

electricITY

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A publication of the Electric Association

Our Mission:

To provide members of the electrical industry of Chicagoland and their employees with formal educational opportunities, professional development, information exchange, and member services.

— and —

To serve as the interface between various organizations serving the same industry, and foster the interchange of ideas, product knowledge, and programs in order to create the best external environment possible for conducting business in the electrical industry.

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President's Report

George Callas

Callas Kingsley Electrical Sales

CEAEF Scholarship Program

As we continue to weather the changes of the past year, the distinct strength and support of our industry cannot be overlooked. As I near the end of my term as Electric Association President, I would like to thank my fellow Electric Association Officers and Board Members for their dedication. I would also like to thank the Electric Association members and especially sustaining members who contribute above their annual dues payments to advance the efforts of the association.

The success of the Electric Association is essential to its ability to manage the Chicagoland Electric Association Education Foundation. The CEAEF has several valuable programs. Educational classes are currently being held virtually, continuing to provide instruction until in-person classes can resume. **The 2021 CEAEF Scholarship Program is moving forward thanks to its generous donors and currently accepting applications through January 29, 2021. Visit eachicago.org for full eligibility details and application.**

Also managed through the CEAEF is the Annual Homeless Children's Christmas Party. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event committee has pivoted and proceeded to coordinate gifts thanks to the donations of over 60 industry donors. Chicago area families in need will receive gifts and gift cards to spread some much needed joy.

Throughout the 94-year history of our Electric Association, the electrical industry of Chicago has endured many challenges and has adapted and

persevered through each one. The current climate is no exception. I look forward to continuing our work together for the future of our industry and the Electric Association.

2020-2021 Scholarships Include:

Electric Association Scholarship (\$2500)

The Electric Association scholarship is awarded annually to a lineal descendant of an EA member, and is based on academic and personal achievements. Preference may be given to a student enrolling in a degree program that will lead to a career in the electrical industry.

The Kinander Family Scholarship (\$2500)

This Scholarship is funded by The Kinander Family, owners of Electri-Flex Company. The Company began in 1955 when Harold Kinander, Sr. designed and built two coiling machines that produced the first flexible metal tubing that would later become the Liqueatite® brand. And in 1955 Electri-Flex Company was incorporated. During the 60s, Harold's two sons, Harold W. "West" Kinander, Jr. and Bruce Kinander, joined the family business and guided the Company through its continued success throughout the 80s and 90s. H.W. "West" Kinander, Jr. emphasized the Company's business philosophy in 1990 that still continues today, "Quality, service, fair distributor margins and loyalty to one's business partners has been the theme since our Company began. It will continue to be the benchmark by which our Company will be judged. You have my word."

Today Electri-Flex Company is run by the third generation of Kinander's: Jason Kinander, CEO; Blue

Kinander Kelly, Vice President; and JR Kinander, Vice President. The Family is proud to offer the Kinander Family Scholarship awarded to academic excellence and community service.

The Steiner Kerman Education Foundation Scholarship (\$2500)

This Scholarship is funded by the Steiner Kerman Education Foundation, a Foundation established by Harold Kerman to assist limited income students achieve a higher education. Harold Kerman, CEO Steiner Electric Company (May 20, 1920 - January 23, 2012) established the Steiner Kerman Education Foundation in 2007 to help students fulfill their educational dreams. Harold believed that education can transform lives and lead to a more productive future. To be considered for this scholarship, the application must include a copy of the most recent head of household IRS Form 1040. This shall include the household's current annual family gross income.

The Joseph J. Archibald Jr. Memorial Scholarship (\$2500)

Joseph J. Archibald Jr. was a graduate from Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Illinois and served in the U.S. Army. Upon his return, he attended the University of Notre Dame. In January of 1950, he started his career with Jefferson Electric Company in Bellwood, Illinois. In 1968, he founded Archibald and Hamel, Inc. Today the lighting manufacturers' representative is known as Archibald & Meek. Joe's career spanned 60 years in the electrical industry. During that time, he served as a Director of the Electrical Association of Chicago, was inducted into the EA Hall of Fame and later received the Electrical Association's Gold Medal Award. He served on the Lake Michigan Club's Advisory Council and was a Board member of the Little Wheels Club of Chicago. Along with receiving the President's Award and the J.P. Simons Man of the Year Award as a member of the Electric Golf Club of Chicago, Joe served on the Board of Directors for the Roadway Lighting Forum where he received their Man of the Year Award as well. He was a lifelong trustee of Fenwick High School. As a 1949 graduate of Notre Dame, he served first on the Board of Directors and then as

President of the Notre Dame Club of Chicago where he was a recipient of the Notre Dame Chicago Club Man of the Year Award. Throughout his life, Joe loved watching sports, loved listening to music, appreciated art and was an avid photographer. At 47 years old, he completed his first marathon at the Drake University Relays. He taught and mentored many, both in and out of the electrical industry, and left a lasting and unparalleled impression on those who were fortunate enough to cross his path. In his memory, A&M is proud to recognize Joe Archibald Jr. by funding this scholarship in his honor. Joe would have wanted others to have the opportunity to develop through the continued education that he felt so fortunate to have had.

The L&E Anixter Foundation Scholarship Two (\$2500) scholarships are available.

This Scholarship is funded by The Anixter Family, previous owners of Advance Electrical Supply Co., Inc and Englewood Electrical Supply Co. The current directors of the foundation are Steven Anixter and JoAnn Anixter Silva. These scholarships will be awarded to a descendant of an employee of an Electrical Distributor. The Distributor must be a corporate member of the Electric Association.

Rosenstein Family Scholarship (\$2500)

The Rosenstein Family scholarship is awarded to a lineal descendant of an EA member, and is based on academic and personal achievements. Preference may be given to a female student to encourage and empower women in the electrical industry in the Chicago area. Preference may also be given to a student enrolling in a degree program that will lead to a career in a distributor company in the electrical industry. ●



Executive Director's Report

Ali Novinger

Enhancing Your Association Member Benefits

The Electric Association and its divisions have premiered several virtual events this year as our industry continues to evolve and adapt in the months to come. In addition to evaluating and improving our events, we are taking this opportunity to review and improve ALL of our Electric Association member benefits.

The Electric Association leadership will develop a new strategic plan in 2021. During this process, the leadership will review and prioritize all EA programs and projects to add value and enhance your member experience. Before our planning begins, we need to hear from you! I will be contacting all Corporate Members in the first quarter of 2021 for a brief member interview. Your input is vital to assist leadership in developing a Strategic Plan for your association.

EA Virtual Events: Building a Healthier Future

As you may know, the Annual Electric Association conference at Drury Lane in January has been postponed. Until the in-person events resume the EA Conference Committee has been planning some touch point events to bridge the gap. The first was held November 18 and 19.

Thank you to WESCO/ Englewood Electric for sponsoring this event!

Day One:

NEC Article 517 Healthcare Presentation Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Presenter Gerald O'Connor of IAEI included a General Overview of Article 517, Emergency Room requirements, and 2020 Significant changes to NEC 517.

Day Two:

Disinfectant Lighting Panel Discussion Thursday, November 19, 2020

Cari Helberg of Argonne Labs moderated this topical overview discussion of disinfectant lighting. The following panelists presented and contributed to the discussion:

- ✓ Joe Romano, Syska Hennessy Group
- ✓ Jim Colantoni, Puro Lighting
- ✓ Peggy Day-Dvorak, Puro Lighting
- ✓ Bahram Barzideh, UL LLC
- ✓ Juan Caamano Jr., UL LLC
- ✓ John Marcheschi, A&M

Please contact anovinger@eachicago.org if you want a copy of this event recording. Look for more multi-faceted Electric Association events in 2021! ●



2020 Electric Golf Club President
 Kris Fedoruk
 Chameleon Lighting

Electric Golf Club closes the 2020 Season

Electrical Golf Club held our final outing of the 2020 season at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago. Per tradition, the Past Presidents of EGC competed for the President's Cup. Congratulations to Al Rzeczkowski of NSI Industries on his President's Cup win!



Although we were only able to hold three out of our usual six outings in 2020, members and guests enjoyed more great memories in a long line of EGC events. We are looking forward to continuing our

strong history in the 2021 season. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be able to hold the February Dinner Dance. The Electric Association Auction is typically held at this event. They are planning a virtual auction and we hope you will donate and bid in this important event.

The EGC Officers will remain in our current roles for the 2021 season. On behalf of the Electric Golf Club, I would like to thank all the members, guests, and committee members for your support of EGC. See you next year! ●

Multi-City Trivia Challenge

The Electric Association's Young Electrical Professionals hosted a multi-city event in September. Electrical professionals of all ages joined virtually and in-person for this premiere trivia event. Chicago area attendees competed against electrical professionals in Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. Their knowledge was tested in the categories of the electric industry, the competing cities, and pop culture.

In-person attendees met at Pinstripes in Oak Brook while others joined from the convenience of their homes and offices. It was a hard fight, but Philadelphia won overall. Chicago's own Brian Rohde did win Third Place! Thank you to Continental Electrical Construction Company for sponsoring this event.



We are looking forward to a rematch as we welcome a few other cities for another virtual event. Save the date for next Multi-City Trivia Challenge Happy Hour at 4:30 pm CST on Thursday, January 28. Check your email to register! ●

EA Women's Division Holds Social Outing

The Electric Association Women's Division held a social outing at TopGolf Schaumburg on September 24. Women of the electrical industry (and a few brave men) came out for an outing to show off their skills, or lack thereof. More important than the golf game was the opportunity to see some industry colleague and enjoy our time together.



Are you and your company represented in the Women's Division? The objectives of the Women's Division are to bring together women in all branches of the electrical industry in and near Chicago for the advancement of the industry through a better understanding of the services rendered by electricity, to disseminate that knowledge through regular dinner meetings, to advance and promote fellowship through participation in a common cause, and to further the aims and purposes of the Electric Association.



Fun fact, the Electric Association Women's Division was founded in 1923! The Women's Division Executive Committee is hard at work planning future education events, tours, and unique social events. To join the EA Women's Division, check out http://eachicago.org/divisions/womens_division or contact anovinger@eachicago.org. ●



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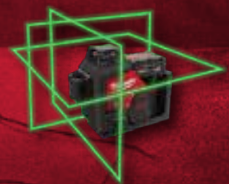
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2020 Communications Technologies Forum All-Industry Golf Outing

Communications Technologies Forum (CTF) had great weather for the golf outing at Cog Hill Golf Club in Lemont on September 17. The event welcomed 114 golfers to enjoy a day of fun, networking, and industry camaraderie. With safety measures in place, the group was happy to continue this CTF tradition in 2020... even though no one won the car. Better luck next year!



**Thank you to the 2020
CTF Golf Outing Sponsors!**

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- WG Technologies
- Wilson Electric
- Windy City Wire
- Wrangler Tech





ECA Electrical Contractors Association of City of Chicago

Richard Jamerson | ECA President,
Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc.

ECA Members' COVID Assistance

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) is a construction trade association that provides business and labor relations services to nearly 600 electrical contractors in Cook County, Illinois. The Association works with its industry partner, Local Union #134, IBEW to negotiate and administer labor agreements, coordinate apprentice and journeyman level training, as well as promotion of the industry on behalf of these employers. The ECA is also known as the Chicago and Cook County Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). Currently, 70 signatory firms are members of the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) / Chicago and Cook County Chapter, NECA.

The Association wishes to thank its many member firms that have assisted countless groups, charities, hospitals in regard to COVID-19 assistance be it distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pro-bono electrical work, monetary contributions, among so many other activities. Not being able to list all of our members' accomplishments, we wish to thank them all for their continued endeavors to better their communities and this industry.

Listed below are just a few examples of these charitable efforts.

- ➔ Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago received 1,000 N95 masks from Continental Electrical Construction Company, which also donated 1,000 plastic face shields to the West Suburban 3D Face Shield Printers group.
- ➔ When Elgin's Sherman Hospital was set to reopen in late April 2020, a portion of the face shields from Continental were immediately sent there. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a variety of other groups, Continental helped prepare the facility to be reopened to care for COVID-19 patients after it sat vacant for more than a decade. Joining Continental in donating PPE were Sharlen Electric Company, Gurtz Electric Company, Gibson Electric & Technology Solutions and Super Electric Construction Company, which had provided N95 masks and gloves to a number of hospitals in the metro area.
- ➔ Many ECA Members recognized how COVID19 created a food shortage and directed their efforts in that area. Gibson Electric & Technology Solutions coordinated a St. Patrick's Day luncheon for the hospital staff at Alexian Brothers Hospital earlier this spring and delivered 500 meals to healthcare workers at Edwards Hospital – Elmhurst. Super Electric Construction Company had also provided meals to those on the frontlines since the outbreak in Chicagoland began.
- ➔ Aldridge Electric, Inc. saw the need to support the food shortage as well, and donated 500 meals to Feeding America. Shamrock Electric employees held a food drive and put together Thanksgiving baskets to donate to the Elk Grove Village area food pantry.
- ➔ JMS Electric, Inc. lent its expertise, time and labor on a volunteer basis to help one suburban Chicago

organization expand its capacity to address local food insecurity during the COVID-19 uncertainty. JMS Electric, Inc. assisted the nonprofit Self-Help Closet & Pantry to bring their new facility up to code and prepare it for occupancy in the Fall of 2020. JMS Electric, Inc. worked to install new lighting and a fire alarm system.

➔ In late August, John Burns Construction Company participated in a Convoy of Hope event giving out food and supplies to over 1,200 Chicago families in Marquette Park. Also, toward the end of Summer 2020, Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc., assisted through Powering Chicago, aided the Gateway to Learning (a school for adults with intellectual challenges and developmental disabilities located near Lincoln Square in Chicago) by hard

wiring their building for proper connectivity as the WiFi infrastructure needed an upgrade and the students were in danger of the upcoming school year being compromised.

Again, we thank all of our ECA members for their generous efforts throughout the year!

It is through the participation of our member volunteers that has kept the Association on the forefront of the industry. We hope that all signatory contractors within the Cook County area will make the commitment to the industry and join our Association. Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 or visit us on Facebook or on our website at: www.eeachicago.com for membership information, as well as information regarding Chapter and NECA programming. ●

Customize A Course for Your Company

Course Schedule & Online Registration at www.eeachicago.org

Looking for education not currently offered by the EA's Education Foundation, OR, want to hold one of the Foundation Courses at your office for a group of staff members? Customize a course for your company. Contact the Education Foundation and provide a description of the course you are looking for. This course can be held for 6 - 20 students, and shall be amended to fit your company's schedule. Daytime, evenings, and weekend seminars can be developed. In addition to the regularly scheduled electrical courses offered by your CEAEF, here are a few examples of topics that are available:

Why take our Classes?

Inside / Outside Sales training
Customer Service / Communication Skills
Computer Software Training (ie: Microsoft Office)
English as a Second Language
Team Development
Executive Leadership Development
Supervisory / Management Skills
Finance
Coaching, Mentoring

Change Management
Time Management
Strategic Planning
Behavioral Interviewing
Human Resource Topics
Negotiating
Planning / Project Management
Conflict Resolution

Visit eachicago.org/education
for details and registration.



Contact us today for more information! | Chicagoland Electric Association Education Foundation
p: 630-305-3050 | e: anovinger@eachicago.org | Visit us online: www.eeachicago.org/education





NECA National Electrical Contractors Association **Tony Mulizio | Chapter President**

Teach-Able

It's here. Perhaps it didn't unfold the way anybody would have predicted, and certainly not in the way we would have wanted it to happen. But, virtual education has now become an established part of our businesses.

Of course, the contractors that are members of the National Electrical Contractor Association (NECA) have been swept along out of necessity. At this time last year, NECA would have had around 2,000 of our members from across the country attend at least one of the classes from NECA's extensive list of management training opportunities. This year, that number has exploded to over 26,000 participants taking courses on-line through the NECA Education Center. Within that total, approximately 13,000 have participated in on demand seminars developed by NECA, over 800 attended live NECA webinars, and over 8,500 have taken advantage of business education through a partnership with a respected third party on-line educational service provider.

The advantage of turning to these resources goes well beyond the obvious response to the pandemic. A timely example of this would be the need for employers in Illinois to provide sexual harassment prevention training by the end of this year. NECA has tailored an on-line course to meet the requirements of the Illinois Workplace Transparency Act by using a platform where training can be delivered on a flexible schedule and proof of training for each individual is retrievable through the site. NECA has offered this course to members free of charge for a limited period, but it is a remarkable value when it is regularly priced at \$13.

Distance learning has also played a more prominent role in our industry's apprenticeship programs this year. Many of our programs found it necessary to finish up the apprenticeship school year with the distance learning technologies that had already been adopted previously in order to enhance classroom teaching. Many have continued with a hybrid approach using both in-class and remote coursework in order to follow the current safety guidelines for group training.

Perhaps the most tangible example of our industry's shift to virtual training was on full display on October 6-8, 2020 with the NECA Convention which was converted to a totally virtual event. NECA 2020 Live encompassed management training, technical training, a virtual trade-show, networking in groups as well as between individuals, live streaming keynote speakers and of course entertainment. As a member of NECA's Management Development Committee I know first-hand that the courses were carefully selected to be immediately useful and directly applicable for our electrical contracting audience. The good news is this training can be re-visited for thirty days after the event. Did I mention that the NECA 2020 Live virtual convention attracted over 5,000 participants?

So, if you're looking for confirmation that a new way of training has taken hold, just turn to these current examples with over 30,000 individual registrants to date for proof. To find out more about the wide array of training that is available for electrical contractors, please contact the NECA Chapter office. ●



CTF Virtual Panel Events

When the Communication Technologies Forum had a panel event postponed back in April, CTF leadership took this as an opportunity to springboard into an event series with attendance that surpassed the capabilities of the original event in both numbers and geographic reach.

The first CTF Virtual Panel Event was held July 16, highlighting Technology's Impact on Current Commercial Real Estate Projects. This event brought together industry experts to talk about the new trends in Technology and how they affect all aspects of a commercial real estate project. Panelists identified key points to consider and how they have dealt with them.

After the successful July event, leaders got back to work to produce the fall event.

Technology in Education: Bridging the Digital Divide Thursday, October 29, 2020



Jeff Drenovsky, Operations Director at Environmental Systems Design, Inc. reprised his role as moderator to lead these expert panelists in an impactful discussion. School Districts are faced with a challenge: How to bridge the digital divide gap as E-Learning and Distributed Learning models become more prevalent. This is a problem that Districts have identified for several years; but has been escalated to a high priority during current Covid-19 social distancing restrictions. There are many aspects of the digital divide: Students having the right personal equipment, having access to the internet, inadequate class-room technology, and more. This program focused on the solutions available to Education Administrations.

Thank you to our CTF Fall Panel sponsors!

Thank you to our event sponsors!



To access a recording of this event, contact anovinger@eachicago.org.

The Communication Technologies Forum was created to bring together all disciplines within the voice and data communications fields in a venue where they can network, be informed and have quality education. For more information, visit <http://eachicago.org/divisions/ctf> ●

CEE Consulting Electrical Engineers

CEE began the 2020/2021 season virtually in September and monthly events look different but are no less valuable. Each month has held attendance numbers on par with last year's in-person history. CEE members engage in the virtual events to gain product knowledge, earn PDH certificates, and stay engaged by answering questions to win prizes. Thank you to the CEE fall presenters:

Prysmian
Group



There are still opportunities to confirm a CEE meeting presentation and sponsorship. This opportunity is only open to current Electric Association members. Please contact anovinger@eachicago.org for more details.



CEE December Technical Forum

McCormick Place ACF: Rapid Facility Construction in a Pandemic

Monday, December 14, 2020

The CEE is proud to present this Technical Forum where

AECOM

presenters from AECOM share unique project insight.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented global surge in need for medical care and facilities, requiring the establishment of alternate care facilities (ACF) to provide patient care. Alternate care facilities (also called alternate care sites) are facilities that are temporarily converted to provide healthcare services during a public health crisis and supplement established healthcare facilities, such as hospitals. These facilities are characterized by their rapid deployment and establishment in non-traditional spaces such as convention centers, decommissioned clinics, college dorms, or hotels. In March 2020, the City of Chicago deployed one of the nation's most advanced ACFs at the McCormick Place Convention Center. This presentation focuses on AECOM's role in coordinating wrap-around services, the technical considerations of the site, and the design elements to ensure public health and safety. Best practices will also be presented for purposes of replicability and scalability.

Thank you to Bane Gaiser, Sue Hagley, Dana Al-Qadi, and Brian Foss of AECOM for presenting this Technical Forum. ●



Up and Running, and Up to Today's Challenges

As businesses adjust to today's new normal, our number one priority is safety – the safety of our employees and customers, and the safety of yours.

While things look a little different right now, businesses are adjusting to the new working environment of social distancing and touchless tools. To maintain regular business functions, additional safety precautions must be implemented to ensure customer and employee safety.

WESCO offers solutions that can help keep your business up and running. We add a layer of safety and security so that you can do more remotely, practice social distancing with touchless tools, maintain a clean facility, and get power to non-traditional workspaces. When social distancing isn't possible, we provide the PPE your people need to stay protected.

With products like gloves and face masks, thermal detection technologies, UV disinfectant lighting, and wireless sensors, we have the technical expertise and supplier partnerships to enable organizations to get back to business.

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Rob Burnett
District Manager,
Chicago Lighting & Construction

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Industry News

Fourgen Holdings Acquires Electrical Testing And High Voltage Maintenance Service Firm

FourGen Holdings, Inc. (FourGen) announced that it has acquired Electrical Energy Experts, LLC (EEE), an electrical testing and high voltage maintenance service firm located in Germantown, Wisconsin. The acquisition was finalized on October 16, 2020.

The purchase of the electrical testing company fits into FourGen's strategy of diversification within the electrical industry. The combination of resources will help both companies better serve the needs of their customers in Wisconsin and Illinois.

"We are thrilled to be able to add an electrical testing company with EEE's stellar reputation," said David Witz, Owner of FourGen. "Together, we remain committed to excellence for our customers."

Tim Casey will remain as President of EEE. The Chicago branch of EEE will open immediately in Oak Brook, Illinois, with Michael Hanek as the Director of Engineering and Chicago Branch Manager.

"We are very pleased to join the FourGen Family and are eager to be part of FourGen's ambitions, innovation, and long legacy of quality in the electrical industry," said Tim Casey, President of EEE. "We are looking forward to promoting EEE and generating new synergies." ●

Electri-Flex Teams with Community for 1,000 Thanksgiving Meal Donations

Electri-Flex Company, partnered with SCARCE and Meals on Wheels of DuPage County to donate and distribute 1,000 Thanksgiving Day meals to local community residents in need this holiday season. The food drive is sponsored by Electri-Flex Company, the Roselle Police Association Foundation, the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, Lisle Township, and SCARCE.

The quantity of food donated by local businesses, Electri-Flex employees, and community members has been outstanding. A freezer truck was required to house 1,000 frozen turkeys. Other donations include cans of corn, cranberries, boxes of stuffing, broiler pans, green beans, chili, peas, black beans, kidney beans, tomatoes, rice, gravy, potatoes, macaroni, soup, yams, and more. SCARCE and the DuPage County Sheriff's SWAP teams sorted, boxed, and distributed these 1,000, ready-to-cook Thanksgiving Day meals to the community in the days and weeks leading up to this Holiday.

Illinois has entered a second wave of alarmingly high COVID-19 cases this November with new stay-at-home advisories issued through this Thanksgiving holiday. The Kinander Family wanted to continue to help the community and give back to those most in need. "In these unprecedented times of financial hardship and uncertainty during this pandemic, Electri-Flex Company and the Kinander Family are happy to do their part to assist," said Jason Kinander, CEO. "Doing nothing is never an option." ●

Bensdorf and Abramson Names New Partner



Please congratulate David Bensdorf as he has been named a partner in Bensdorf and Abramson as of Jan 3rd, 2021. David has been a dedicated and hardworking member of our team for close to 7 years.

He is a 2013 University of Missouri Graduate and has been with B&A ever since. David is proud to represent the 3rd generation of our family in the electrical industry following in the footsteps of his Grandfather Walt.

His participation in EA Young Electrical Professionals, Little Wheels, and Electric Golf Club have shown his dedication not only as an employee but member of the Chicago Electrical Community. David will be a great contributor to the electrical industry for many years to come. ●

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