

June 19, 2017

Recap of Jackson Hole Academy Meeting



The 49th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Electrical Contracting concluded just over a week ago at the foot of the Grand Tetons in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. **Dennis Quebe** ('06) chaired the meeting at the beautiful Four Seasons. One-hundred-twelve (112) Fellows and 103 guests enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and weather, as well as Academy programs and networking opportunities. The 215 total attendees is the largest number in many years!

Early results from the online **evaluation form** (emailed to attendees on June 14) enables me to share some early trends about the success of this meeting. To date we have received 57 responses; but there should be more! If you haven't responded online, please do that ASAP. You can tell us what you think by accessing Diane's June 14 email and clicking on the link.

There were many **highlights and memories**:

- The opening event was held just outside the Four Seasons on the **Bridger Lawn** (near the base of the Bridger Ski Lift). It was a great setting with the opportunity for fellowship and greeting new Fellows.
- A "most interesting person" was our speaker at the General Meeting on Saturday morning and he has received the **highest score** so far (4.71 out of 5). **John "Boomer" Stufflebeem** shared his life's story (more below).
- We had a "family double-header" with a husband and wife "team" **separately** addressing the Working Group and the spouse program on Friday morning.
- The **Working Group** topic was *Bear Markets and Real Grizzly Bears: Some Things to be Worried About*. The keynote speaker was **Peter Philips**, who leads a dual life as a professor of Economics at the University of Utah and volunteers during the summer as a ranger in nearby Grand Teton National Park. And when I say "volunteer", I mean he (and his wife, Jean) stays at a cabin on a lake in the park with no electricity or any other amenities ~ including little protection from mosquitos! They canoe across Leigh Lake to access their car!
- Peter's wife, **Jean Reagan**, entertained the spouses with stories about the children's books that she has authored over the years. Spouses were especially interested in her stories about how the publishing business works. We offered books for sale and business was brisk! Especially popular was *How to Babysit a Grandma* and *How to Babysit a Grandpa*.
- Most Fellows and guests opted for the optional Friday night trip to town to see "The Last and the Best of the Old West" ~ the Town Square Shootout! There were plenty of nice restaurants available following the shoot-out, and ample shopping opportunities too. This "open evening" was appreciated by most, with a 4.45 score from the evaluation forms to date.



Thursday Night on Bridger Lawn

- The formal dinner on Saturday evening closed the program. Chairman Quebe introduced the chef and first-time attendees. The entertainment included a return of musician Jim Salestrom and his guest, comedian Dick Hartwick. After each showed off their individual talents, they joined forces for a duet with Hartwick demonstrating that he is as good with the drumsticks as he is evoking a good laugh. Then, the recently-elected mayor of Jackson Hole, Pete Muldoon, served as a disc jockey so that Fellows and guests could work off a little of the excellent meal on the dance floor. The decorations were fabulous too.

John Stufflebeem opened his remarks with a graphic presentation that demonstrated how he progressed from:

- An average young boy
- Who attended the Naval Academy ~ and graduated
- While being the punter on the Academy's football team
- Which earned him a spot with the Detroit Lions in the NFL
- But he decided to trade uniforms and become an aircraft carrier fighter pilot (with over 1,000 aircraft carrier landings)
- He spent 8 years in combat "Where **a good day** was going to **bad places** and doing **bad things** to **bad people!**"
- Stationed at the Pentagon, he survived the 9/11 attack and became the face of the Pentagon
- Met Jimmy Buffett and they flew together to the point that Buffett asked Boomer to be his personal pilot. Boomer's wife said (and I quote) "No way Bucko!"
- Consulted with several NFL teams (including the World Champion New England Patriots) where his former Special Teams coach with the Lions is now the head coach of the Patriots. You may have heard of Bill Belichick!



As part of his remarks to the group, Stufflebeem shared a mosaic that showed where **light** is prevalent in the world; pointing out that light generally indicates civilized, progressive societies where good people usually live. The dark areas are where most of the problems are.

Peter Philips, PhD began his presentation regarding bears (grizzlies and markets) with some video of encounters with bears in the park. Turning to economics, Dr. Philips used a graph of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the U.S. from 1871 to the present to illustrate how the current economic situation fits into the longer-term view. Using these reference points, he explained that the current economic recovery is underperforming the long-term trend. And, that this is similar to the performance of the U.S. economy in the 1950's.

Dr. Philips has focused on construction economics for many years. He has followed prevailing wage and Davis-Bacon issues throughout his career. He commented on the recent move by states to eliminate or significantly modify those policies and the likely impact they will have on the union construction sector. He also examined the funding of defined benefit pension plans and challenged the rate of return assumed by many plans as being too optimistic.

The **Jury of Fellows**, chaired by Rex Ferry, selected the following 13 individuals for induction into the Academy. They will be installed at the NECA convention in Seattle on October 8:

Larry Clennon
Clennon Electric Company
Wilmington, IL

Jeffrey Collins
York Electric, Inc.
Dayton, OH

David Gill
Metro Electric
Sioux City, IA

Kellie Holland
Empire Electric Inc
Broomfield, CO

Susan King
Southern Colorado Chapter, NECA
Colorado Springs, CO

Robert LaLumiere
American Line Builders Chapter, NECA
Vandalia, OH

Ciro Lupo
Commercial Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Long Island City, NY

Francis Marcotte
Sturgeon Electric
Henderson, CO

Shawn Murphy
Wasatch Electric
Salt Lake City, UT

Thomas Parkes
O'Connell Electric, Inc.
Victor, NY

John Riley "Rilo" Stephens
Eckardt Electric
Atlanta, GA

Donald Stockton
Baker Electric, Inc.
Des Moines, IA

David White
Premier Electric, Inc.
Evansville, IN

Recognition is an important component at the annual meeting. During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected **David Pinter** ('08), **Greg Stewart** ('08), **Brad Weir** ('13) and **Jim Young** ('16) to the **Academy Board of Directors** for the term ending in 2020. Thanks were offered to Fellows going off the Board, as follows: Stan Lazarian ('05), Tony Maloney ('12), Greg Rick ('12) and Dan Schaeffer ('09).

Two **Academy papers** were presented:

- **Darrell Gossett** ('13) presented a paper titled "*Partnerships and Joint Ventures: A Business Strategy for Success*". Gossett described how his company (ERMCO) has had a successful history of partnerships with other NECA members on a variety of large jobs across the country. The paper discusses many keys to a successful partnership ~ each as critical as the next.
- **Mike Joyce** ('14) presented a paper entitled "*The Evolution of Technology in the Electrical Construction Industry*". We all know about advancing technology and how nothing lasts long anymore. Mike discussed the fact that some manufacturers (like our Premier Partner Milwaukee Tools) is adding GPS to tools so they can be located. Talk about revolutionary! Also he talked about battery-management systems that can advise when batteries need re-charging. Imagine a crimper that warns you when it doesn't have enough battery to complete the crimp. What's next!

- The papers for 2017 can be seen at the Academy website: <http://www.necanet.org/neca-community/peer-groups/academy/historical/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:

Wes Anderson & Teri Starkey ('16)	Earl & Yvonne Restine ('16)
Susan Ernst ('16)	Sonja & Eric Rheaume ('16)
Glenn & Judi Kingsbury ('16)	David & Helen Samuels ('16)
Terry & Lori Lette ('16)	Steve & Suzanne Washburn ('16)
Jim & Renee McDonald ('16)	Jim Young & Jennifer Kirchner ('16)
Lindsay & Karen Mills ('16)	Russ & Ruth Zimmerman ('16)

Chairman Quebe recognized the Fellows at the **general meeting** and with their guests at the formal dinner.

Now back to some of the memories and more photos:

Jim Salestrom has entertained Fellows at our Academy formal dinners before (at the Broadmoor in 2012 and in Stowe in 2015). Each year, he brings someone with him to supplement his music. This year, it was comedian **Dick Hartwick**. In addition to his very clean comedy act, Hartwick is a proficient drummer. He demonstrated his talents with drum solos from Gene Krupa to Buddy Rich to Cozy Cole (remember Topsy, part 2?) to the highest-paid drummer of all time (at least that's what Dick said): Ringo Starr!

Following the show, a local disc-jockey, who just happens to be the recently elected mayor of Jackson (the town, not the Hole), provided music suitable for dancing. Dancing continues to be a strong part of our closing event.



Mayor Muldoon, Salestrom & Hartwick

And speaking of **photos**: We will 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:

<https://cynthiawoernerphotography.smugmug.com/Client-Galleries/Events/NECA-Jackson-2017/>

The password to access the web page is: **Miners**

The password to download the pictures is: **Jackson**

You can save an **individual** photo to your computer by hitting the download arrow at the bottom of the single photo screen.

If you are interested in purchasing photographs, please click on the BUY button at the top of the web page. Nearly every type of product is available. Every photo is carefully edited and optimized for print.

We are already working on plans for next June in Laguna Beach, CA where we will celebrate **50 years of annual Academy meetings**.



Speaker Escort Committee (from left): Bob Bruce, John Colson, Stufflebeem, Don Wilson & Geary Higgins



Stufflebeem & Chairman Quebe Photo Op



Dan Walter & Rex Ferry with their better-halves!



Caramel Crème Brulee, Crumble Apple Tart & Mini Molten Cake



Beautiful Setting for the Closing Dinner

**Mike Thompson ('92)
Academy Secretary**

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