

## That's My Opinion... 'oughta be yours!

I'll start the new year out by reflecting on the old. Certainly there have been milestones that we can look back upon with pride in our organization. We worked with legislators to pass a bill allowing service releases on manufactured homes hopefully with the result of giving some measure of relief to installers without sacrificing public safety. TAEI representatives along with other related organizations met with state officials to begin to work towards requiring some form of continuing education for registration renewal. TAEI representatives along with our friends in the home building industry and power suppliers worked on legislation to require identification when selling scrap metals as the high prices being paid for copper and aluminum have caused theft problems for home builders. We held our first association meeting in March of last year at beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park. Last, but by no means least, we held the first "Cover Tennessee with the NEC" in September. Electricians from Dyersburg to Johnson City were treated to some code training like they had never seen before. Computers and software have been purchased, a website is coming to life as we speak. It's been a busy year.

I'm reminded of the words of Rep. Charles Curtiss who was the keynote speaker at our meeting in March. He explained that the reason why he supported our cause so strongly in 2006 was because it was the "right thing to do". The "rightness" is what attracted him to us, and inversely, a lack of "rightness" in our actions would immediately result in the loss of his support. If our motives and principles "went south", so to speak, then we need not expect him to follow. I believe with all my heart that we have done our best to live up to that challenge in 2007.

We believed that it was RIGHT to allow service releases on manufactured homes in order to provide temporary power for the testing of other systems such as water wells and HVAC equipment. We believe that it is RIGHT to

expect our electrical contractors to spend a few hours a year studying to stay abreast of code changes and safety issues. Since we feel that way, then we feel that it is RIGHT to work hard to provide an opportunity for them to obtain quality training at extremely affordable rates during times that they can attend without being away from their jobsites. We've seen the new construction homes stripped of their wiring and plumbing to be sold by the thieves for it's scrap value and therefore we felt that it was RIGHT to join homebuilders and others in pursuit of a solution. All this has been done in an effort to "do the right thing".

In November at Murfreesboro the TAEI officers and board of directors were petitioned by the NEMA taskforce on AFCI technology to support their efforts to encourage adoption of the 2008 NEC including the new arc fault protection requirements as the minimum standard in Tennessee. Now, since I'm giving you my opinion, let me say at this point that that resembled asking the Southern Baptist Convention if they would be so kind as to support an anti abortion campaign. How could we have spent the last two years telling all who would listen that we support the code and all it's life safety provisions... and REFUSE to support NEMA's efforts in this matter. It would have been hypocrisy for all to plainly see. The officers and directors of the TAEI overwhelmingly voted to "enthusiastically support the adoption of the 2008 NEC in it's entirety" simply because it was the RIGHT thing for us as an association to do.

This move has NOT placed the TAEI in opposition to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, nor the Electrical Inspections Division in any way. Quite the contrary, representatives of the association met in December with Commissioner Newman in an effort to meet her and give her the opportunity to at least meet some of us and hear some of our dreams for the program. All we have done is to ask for, and received the opportunity to inject our experience and expertise, and yes, opinions into the decision making process. Now, I don't know what form the final proposal will take. While I have a preference, I'm aware that not

everyone in the state agrees with it. That doesn't mean that my opinion isn't worth hearing, or is unworthy of consideration. It also doesn't mean that I don't have just as much right as the next fellow to voice my opinion. The bottom line is this, I'm going to enforce whatever code we are given to enforce when this is all over and I'm going to enforce it to the best of my ability... because it is the RIGHT thing to do!

Now, you may have noticed that not once have I said that doing the right thing is easy or popular. In our line of work we see it every day. Folks are often disappointed with the findings of an inspector. It disrupts their plans to move in to that "dream home", or maybe that "first home" when they want to. It's never fun to go against what's popular or expected, but it IS necessary sometimes especially in the arena of electrical safety where so many lives may depend upon our willingness to do the RIGHT thing. To me there is nothing...nothing more precious than a life, and I refuse to put a price tag on one. How much is a little girl worth? Now, what if that little girl is your daughter, or maybe your grandchild. What's she worth now? See what I mean?

Our past speaks well for us as an association. The present indicates no change in philosophy. As for the future, we'll be better than ever as long as we stay true to our driving principles and do the RIGHT thing. This is why we exist as an association!

Enough about that, I'm looking forward to another round of "Cover Tennessee with the NEC" coming in March. Meeting electrical folks from all across the state and seeing their enthusiasm for the opportunity to hear John Minick has been a great experience for me personally. It makes you think that maybe, just maybe we're... doing the right thing! Thanks in advance to all of you inspectors, and others, who will do so much work to help make it happen.

Until next time,  
That's my opinion.....oughta be yours!!

ED SITTON, Secretary TAEI

The Tennessee Association of Electrical Inspectors  
proudly present Round #2 of

## COVER TENNESSEE WITH THE NEC

with Mr. John Minick, NEMA

### Monday, March 17, 2008

William Blount High School Auditorium  
219 William Blount Dr.  
Maryville, TN

### Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Middle TN Association  
of Realtors Bldg.  
311 Butler Dr.  
Murfreesboro, TN

### Wednesday, March 19, 2008

International Association of  
Machinists Union Hall  
121 Union Hall Rd.  
Clarksville, TN

### Thursday, March 20, 2008

Fairgrounds Park  
400 South Highland  
Jackson, TN



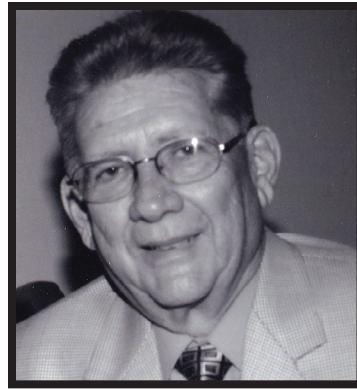
Doors open for registration at 3:30 PM each day.  
Class begins at 5:00 and lasts until 9:00 PM

Certificates will be awarded for attendance for 4 contact hours.



*In Memorium*

# Gerald Wayne Capps



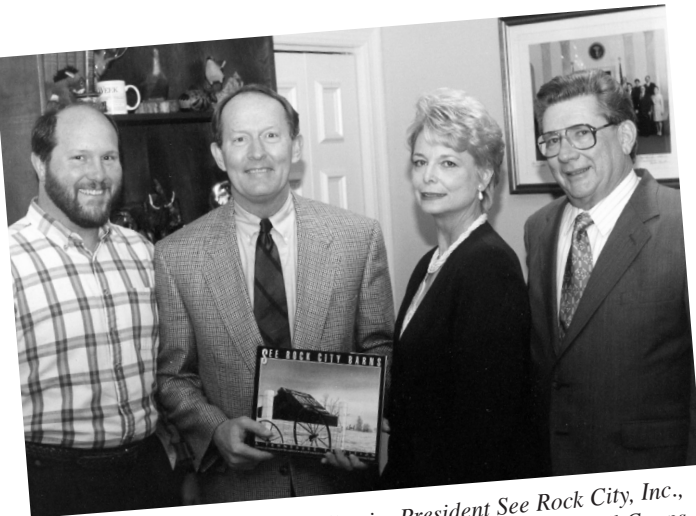
his wife he owned and operated New Vision's Studios, Hendersonville, TN. He was a member of United Poets Laureate International, and the Poetry Society of Tennessee.

Mr. Capps is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Anita Slater Capps, and children, Jeffery Wade Armstrong, Kingston Springs, TN, Julie Beth Penney, Nashville, TN, Amy Noel Adams, White House TN, Christy Michele Wells, Carlisle, SC and 15 grandchildren.

*Dr. Anita Slater Capps*

Following a courageous battle with cancer, Deputy Electrical Inspector, Gerald Wayne Capps, passed away November 3, 2008.

In May of 1966 Mr. Capps began his career as an electrician as an apprentice with Dot Electric, Nashville, TN. After a two year stint with Music City Electric he founded and ran G. W. Capps Electrical Associates. For nearly a decade he ran this successful venture that employed six electricians.



*L-R Bill Chapin, President See Rock City, Inc., Sen. Lamar Alexander, Anita & Bill Capps*

In January of 1987 Gerald accepted a position as an Electrical Codes Inspector with Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County's Electrical Codes Division. He retired from Metro April 4, 2004, and accepted a contract with the State of TN, as a Deputy Electrical Inspector in November of the same year.

At the time of his death he still held that position, and worked under the cooperate title of G. W. Capps Electrical Inspections, Inc. Mr. Capps held fifteen National and International Codes Certifications. He was an active member of several professional organizations including the International Codes Congress, and International Association of Electrical Inspectors. He was a proud Charter Member of Tennessee Association of Electrical Inspectors, and served on their Board of Directors.

A man of honor and integrity, Gerald lived his life with humor, and a friendly smile. He was a life long member of the United Methodist Church, an avid hunter, fisherman, pilot, publisher, and award-winning poet. For over twenty years along with



*Anita & Gerald Capps*



*Country Music Hall of Famer "Jumpin' Bill Carlisle" & Gerald*

*Editors Note: At the November 2, 2007 board meeting in Murfreesboro, the officers and board of directors of the TAEI unanimously voted to elect Mr. Gerald W. Capps to the office of Director Emeritus. His name will therefore forever be listed in support of the principles that he lived to foster in those around him. Knowing that his time was growing short, Gerald had requested that his seat on the board be filled by someone who could be active in forwarding the cause of electrical safety in Tennessee. Dwayne Byard, Clarksville, was unanimously elected to fill that spot. Gerald passed away the following morning. It has been our very great privilege to be associated Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Capps.*

# TAEI joins forces with Habitat for Humanity.

It's easy to see that the TAEI is heavily involved with statewide events that we feel affect electrical safety in Tennessee. In the midst of all that, it's sometimes easy to overlook the needs of the local community. On a very hot July afternoon four deputy electrical inspectors, all TAEI members, came together to join forces with Habitat for Humanity by wiring a habita house.

It all began about a year ago when TAEI secretary Ed Sitton approached Herb Baggett, a local contractor who is heavily involved with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is always looking for willing hands to help build these homes and Ed thought it would be something special if a group of DEI's could wire a house for them. Never one to turn down free help, Herb agreed and the rest, as they say, is history.

It was actually a lot of fun. We spent about as much time laughing as we did working. We donated the permit fees and the cost of the meterbase to the project as well as provided the labor to wire the home at no cost.

Gary Gregory (Humphreys, and Houston), Terry Jennette, (Robertson), Dwayne Byard (Cheatham and Montgomery), and Ed Sitton (Clarksville and Stewart Co.) brought over 100 combined years of experience in residential wiring to the job with them. The rough-in took about three and a half hours for the 1100 square ft. home located at 1315 Poplar Court in Clarksville. In January, 2008 they spent about four more hours finishing the installation. Everyone who came through asked which one of us was going to inspect the job. Of course, we all know that our contract with the state prohibits us from inspecting our own work and therefore we called on fellow TAEI member John Grant to perform the inspections. We sure were glad it passed. It wouldn't have looked good if it hadn't. Of course, John wouldn't have told anyone.....would he?

Many areas across our state have Habitat for Humanity organizations which make home ownership a possibility rather than just a dream for many of our citizens. We encourage all TAEI members to volunteer when you get the chance to help bring the joy of owning your own home to someone near you.

## Need to Contact Us?

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