

ELECTRICAL APPARATUS SERVICE ASSOCIATION
WESTERN CANADA CHAPTER

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Re: Western Canada's "NO" vote to the proposed EASA bylaw changes.

The Western Canada Chapter is against the bylaw changes proposed by EASA headquarters.

The Western Canada Chapter feels that the proposal to remove the funding to Chapter's in the US will lead to Chapter deaths and this will also be transposed to the Canadian Chapters in time.

Our Annual General Meetings have to be subsidized with EASA Chapter funds to bring EASA technical training specialists such as Tom Bishop to present sessions at the meeting. Our members have to come from such a large geographic area that travel costs are expensive and meeting registration fees have to be kept at a reasonable amount to prevent a members' total cost to attend our AGM from becoming prohibitively high. Without Chapter funding from headquarters, our Chapter will definitely perish since there will not be enough funds in our account for our officers to travel and meet.

Without enough funding for AGM's, associate members will suffer as well. Trade shows at local meetings allow associate member vendors to participate and display their products. This in many cases is financially not feasible to do at the large International Convention for some vendors who look for this meeting type environment for networking and sales. EASA will lose all of their associate memberships.

We feel the downturn in memberships that EASA is seeing is reflective of all associations throughout North America. The way to revitalize membership is to stimulate the chapters not decrease funding to chapters. The few members that have dropped out of EASA due to company amalgamations or disinterest will be very small compared to the number of passionate and active chapter members that will leave EASA after the inevitable collapse of the chapters.

It seems that the issue of funding chapters is mostly due to EASA wishing to save \$80,000.00 US per year and increase technical support with these saved funds. We believe that the current technical staff should be reviewed. A survey should be brought forward to the entire EASA membership rating the current technical staff for their performance and suggestions for improvements. Industry Technical training centers have found that the best instructors are those that have served in the industry for a number of years and can supply real life practical knowledge to augment their technical knowledge in instruction.

One way to invigorate Chapters is for EASA headquarters to subsidize their Technical staff to attend Annual General Meetings of a Chapter and present a technical session. We know from experience Chapter members turn out in large numbers if EASA technical sessions are made available locally and to every EASA member for a reasonable cost.

Regards

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Cc: Sandi Howlett
Ken Lipinski – Vice President Western Canada Chapter
Eddie Sandboe – Treasurer Western Canada Chapter
Steve Garnal – Secretary Western Canada Chapter
Membership – Western Canada Chapter