



*Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland)*  
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12<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

**Dear Members,**

The President, Officers and Executive Council of AECI wish to thank most sincerely all those who attended the AGM in Portlaoise, on Saturday last the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. We had a very open and frank discussion on all aspects of the Industry, particularly the situation with the REA and the pressures that the economic climate is putting on Electrical Contractors. A special word of thanks to the Members who have agreed to voluntarily give their time to serve on the Executive Council for the coming year, it is difficult to walk away from your business and travel to attend meetings on behalf of Electrical Contractor, in these tough times.

Several delegates expressed varying views on the best course of action at the wage talks and how we can deal with the erosion of profit margins in the Industry. The new Government Form of Contract and the qualifying criteria being set down came in for criticism, particularly the turnover requirements of up to ten times the value of contracts in some cases.

We would value suggestions on the services and training that would best suit Members for the year ahead and be assured that the AECI will do all in its power to provide the best service possible, within the financial constraints of the Association at this time.

**Officers:**

President:	Jack Hegarty
Honorary Secretary:	Michael Mangan
Honorary Treasurer:	Mattie Ryan
Executive Secretary:	Chris Lundy

**Trustees:** Gerry Goggin, William Ahern, Shaun McDermott

**Executive Council:**

Jack Hegarty	021 4965155	
Michael Mangan	091 755620	087 257 4187
Mattie Ryan	061 418943	087 252 8313
Gerry Goggin	051 375379	087 256 1636
William Ahern	021 4542875	087 240 1124
Shaun McDermott	01 2985450	087 256 2888
Shelagh Ennis-Lamb		086 259 2022
Brian Flanagan		087 663 7777
Dermot McClannon	053 9159974	086 251 9542
Brian Hickey	01 2953969	086 820 5252
Damien McGrath	093 43891	087 246 5144

## **Email Issues**

We would like to draw Members attention to an email circulated over the weekend which gave the impression that a member of the AECI Executive Council was excluded from Executive Council Meetings and from receiving minutes of Council Meetings over the term of the last Executive Council, this information is incorrect. The member in question, by virtue of his involvement in another organisation, had discussions with the AECI President and both agreed, that to avoid allegations of a conflict of interest, it would be advisable to stay outside of the AECI Executive Council.

This member attended the AECI AGM on Saturday last, at which the matter was discussed openly and left open to the floor, the email in question was read out in total to the meeting. He was very involved in all discussions at the meeting and made several valuable contributions. He did say that he was not consulted on the content of the email.

## **Labour Court refused Electrician's wage increase (€1.05 per hour)**

It has been reported to the AECI Office that some electricians employed by members have been instructed that the wage increase of €1.05 per hour to the basic rate of pay for Electricians, has been sanctioned by the Labour Court. This is **NOT** the case and employers should **NOT** pay this increase.

The Labour Court rejected the motion to vary the wage rates and instructed the parties (AECI, ECA, TEEU) to go back to the NJIC and set rates of pay for electricians, bearing in mind the current economic climate.

The following is an exert of the Labour Court ruling on this matter.

***"1.1 The Court has considered the application to vary the Employment Agreement for the Electrical Contracting Industry so as to give effect to adjustments agreed in the hourly rates prescribed by the Agreement. The application is supported by the TEEU and it is opposed by the Electrical Contractors Association and the Association of Electrical Contractors Ireland, all of which bodies are parties to the said Agreement.***

### **1.2 Conclusion**

***In the circumstances in which the application to vary the agreement does not have support from the employer bodies which are party to the Agreement the Court does not consider it appropriate to make an order varying the Agreement. Accordingly the application is refused."***

This should clarify the position and we appeal to members not to vary the rates of pay until informed otherwise by the AECI Office.

## **AECI, ECA, TEEU Meeting**

The planed meeting for last Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 between the AECI, ECA and TEEU was cancelled because one of the other Bodies couldn't attend. This meeting is being rescheduled for a date in the next week or so.

## **Trade Show 2009**

Just to confirm that the new date and venue for the AECI Electrical Trade Show 2009 will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Silver Springs Moran Hotel in Cork. Lecturers/speakers and topics for the day are being arranged.

## Subscription 2009

Again we thank all of you who have submitted the 2009 Subscription and it would be much appreciated of those who have not paid to do so as soon as possible.

## February 2009 Raffle

The result of the raffle for paying the 2009 Subscription by the end of February is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place – **Kevin Flynn** - Charleston Electrical Services, Dublin 16 (Gift Card for 1 Night Bed & Breakfast and Dinner for 2 people at Whites of Wexford)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – **Donal Murray** - Donal Murray Ltd., Co. Cork (Gift Voucher for 1 Night Bed & Breakfast for 2 people at Menlo Park Hotel in Galway)

3<sup>rd</sup> place – **Pat Scanlon** - Pat Scanlon & Co. Ltd., Co. Limerick (Gift Voucher for a Dinner for 2 people at Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford)

Well done and enjoy the stay.

Best Regards

*Chris Lundy*

Chris Lundy

Executive Secretary