

## Recap of Academy Annual Meeting in Stowe

June 23, 2015



The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Academy of Electrical Contracting concluded just over a week ago in the Green Mountains of Vermont. **Dennis Quebe** ('06) chaired his first Academy meeting at the Stowe Mountain Lodge. One-hundred nine (109) Fellows and 101 guests enjoyed the beautiful location and weather, as well as the Academy programs and networking opportunities. The 210 attendees is the largest number of attendees in many years!

We implemented an online **evaluation form** at this meeting to replace the paper version. This new innovation seems to be successful as we have already received 56 responses (more than in previous years). If you haven't responded online, please do that ASAP. You'll find the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACE062015>

A topic of conversation throughout the meeting was the national news story about the two escaped convicts from the Clinton Correctional Facility in nearby Dannemora, NY. Several sightings were reported in the Stowe area (not by our Fellows), but we remained focused on the Academy tasks and we forged ahead.

Because many Fellows and guests had not visited Vermont, we placed a special emphasis on local entrepreneurs. You'll see several references below.

There were many **highlights and memories**:

- The Thursday opening event in the Great Room at the Stowe Mountain Lodge offered a beautiful setting and the opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet the new Fellows.
- Jack Devine, the former Acting Director of the CIA, was our speaker Saturday morning. Fellows and guests could get close and personal with someone in the spy business.
- All of the respondents to date felt that the open

evening (on Friday) was an excellent idea, especially with so many nice restaurants in the greater Stowe area.

- The Taste of Vermont tour on Friday afternoon was sold-out! One-hundred-four Fellows and their guests toured locations that have put Vermont on the map.
- Attendance at the spouse breakfast on Friday morning was excellent; as was the program, which included furniture building (another Vermont staple).
- The formal dinner on Saturday evening closed the formal part of the program. Chairman Quebe introduced 15 Fellows attending their first Academy meeting.
- Our entertainers (Jim Salestrom and Livingston Taylor) provided an excellent show. They were accessible to Fellows during the reception as well as following their performance, which was a nice treat for Fellows and guests.



The **Working Group** topic was *Energy Storage and Microgrids – What the next NEC will require*. The speaker was Jeff Sargent. Sargent has been a member of NFPA's electrical engineering department since 1997. He is co-author of the *Electrical Inspection Manual with Checklists* and *NEC Q & A*, and is a frequent contributor to necplus®, NFPA's on-line NEC product and NFPA Journal®.

The chairman for the Working Group session was Larry Cogburn ('08). Larry is a member of the NECA Codes and Standards Committee and represents NECA as a Principal on NEC Code Making Panel 8.

Cogburn introduced Jeff Sargent and he discussed the process that NFPA uses to create and revise the NEC. He also discussed the status of the adoption of the NEC by states and local governments. In many cases, states are more than one full edition behind in the adoption of the latest edition of the code.

The growth of energy storage due to distributed and renewable power generation has resulted in many changes to the NEC. Sargent described how the content of the NEC on these issues has changed over the past 30 years. He provided the group with a preview of the new language that will be added and the sections that will be revised in the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code.

**Jack Devine** was our speaker. Devine began his remarks with a video clip from the acclaimed Showtime

series *Homeland* that offered a glimpse into the mysterious world of espionage. He talked about the dramatization of spy films (like James Bond) and advised that the gap between Hollywood and reality is narrowing quickly.

Devine talked about the importance of electrical knowledge in the CIA's surveillance efforts and said he considered himself to be an electrical contractor (of sorts). In *Homeland*, the Saul Berenson role (played by Mandy Patinkin) at the CIA is the position that Jack Devine held for many years. Patinkin received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for his role as Jack Devine.

**Recognition** is an important component at the annual meeting. The Jury of Fellows selected the following 11 individuals for induction into the



*Escort Committee: Dan Walter, Max Landon, Devine and John Negro.*

Academy at the NECA convention in San Francisco, CA on October 4:

**Jeff Cardwell**

Huston Electric Inc  
Kokomo, Indiana

**Rudolph Dixon, Jr**

S & R Electric  
Augusta, Georgia

**Lewis Frain**

Con J Franke Electric Inc  
Stockton, California

**Terry W Gipson**

Beltline Electric Company Inc  
Paducah, Kentucky

**Franklin P Holleran**

H P Frazer Company  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

**James Johannemann**

All Bright Electric  
West Nyack, New York

**Steven Lazzaro**

Hellman Electric Corp  
Bronx, New York

**Donald Leslie, Jr**

Johnson Electrical Construction Corp  
Hauppauge, New York

**Douglas R Martin**

St Louis Chapter, NECA  
St Louis, Missouri

**Richard A Parenti**

Eastern Regional Office, NECA  
South Kingston, Rhode Island

**Duane Seifert**

Current Electric  
Michigan City, Indiana

During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected **Orvil Anthony** ('13), **Russ Borden** ('10), **Brad Giles** ('11) and **Todd Mikec** ('14) to the **Academy Board of Directors** for the term ending in 2018.

Two **Academy papers** were presented. The first paper by **Craig Clark** ('14) discussed retainage. The paper's title is "*Retainage: Rethinking our Financial Structure*". **Larry Bradley** ('02) presented a paper entitled "*American Healthcare Needs a Doctor . . . STAT!*" The current crisis in healthcare was discussed.

The papers for 2015 can be seen at the Academy website: <http://www.necanet.org/neca-community/peer-groups/academy/academy-papers/2010-2019>

Eighteen Fellows and guests were attending their first annual Academy meeting, including the following:

Gina Addeo ('13) & Michael Sullivan  
Ted & Elaine Brady ('13)  
Craig & Carol Clark ('14)  
Paul & Virginia Guarracino ('14)  
Tom Halpin ('14)  
Tim Homer ('14)  
Mark Huston ('14) & Renee Brothers  
Don Jhonson ('13)  
Mike & Kathleen Joyce ('14)

Blair & Anna Mahan ('14)  
Mark & Diana Mazur ('13)  
Todd & Gretchen Mikec ('13)  
Mark & Pam Nemshick ('14)  
Jeff Ohman ('14)  
Ed & Pat Shikany ('14)  
Jim & Evelyn Strange ('13)  
Tom & Jeannie Thierheimer ('14)  
Jim & Sue Willson ('14)

All were recognized at the **general meeting** by Chairman Quebe.

**Now back to some of the memories and photos:**

Entertainers Jim Salestrom and Livingston Taylor took turns providing a memorable program of acoustic music. Salestrom, a regular member of John Denver's band (who previously performed for the Academy when we met at the Broadmoor in 2012) offered some of his mentors' songs as well as some of his own compositions. I marveled at how many people were singing along to *Take Me Home, Country Roads*. To remind us about the draw of next year's meeting in Asheville, Livingston Taylor serenaded us with his older brother's (James Taylor) song *Carolina in My Mind*. Taylor also charmed us with a song about a mythical character *Railroad Bill*. Dancing followed and the floor was crowded!

The **Taste of Vermont** tour included visits to:

- Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory
- Cabot Cheese annex (including Lake Champlain Chocolates)
- Cold Harbor Cider Mill (with incredible apple cider donuts)
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters was present in each of these locations

During the opening reception on Thursday night, we showcased many Vermont artisans including Cabot cheese, Ben & Jerry's ice cream and something called **sugar on snow** which we now know is Vermont maple syrup (Vermonters call this "sugar") poured and blended/stirred gently over snow (in our case, ice).

Twenty-four Fellows and guests opted for a Sunday visit to the Simon Pearce Glassblowing Factory, store and restaurant in Queechee, VT. The candle votive gifts to Fellows were hand-crafted at the Simon Pearce factory.

And speaking of **photos**: We'll be printing the customary photos of the formal dinner tables and distributing them later this summer. If you would like to see (and purchase) professional photos from our meeting, click on the website below. It will take you to the webpage for the Academy meeting photos:

<http://barriefisherphotographers.shootproof.com/event/1528939>

To gain access, you should enter your email address and the password (AEC). You can see that there are 3 albums (Thursday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening).

Should you wish to purchase any photos you can add them to the "cart" and proceed to "checkout". There you can enter your information (address and credit card, etc.).

Carolina "On" (sic) My Mind ~ Already,

**Mike Thompson ('92)**

**Academy Secretary**

**301-806-1109**



*Opening Reception*





*Bob & Carol Daoust sample Ben & Jerry's*



*Exchange of Ideas between Dan Schaeffer,  
Stan Lazarian and Lenny Lynch*



*NECA President David Hardt*



*Connie Anthony, Mary Ferry, Sue Lazarian, Hilah Autrey,  
Denise Monsoor and Linda Quebe enjoy the Opening Reception*