



## Introducing NECA Officers

The profiles that follow introduce the officers being elected at the Board of Governors meeting in Nashville, TN on October 9, 2021. These **unopposed** candidates will be **elected** that day and include the following:

Term of office will begin on January 1, 2022.

- **Kirk Davis** will be the new President replacing **Larry Beltramo**

Terms of office will begin on January 1, 2022 and are two-year terms.

- **Stephen J. Gianotti** will be the new District 1 Vice President replacing **Michael E. McPhee**
- **Terry J. Lette** will be the new District 3 Vice President replacing **Kirk Davis**
- **Shawn P. Smith** will be the new District 5 Vice President replacing **Vincent Real**
- **Donald G. Laffoon** will be the new District 7 Vice President replacing **Gregory A. Rick**
- **Gregory D. Long** will be the new District 9 Vice President replacing **Earl Restine, Jr.**

## INTRODUCING KIRK DAVIS, NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT



*Kirk Davis  
Bob Davis Electric Company Inc.  
Shreveport, LA  
North Louisiana Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

Hailing from a family of electrical contractors, Davis graduated from Louisiana State University in 1975. After graduation, he entered the JATC apprenticeship and successfully completed the program in 1979. Davis worked as a journeyman for several years until assuming a management role in 1984. After taking on leadership responsibilities, Davis worked with the day-to-day production as well as estimating bids, personnel decisions, and contract negotiations.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Bob Davis Electric Co. Inc. was founded in Shreveport, La., in 1922 by Robert Milton “Bob” Davis, Sr. After Bob’s death in 1946, his son, Robert “Milton” Davis, Jr. took over leadership of the company and was named president. Upon Milton’s retirement in 1990, Kirk Davis assumed the role as president of the company and served as president until April 2019. Davis’s son Todd Davis took over the duties as president at that time and continues in that capacity today. Bob Davis Electric is Shreveport’s oldest operating electrical contractor and does work throughout Louisiana and East Texas. The company covers all areas of electrical services, specializing in residential, commercial, and light industrial with an emphasis on power requirements for telecommunications companies, generator installations, and retail maintenance.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

Bob Davis Electric joined NECA in 1923. Since then, the company has been actively involved with NECA at the local and national level. Kirk Davis became involved when he attended his first national convention in 1979 in San Francisco. Locally, Davis has served on the Board of Directors and the Negotiations Committee and as Vice President and President. He has been elected to multiple terms as Governor of the North Louisiana Chapter, NECA. He also served as President of the Louisiana Council. Nationally, Davis served on the Marketing Committee, the Disaster Relief Fund Committee, and the Workforce Development Committee. He was inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting in 2011. Davis has served as NECA’s District 3 Vice President for the last four years.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

Davis has observed a gradual improvement in labor relations and working conditions for employees over the years, adding that there is now a heavier emphasis on better safety training and the needs of contractors to be successful. NECA offers members valuable resources through field services and educational programs.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Kirk has been married to his wife Becky for 46 years. They have two adult children, Todd and Tricia, and five grandchildren, with whom they enjoy spending time. Family activities include beach trips, spending time at the family farm, family lake house, and attending LSU tailgates. Kirk and Becky are active in their church, First United Methodist Church of Shreveport.

## INTRODUCING STEPHEN J. GIANOTTI, NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 1



*Stephen J. Gianotti  
Arcadia Electrical Co. Inc.  
Ridgewood, NY  
New York City Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

Gianotti was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. He studied Business Management at St. Johns University, and has worked in the electrical industry since the 1980s. He is President of Arcadia Electrical Company, which he started in 1989 as one of two employees. Since then, it has developed into one of the New York region's premier electrical contractors.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Arcadia Electrical Co. is a full-service company that focuses on both public and private work. When it was founded in 1989, it focused solely on small residential repairs. Today, its offerings are much more robust, including engineering and design-build projects. It also works on new buildings, hospital renovation, schools, technology projects, solar projects, EV charging stations, and service and maintenance. The company proudly employs 175 trained IBEW electricians.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

Arcadia Electrical joined NECA in 1997. From 2014 to 2017, Gianotti served as the President of the New York City Chapter, NECA. Following that, he served as Governor for the Chapter. Gianotti is also involved as a member of the Political Leadership Council (PLC). He has remained as a NECA member because of the educational offerings, the sharing of information, and the benefits of connecting with other company owners with similar wants and needs.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

Gianotti has been impressed by how NECA has changed, benefitting members all across the country. The association has introduced training, education, general knowledge, networking, and many more offerings that have made membership more valuable than ever before. He also stresses the importance of community involvement and volunteer opportunities.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Gianotti has been married to his wife Marie for 41 years. They have a son, Stephen, a journeyman wireman and member of IBEW Local 3, and a daughter, Alyssa, who has entered the medical field as an occupational therapist. In his free time, he enjoys skiing, hiking, and travel.

## INTRODUCING TERRY LETTE, NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 3



*Terry Lette  
Preferred Electric Company Inc.  
Charlotte, NC  
Atlantic Coast Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

When Lette graduated from high school, he was uncertain of the direction he should take with his career. His father was an IBEW electrician, and he eventually decided to follow in his footsteps and enter the Apprenticeship program. He became a Journeyman Wireman in Local 379, and in his desire to steer his own course, Preferred Electric was formed. He has been in the electrical industry now for over 43 years.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Preferred Electric Company Inc. (PECI) began on May 13, 1984. The company grew from a single-service truck to a company that employs over 225 field and office staff. The company performs commercial service work, commercial construction, data centers, and commercial interiors. PEGI serves the metro Charlotte area, along with surrounding areas throughout the Carolinas, with an annual sales volume of \$48 million.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

Lette's company joined NECA in 1999, and he has served in a number of capacities throughout the years. Particular accomplishments include serving on the Charlotte Negotiation Labor and Management Committee, Charlotte Electrical Training Institute Committee, the Carolinas LMCC committee, and the Business Development Task Force. Lette has been inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting. He is a former Governor of the Atlantic Coast Chapter, NECA, and is a current board member.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

One change Lette has observed throughout his career is the power of technology. The internet, social media, mobile apps, software, and innovative hardware have all revolutionized our industry. The use of these technologies has allowed job sites to increase communication, work safer, and be more efficient. When used correctly, technology can make companies more competitive and profitable.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Lette and his wife, Lori, have four children and two grandchildren. When away from work, he enjoys deer hunting, golfing, reading, and family vacations.

## INTRODUCING SHAWN P. SMITH, NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 5



*Shawn P. Smith  
DL Smith Electric Inc.  
Topeka, KS  
Kansas Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

Smith graduated from the University of Kansas in 1991, with a degree in Architectural Engineering. He received his Master Electrician certification in 2004, and following the retirement of DL Smith in 2005, Shawn assumed the role of owner and President of DL Smith Electric. In his long career, Smith has been a member of the KU Engineering Advisory Board, and the City of Topeka Electrical Advisory Board.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

DL Smith Electric was founded in 1972, serving Eastern Kansas communities. Throughout the '70s and '80s, the company experienced steady growth. In the '90s, DL Smith Electric expanded into healthcare, energy, low-voltage, and institutional markets while adding design-build/assist services. Since Shawn Smith took over as owner and President, the company has maintained its reputation as a valued contractor in the region.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

DL Smith Electric joined NECA in 1972, and Shawn Smith grew up with NECA throughout his life. He started in 1995 as a local participant, and served as a trustee and chairman on local JATC, Health and Welfare for many years. He has also served repeatedly on negotiating committees. Smith has served as Chapter Vice-President and Governor for several terms, and has been a past Chapter member on the ELECTRI Council.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

Smith has seen firsthand how resistance to change can lead to declining market share. Through education, sharing of knowledge, accepting the risks, and partnering with the right people, NECA contractors and the IBEW have been able to rebound significantly. It takes both sides. Additionally, construction processes have added risk, reduced time, and created complexity. Smith has also seen the benefits of implementing CW/CE programs, prefabrication, technology, and more.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Smith's wife Olga ran a family restaurant for 27 years and is now a part-time real estate agent. They have two sons, Nick and Nathan. His hobbies and interests include learning about software and hardware automation, science and technology nonfiction, pickleball, hunting, fishing, hiking, traveling, and spending time with his family.

## INTRODUCING DONALD G. LAFFOON, NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 7



*Donald G. Laffoon  
Electrical Corporation of America, Inc.  
Raytown, MO  
Kansas City Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

After graduating from high school in 1979 and working for Electrical Corporation of America as a Stockman Driver/ Material Warehouseman, Laffoon was accepted into the Electrical Apprenticeship Training Program in 1983. In 1987, he graduated as a Journeyman Wireman. Laffoon began overseeing projects as a Foreman/General Foreman, working both locally and nationally. After years of estimating and project managing, he and four partners bought the company in 2003. Since then, he has acted as President and CEO of Electrical Corporation of America.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Electrical Corporation of America (ECA) was founded in 1970 by past President and CEO Jack Welborn. Headquartered in the Kansas City area, the company works in all areas of the electrical industry with a major focus on heavy manufacturing, power generation, and automotive. philosophy is to “build with integrity,” which has led it to grow to a respected company both in Kansas City and nationwide. It currently holds Electrical Contractor licenses in 38 states while working in over 40 states, Mexico, and Canada.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

ECA has been a NECA member since 1977, and Laffoon first became involved with the association in 1999, when he began estimating and project managing. After serving on several committees, he joined the Board of Directors in 2008. Laffoon has been President of the Kansas City Chapter, NECA, as well as Governor. He is the PLC Chairman for NECA District 7, a member of the ELECTRI Council, and has served on the Council on Industrial Relations for two years.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

One change Laffoon has observed has been how pre-manufactured assemblies have taken away some of the skill set needed for electrical work, providing a boost to the nonunion competition. Other notable changes he’s seen include CW/CE programs, prefabrication, BIM, green energy, low voltage, and working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Laffoon believes the electrical industry changes more than any other skilled trade in construction.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Outside of work, Laffoon enjoys family time, swimming, barbecuing, traveling to beaches and a little bit of golf. He has a daughter, Amanda, and son, Rhett, as well as two granddaughters Nora and Rose.

## INTRODUCING GREGORY D. LONG, NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 9



*Gregory D. Long  
Long Electric Co.  
Napa, CA  
Northern California Chapter, NECA*

### **BACKGROUND**

Long was born and raised in Napa, California. He graduated from Napa High School in 1979, and the Monday after graduation he was working as summer help in the electrical field. Like his father before him, he became an electrician, and he completed his Apprenticeship in 1984. Following his Apprenticeship, Long worked as an Inside Wireman until he started Long Electric in 1990, at the age of 28.

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Founded in 1990, Long Electric offers electrical services specializing in commercial and industrial construction to include maintenance, modernization, and new construction. The company is headquartered in Long's hometown of Napa, and it performs work in most of the Bay Area counties. Today, Long Electric's annual sales volume is approximately \$20 million.

### **INVOLVEMENT WITH NECA**

Long Electric became a NECA member in 1993, and Long became involved by sitting on committees and attending training. As a believer that you get out what you put in, Long believes in participating in NECA and he remains involved because of the people. He is currently Governor of the Northern California Chapter, NECA, and a past President. He was recently appointed as the PLC Chair for District 9, and is the Chairman of the Solano-Napa Electrical Contractors Trust. He remains an active member of ELECTRI International and is a former Council Chair. Long was inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting in 2018.

### **INDUSTRY OBSERVATIONS**

Long's most significant observation is the huge industry shift toward the latest technology and software. It remains difficult to keep up with the latest and greatest. He also believes training is key, helping him grow Long Electric into the company it is today.

### **AWAY FROM THE OFFICE**

Long met his wife Patti in high school and the two married in 1982. Together they have two sons, Tom and Jordan, both of whom work at Long Electric. They have two grandchildren, Austin and Sawyer. Long enjoys spending time at his cabin in Truckee, where he relaxes by golfing, fishing, and kayaking on Lake Tahoe and Donner Lake.

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