

Recap of Asheville Academy Meeting

June 20, 2016



The 48th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Electrical Contracting concluded just over a week ago in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. **Dennis Quebe** ('06) chaired the meeting at the historic Omni Grove Park Inn (opened in 1913). One-hundred two (102) Fellows and 92 guests enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and weather, as well as Academy programs and networking opportunities. The 194 attendees is the second largest number of attendees in recent years (just slightly below last year)!

We implemented an online **evaluation form** at this meeting to replace the paper version. This new innovation appears to be successful and we have already received 43 responses; but there should be more! If you haven't responded online, please do that ASAP. You'll find the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACE062016>

There were many **highlights and memories**:

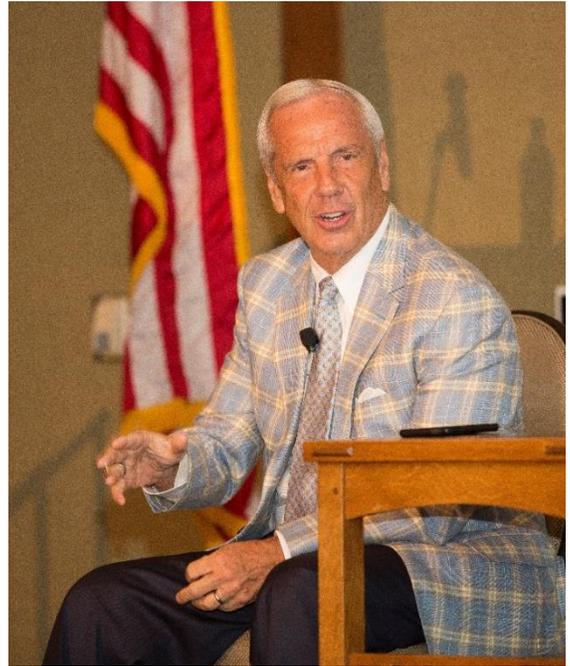
- The Thursday opening event was on the **Mountain View Terrace** and it is appropriately named. Just as I had planned, we were blessed with a beautiful blue-sky and a fantastic view of the Blue Ridge Mountain. It was a great setting with the opportunity for fellowship and greeting the new Fellows.
- UNC Men's Basketball Coach **Roy Williams** was our speaker. Of the responses to date, Coach Williams presentation has received the highest score for any category. Many took the opportunity to visit the Biltmore estate for a "behind-the-scenes tour". Following an excellent buffet lunch on the property (Deerpark), our guides showed us how the mansion was managed "back in the day". What a place!
- The spouse program on Friday morning included remarks by Bruce Johnson, craftsman, columnist, author and TV host who has become the historian at the Grove Park Inn. He shared interesting stories about the property and its guests. Our survey indicates that *Built for the Ages* was an appreciated gift.
- The formal dinner on Saturday evening closed the program. Chairman Quebe introduced the chef, first-time attendees and the entertainment for our Motown themed event. The decorations were fabulous too.
- The **Working Group** topic was *Disruptive Technologies Impact on the Marketplace*. The keynote speaker was Dr. Vivek Wadhwa. Dr. Wadhwa lectures at Stanford, Duke and Emory universities on subjects such as entrepreneurship and public policy. In addition he is a regular columnist for the Washington Post, Bloomberg BusinessWeek and the American Society of Engineering Education's Prism Magazine. Dr. Joey Shorter, NECA Director of Research, was the facilitator.



Dr. Wadhwa provided a fast-paced and entertaining presentation giving Fellows a look into current developments in robotics, artificial intelligence, computing, synthetic biology, 3D printing, medicine and nanomaterials.

Following the break, a panel of Fellows, Mike Joyce ('14), Mark Mazur ('13) and Skip Perley ('06), joined Dr. Wadhwa to discuss the impact of disruptive technologies on their businesses and on the industry. Dr. Shorter moderated the panel session and facilitated the Q&A session with the audience.

Coach Roy Williams was born and raised in the Asheville area. He attended the University of North Carolina where he became close to the legendary basketball coach, Dean Smith. After college, Coach Williams returned home to coach high school basketball for several years until Dean Smith asked him to return to UNC as an assistant coach. He was in Chapel Hill for 10 years (including the Michael Jordan era) before accepting his first head coaching job at the University of Kansas (where Dean Smith had played). In his 15 years at KU, Williams had great success (including 4 *Final Fours*). In 2003 he returned to Chapel Hill as the head coach of the Carolina Tar Heels and proceeded to win national championships in 2005 and 2009. He has won numerous awards including induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and he has now taken his teams to eight *Final Fours*!



UNC Men's Basketball Coach Roy Williams

Coach Williams' topic was *Motivating Your Team*, but first he talked about his upbringing on "the wrong side of the tracks" in Asheville. His high school basketball coach was his father-figure and he patterned his young life after him. He talked about the importance of teachers in his life ~ and about his recent knee replacement (which required him to use crutches).

Williams talked about talent vs character and the importance of motivating everyone on your team! As a coach, he loves to offer famous quotes to his players for their reflection. He shared one of his favorite sayings with us: *"It's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."*

Recognition is an important component at the annual meeting. The Jury of Fellows selected the following 10 individuals for induction into the Academy at the NECA convention in Boston on October 8:

Susan Ernst

Royal Electric Construction Corp
Columbus, Ohio

Glenn W Kingsbury

Boston Chapter, NECA
Boston, Massachusetts

Jim Laub

Cache Valley Electric
Logan, Utah

Terry Lette

Preferred Electric Company, Inc
Charlotte, North Carolina

Lindsay Mills

John Mills Electric
Elmira Heights, New York

Earl C Restine, Jr

Fuller Electric
San Diego, California

David I Samuels
Robert B Samuels, Inc
New York, New York

Steve Washburn
Puget Sound Chapter, NECA
Seattle, Washington

James Young
Young Electric Company
San Francisco, California

Russ Zimmerman
Romanoff Electric
Toledo, Ohio

During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected **Art Ashley** ('04), **Ron Autrey** ('07), **Mark Huston** ('14) and **Jody Shea** ('13) to the **Academy Board of Directors** for the term ending in 2019.

Two **Academy papers** were presented. The first paper by **Wilson Yancey** ('15) was titled "*Cultivating Safety through Community*". The best practices of the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Partnership are described in this paper. **Jim Willson** ('14) presented a paper entitled "*Net Zero and Beyond*". This paper described how his NECA chapter utilized their training facility as a business development tool. During the oral presentation, both presenters referenced supporting information from Dr. Wadhwa's Working Group.

The papers for 2016 can be seen at the Academy website: <http://www.necanet.org/neca-community/peer-groups/academy/academy-papers/2010-2019>

Twelve Fellows and guests were attending their first annual Academy meeting and earned the right to receive their blue ribbon for future Academy gatherings:

Jeff Cardwell ('15)
Rudy & Cheryl Dixon ('15)
Lewis Frain ('15)
Terry & Kimberly Gipson ('15)
Frank & Barbara Holleran ('15)
Jim & Stacey Johannemann ('15)

Steve & Leah Lazzaro ('15)
Don Leslie, Jr. ('15)
Doug Martin ('15)
Rich Parenti ('15)
Duane & Beth Seifert ('15)
Wilson & Carol Yancey ('15)

Chairman Quebe recognized all at the **general meeting** and the formal dinner (with their guests).



Now back to some of the memories and photos:

I don't know why I didn't think about a Motown theme before, but the Sound Express with the Legacy proved to be a great choice according to the evaluation forms. The dance floor was packed as we were serenaded with songs by the Four Tops, the Temptations, Smokey Robinson and many more familiar old favorites from our past. I don't recall ever seeing the dance floor as crowded at an Academy event!

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

<http://aaronimaging.zenfolio.com/f219879459>

After clicking on the link, you need to enter the password: "*grovepark*". You can see that there are 5 "galleries" to choose from. Should you wish to purchase any photos you can select them, choose your "media", add them to your "cart" and proceed to "checkout". There you can enter your personal information (address and credit card, etc.).

We are already working on plans for our trip to Jackson Hole next June. And we're planning a **post-meeting visit to Yellowstone National Park** under the guidance of Geoff Robertson. This will include lodging at some of the famous park lodges and visits to Old Faithful, Yellowstone's Grand Canyon and other famous points of interest. If you want to continue on through Wyoming to South Dakota's Black Hills, we're offering that option too. Information about this post trip will be available in September; registration for the Academy meeting will open in February.



Our Opening Reception Entertainment



A Most Beautiful Setting for Our Formal Dinner



Sometimes there is confusion about the definition of "business casual". Tim Gauthier ('98) and Rich Parenti ('15) review their choices!



Susan Ernst ('16) and Greg Stewart ('08) enjoy the music.

**Mike Thompson ('92), Academy Secretary
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