

Recap of Academy Annual Meeting in Ponte Vedra

June 11, 2010

Seventy-one Academy Fellows and their spouses/guests were enlightened and entertained during the annual meeting in Ponte Vedra, Florida last weekend. **Milner Irvin** is in his second year as Chairman of the Academy and offered a varied and interesting program.

The event began with an **opening reception** on Friday night at a fabulous venue ~ the **TPC Sawgrass clubhouse**. The Players Championship golf tournament is played there each May. It is considered the “fifth major” tournament on the professional golf circuit. The recently remodeled clubhouse provided an excellent opportunity for Fellows to reconnect with their friends.

What got everybody talking was the message on Sunday morning from our featured speaker, **Joe Ehrmann** (a former NFL defensive lineman turned minister), who spoke about his belief that society does a horrible job of teaching boys how to be men and that we need to redefine what it means to be a “man”. Ehrmann described the traditional criteria for measuring manhood: athletic ability, sexual conquest and economic success. “These are the three lies about ‘false masculinity’ that sets men up for failure when they compare what they have and compete with others for what they have.”

Ehrmann explained: “As a young boy, I’m going to compare my athletic ability to yours and compete for whatever attention that brings. When I get older, I’m going to compare my girlfriend to yours and compete for whatever status I can acquire by being with the prettiest or the coolest or the best girl I can get. Ultimately, as adults, we compare bank accounts and job titles, houses and cars, and we compete for the amount of security and power those represent. We compare, we compete. That’s all we ever do. It leaves most men feeling isolated and alone.”

Ehrmann calls his solution “strategic masculinity” and it is based upon two things:

“Masculinity, first and foremost, ought to be defined in terms of relationships. It ought to be taught in terms of the capacity to love and to be loved. It comes down to this: What kind of father are you? What kind of son are you? What kind of friend are you? Success comes in terms of relationships.

“And then all of us ought to have some kind of cause, some kind of purpose in our lives that’s bigger than our own individual hopes, dreams, wants and desires. At the end of our life, we ought to be able to look back over it from our deathbed and know that somehow the world is a better place because we lived, we loved, we were other-centered, other-focused.”

On Saturday morning, the **Working Group** participated in a presentation by **Dr. Thomas Korman**, PE, on Building Information Modeling (BIM). Dr. Korman is conducting an ELECTRI International research project this year entitled *BIM Training and Implementation Course for Electrical Contractors*. After reviewing construction industry trends that have led to the increasingly wide spread use of BIM, he outlined the Foundation project he is conducting.

As an introduction to BIM, Dr. Korman discussed the benefits touted by its proponents:

- Improved visualization
- Improved design and construction productivity due to easy retrieval of information

- Increased coordination of construction documents
- Embedding and linking of vital information such as vendors for specific materials, location of details and quantities required for estimating and bidding
- Increased speed of delivery
- Reduced project delivery costs

He also discussed current applications of BIM:

- Visualization
- Modeling
- Code review
- Fabrication
- Communication
- Cost estimating
- Conflict interference and collision detection

Dr. Korman concluded the introduction to BIM by reviewing several commonly used software packages.

Working Group Chairman **Greg Stewart**, Superior Group, Columbus, Ohio, provided three real-world examples of projects on which his company has used BIM; Dr. Korman provided two additional case studies of projects using BIM.

In conclusion, Dr. Korman offered these keys to successfully implementing BIM in electrical contractors' operations:

- Commitment – you won't get there if you're just playing around
- Planning – you can't get there if you don't know where to go
- Invest sufficient resources – half the effort gets almost none of the results
- Get buy-in from all levels – don't let a naysayer get the final say
- Get enough help – ask for directions from experts

You can see Dr. Korman's PowerPoint presentation under **Meeting Presentations** on the Academy website.

During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected the following to the Academy Board of Directors for the term ending in 2013: **Bob Bruce, John Colson, John Negro and John Penney.**

Papers were presented by **Larry Cogburn** and **Max Landon**. Cogburn's paper is entitled *Experiences with Engineers Acting as Contractors or Design-Builders*. It discussed the transition of engineering firms from representatives for the project owner to design-build contractors and the advantages and disadvantages of participating in this project delivery method for NECA members.

Max Landon's paper is entitled *International Study Mission: A World of Electrical Contracting*. The paper discusses the many travels by NECA members to view electrical contracting practices from around the world. Besides lessons learned from abroad, the friendships formed with other NECA members have made this a very valuable program.

Both papers have been added to the list of all the papers presented at Academy meetings over the years. You can see the papers under **Academy Papers** on the Academy's website.

The **Jury of Fellows**, chaired by **Ben Cook**, recommended 6 candidates for Fellowship. These were approved by the Board of Directors and will be installed in Boston in October. Here's the list of the **six new Fellows**:

George Adams
EC Company
Portland, Oregon

Michael Bender
Bana Electric Corporation
Farmingdale, NY

I. Steven Diamond
Malko Electric Company
Morton Grove, Illinois

Charles Freeman
Gulf Electric Company, Inc. of Mobile
Mobile, Alabama

David E. Morse
Morse Electric, Inc.
Beloit, Wisconsin

Bruce Young
ColliSys
New Hope, Minnesota

The **formal dinner** on Sunday brought the event to a conclusion and was another highlight. The chef's presentation was only exceeded by the quality and presentation of the dinner ~ highlighted by the Roasted Red Pepper Soup. There seemed to be more dancing than usual thanks to the excellent selection played by the band (Freudian Slip). Here's a memento:

