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## *The Winds of Change for a Sunny Future*

On Friday, February 13, 2009, the United States Congress passed a historic \$787 billion economic stimulus bill designed to pull the economy out of its worst economic recession since World War II. President Obama has often championed the effort to rebuild our country's infrastructure and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels. The move away from fossil fuels is often viewed as both a national security issue and a necessary step to eliminate carbon emissions, a target of global warming advocates. The alternative to fossil fuels, which includes oil and coal, is the move toward wind and solar energy. These are generally referred to as "renewable energies."

Recently, I attended conferences for the NECA District IV Advisory Council and Electricity International. Both of these conferences included presentations on the importance of electrical contractors embracing the latest technological advances in both wind and solar energy. I was particularly impressed with the progress achieved in the southern California school system, which has achieved "net-zero" emissions in many of its buildings. To put it simply, net-zero means that a building is putting as much energy back into the electrical grid system as it is taking out. This requires both a highly energy-efficient building design and the ability for the building to

produce its own energy through solar and wind generation.

I was particularly impressed with the recent advances in wind-powered generators and photovoltaic arrays. The latest advances in wind generators have been dramatic. The new technology has

created a far more efficient wind generator that looks more like a jet engine than a large propeller. Unlike current prop-based wind generators, these new units can be utilized on building rooftops and be virtually invisible from the street below. Similar advances have been made in solar arrays with the development of high-intensity mirrors that maximize voltage gain per square inch.

There is little doubt that electrical contractors will be called upon to take the lead in advancing the move to energy efficiency and self-sustaining net-zero buildings. I will discuss how Kelso-Burnett is embracing the "green building" effort and renewable energies in future articles.

—Brad Weir, *President*



## *Around Chicago*

*This regular feature showcases unique entertainment and exciting things to do in the Chicago area.*

### **St. Patrick's Festival**

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, the Irish American Heritage Center will hold its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This fun, family-oriented annual event includes entertainment, such as Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities take place from 1 p.m. to midnight, with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups, as well as other performers from Ireland.



### **Harry Potter: The Exhibition**

On April 30, 2009, the Museum of Science and Industry will open its newest exhibit, which celebrates the artistry and craftsmanship that went into creating the props and costumes in the Harry Potter films. Authentic artifacts will be displayed in elaborate settings inspired by locations from the movies. Attendees will also get a first glimpse at items from the next Harry Potter film, scheduled to open in theaters on July 17, 2009.



### **Great Chicago Places & Spaces**

On May 16, 2009, the Chicago Architecture Foundation will host the Great Chicago Places & Spaces (GCPS) festival. Established in 1999, the 10th annual GCPS festival honors the immense breadth and depth of architecture, design and planning that the Windy City has to offer. As one of the first festivals of the year, it is a great way to get out and enjoy the views of beautiful Chicago.



## *K-B Sparks*—Congratulations to all Kelso-Burnett team members!



### **Byron Flores**

Congratulations to Byron Flores, who was recently hired by Kelso to take on the role of Estimator out of the Rolling Meadows office.



### **Kevin Jones**

Congratulations to Kevin Jones, out of Kelso's Rolling Meadows office, for recently getting hired by ETTI to take on the role of Project Engineer.



### **Sarah Kuehn**

Congratulations to Sarah Kuehn, out of the Rolling Meadows office, for her recent promotion from Operations Coordinator of ETTI to her new role as Sales Engineer of ETTI.



### **Dan Maimonis**

Congratulations to Dan Maimonis, out of the Rolling Meadows office, for his recent promotion from Division Manager to his new position as the Director of Central Estimating for Kelso-Burnett.



### **Rose Mayor**

Congratulations to Rose Mayor, out of Kelso's Rolling Meadows office, for recently being hired as the new Operations Coordinator for ETTI.

## *K-B Toy Drive*

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to Kelso-Burnett's 6th Annual K-B Christmas Toy Drive. Since the inception of this program six years ago, we have had a steady increase in donations, and the same was true of this year's drive. Even in these very difficult economic times, people still found the means to reach out to those who are less fortunate. Needless to say, thanks to the K-B Toy Drive, it was a very memorable Christmas for many children and their families.



This year, the K-B Toy Drive collected more than \$1,000 in monetary donations, as well as more than 800 toys, books and games. Kelso's very own Carl Ehr, along with his brother Paul, provided a van full of toys through the Treasure Chest

Foundation to add to the already amazing collection of donations. More than 300 additional toys, sweaters, scarves and purses were bought with the money that was raised, as were food supplies to provide a holiday meal for 16 needy families. Many of the toys were given to Taproots, an organization that helps inner-city families in need. The rest of the toys and food were delivered to needy families in our community. These families had anywhere

from one to 10 children, who ranged from one month to 16 years old. Our donations were especially appreciated, as Toys for Tots had a large shortage of donations this year and could not help as many families as they had in the past. The K-B Toy Drive was able to support some of the families who otherwise would not have received anything.



As with past K-B Toy Drives, there were many smiles of joy from the children and parents alike. Thank you to all who donated and gave their time this year—you really helped make a difference this holiday season. We look forward to seeing more smiles again next year.

*"This was probably the busiest Christmas season ever, and also a time when the need was the greatest. On behalf of all of the families, the Taproots staff wants to express our appreciation and sincere gratitude for your steadfast generosity."*

—Sister Ruby, Taproots



### **Greg Morley**

Greg Morley, who has worked for Kelso-Burnett out of the Rolling Meadows office for many years, has recently moved his office to the Lake County branch to focus on the large amount of utility work currently underway.



### **Alfonso Patlán**

Alfonso Patlán, who was recently hired to work out of Kelso-Burnett's Lake County branch in Gurnee, will be taking on responsibilities of Contract Manager.



### **Sohag Patel**

Sohag Patel, a recent graduate of Purdue University, will be taking on the role of Assistant Division Manager for Kelso's Rolling Meadows branch.



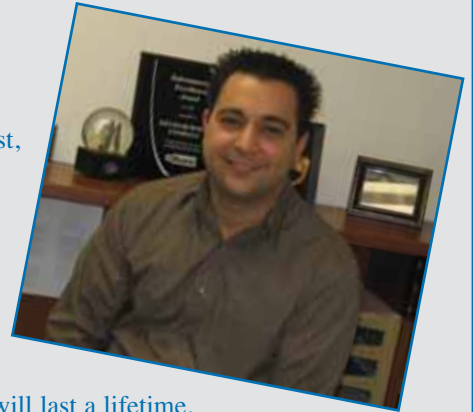
### **Phil Wise**

Phil Wise, previously an Estimator out of the Rolling Meadows office, recently moved out of the Estimating Department to become a Division Manager for the Rolling Meadows branch.

## ***Featured Employee—Tony Arnone***

Each member of the Kelso-Burnett staff is a dedicated and hardworking individual. But what else do you know about us? Below are seven questions we asked Tony.

Tony Arnone's typical day can pretty much be summed up in three categories: the past, the present, and the future. The order in which each task is confronted truly depends on the day and the customers' needs. But his typical day consists of managing past jobs, estimating present work and budgeting future projects, with one common goal in mind—providing his customers with the best electrical construction service, above and beyond any competitors, while at the same time building friendships that will last a lifetime.



### ***How did you come to work at Kelso-Burnett?***

In 2004, I graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering with my Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering. Kelso-Burnett hired me on the Monday after my graduation. I've never looked back since.

### ***What do you like most about your job?***

The risk—the challenge—the reward!

### ***What is your personal motto?***

Go BIG or go HOME!

### ***What three words would others use to describe you?***

Enthusiastic, determined, responsible.

### ***What is your favorite association that you've been involved with at Kelso-Burnett?***

NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association)—It truly is a group of people who have a passion for this industry and the future of it!

### ***What would you say is your greatest accomplishment up to this point in your career with Kelso-Burnett?***

Establishing a network of people: Customers, field personnel, coworkers, and vendors who, together, make up this incredible industry. Together, they can achieve success and at the same time, have fun doing it!

## ***K-B Milestones***

Kelso-Burnett has recently purchased AutoCAD MEP, a software-based design and construction documentation solution for mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) engineers, as well as designers and drafters. The software helps users produce 3D drawings, which aid in streamlining the Building Information Modeling (BIM) process. We are now capable of producing 3D drawings of our electrical plans, so that all other trades can see where we may have collision problems in project areas that we are working on simultaneously.



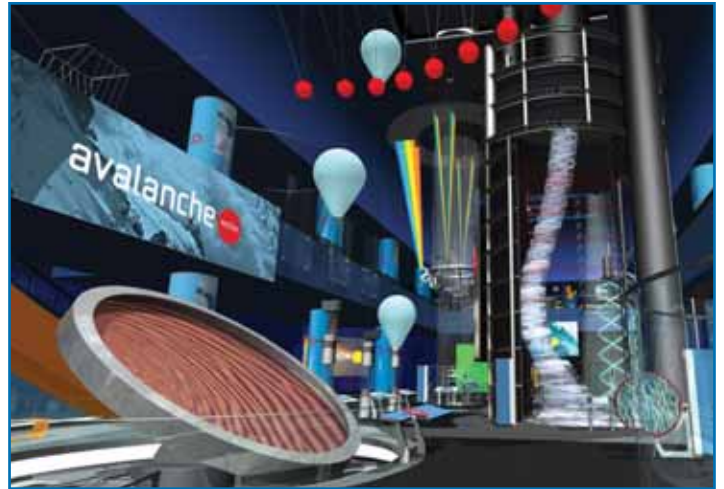
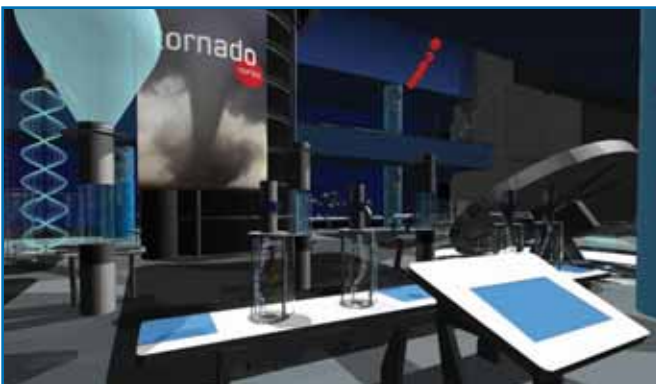
Kelso-Burnett has worked on official BIM projects in the past, such as the Shaw Tech Center. We have also worked on 3D coordination projects, including United Airlines and the Palmer House Hilton. With the new software, Kelso-Burnett will be able to be even more efficient when the time comes to do another full-blown BIM project.

## *K-B Powers Indoor Tornadoes and Lightning at the Museum of Science and Industry*

Recently, Kelso-Burnett Co. was awarded the electrical and low voltage contract from NORCON, Inc. for the Museum of Science and Industry's newest exhibit, Science Storms. This new 24,000-square-foot exhibit will be located in the west wing of the museum and is scheduled to be open to the public in the spring of 2010. The Science Storms exhibit will be a highly interactive experience, featuring a large number of touch panels, video screens, interactive experiments and much more.

Once the Science Storms project is completed, guests will be able to view large-scale demonstrations that re-create many of nature's most powerful phenomena—tornadoes, lightning, fire, tsunamis, avalanches and more. They will also be able to explore the basic physics and chemistry that underlie each phenomenon, including motion, waves, chemical reactions, electrical charges, vortices and combustion. Participants will view lightning being generated by a 23-foot-diameter Tesla coil, feel the extreme wind of the 40-foot swirling vortex tornado and measure the impact of tsunami waveforms in the 30-foot water tank. The spectacular, hands-on exhibit provides guests with a uniquely educational and entertaining experience.

Kelso-Burnett is working closely with NORCON's project team, anchored by Project Managers Saul Pollack and Eric Lohmueller and Project Superintendent Enrico Perez, to bring the Science Storms exhibit to life. NORCON is protecting the Museum of Science and Industry's historic Great Hall by installing raised floor panels above the original marble tile. Scaffolding spanning the entire Great Hall will allow work to happen three stories in the air and on the ground floor simultaneously.



Kelso-Burnett Co. is acting as the Technology Systems Integrator on this project, which requires coordination of work with exhibit constructors, A/V contractors, lighting designers, museum personnel and numerous other parties. The Kelso-Burnett project team, led by Division Manager Nate Spears and Project Foreman Greg Mitchell, is responsible for providing power to more than 1,000 light fixtures, 30 different exhibits, audio/video cabling and fire alarm installations. Additionally, Kelso-Burnett's low voltage team, led by Project Manager Doug Dickerson and Project Engineer Rob Bujwit, will be installing more than 26,000 feet of speaker wiring, 146 runs of Category 6 cabling totaling more than 30,000 feet, 18 runs of Category 5e cabling totaling 5,000 feet, backbone cabling, and the audio/visual special effects systems that will make the extraordinary exhibit possible. Kelso's 35-year veteran Dennis Battain cleared the space and set up temporary power and lighting for the construction teams.

Kelso-Burnett would like to thank NORCON, Inc. and the museum for the chance to take part in such a unique and exciting project that will thrill audiences for years to come. Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry is home to more than 35,000 artifacts, and more than 175 million guests have visited during its 75-year history. Stay tuned for updated news on the Science Storms exhibit through the Museum of Science and Industry's website, [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org).



## KELSO-BURNETT CO.

Chicago • Rolling Meadows

Rockford • Gurnee

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**We are an employee-owned company that combines advanced technologies with superior workmanship to provide the highest-quality design, construction and project management available in the electrical contracting industry.**

*Since 1908*

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The safety department at Kelso-Burnett offers OSHA 10-

and 30-hour classes. For more information or to schedule a class, contact Scott Johnson at (847) 483-3826 or Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827.



### **NFPA 70E Training**

Kelso-Burnett continues to train employees and clients on the NFPA 70E requirements. Only an employee who is certified as an “Electrically Qualified Worker” may approach and work on live systems. He or she must also utilize an Energized Work Permit. Contact Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827 if you would like to schedule a training session.