



FEATURED PROJECT:

Chicago Athletic Association Hotel



Block Electric recently completed a two-year renovation of the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, which is located at 12 S. Michigan Avenue in the heart of downtown Chicago.

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President's Message



The summer season is now behind us. It doesn't seem like we had much of one this year, but September seems to be making up for the cool and rainy days we experienced earlier. The good news is that we finished up several large projects like Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail and the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel during the summer and works seems to keep trickling in. The outlook for the remainder of the year remains positive.

The Chicago Athletic Association Hotel project is featured in this issue. This was an extremely demanding job that required us to work seven days a week to meet a very demanding schedule. When our work extends beyond normal working hours it can be very stressful to our team members and their families. Thank you to all of our entire Block Electric team (including family members) for their commitment to getting the job done timely, efficiently, and safely.

Our independent auditors, Borhart Spellmeyer & Company, tell us we had a record number of applications for college scholarships. I am so proud to see our sons and daughters continuing on to institutions of higher learning. I know it's a sacrifice to the parents, but we as a Company try to help in a small way to defer some of the costs if we can and they are eligible. I always have said there are three ways to

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President's Message

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get an education. First is through experience. Second is through education and third is a combination of both. There is no substitute for experience and formal learning anymore.

We are a competitive society, and in order to excel and take the lead, it takes both experience and education to stay on top. This is a great industry but having a formal education opens many doors in life. That is why I encourage all of us to take advantage of any and all means to continue our education even as we continue through life.

As many of you may or may not know Ryan Underwood has joined the Block Team. Ryan is a CPA coming to us from the firm of Grant Thornton, an industry leading accounting and consulting firm. Ryan brings many talents to our team. He is personable, energetic and extremely knowledgeable about business and finance in general and brings a wealth of resources to us.

I know all of you will join me and welcome Ryan. He would love to get to meet all of you should the opportunity present itself. So, if you have time stop by and say "Hi". Let him see firsthand what a wonderful compliment of people we have on our team. Ryan will be working out of the Niles office.

— JACK BLOCK



Spotlight On: Bill Kuta

GENERAL FOREMAN

When he's not busy working, Block Electric General Foreman Bill Kuta spends most of his time with his wife Gina at their children's sporting events. Bill and Gina have three children—Tiffany, 16; Billy, 15; and Carli, 11.

"Our family is very involved in sports, and most of our time is spent at our kids' games," Bill said. "We have just concluded this season of travel baseball and softball, and we are currently involved in tryouts for next year. I have managed/coached travel baseball and travel softball for the last six years. It is a substantial time commitment, but I love the experience. We have been very fortunate in that we have met a lot of amazing families and made a lot of friends along the way."

Before becoming an electrician, Bill attended the University of Illinois at Chicago. After two years, he transferred to Lewis University in Romeoville where he received his A&P Aircraft Mechanics License. While attending college Bill worked at Delta Air Lines at O'Hare.

"When I received my A&P License in the early 1990's, the airline industry was in a period of financial crisis; and there was a major hiring freeze imposed across the board," Bill said. "It was at this time that a friend suggested I sign up for the electrical union. This turned out to be an excellent decision."

"The electrical industry is an everchanging industry, and it has provided a solid foundation for myself and my family," Bill continued. "Block Electric is the third contractor that I have worked for, and I greatly appreciate the last 11 years that I have been with them. Throughout the years I have met

an incredible amount of talented electricians at Block, and it has been their continued support and guidance that has been most helpful."

Block Electric recently completed the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel Project in Chicago which, according to Bill, has "truly been a joint collaboration".

"The combined effort, dedication and perseverance of everyone involved contributed to the successful restoration of this historic building," Bill continued. "The lead foremen on this job were George Brauneis, Bill McGing, Gary Jones, and Joe Sambucaro (second shift). These men were the key components in restoring a 120-year-old shell of a building into a brand new boutique hotel. The project spanned over a two year period. During the last seven months we had two shifts working seven days a week to complete the project. After approximately 1000 RFI's, the conventional process was abandoned; and the architects and engineers met with the tradesmen daily to resolve issues in a timely manner. The building is a Chicago Architectural Landmark; therefore, every effort was made to restore and save all of the original fixtures, woodwork, marble, plaster castings and mosaic flooring."

Bill praised everyone involved with the project for their professionalism and dedication. "The lead foremen and all of the electricians who worked on this project did a phenomenal job of thinking outside of the box and developing and implementing install methods that would not compromise the historic elements of the original structure," Bill continued. "We installed one of the most complicated BUS duct systems that SQD has developed and engineered, all under tight time constraints. Gary Jones did an amazing job installing the exterior lighting on the Historic Limestone Facade which is, by far, one of the buildings most remarkable features."

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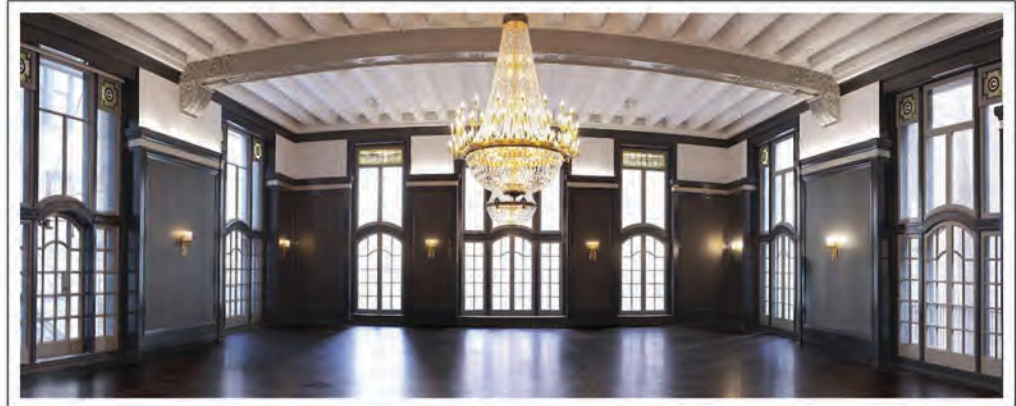
Block Electric recently celebrated the completion of a major two-year renovation of the Chicago Athletic Association building, which is located at 12 S. Michigan Avenue in the heart of downtown Chicago. Now named the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, the newly renovated 120-year-old historic building has 241 guest rooms, three restaurants, two large banquet rooms, retail shops, a game room, a basketball court, a shuffle board court and a fencing court.

"I believe most people thought it would be better to level the existing 120 year old building and build a new structure," Block Electric Project Manager Jerry Hughes said. "But, two years later, the result was an extremely beautiful and original hotel."

While many of the building's historic details, including fireplaces with intricate carvings, stained-glass windows and grand marble staircases, have been preserved, other modern touches such as beautiful benches and lacquer armoires have been added.

According to the company's website, "The courts are polished. The trophy cases dusted off. But it's more than a simple restoration—it's a revelation. Inspired by the nineteenth century train sheds that were our neighbors, we've built a terrace in the sky overlooking Millennium Park and the greatest of the Great Lakes and a Game Room designed to amaze and amuse."

Block Electric began working on the project in June of 2013 and it was not without its challenges. "Bill Kuta was our lead foreman on this project," Hughes said. "He encountered numerous obstacles from floors collapsing, walls caving and rain water dripping on multiple floors.



Still, at the end, Bill came out on top and the building was finished with an extremely satisfied customer."

According to Hughes, the project was unique in many ways. "Block Electric worked closely with the Landmark Association to restore original light fixtures to their exact condition from when they were built more than a century ago," Hughes said. "This allowed us to work with different subcontractors, such as Arc Historic Products, who assisted in the restoration of these fixtures. We also assisted with recreating an original plaster cone shaped stalactite light fixture which was located in the Michigan Avenue Ballroom. This process took numerous meetings and design changes before the final replicated fixture was approved and put into production."

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The Chicago Athletic Association Hotel's Fourth Floor Gym pictured before (above) and after (below) the renovation.



FEATURED PROJECT: Chicago Athletic Association

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The hotel includes many amenities. Located on the second floor with a private alleyway entry that resembles something out of the speakeasy era, The Game Room's deep cocktail culture complements the gamesmanship you'll find on the built-in bocce bay, which is an authentic indoor seashell based bocce ball court. The Game Room also contains billiard and shuffleboard tables, as well as chess and checkers.



"It is truly the most interesting hotel I have ever seen in my life," Hughes said. The fourth floor has the Athletic Club's original basketball court, a shuffle board court and even a fencing court.

Dining choices are unique and abundant. Cindy's is the rooftop restaurant and open-air terrace that overlooks Millennium Park, the Art Institute and Lake Michigan and beyond. Land and Sea Dept. is in charge of the fully reimaged Cherry Circle Room, the historic, iconic restaurant space that has serviced the building for generations, with a food and drink program inspired by Chicago Athletic Association menus dating as far back as the 1890s. And the hotel's Shake Shack is the first Shake Shack designed around a historic landmark. The hotel also is home to The Milk Room, a prohibition-era whiskey bar.

"This project was unlike any one I've ever worked on in my 35 years as an electrician," Hughes said. "It was a new adventure every day. The joint effort between Bulley & Andrews, HPA Architecture, KJWW Engineering and Jones Lang LaSalle Property Management Company, made this a fun, interesting and extremely challenging project which we were very proud to be a part of."



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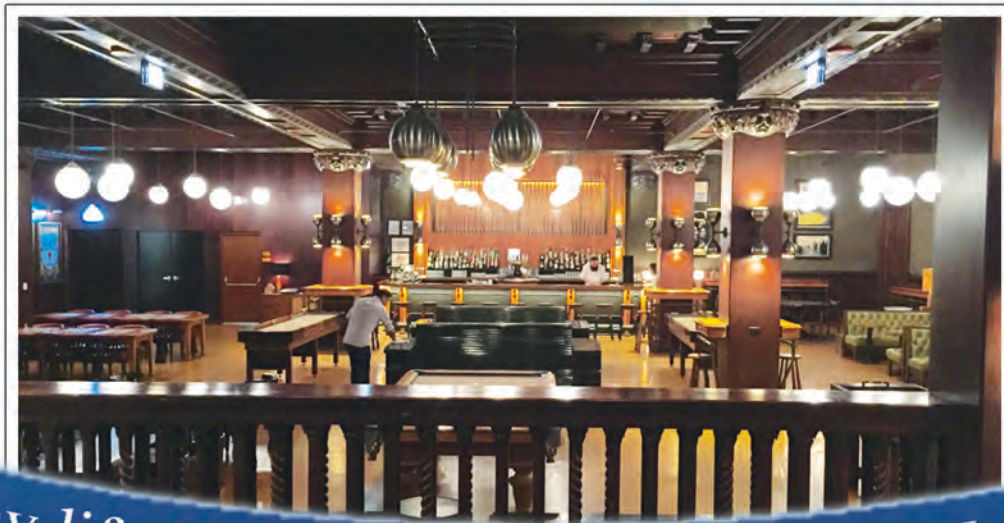
ation Hotel

According to the company's website, "Chicago Athletic Association is an historic 1890's monument to the big-shouldered, can-do spirit that defines our city, transformed



into an incomparable Chicago boutique hotel with commanding views across Millennium and Maggie Daley Parks to Lake Michigan. This long-vacant Venetian Gothic landmark springs back to life as a hotel mecca for inspired recreation—where the spirit of play reigns supreme, and food and drink are served up by

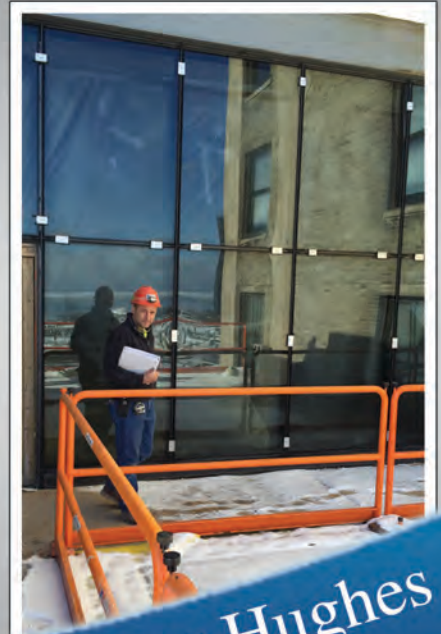
some of Chicago's finest talent. It's personal here, because the soul of Chicago is a kind of club—and on our team, everyone belongs."



Thank you to our employees who helped make this project a success

- Alejandro Estrada, Brandon Davenport, Brian Boyce, Byron Coachman, Dale Finn, Dan Moran, Dennis Petrie, Dustin Ritter, Eric Aponte, Felix Dacpano, Frank Raucci, Gary Jones, George Brauneis, Greg Martin, Howie Ridder, Jaime Belmontes, Jason Carline, Jason Vandewalker, Jeff McDonald, Jessica Anderson, Jonathan Kopczyk, Joe Sambucaro, Ken Ryan, Kevin Gonzales, Larry Parker, Matt McShane, Melissa Khomutova, Mike Benninger, Nick Lenzion, Pat Carey, Pat Ryan, Dave Gonzalez, Rich Biel, Rich Wydra, Roxana Hernandez, Ryan Barnard, Steve Sansone, Tom Butkus, Tom Flynn, Veleska Novorolsky, Bill Kuta.

Pictured below: General Foreman Bill Kuta.



my life.” —Block Electric Project Manager Jerry Hughes

Customer Delight

A letter from John Duszynski, Facilities Project Manager at John Crane Inc., to Project Manager Jeff Keltz

This was the first time that John Crane has worked with Block Electric. We are very pleased with the results of the job. It was a fairly large project with a number of challenges and some shifting deadlines. The work was completed in the timeline dictated by our business.

However, I feel it's important to let you know that the key to the success of this job was Kevin Neumann. Kevin was professional from beginning to end. He exhibited total respect to our employees and work rules at John Crane. Kevin was always willing to adjust his schedule to meet the job requirements. He did a terrific job handling the day to day details and communicated any special needs well in advance.

My job would not be complete without letting you know what a pleasure it was working with Kevin on this project and hopefully additional projects in the future.

Block Electric would like to thank Foreman Kevin Neumann and crew members Greg VanDreese, Jim Schemmel, Joe Weiszhar and Bob Meyer for a job well done.

FOCUS ON SAFETY: Afterthoughts and Regrets

Here are some afterthoughts which, unfortunately, too many of us have experienced:

"That's how we've always done it before." (...before the accident occurred, anyway.)

"I never thought that a little bolt dropped from that distance would cause so much bleeding." (I should have worn a hard hat, I guess.)

"If I had taken that first-aid/CPR course, I probably could have helped him." (...and chances are, he would still be here.)

"I should have taken care of that board with the projecting rusty nails earlier." (Now, I have to take off work to get a tetanus shot.)

"Wow, I never realized that a fire could get out of control so fast." (If I'd called the fire department before trying to put it out myself, I might still have a place to work tomorrow.)

"I know they were always preaching that we should lift with the leg muscles instead of the back muscles." (What the heck is a herniated disk?)

"For a few more dollars, I could have bought safety shoes." (That deep cut in the toe

section ruined my new work boots, and this broken toe still hurts.)

"My safety glasses were in the tool box, but I was just going to grind off this one little piece..." (I wonder if they'll still let me drive with only one eye?)

"We were only going to use the scaffold for one day. I never thought a hammer would fall off the plank and strike someone." (I had a hunch I should have taken the time to install the toe boards.)

"They always insisted that the tool rest should be no more than one-eighth inch from the grinding wheel. What difference does another quarter inch make?" (I was lucky not to go blind when the chisel got wedged and the wheel exploded into a thousand pieces.)

Does any of this sound familiar? They say hindsight is the only perfect science—but foresight could have avoided these incidents, misfortunes and regrets.

Act now to apply the lesson learned and you'll have no regrets!

Block Electric employees celebrate anniversaries

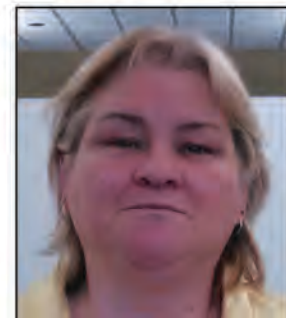
Congratulations to the employees below for their years of loyalty, service and dedication to Block Electric.



Dale Finn, who joined Block on June 4, 1980, recently celebrated his 35 year anniversary.



Greg VanDreese, who joined Block on July 20, 1995, recently celebrated his 20 year anniversary.



Bridgette Carlyon, who joined Block on August 22, 1995, recently celebrated her 20 year anniversary.

2015-2016 Scholarship Recipients



Maggie Arvesen, daughter of Mike and Sue Arvesen. Maggie is attending Eastern Illinois University.



Clare Boyce, daughter of Drew and Therese Boyce. Clare is attending Marquette University.



Maura Boyce, daughter of Drew and Therese Boyce. Maura is attending Marquette University.



Morgan Giusto, daughter of Todd and Lisa Giusto. Morgan is attending Northern Illinois University.



Adam Hughes, son of Jerry and Sharon Hughes. Adam is attending Indiana University.



Gary Jones, son of Gary and Marsha Jones. Gary is attending Loyola University of Chicago.



Rachel Martin, daughter of Jerry and Anne Martin. Rachel is attending Marquette University.



Conner McAllily, son of Ryan and Catherine McAllily. Conner is attending Loras College.



Chelsie McCormick, daughter of Jim and Rhonda McCormick. Chelsie is attending the University of St. Frances, Joliet.



Kristina McCormick, daughter of Chris and Tammy McCormick. Kristina is attending Illinois State University.



Krystal McCormick, daughter of Chris and Tammy McCormick. Krystal is attending Illinois State University.



Brittany Phee, daughter of Pat and Shelley Phee. Brittany is attending Eastern Illinois University.



Jamie Scott, daughter of Dave and Tina Scott. Jamie is attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Nick Scott, son of Dave and Tina Scott. Nick is attending Marquette University.



Courtney VanDreese, daughter of Greg and Rhonda VanDreese. Courtney is attending Northern Illinois University.

A thank you from Block scholarship recipient D.J. Boyce

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your support in furthering my education. After graduating



this May, I moved out of my parents' house and began work as a financial associate for the Kraft Heinz Company.

Over my four years of college, the Block Electric Scholarship played a pivotal role in curbing my student loan debt, something which I can appreciate even more now that I live independently and have bills to pay.

I consider myself remarkably lucky to have been considered for this gift each year and was fortunate to have the support of such great people.

The generosity shown to me by Block Electric was a demonstration of the overall character of the company; it will not be soon forgotten. Thank you.

—D.J. Boyce

*Congratulations to our
2015-2016 Block Electric
Scholarship Recipients.
We wish you the best of luck
this year and in the future!*

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