

THE ELECTRIC TIMES

SERVING THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY IN ARIZONA

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2

www.TheElectricTimes.com

NOVEMBER 2012

Arizona electrician wins National Wire-Off

Alan M. Petrillo
Electric Times

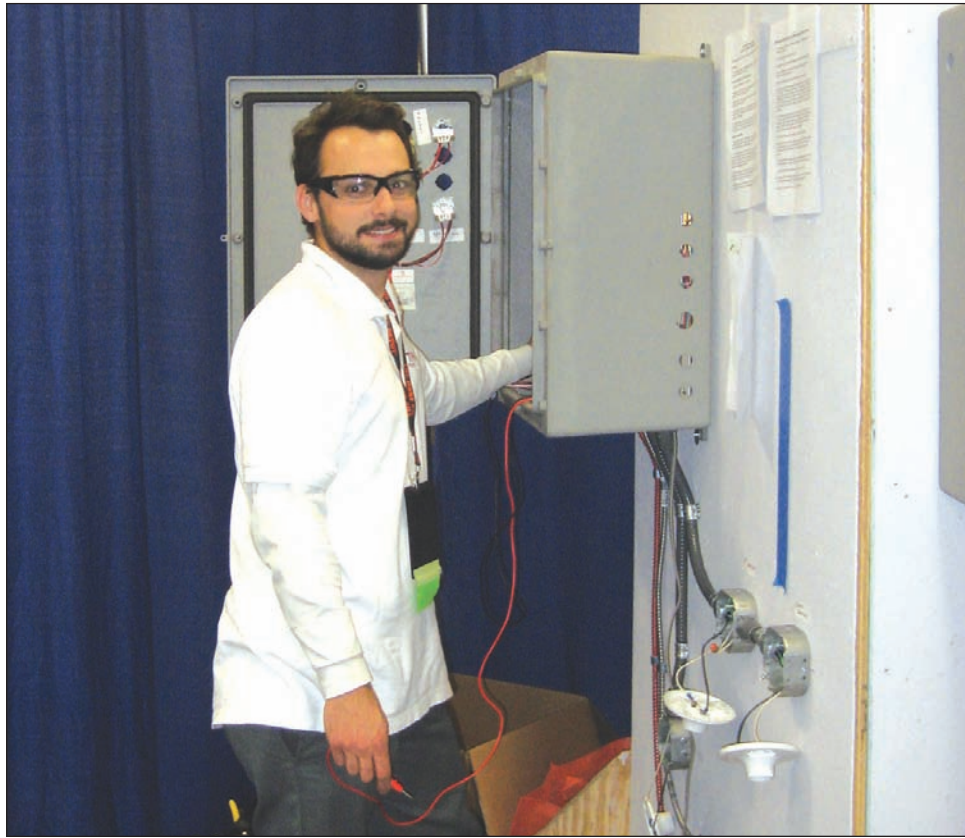
For the second time in four years, an Arizona electrician has won the annual national Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Wire-Off competition.

Stephen McCabe of Trinity Power and Electric in Fountain Hills defeated 25 other electrician competitors from around the country to take first place. In 2009, Erik Martin, an electrician at Golka Electric, took first place nationally that year.

Both electricians are graduates from the IEC-Arizona Chapter apprentice program.

The national Wire-Off, held this year in Fort Worth, Texas, also saw another award go to an Arizonan—Gary Golka of Golka Electric was presented the national contractor of the year award. Golka also will serve next year as the chair of the IEC national apprenticeship and training committee.

McCabe, who finished his apprenticeship and became a journeyman electrician last May, said that while the national Wire-Off had similar elements to a Wire-Off event earlier this year in Arizona, the national test was considerably more difficult.



National Wire-Off winner Stephen McCabe in Fort Worth, Texas during the competition. McCabe works for Trinity Power and Electric in Fountain Hills.

“There were four similar elements at the national level,” he said, “a written test, the Wire-Off, pipe bending and a logic diagram. But for example, on the code test, we only had one minute to answer each question, and for the logic diagram, it was a lot more difficult with many more components.”

McCabe said he found the wiring challenge to be more difficult to navigate too.

“There were a few more components involved than in the wiring challenge in Arizona,” he said. “The only wiring challenge practice I was able to do before the national test was in school and in the lab. I don’t do motor controls in my job, so the motor controls on the test threw me off a bit, but I figured them out, went through with my meter and made sure I was connecting the right things, took my time and labeled each wire.”

Besides the title as national Wire-Off champion for 2012, McCabe also received a check for \$3,000 and will be awarded two boxes of tools.

Nancy Levey, executive director of the IEC Arizona Chapter said that after the 25 competitors completed the wiring challenge,

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Lighting Unlimited moves North Scottsdale location

Alan M. Petrillo
Electric Times

Lighting Unlimited, a locally owned and operated business with four area locations that specializes in supplying commercial lighting products to local businesses, contractors, electricians and homeowners, is moving its Scottsdale location to a new site.

The new store will be at 15816 N. Greenway Hayden Loop, Suite 100 in Scottsdale, in a 8,000-square foot space that is nearly three times larger than its current Scottsdale shop at 7625 E. Redfield Rd.

Cory Schneider, co-owner of the business with his father Scott, said they expect to be doing business out of the new location by Dec. 1.

“Business has been good and we outgrew our current space in Scottsdale in all categories—offices, warehouse and showroom,” Corey Schneider said. “With the new Scottsdale store, we’ll be able to bring in more inventory, display more products and offer more outside sales support to customers.”

Lighting Unlimited also has locations at 525 E. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix, 3205 N. Arizona Avenue, Suite A7 in Chandler and 9800 N. 91st Ave., Suite 122 in Peoria.

Schneider said that both contractors and homeowners come to Lighting Unlimited for specialized products.

“We’re known as the specialty bulb kind of place,” he said, “as well as for parts like ballasts and sockets. Recently, we’ve

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Lighting Unlimited will be moving to its new Scottsdale location in December.

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ACCD hosts Arizona Construction Career Days

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Electric Times

More than 1,100 junior and senior high school students from 65 schools around Arizona attended last month's Arizona Construction Career Days, sponsored by the non-profit Association for Construction Career Development (ACCD).

The Career Days, hosted at the Army National Guard, Papago Site, 5636 E. McDowell Road in Phoenix on Oct. 4 and 5, are designed to encourage more young people to consider construction as a career path.

Rose Ann Canizales, ACCD's president, said the Career Days are an outgrowth of the organization's mission to promote the construction industry through education and development.

"Our goal with the Construction Career Days is to introduce the students attending to the world of construction and to get them to consider all the facets that an education in the construction field offers, whether it's an apprenticeship program, or a two- or four-year college curriculum," Canizales said.

Canizales noted that the construction industry faces a work force shortage.

"We need to attract a new generation of people in the construction industry to assure the legacy of those who came before," she said. "The career paths they might choose range from heavy highway construction to the various construction trades to emerging solar technology."

The Career Days kicked off with a two-hour VIP reception that brought together industry leaders, educators, military representatives and legislators, Canizales pointed out, in an effort to promote dialogue supporting the creation of educational curriculum and work-force development for Arizona students.

Legislators attending the Career Days VIP reception included State Senators John McComish and Jerry Lewis, Speaker of the House of Representatives Andy Tobin, and Representatives Heather Carter, Jerry Weiers and Katie Hobbs.

Keynote speakers included John Huppenthal, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Arizona Department of Education; William Scott Thomas, instructor in architectural design drafting at Shadow Ridge High School in Surprise; Rep. Carter; and Command Sergeant Major Max Butler of the Arizona Army National Guard.

At the VIP reception, Sundt Construction was presented with ACCD's Visionary Leadership Award. Sundt chief executive officer David Crawford accepted the award on behalf of the company.

During the Career Days, those attending were guided through a variety of aspects of construction and had the opportunity for hands-on learning at a number of exhibit booths. Students also got the opportunity to operate heavy construction machinery.

Thirty-seven companies and organizations participated in the Career Days as exhibitors, including contracting and subcontracting companies, utilities, union locals, and colleges and educational institutions.

Canizales noted that one of the goals of the Career Days is to give students a different perspective on the construction industry.

"We're trying to change the stereotype that many students have of work in the construction industry," she said. "We want to show them that construction has changed a great deal because of technology and environmental consciousness. Many are surprised when they see how different it is from what they had thought it might be."



Students participate at the Kearney Electric booth during the 2012 Arizona Construction Career Days event in October. Below, Arizona Superintendent of Public Education John Huppenthal speaks at the ACCD VIP reception.

