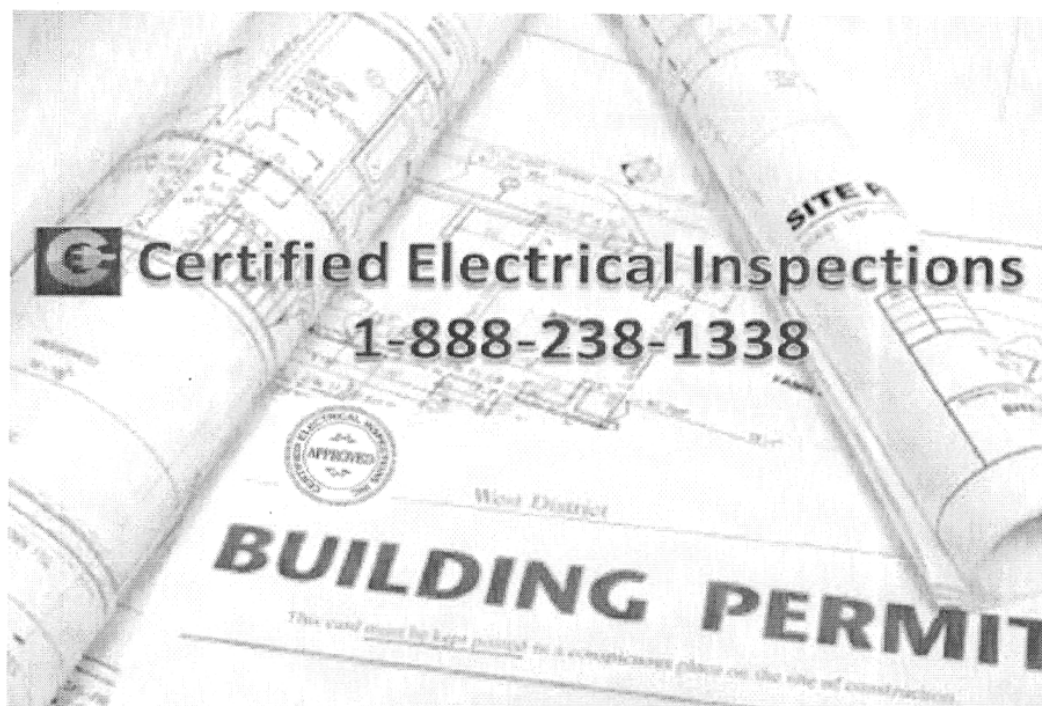


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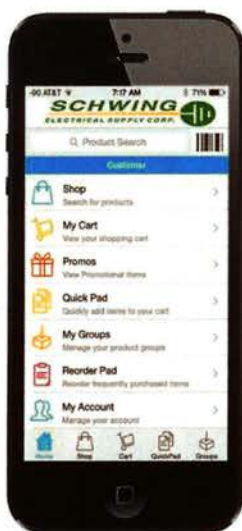
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NEW ELECTRICAL INSPECTION REQUEST: \* Indicates Required Information.

<b>Information</b> * Description of work (256 Characters Maximum) New Pizza Restaurant		<b>Inspection Information</b> * Is job ready for inspection? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> * Please Select One: Rough <input checked="" type="radio"/> * Is Authorization To Install Required? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
The following must be completed if Authorization To Install is selected.			
* Service Phase (check at least one): 1 Phase <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 200 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 300 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 400 Amp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		* Service Type (Select one): New Service <input type="radio"/> Re-connect <input type="radio"/> Check here if work was performed on the Service <input type="checkbox"/>	
* Service Size (check at least one): 100 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 200 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 300 Amp <input type="checkbox"/> 400 Amp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
* Service Type (Select one): New Service <input type="radio"/> Re-connect <input type="radio"/>			
* Check here if work was performed on the Service <input type="checkbox"/>			

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

March 12, **Daylight Savings Time.** (Clocks go ahead an hour.)

March 16, **Pre-Meeting Seminar,** (See p. 6), then **SCECA General Meeting**

March 17, **St. Patrick's Day** (You can attend SCECA the night before!)

FOR SALE:

**1/2" Milwaukee Rt. angle drill** [corded] with 3 ft. extension and 45 degree angle drive. Drill ceiling joists standing on the ground! Lightly used. Make offer.

Gebhardt Electric @ 631-433-0897 or gmgelectric@aol.com

\* \* \* \* \*

GOOD & WELFARE:

Joe Mikulas 631- 472-3408

Get well wishes to Ralph Lambiase's wife, who injured her ankle.

*Please be sure to send us information. We wish to share your joys and sorrows as well.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Happy Birthday to—**March!**

Tom Catalano, Robert Dipolito Jr., Andrew D'Onofrio, Jason Goetz, Peter Lombardo, Richard Napolitano, Steven T. Negri, Tom Thomas.

ASK THE AGENT:

As part of its year-end spending bill, which was signed into law on December 29, 2022, Congress enacted the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement bill, or "SECURE 2.0." This bill, among other things, is a collection of retirement plan legislation that is aimed at improving retirement preparedness through increasing access to retirement plans and the amount of retirement assets. "SECURE 2.0" has two major provisions that have business owners talking. The first provision is an automatic enrollment feature. Under this provision new employees would automatically be enrolled in their employers 401k at a 3% contribution rate which would increase each year by 1% but not to exceed 10%. If an employee does not want to enroll, they would have the option to opt out. It is expected that automatic enrollment will mean that a larger percentage of an employer's workforce will be enrolled in the 401k and therefore be eligible for the company matching contribution. The second provision is a matching formula tied to student loan payments made by the employee. This provision will also result in increased matching contributions by employers. Since these provisions we have discussed here are only two of those included in the bill we would recommend that anyone using a 401k as their company retirement plan should discuss with their advisor how "SECURE 2.0" will affect their retirement plan costs and their business.

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Here's another funky, disgusting, pitiful, disgraceful, electrical job we came across. Everything looks great from the outside, including the generator and the transfer switch. But as soon as we were searching for a lost UF wire, we found the Main mumbo cable, (a 200 amp load out to the generator), 5 inches under the ground, with no sleeve. (By code you don't need a sleeve, however, it goes a long way for protection!) The customer is almost always happy to pay the extra for a safer job. I was (figuratively) shocked, being while digging around the main service and transfer switch. It's tough to fathom foolishness, and irresponsibility of not burying these main feeds to the proper depth; minimal 18 inches, realistically, 24 inches or more.

This group home has disabled clients that need emergency, oxygen and such. The building was fully renovated, and I'm sure the general contractor subcontracted to have the generator installed. It couldn't have been done by a licensed electrician. Would any licensed electrical contractor intentionally create a violation like this?.

It was my responsibility to document and alert, the person in charge.

It just goes back to being a morally, reputable, trustworthy, licensed electrician. When we signed for our license to take the test or renew a license, we agree to do the right job for the residents of Suffolk County.

We know that it's easier to do it right the first time, to code, than to try and do something that's an illegal shortcut. It just gives us a good night's sleep, knowing we did the right thing.

Hope you enjoyed this article please, if you have any crazy violations that you come across, please forward them to us! Stay safe and take the time out to enjoy life and smell the roses. *Respectfully, Robert Tschoke, vice president, Electrical, Safety chair*

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## **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR NEWS:**

*(More from EC&M articles, submitted by SCECA Board member Ralph Lambiase)*

### ***Power Demand for EV Charging Could Rival Small Towns' Needs***

*(by Lori Lovely)*

The focus of the future of light duty vehicles is expected to be all electric by 2035. Ten years later, 2045, heavy duty vehicles are expected to be all electric as well. Obviously, these vehicles will need to be supported with ample charging stations.

National Grid studied traffic patterns and developed a projected use of chargers at seventy one sites in the New York and Massachusetts areas. They predicted that twenty fast chargers will be required, over the next ten years. Twenty years from now, some of these sites may need the equivalent power used in small towns.

The heavier an Electric Vehicle, the more time and peak power it will require for charging. The need for fast-charging systems vs. availability is becoming a problem. As such, grid infrastructure with anticipated need requires emphasis on a "...build it right..." concept. Funding will depend on a \$900 million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

It is essential for the electrical industry to plan ahead for upgrades, in addition to new EV charging sites, as the U.S. transitions to EV's.



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Phone: 631-361-7474 • Fax: 631-285-7474 • [www.sceca.com](http://www.sceca.com)

PLEASE PRINT

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suffolk License #: \_\_\_\_\_

List other counties/jurisdictions in which you hold a license:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Non-contractor Applicants (Associate Members):

Please check where applicable:

- ☐ Supply House   ☐ Wholesaler   ☐ Mfrs. Rep.   ☐ Inspector  
☐ Architect   ☐ Student   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ :

How did you find out about SCECA? \_\_\_\_\_

If referred by a SCECA member, list your sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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S.C.E.C.A.  
PO Box 696  
Smithtown, NY 11787

After your application is processed, an announcement of your  
membership ceremony will be mailed to you.

You will begin receiving our newsletter by email.

General membership meetings are held at 7:00 pm,  
on the third Thursday of the month,  
from September through June.

See The Light or visit our website, details.

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industry in the name of progress,  
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