

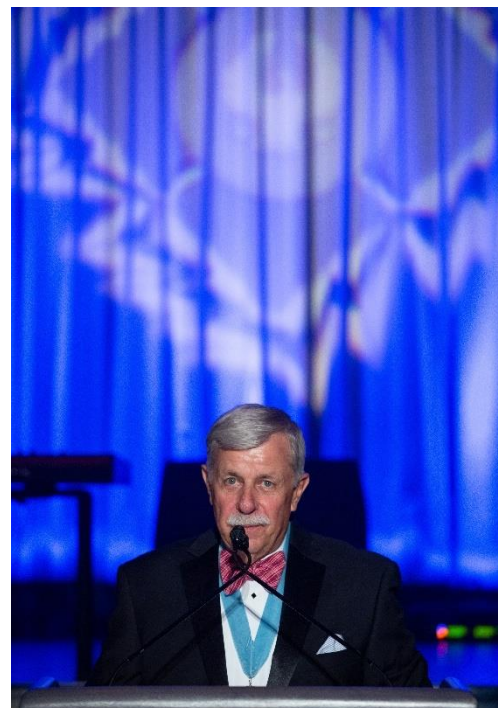
June 28, 2019

Recap of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Academy in Quebec

David Hardt ('07) chaired a different Annual Meeting in mid-June. Despite our best-laid plans for our meeting at the historic Le Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, we had to split our meeting between another Fairmont property (Le Manoir Richelieu) ~ not in the same city ~ but 90 minutes away. This resulted from a shortage of rooms at the Frontenac due to unfinished renovations in about a third of their inventory which meant they had no rooms for our Wednesday arrival and opening reception.

Le Manoir Richelieu is an exceptional property in La Malbaie, Quebec. They hosted the 44th G7 summit in June 2018, so you know it was "Academy Worthy" in a charming location overlooking the Saint Lawrence River. Many were pleased to see the countryside of Quebec in contrast to the city of Quebec. But, with the necessary back and forth travel, there were some logistical challenges.

This left us with little time for our customary meetings. We cancelled the Working Group and the Companion breakfast and program; the Jury of Fellows met very early on Thursday morning and we squeezed the Board of Directors meeting in on Friday. As if this wasn't enough disruption, our speaker, Michael Beschloss, was unable to join us in Quebec because of cancelled flights. This resulted in a shorter General Meeting than usual. But the entertainment at the formal dinner the last night minimized the impact of these challenges.



Chairman David Hardt



Formal Dinner Setting

We had the **largest attendance ever** at an Academy Annual Meeting with 113 Fellows and 104 companions for a total of 217 people. Many Fellows arrived early and spent several days at the Richelieu. The Opening Reception was held on the lawn overlooking the seaway.

There were many **highlights and memories:**

- Last year, the opening event was held on the lawn overlooking the Pacific; this year, we overlooked the Saint Lawrence Seaway. It was a little cooler, but most of us moved indoors for a fabulous buffet that featured items from the province of Quebec. Later in the evening, there were fire pits set up outside for warmth and making s'mores! It was a great setting for fellowship and greeting new Fellows.
- The Thursday train trip from the Richelieu, along the Saint Lawrence, was scenic and a fun adventure. We had a short visit to the quaint town of Baie Saint Paul where many of us took the opportunity to stop for some ice cream or a beer and visit a few of the local shops. We continued our trip ending at the base of Montmorency Falls and then boarded a bus for a quick trip to the Frontenac.
- A little rain dampened the fun at the Sugar Shack on Thursday night, but learning about how maple syrup is gathered and processed was very interesting. I should mention the maple butter too ~ very yummy! The dinner and fellowship were excellent!
- The Board of Directors had a brief meeting to approve the recommendations of the Jury and a few other necessary items.



- Friday's formal dinner was spectacular, from the setting, to the service, to the food! Chairman Hardt introduced the chef and first-time attendees. A string quartet serenaded us during the entry into the dining room and throughout dinner. When dessert was being served the Painchaud Family transformed into an entertainment act not seen before at an Academy meeting! Patrice Painchaud was the leader of the family group that included another brother, a sister and a brother-in-law. They played music in just about every conceivable manner. More on that below.

- The **Jury of Fellows**, chaired by Dennis Quebe ('06), selected the following 11 individuals for induction into the Academy on September 15 in Las Vegas:

Robert Cherry
Osborne Electric Company
Oklahoma City, OK

Bruce A Creen
Northeastern Illinois Chapter, NECA
West Chicago, IL

William M Darish
Industrial Electric Co
Detroit, MI

Tracy L Harness
Northwest Line Constructors Chapter, NECA
Portland, OR

Lewis Maffioli
Wilson Electric Co
Rockford, IL

Marilyn M Oppedisano
Finger Lakes NY Chapter, NECA
Liverpool, NY

Robert Seanger
Al's Electric of St Cloud, Inc
St Cloud, MN

Hal Sokoloff
H & L Electric
Long Island City, NY

Robert J Turner II
Turner Electric Service, Inc
Dexter, MI

Steven Watts
CSI Electrical Contractors
Santa Fe Springs, CA

John C Wright
Alterman, Inc
San Antonio, TX

Recognition is a key component at the annual meeting. During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected Jerry Hayes ('12), Skip Perley ('06), Dan Walsh ('12) and Dan Walter ('02) to the Academy Board of Directors for the term ending in 2022. Thanks were offered to Fellows whose terms were ending in 2019, as follows: Art Ashley ('04), Ron Autrey ('07), Mark Huston ('14) and Jody Shea ('13).

Two Academy Papers were presented. Skip Perley ('06) went first with his Paper titled *"Our Opportunities and Challenges During a Technological Growth Spurt AND What We Can Do About It"*. The subject of disruption is discussed with the focus on what an electrical contractor can ~ and should ~ work to control. Next up was Frank Holleran ('15) with his paper *"Construction Mis-Management: Can the Electrical Contractor Survive?"* The paper discusses how construction mis-management doomed many successful electrical contractors in the past ~ and how we might avoid the same fate.

Both Academy papers and Holleran's PowerPoint can be viewed at: <https://www.necanet.org/about-us/member-groups/academy/academy-papers/2010-2019>.

By the way, forty-nine years of Academy papers (115 total) can be seen (by decade) on the Academy website: <https://www.necanet.org/about-us/member-groups/academy/academy-papers>.

Besides the paid musicians, there were some birthdays and anniversaries to be celebrated. Carol Yancey, Chairman Hart and Chris Hardt led the festivities.



Fifteen Fellows and guests were **attending their first annual Academy meeting**. They will receive their (replacement) blue ribbon to be worn at future Academy gatherings:

K C and Lori Borden ('18)
Greg and Wendy Bowman ('18)
Jeff Collins ('17)
Kevin and Stacey Connelly ('18)
Luke and Dona Cunningham ('18)
Brian and Ginny Damant ('18)
Mike and Bonnie Doyle ('18)
Karl and Michelle Jensen ('18)

Michael and Teri Kelliher ('18)
Tom and Jean Kyle ('18)
Greg and Patti Long ('18)
Jim and Diane Reed ('18)
Ed and Rebecca Witt, Jr ('18)
Paul and Frances Yesbeck ('18)
Robert and Karen Zahn ('18)

Chairman Hardt recognized these new Fellows at the general meeting and with their companions at the formal dinner.

Now more about the **formal dinner entertainment**. The Painchaud Family is from Quebec and has performed internationally. From their dinner music it was apparent they were very talented ~ but reserved! The real show began when dessert was served.



One of the brothers (Patrice) was featured and he played various string instruments in just about every way imaginable. He made music with flaming bows, various saws and other imaginative implements. He invited Karen Bruce onto the stage and serenaded her with *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Perhaps you can see that he's playing a cross-cut saw. Karen was enchanted!

I wouldn't ordinarily include my photo in this recap, but I was the one selected to participate in a fishing party. The line was anchored and all I had to do was hold it steady. As they played *Hava Nagila*, all the musicians joined using the fishing line instead of their bows.

They did a medley of songs suggested by the audience that truly demonstrated their talent and silent communications. About 15 songs were suggested, ranging from *Uptown Funk* (Bruno Mars) to *My Girl* (Temptations) and they moved from one to the next so easily. Towards the end of the evening their version of *Stairway to Heaven* was a crowd-pleaser. I know Led Zeppelin would have been pleased!





Note: Patrice is using his foot to move the bow while he is playing the keyboard at the same time!

We will be printing and distributing the customary photos of the formal dinner tables this summer. If you would like to see (and download) other photos from our meeting, visit <https://galerie.eminadeau.com/neca/>. Enter your email address and the password “frontenac”.

To download: hover over the photo and click on the down arrow at the bottom right. If prompted, enter your email address and the photo will open.

This marks my last meeting as Secretary of the Academy, but Carolyn and I plan to attend as many Academy gatherings as we can. I have genuinely enjoyed my time with Fellows and family. NECA has meant a lot to my family. John Grau is replacing me in this position and will be working with Diane to keep everyone on track.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Thompson".

Mike Thompson ('92)
Academy Secretary ~ But Not For Long
301-806-1109

