

Background of the Ben Franklin Electric Club

The business depression of the early 1930s left Northern California's electrical supply industry in a regrettably unprincipled condition. Some manufacturers totally ignored their own published price sheets. Erratic pricing was the norm. Concerned distributors, hoping to restore rhyme and reason to inconsistent costs of goods, urged manufacturers and representatives to organize "Get Together Clubs", socialize on a person-to-person basis and ultimately regain a basis of integrity. Not to restrain trade, but to bring about stability in a needlessly chaotic market.

At the February 1936 NAED meeting at the old Del Monte Hotel in Monterey, a group of four manufacturer field representatives heeded the urging of these distributors. They prepared a list of potential charter members, issued invitations to join, and began holding meetings. This resulted in the formation the Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California, an organization having no outside affiliations. Membership was limited to manufacturers whose policy was to sell through distributors - their local and regional marketing managers and the independent professionals representing them. The object of the Club was stated as "the promotion of friendly relations and social activities between its members and the dissemination of knowledge concerning electrical materials".

Luncheon meetings were held on the first Wednesday of each month: From 1936 to 1962 at the Bellevue Hotel in San Francisco, and between 1963 and 1970 at DiMaggio's, opposite Fishermans' Wharf. In 1971 the meeting place was moved to the South San Francisco Inn for freeway access and ease of parking. From 1974 to 2000 the meetings were held at the Elk's Club in South San Francisco. The monthly meetings are currently held on the first Monday of the month at the Elk's Club in Alameda.

Membership Application

Name of Applicant: _____

Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Is this your Home or Office Address?: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Time in current position: _____ yrs _____ months

Time with current Company: _____ yrs _____ months

Proposer #1: _____

Proposer #2: _____

Proposer #3: _____

Reasons for wanting to join the Club: _____

Electrical and Telecommunication Equipment

Manufacturers Represented:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I hereby declare myself an applicant for membership in the Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California. If elected to membership, I agree to abide by its Constitution and By-Laws and to promptly pay all Club dues, fees, and other charges assessed me (1). As a member, I will make Ben Franklin a priority with me and will especially be aware of the By-Laws Article III, Section 8, stating: "Any member absent from three consecutive meetings without due cause may be dropped from membership at the option of the Board of Directors after the member has been notified in writing."

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Please complete this Application Form and either 1) give it to a current BFEC member, or 2) affix appropriate postage and mail to the BFEC Membership Committee Chairman.

(1) Initiation fee is \$50, payable before first meeting. Annual dues are \$100 payable January 1. There is a mandatory financial assessment for each member for the annual Holiday Luncheon and Annual Golf Tournament. Other assessments may be necessary as determined by the Board of Directors.

Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California

The Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California was established in 1936 and is a thriving community of professional salespeople, executives, and Manufacturer Representatives from reputable Electrical and Telecommunications Manufacturers. Membership also includes Trade Publications' Representatives and Advertising Agencies' Representatives, as well as Honorary Members.

Some of the activities of the Club are:

- Monthly industry luncheon meetings in Alameda
- Annual Summer Golf Tournament
- Annual Industry Holiday Luncheon (annually since 1938!)
- Family activities including picnics, Horseracing, Theme Parks, Ballgames, etc.
- Fund raising activities for Charitable Organizations

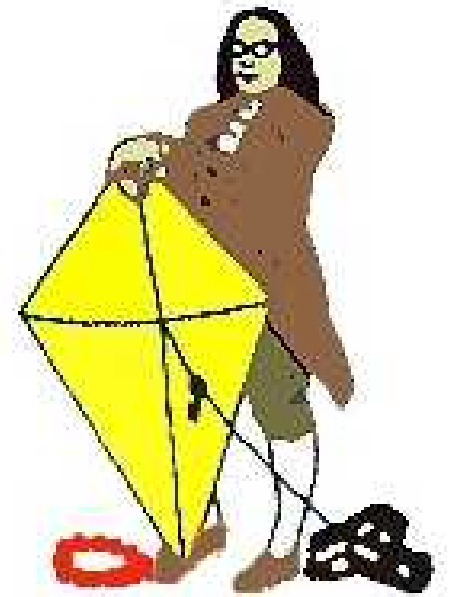
If you enjoy making friends in the electrical industry and want to meet monthly in a social setting, then the Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California could be for you. If you qualify and are interested in joining and participating in this dynamic organization, please complete this application form and fax/mail it to the Membership Committee Chairman. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member or call the Membership Committee Chairman. We look forward to your participation in this Club.

Ken McFarland
Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California
Membership Committee Chairman
Phone: 925-867-1840/Fax: 925-867-1838
E-mail: Ken.McFarland@crouse-hinds.com

ATTN: KEN MCFARLAND - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
BEN FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
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SAN RAMON, CA 94583

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BEN FRANKLIN Electric Club



of Northern California