



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



Published for members of NECA, Western Ohio Chapter • IBEW Local 82 • Miami Valley Business Community

January, 2024

## 45th Annual URS Telethon

The United Rehabilitation Services (URS) held their 45th annual telethon at WDTN TV Channel 2 studios on Sunday, December 3, 2023. The presenting sponsor for the telethon again this year, for the 14th year, was the Western Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82.

This is the biggest fundraiser for the URS and Executive Director Dennis Grant was elated with the outcome. "We raised over \$150,000 as part of the Telethon this year which is a record! The support of NECA and IBEW Local 82 as our Presenting Sponsor has been a

blessing and gives us a lead to inspire others to give. We are truly blessed to have their team behind us! The Telethon provides a forum through which we are able to share incredible stories of the resilience and determination of those we serve we would not otherwise have. When I got home that

Sunday afternoon, a donor of ours had sent me an email



From left: Chief Executive Officer URS Dennis Grant, Business Manager IBEW Local 82 Greg Gust, and WDTN anchor Brooke Moore.

committing to a \$25,000 donation because they were so moved by what they had just

seen! We would never have the reach to people like this without the amazing support or NECA and the IBEW Local 82!" says Dennis. IBEW Local 82 Business Manager Greg Gust indicated that IBEW Local 82 has contributed over \$100,000 to the URS in the last few years. "I recommend that everyone take the opportunity to take a tour of the URS facility," says Greg. "It is humbling to see the work they do and it will win over your heart." For over 60 years, URS has been providing hope for families around the Miami Valley. The URS began in the 1950s as an informal support

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## Lighting up the Dayton Holiday Festival

Celebrating 51 years of being a Dayton family tradition, the Dayton Holiday Festival is the region's premiere holiday event. Started by local philanthropist Virginia W. Kettering, the Festival offers free family entertainment so that everyone, regardless of economic means, may enjoy the holidays.

The Dayton Holiday Festival has become a local



tradition, attracting multiple generations of families from around the Miami Valley each year.

The festival's signature event, the Grande Illumination, is Dayton's official kick-off to the holiday season. This popular event drew approximately 35,000-40,000 people to

downtown the day after Thanksgiving.

Immediately following the tree lighting the Dayton Children's Parade Spectacular in Lights takes place. Once again, IBEW/NECA was a major sponsor for the 2023 Dayton Festival and donated \$5,000 to help create a festive downtown event. According to Courtney Deutsch, Sponsor Relations and Events Marketing Manager with the Downtown Dayton

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## Holiday Festival cont'd



Chapel Electric employees Rick and Skylar Spurlock (father and daughter).

Partnership, “The expertise provided by NECA/IBEW volunteers is invaluable to the success of the Festival.”

IBEW Local 82 volunteers installed thousands of lights to showcase the downtown area for the Holiday season. A special thanks to Ben Dehart, Estimator/Project Manager for ESI Electrical Contractors for organizing the lighting installations.

Volunteers included: Seth Brown, Chris Evans, Nat McVay, Fred Wood and Mike Santus. Thank you!



## URS cont'd



group created by parents advocating for their children with cerebral palsy. The URS offers a wide variety of services for people with disabilities and their families including: adult daycare, adult latch key, augmentative communications, childcare, hearing aid service, physical therapy, occupational

therapy, speech pathology and vocational training. With more than 12 special events each year, volunteers are essential to their success! Everyday URS relies on individuals, companies and community groups to fulfill their mission. Visit [ursdayton.org](http://ursdayton.org).

## Self-Healing Grids

Power infrastructure damage is a reality in the face of severe weather and natural disasters. Improving resilience and faster responses to outages has become a national imperative. The rollout of smart grids—which will rely heavily on electrical workers and integrators—

actions could, in some cases, be made within minutes.

### Solving today's challenges

One common problem with the grid of yesterday—and today—is that damage in one area can lead to issues in another. If a grid is self-healing, rapid activation of circuit breakers, even automatically, could isolate the damage and prevent



is intended to help utilities anticipate or detect damage, isolate it and speed response.

The smart or “self-healing” grid—a system of reliable backbone power and intelligent local networks—is being tested and installed to offer control and communication for troubleshooting, or to provide preparation for unforeseen events.

A few features of the self-healing grid include a secure two-way flow of information, accommodation for alternative energy sources and the ability to isolate damaged power lines or other infrastructure to minimize the disturbance.

The electrical grid of the future may be made of a constellation of microgrids for regional management, powered by a stronger backbone of power, all of which is controlled by a network of computers. And when damage occurs, corrective

problems on other lines in the system.

### Keeping the lights on

Currently, there are about 450,000 miles of high-voltage lines between Canada and the United States. This needs to be increased by about 9% in the next 10–20 years to make the system more reliable and to integrate less carbon-emitting sources.

### Stronger backbone and more local microgrids

High- and low-voltage contractors will be needed for this development. New and more resilient power lines are one part of the effort, while low-voltage experts and integrators provide the sensor-based data management for self-healing. We need both to ensure a more distributed microgrids system.



January, 2024

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

website: [www.wocneca.com](http://www.wocneca.com)  
phone: 937-299-0384

# Smart buildings *rely on Electrical Contractors*

**E**lectrical contractors play a crucial role in the development and implementation of smart buildings. By actively participating in these areas, electrical contractors contribute to the creation of intelligent, efficient, and sustainable smart buildings that enhance occupant comfort, safety, and overall operational efficiency.

Selecting the right electrical contractor is a crucial decision for any project. This choice directly impacts the efficiency, safety, and future readiness of any building. The Western Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) members lead the industry with proven track records in innovation and reliability. Their team, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82, are trained in the latest trends and technologies in electrical systems. Their ability to adapt and bring creative solutions is essential in a rapidly evolving field.

Here are several ways in which they contribute to the

world of smart buildings:

**Design and Installation of Smart Systems:** Electrical contractors are responsible for designing and installing the electrical systems that form the backbone of smart buildings. This includes wiring for power,



lighting, and communication networks.

**Integration of Building Automation Systems (BAS):** Smart buildings rely on Building Automation Systems to control and monitor various building functions, such as HVAC, lighting, security, and more. Electrical contractors integrate these systems to ensure seamless communication and operation.

**Installation of IoT Devices:** Smart buildings incorporate a variety of Internet of Things

(IoT) devices, such as sensors, actuators, and smart appliances. Electrical contractors install and connect these devices to the building's network.

**Energy Management:** Electrical contractors contribute to the energy efficiency of smart buildings by

implementing advanced electrical systems that optimize energy consumption. This may involve the installation of smart meters, energy-

efficient lighting, and intelligent power distribution.

**Security Systems Integration:** Security is a key aspect of smart buildings. Electrical contractors install and integrate security systems, including access control, surveillance cameras, and alarms, to enhance the safety and protection of the building and its occupants.

**Networking Infrastructure:** Smart buildings require robust networking infrastructure to support the connectivity of various devices. Electrical contractors are responsible for

installing and maintaining the structured cabling and networking systems that enable communication between different smart components.

**Collaboration with Other Trades:**

Electrical contractors collaborate with other construction and technology professionals, such as architects, engineers, and IT specialists, to ensure that the electrical aspects of smart buildings are seamlessly integrated with other building systems.

**Maintenance and Upgrades:** Electrical contractors play a role in the ongoing maintenance and upgrades of smart building systems. This includes troubleshooting issues, applying software updates, and ensuring that the technology remains up-to-date.

**Training and Support:** IBEW Local 82 members are trained on how to use and troubleshoot the smart building systems effectively. Their five year apprenticeship program gives their members the knowledge and tools required to be on the forefront of future technology.

## New PLA Ruling in Effect

**F**ederal construction contractors will soon have to negotiate pre-hire collective bargaining agreements with unions in order to work on large-scale federal infrastructure projects valued at \$35 million or higher under new requirements announced by the General Service Administration. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are negotiated with a union to set the terms and conditions for all workers on specific federal projects and could impact over 200,000 workers.

**PLA's provide:**

**Stability and Consistency:** PLAs provide stability by establishing uniform work rules, wages, and benefits for all workers on a project. This consistency can be beneficial for union members and contractors.

**Workforce Development:** PLAs often include provisions for apprenticeship and training programs, ensuring that the workforce is skilled and trained to meet the project's requirements. This can contribute to the development of a highly skilled union labor force.

**No Strikes or Lockouts:** PLAs typically include a "no-strike" and "no-lockout" clause, promoting labor peace and preventing disruptions that could impact the project's timeline and cost.

**Health and Safety Standards:** PLAs may include provisions that emphasize adherence to health and safety standards, prioritizing the well-being of workers on the construction site.

**Local Hiring Preferences:** Some PLAs include provisions to prioritize the hiring of local workers, supporting the local economy and communities.



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**At the 2024 Consumer Electronics Show** in Las Vegas last week hundreds of new high tech items were introduced from folding TVs to personal helicopters! Hyundai Motor Group’s (HMG) Supernal unveiled the S-A2, an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed to bypass traffic by shuttling commuters on jaunts of 20 to 40 miles in urban areas. It uses a total of eight rotors, which pivot up and down to help the aircraft take off vertically, then forward when cruising for efficiency. It will cruise at up to 120 miles per hour, and reach an altitude of 1,500 feet. A glassy cockpit and body, inspired by the eyes of a bee, is intended to give both pilots and passengers an unobstructed view of the environment below. Inside, the S-A2 can accommodate up to four passengers in modular seats, which are designed to be reconfigured on the fly. The S-A2 requires the same amount of power on liftoff as a car accelerating from 0 to 60 in two seconds, but the S-A2 must sustain that output for 30 seconds but it emit only 65 decibels on takeoff – no louder than a modern dishwasher. Sorry, it’s not available until 2028!



**The Western Ohio Chapter -  
National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:**

**NECA Members**

- ASIDACO, LLC
- Barton Electric
- C & J Electric
- Chapel Electric Company
- Chapel-Romanoff Technologies
- ESI Electrical Contractors
- GEM, Inc.
- High Voltage Maintenance
- Kastle Electric Company
- Kastle Technologies
- Maxwell Lightning Protection
- RMF Nooter
- Sidney Electric Company
- Stuebaker Electric
- Utility Instrumentation Services
- York Electric, Inc.

**Associate Contractors**

- Capital Electric
- Compass Electrical Solutions
- Cougar Electric, Inc.
- Electricity, LLC
- Glenwood Electric
- Lake Erie Electric
- Mid City Electric

**Affiliate Members NECA**

- Kendall Electrical Supply
- Graybar Electric Co., Inc.
- Heapy Engineering
- Milwaukee Tool
- P & R Communications
- Remarcable, Inc.
- Riffle & Associates
- Tyndale FRC
- Uptime Solutions

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