



IEC CONVENTION & EXPO: We Came. We Connected. We Learned. We Won Big!

The setting was Indianapolis IN and the IECRM team comprised of 23 members, apprentices, and staff arrived for the Annual IEC National Convention with great anticipation. Not only did we leave the premier electrical industry conference with knowledge, new business contacts, and new lifelong friends, our Rocky Mountain Chapter also brought home 12 of the top awards given by IEC National!

The entire week was inspiring and equipped each of us with straightforward tools to raise performance, productivity, and collaboration levels during an era of rapid change. A few highlights:

- Dynamic educational sessions were full of bright ideas and friendly faces, providing tailored solutions that our members and instructors can immediately begin to apply – on the job and in the classroom. Highlights included the popular “Contractor Great Ideas Swap” and a diversity in the workplace session led by IECRM CEO Marilyn Akers Stansbury, “The Benefits of Hiring a Woman for the Job.” Her panelists included Rocky Mountain Chapter members Donna Neddeau (Accent Electrical Services), Staci Inskeep (InPwr Inc), and instructor Michele Rutt (Leading Edge Electric).
- Networking with other electrical industry business leaders to share ideas and solve common challenges affecting both our organization and electrical contractors was inspiring. It was great to see so many of our Industry Partner members at IEC-CON!
- The interactive Expo Hall featured a fascinating array of hands-on demonstrations of the latest industry products, and services that will revolutionize our members’ businesses, and the “Grid” new product showcase for innovations and new technologies.

“The amount of knowledge that is in any one of the meetings or events that were held is immeasurable,” says Bret Martin, President of Bret’s Electric. “The question often arises if I can afford to come to the Convention, and through the experience, I walk away believing that I can't afford not to!”

Not to be overlooked were the many fun social events and receptions throughout the convention! IEC-CON kicked off with a Welcome Reception and introduction of the National Emerging Leaders ([LINK to National EL article](#)) (including two from IECRM), and Colorado attendees were treated to our own Welcome Reception, hosted by Steve Killius, Legrand Vice

President, Contractor Industry Affairs and Programs, Electrical Wiring Systems Division. Golfers from chapters around the country played in the Golf Tournament to raise funds for the IEC National Foundation, enjoy competitive comradery, and experience humidity! Attendees had a ball at the Mardi Gras themed National Platinum Partner Party, filled with fun activities (indoor bumper cars!), loads of laughs, fine food, and great connections.

“As a convention, it was both fun and informative,” says David Jones, QED. “Many of us left with a smile plastered on our faces and feeling the effect of a lasting influence that is so positive.”

The most amazing highlight of the entire week was the IEC National Awards Gala. All 50 IEC chapters compete for the coveted and esteemed National Awards. By the end of the evening, IECRM and its members had won top honors for:

- National Apprentice of the Year: Mike Lempka, Good Electric Service
- National Instructor of the Year: Joe Tate, CBRE
- National Team Award: IECRM for the Sparkling Ice Castle Float in the Parade of Lights
- Apprenticeship Chapter of the Year: IECRM
- Chapter of the Year (90+ Contractors): IECRM
- Legislative Chapter of the Year (90+ Contractors): IECRM
- Chapter Membership Growth Goal Recognition Award (deleted IECRM - many received this recognition)
- IEC National SPARK Safety Award: Integrity Electrical Services, Rick Mulnix
- National Project Excellence Awards: Encore Electric, InPwr, and Weifield Group Contracting
- Rising Star Award: Jason Hobbs, InPwr

Each year, IECRM sends its Wire-Off Champion to compete in the National Apprentice of the Year Competition, along with our top Wire-Off placement winners first through the fourth year to experience their first convention, and to see what it takes to win in future years. What surprised our apprentices the most was how big the convention was, how many people were there, how important the electrical contracting industry is on a broad scale, and the respect shared industry-wide for the apprentices and the chapters in the IEC community.

It was a great week and CONGRATULATIONS to each and every one of the winners. We will celebrate with all our members formally at the upcoming IECRM State of the Industry Dinner. Register for this event at iecrm.org/businessdinner18.



IECRM Apprentices at IEC CON 2018



Mike Lempka in the IEC National Wire-Off



Milwaukee Tool Booth



IEC CON EXPO 2018

IEC CON Industry Partner Mardi Gras Party 2018



IEC National Awards Gala 2018



Joe Tate Wins IEC National Instructor of the Year Award



Mike Lempka Wins the IEC National Apprentice of the Year



IECRM and its Members Win Big at IEC National Awards Gala 2018