

The WECA Journey

Our rich and dynamic 80-year history is filled with stories of determination. Defined by the individuals and events shaping the WECA narrative, our Association remains steadfast in supporting fair and open competition in the electrical and construction industries.

Our name is part of our story.

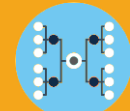
On April 9, 1929, WECA began as the Electrical Contractors and Dealer Association of Sacramento. Newly named the Sacramento Electragists in December of 1929 subsequent to affiliating with the Association of Electragists International (now NECA), we adopted our current moniker in 1990.



1920s

First supporters develop into lasting partnerships.

The Association incorporated on October 28, 1937, with these illustrious names appearing prominently in the Articles of Incorporation: Rex Moore, E.L. French, George C. Foss, J.D. O'Connor, C.E. Vorlander, Sam Bissett, and C.S. Donley. These early partnerships continue to define our Association.



1930s

Transformation occurs in the form of a charter.

It was 1946 when WECA was chartered as the Sacramento Valley Chapter, NECA (formerly the Association of Electragists International).



1940s

A defining force leaves us after 30 years of devoted service.

The Association suffered a tragic loss in July 1958 when WECA's greatly respected inaugural manager, Bill Welch, died in an automobile accident. He logged in nearly 30 years of devoted service, but it was still too soon to say good-bye.



1950s

Establishing a place in history.

WECA opened its Sacramento office on Elvas Avenue in 1960. This coincided with Kenneth W. Carlson's tenure as Association Manager from 1961 through 1990. He was instrumental in securing an historical place for WECA in the Electrical Industry.



1960s

Staying true to our values.

Strikes and pressure from organized labor defined the next decade, but WECA stayed true to its values, refusing to give in to the threats that jeopardized our charter. The Association, along with its charter members, aligned behind their mission to elevate the principles of the Merit Shop electrical industry.



1970s

A fight won and a legacy established.

Prominent in the fight against the unions was Edward J. Miltner, a member who resisted the IBEW until his business went bankrupt. Sadly, he died before seeing an end to the conflict, but his legacy lives on with the WECA Man of the Year Award founded in his honor.



1980s

Program expansion energizes membership.

After joining the National Association of the Independent Electrical Contractors WECA doubles down on its vision of managing local and national priorities for a rapidly growing membership as well as expanding the Apprenticeship Training Program.



1990s

The vision becomes a reality.

In an unprecedented move, the Department of Labor approves WECA to federally indenture apprentices. WECA also wins the right to train apprentices statewide. A noteworthy development is WECA leaving IEC and standing alone as the premier association for electrical and low voltage contractors in California.



2000s

Strong leadership brings about strong results.

As of 2018, WECA is experiencing extraordinary growth, educating a record number of Apprentices and Electrician Trainees, and serving a record high number of Member Contractors. WECA continues to develop popular online courses for electrician trainees and journeymen in California, and is the largest provider of electrical education in the state.



NOW

WECA is dedicated to our mission of training, educating, and developing both the current and future skilled trades workforce. We couldn't do it without you, so thank you!