In the fall of 2011, Frank J. Christensen was appointed as a new member of NEIEP’s Board of Trustees. Having worked in virtually every aspect of the elevator industry, from construction to modernization, as well as having strong ties with IUEC Local 2, Chicago, for close to 33 years, Frank brings a wealth of experience and insight to the position.

Frank is deeply committed to education in our trade. Stressing the importance of staying current through continuing education courses, he says “we always want to go further educationally. We are the best educated trade out there, and we want to stay the best.”

“We are the best educated trade out there, and we want to stay the best.”

As far as his own educational background, Frank graduated from Bogan High School in Chicago. After becoming a Journeyman Mechanic through the NEIEP program, he attended classes at Iowa State University, the University of Wisconsin, Kent Law School, and the George Meany Center (now the National Labor College). He has also passed O.S.H.A. 10 and has taken classes through the US Department of Labor.

Reflecting on his experience as a substitute instructor in the Chicago area, Frank speaks enthusiastically about how the NEIEP program has grown and changed since he was a student - particularly with the hands-on approach and practical labs that are used in today’s NEIEP classroom. “Local 2 has an excellent school program. Our instructors are adjusters out in the field. They’re at the top of their profession.”

Currently, Frank is in his 5th term as Business Manager of Local 2. He’s served three terms as the IUEC’s Vice President, and has been appointed three times as Chairman of the IL Elevator Safety Review Board (IL Fire Marshal’s Office). He’s the Vice President of the Chicago and Cook County Port Council, the Director of the Illinois Italian American Labor Council, and the Director of the Amalgamated Bank Labor Council, Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Labor Leaders Councils.

In the past, Frank served as an IUEC Local 2 Executive Board Member, as well as Secretary of the Executive Board, Vice President, President, Acting Business Representative; and Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) Board Member. He was also a Trustee for the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades. He was appointed to the Educational Committee twice, and appointed twice as Chairman of By-Laws Committee for the International Union. He was also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (A.S.M.E.) A17 Committee, helped to develop elevator testing procedures for the city of Chicago, including the Chicago Supervising Mechanic’s Test, and was involved in creating the first QEI tests.

Outside of the Elevator trade, Frank has taught wrestling and martial arts. He is also involved with a number of charitable organizations in the community, and has won numerous awards for his service.

When asked what advice he’d offer to people who are just starting out in the trade, Frank says that beginning elevator constructors need to be extra vigilant about safety. “It’s a dangerous trade we have – if you have any doubts about safety, speak up about them. Your number one priority is to make it home safely at the end of the day.”

NEIEP is very pleased to welcome Frank Christensen as our newest Trustee. His commitment to education, broad knowledge of and experience in the elevator industry, and dedication to service will make him a great addition to the Board.
NEIEP TO LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP WITH GODDARD COLLEGE

NEIEP is pleased to announce a developing partnership with Goddard College in Plainfield, VT. Details of the partnership will be finalized this spring, and we anticipate the first group of NEIEP graduates will be eligible to enroll for the fall 2012 semester.

The partnership under discussion aims to afford members of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) who have completed the four-year NEIEP apprenticeship program an expedited pathway toward an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in Individualized Studies at Goddard College.

This partnership is not designed to replace the higher education programs already in place with Ivy Tech and the National Labor College, but will provide additional opportunities, especially for those members interested in pursuing a BA in liberal arts, humanities, education, and other fields of study.

Students in Goddard’s BA in Individualized Studies Program build their studies around learning goals that are relevant to their own lives. Learning in the program is interactive and vibrant, supported by a rich community of faculty and peers. Students work one-on-one with a faculty advisor throughout the semester and share experience, encouragement, and insights in small advising groups.

The BA in Individualized Studies Program is ideal both for students interested in continuing their undergraduate studies or just beginning their college experience, supporting them to get the degree they want while continuing to manage full lives.

Similar to the model used at the National Labor College, students attend an eight-day residency on the Goddard campus in Central Vermont at the beginning of each semester and then accomplish the work of each semester in their home communities. This study format allows for exceptional flexibility. Students can live anywhere, enjoy the freedom of mobility during the semester, and choose the environment best suited for their learning activities.

Along with the credits earned in NEIEP’s apprenticeship program, credits earned from other institutions may be transferred to a Goddard College degree program. Additional credit may be awarded through Goddard’s Assessment of Prior Learning process.

To learn more about Goddard College, visit their website at http://www.goddard.edu. To request more information (when available) on the NEIEP-Goddard partnership, contact Maggie Cleveland at 800-228-8220, ext. 6121 or mcleveland@neiep.org.
NEIEP DEBUTS MOBILE WEB SITE: HTTP://M.NEIEP.ORG

Need info from NEIEP in a hurry? Grab your smartphone! NEIEP’s new mobile website now offers students and instructors a quick and easy way to access course information, certificates, and records.

Instructors who login to the site can pull up a list of their active classes, along with unit exam answers and additional information they would normally access through their computers.

Students who login to the site can display their student certificate statement to show an employer, as well as view individual certificates. They can also view their class status information, which includes a list of requirements for each class, attendance records, and exam scores.

A public portion of the site, which does not require a login, provides access to NEIEP’s course catalog and links to general information about apprenticeship and working in the elevator industry.

To view the mobile website, scan the QR Code on this page or visit http://m.neiep.org on your smartphone browser. You will see a simple menu.

Click on the “Sign In” tab to access your personal information. To view the public portions of the site, click on the “About,” “Industry Info,” or “Course Info” tab. If you have questions or trouble accessing the site, contact support@neiep.org or call 800-228-8220.

ELEVATOR EXPERTS NEEDED

Do you have a centrifugal governor tattooed on your bicep? Does your mind contain an encyclopedia of elevator-related facts and figures? Do you routinely amaze your friends, family members, or union brothers and sisters with your superior knowledge of all things elevatorial? And do you want to use your skills to benefit future generations of Elevator Constructors?

NEIEP is seeking the expertise of experienced, detail oriented Elevator Constructors to contribute to the next round of revisions for the official Glossary of Elevator Terms. In the coming weeks, we’ll be setting up an online forum for feedback and discussion of the current (2000) edition. We’ll be looking for suggestions and edits to be incorporated into a new version of the Glossary, to be published in the future.

If you’re interested in being a part of this uplifting project, contact Jon Henson at jhenson@neiep.org or 800-228-8220 ext. 6115.
May 25 Memorial Day Holiday—NEIEP closed

Friendly Reminder: Student grades and attendance are due to the NEIEP office within seven (7) days from the date the class was held. Also, keep in mind that payroll closes the 7th of the month.