



FEATURED PROJECT

Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Hospital



In November of 2016 Block Electric was awarded the Edward Hines Boiler Plant Project.

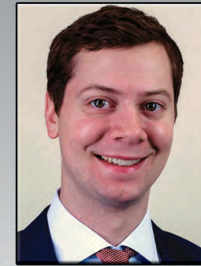
This project consisted of a 25,000 square foot building with quite a few interesting electrical challenges. Some of the challenges consisted of working in over 2,000 feet of mechanical tunnels, with 11 underground mechanical vaults 30 feet below the ground. The building is powered by a 5,000 volt electrical service that originated 3,500 feet to the north of the site.

The plant has many of the normal electrical systems that we always deal with on every job, but the Edward Hines Boiler Plant Project had a couple different systems which made the job more interesting.

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Vice President's Message



To no surprise, this has been a very busy summer. In August, we had peaked at 9,600 labor hours in one week. For as long as we have

tracked our hours, we have never seen levels reach this height.

With that amount of hours, it becomes a challenge to maintain and grow a backlog of work. However, I am pleased to say that we have been able to hold a steady backlog throughout this time period. The work outlook is still looking very promising for the fall and winter months.

Overall, we are projecting about a 7% increase in labor hours in 2018 when compared to 2017. In the industry as a whole, the projections are closer to 3% this year compared to 2017.

Having a competitive edge over our competition is what sets us apart from the average contractor in our industry.

As you'll read about in this newsletter, we are near completion on the Hines VA Boiler Plant Project that began in 2016. In addition to the normal challenges encountered during any project, the Hines VA Boiler Plant Project faced a very unique level of difficulty. About a quarter of the way through the project, our previous Foreman had quit. The project team had to scramble for a new Foreman who was willing to step up and overcome this deep hole we were left in.

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Vice President's Message

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I would like to personally thank Howie Ridder and the entire team that worked through this project, overcame the hardships, and turned in a successful project to delight another customer.

This level of commitment and forward thinking is one example of our Team's competitive edge that sets us apart in this industry. Have a great Fall and keep up your competitive edge!

Block Electric Upcoming Projects List:

- University of Chicago Medicine - Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine (DCAM)
- LaGrange Hospital – Outpatient Center
- Meijer's 169 Bolingbrook
- Akzo – Batch Hydro Filter Control System
- Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) – Telecom Infrastructure
- Costco – Gutter Heat Trace and various projects

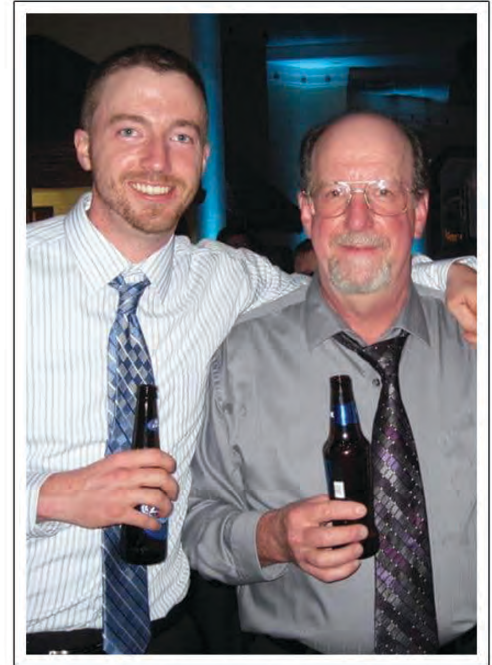
— **SCOTT BLOCK**
Vice President
Block Electric

Spotlight On: Dan Greene GENERAL FOREMAN

Prior to securing an apprenticeship at Block Electric, General Foreman Dan Greene worked as a warehouse helper for the company in January of 2006.

"My dad was the chief electrician at Christ Hospital. He was the reason I got into the trade," Dan said. "He thought it would be a good idea to sign up, and he wasn't wrong."

Unlike the four years he worked at Jewel-Osco during high school, Dan said working as an electrician presents new challenges and experiences on an almost daily basis.



Dan Greene (left) and his father Pat Greene.

“The relationship with the customer is always important, and for me I think the best way to show that is by doing quality work, with quality craftsmanship. Something you can walk away and be proud of in terms of appeal and safety.”

— **General Foreman Dan Greene**

"Not many days are the same. There's always something new—new job sites, new people, newer ways of doing things," Dan said. "The most unique thing about being in this line of work is the new challenges everyday."

Dan has been a part of some interesting projects over the last few years, including Mudd Hall with Bill Kuta, Lab Schools with Phil Casto, and numerous Water Tower projects with Nick Lenzion. He has also done work at a rental facility parking garage at Midway Airport, as well as projects at numerous Chicago Public Schools.

Building strong customer relationships has been a priority for Dan throughout his career. "The relationship with the customer is always important, and for me I think the best way to show that is by doing quality work, with quality

craftsmanship," he said. "Something you can walk away from and be proud of in terms of appeal and safety."

As for a particular job that has played a significant role in the development of his career, Dan said the Resurrection Hospital Bedtower project with Gerry Martin in 2009 "was kind of when everything began to click for me as a 3rd year apprentice. I look back to that job as one of my favorites and a definite turning point for my own career."

Dan, who has lived in Oak Lawn for most of his life, spends his free time working on his house, playing in softball leagues with his buddies, or watching the Sox, Bulls, and Notre Dame football games.

"One of these days I may take Tim Olson's advice and take a vacation," he said.

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Features of the project included:

- 1000 kw diesel generator
- A generator monitoring system which monitors 18 campus generators throughout the 167 acres campus
- 30 foot high ceilings with catwalks traveling throughout the extremely congested ceiling space
- Multiple underground duct banks stemming in every direction from the building. Some more than 3000 feet.
- 500,000 gallon underground fuel system with controls

- Underground Brine tank system
- Water retention fields
- A new above ground water tower
- Boiler control wiring
- R.O water system

The new boiler plant feeds the entire campus, which encompasses more than 70 buildings, with steam heat.

Howie Ridder and his crew did a fantastic job and really stepped up to the challenge of dealing with the new and out of the ordinary electrical systems.

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**NEW IDEAS NEEDED...
WIN A VISA GIFT CARD!**

New Products, Tools and Prefab Assemblies

*PVC to GRC Transition 90 degree hooks.
Uses: Underground Rough-in.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for fresh and innovative ideas for new products, tools and ongoing prefab assemblies to feature in future issues of the Block Electric newsletter.

In an effort to make our jobs run more efficiently and be more cost-effective, we are looking for your suggestions regarding which tools can be used in your day-to-day work to make your lives easier.

There are no right or wrong answers. We're looking for any and all products and ideas to share with the team.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

If your idea is featured in the Block Electric newsletter, you will receive up to a \$50.00 Visa gift card.



Right Side of Picture:
*1900 Boxes with
Drywall Ring,
and Stud Bracket.
Uses: Lighting,
power, and data
in-wall rough-in.*

Left Side of Picture:
*1" 90 Degree Bends
on 10' of EMT.
Uses: Voice/Data
in-wall rough-in.*

FOCUS ON SAFETY:

Flu Prevention



by *United Services Group*

Did You Know? The flu virus can live on hard surfaces for up to 24 hours and soft surfaces for 15 minutes. The flu is a common infectious disease caused by the influenza viruses. The flu usually affects a person's breathing system.

The Center for Disease Control estimates between 5-20% of the people in the United States get the flu each year, and more than 200,000 are hospitalized due to complications.

Most people recover from the flu in several days and usually less than two weeks. However, the flu tends to be passed around in the workplace during the fall and winter months. To help prevent getting the flu, think about getting a flu vaccination.

Flu Symptoms and Complications:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny or Stuffy nose
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue or Tiredness
- Vomiting and Diarrhea
(more common in children)

The flu spreads through wet drops produced when a person coughs, sneezes or talks. A person can get the flu by breathing in these drops or by touching items services containing the virus and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

A person can spread the flu starting one day before they feel sick. Adults can continue to pass the flu virus to others for another 3-7 days, after symptoms start. Children can pass the virus for longer than 7 days. Symptoms can start 1-4 days after the virus enters the body. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but show no symptoms. During these times, those people can still spread the virus to others.

Safety Work Practices & Tips?

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- Don't go to work when a fever or any other flu symptoms are present.
- Practice good hygiene and wash your hands with soap and water frequently.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use natural remedies like daily vitamins, vitamin C, and zinc to boost your immune system.
- Exercise regularly.
- Wash your hands or utilize hand sanitizer before and after eating.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Germs spread quickly this way.
- Take available medication to help treat the flu and help manage the symptoms.

Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free work place. The intent at all times is to comply with the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

Block Electric recognizes that accident prevention and efficient production are interrelated. We further recognize our responsibility to provide adequate training, safeguards and safety equipment for each employee. In turn each employee bears the responsibility to comply with all safety regulations and the use of required safety equipment. The safety and well being of our employees has been and will continue to be of primary importance.

Our EMR is .78 and our Contractor Score is 2500. Phil Casto is our safety director.

Block Announcements

Jerry Hughes Celebrates 35 Year Anniversary

Congratulations to Jerry Hughes, who celebrated his 35 year anniversary with Block Electric on July 18, 2018.

Thank you for being part

of our company's success over the years. We greatly appreciate and value your hard work and success. Happy Anniversary!



Welcome to Block Electric's New Journeymen

Congratulations to the following employees who completed the required on the job training and related instruction qualifying him or her to receive Journeyman status:

- Richard Biel, who became a Journeyman on September 11, 2018.
- Thomas Butkus, who became a Journeyman on September 11, 2018.
- Tyler Eschenbaum, who became a Journeyman on July 20, 2018.
- Connor Haughey, who became a Journeyman on September 11, 2018.
- Veleka Novorolsky, who became a Journeyman on September 11, 2018.

Block Electric Company
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Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

Visit www.blockelectric.com
to see our website!

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