Minutes of the 15 February 2024

Membership Meeting

of the IAEI Western PA

Chapter Gaetano’s

1617 Banksville Road

Pittsburgh PA 15216

Joe Fello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 53 members present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and a moment of silence to honor and remember those serving in our military and all first responders.

Fello reviewed the minutes that were available to members on our web site. No changes or corrections were offered by the members.

Jesse Duvuvei reported 190 active members in our chapter and presented the new words now used in the national logo, ‘Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry’. IAEI national feels the new name/logo will help bring in new members.

Dave Platt relayed to members the need for additional board members to reduce the workload on the existing members. All volunteers will be considered.

Joe Fello introduced tonight’s speaker, Gary Greenawalt from Delta Electrical Solutions, LLC a manufacturers representative. Tonight’s topic is Champion Fiberglass Conduit, a product introduce for use in 1998. Gary started the presentation by stating that Fiberglass conduit is stronger and more abrasive resistant than PVC Conduit and far more corrosion resistant than steel conduit. Fiberglass Conduit meets all NFPA, UL, CSA and NFPA standards for conduit. Time was spent showing video frames illustration the superior erosion resistance of Fiberglass Conduit 90 L’s compared to PVC when cable is pulled over long distances. A similar presentation illustrated the reduced weight and ease of handling Fiberglass conduit vs Rigid Steel Conduit. To illustrate this point, Gary pointed out that 100 feet of 4 inch rigid steel conduit weighs 982 pounds and 100 feet of 4 inch fiberglass conduit weighs 78 pounds. This is a significant labor saving feature. Time was spent viewing video frames illustrating Fiberglass Conduit in 2 inch diameter, up to 12 inch diameter in lengths up to 25 feet. Fittings available were presented and passed around to attendees. Fiberglass conduit is normally manufactured in black, on special order it can be manufactured in any common color. An important consideration, in a corrosive environment Fiberglas Conduit can not be supported by steel hardware. Fiberglass Struts and brackets are available. Typical applications for Fiberglass Conduit are Tunnels, Bridges, Waste Water and Potable Water Plants, the mining industry, Power Plants, Underground Utilities, Chemical Plants, and Data Systems.

Break 8:15 to 8:30 pm.

Dave Platt began the program with comments on the future change in format to the NEC for 2023 and beyond. The code committees are making a huge effort to cover the new technology coming into our industry. A big item, tonight’s topic, Solar Panels. A product RTRC (Reinforced Thermos-set Resin Conduit, Article 355.10 Installation, was presented in reference to Solar Panel Farms, Ground mounted Solar Panels, Roof Top Solar Panels and Solar Shingles. A video was presented highlighting various installation errors followed by a narrative and discussion. An important comment from these discussions, RK5 fuses are not to be used in a solar panel installation. A second video was presented illustrating common errors where solar panels are essentially at grade and supported by a wood frame. The key word, wood frame, and the clarification of the word structure vs an equipment support in the NFPA 70 Article 100, not all frames are structures.

The presentation ended at 9:30 pm and the meeting was adjourned.