

Long Island

NECA

Wiring News Through The Electrical Construction Industry

WINTER 2012

WIRE

Long Island Chapter National Electrical Contractors Assn. Inc., Hauppauge, New York 11788 631-291-9732

Presenting the Long Island Chapter NECA 2012 Board of Directors and Officers



Left to Right: ROBERT KOHLMAYER – Director; PAT SANTORO – Director;
CHRISTIAN HEDLUND – Director; DONALD LESLIE, Jr. – Director; JAMES GIORGIO – Director;
JOHN CASCIANO – Treasurer; NICOLAUS FELDMANN – Governor; MICHAEL BENDER – Secretary;
PAUL DUNN – Vice President; JOSEPH GATHARD – President

More photos from the 2012 Installation Dinner at OHEKA Castle are on page 5

Visit our website at www.lineca.org

From the President...

AS CONTRACTORS WE ARE CONSTANTLY ADJUSTING OUR BUSINESSES to be in tune with the work environment we are faced with. The economy dictates our moves, so that's why now more than ever it is so important not just to be a member of NECA, but to be involved in the many areas that are available in our association to help build your business through networking. NECA has also taken a strong profile in education for new technology in wind, solar and other aspects of our industry so that we can tap into the resources available to us.

We have been fortunate with a mild fall and winter which is keeping jobs running. However our immediate forecast for work is dim. 2012 comes our way with our economy still lying flat. Meanwhile for the most part our Trust Funds have maintained a strong hold with much thanks to those trustees on the J.A.T.C., Pension and Health. Staying in close touch with our members through our association and working with other professional associations, architects, engineers, and contractors on Long Island will enable us to gain their willingness to work with us. For it is the customer we are here to serve.



JOSEPH GATHARD

Thanks to all our Chapter members for reaching one hundred percent participation in ECPAC contributions under the leadership of Don Leslie. This effort is very important for us to have a say in Washington and Albany and with changes occurring in government on federal, state and local levels, it keeps us in touch with our representatives.

On behalf of the entire membership and board I would like to offer our thanks and best of luck to Biff Jones, NECA Eastern Region Field Representative for all the great years of his service, guidance and friendship. He retired in January. He leaves big shoes to be filled by his son Jay, and we welcome him and look forward to working with Jay in the months ahead.

— Joe Gathard



Las Vegas 2012

NECA's 2012 Convention and Trade Show will be held at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Convention Center, in Las Vegas, Sept. 29 through Oct. 2. Information can be found on www.necaconvention.org.

Please note e-mail addresses for LI Chapter staff:
ROY RICHEY – royrichey@lineca.org
CHARLIE GARDNER – charliegardner@lineca.org
MARYANN EAGEL – maryann@lineca.org

Calendar

General Membership Meetings

2012 **March 15 (3rd Thursday)**
 April 19 (3rd Thursday)

Board of Directors Meetings

2012 **March 15 (3rd Thursday)**
 April 19 (3rd Thursday)
 May 17 (3rd Thursday)
 June 21 (3rd Thursday)

Eastern Regional

Annual Membership Meeting
March 25-28, 2012
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

NECA Board of Directors

President: **Joseph Gathard**
 All Service Electric, Inc.

Vice President: **Paul Dunn**
 Mainline Electric Corporation

Secretary: **Michael Bender**
 Bana Electric Corporation

Treasurer: **John Casciano**
 A.S.R. Electrical Contracting, Inc.

Governor: **Nicolaus Feldmann**
 Eldor Contracting Corporation

Directors:

James T. Giorgio
 B&G Electrical Contractors of LI, Inc.

Christian Hedlund
 Hedlund Electrical Corporation

Robert Kohlmeyer
 CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc.

Donald Leslie, Jr.
 Johnson Electrical Construction Corp.

Pat Santoro
 Com-Bell Systems, Inc.

Director Emeritus:

Frank Hutton
 Hutton Electrical Contracting Corp.

Chapter Manager:

Roy W. Richey

Director of Government Affairs:
Charles Gardner

Government Affairs

Charles Gardner
Director of Government Affairs



MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN KING – Left to right: Chapter Manager Roy Richey, Director of Government Affairs Charlie Gardner, Representative Peter King, Chapter Vice President Paul Dunn, Chapter President Joseph Gathard.

Long Island NECA Meets Congressman Peter King

On September 16th, Congressman Peter King, Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, met with Chapter President Joe Gathard, Vice President Paul Dunn, Chapter Manager Roy Richey and Government Affairs Director Charlie Gardner at Congressman King's office in Massapequa Park to discuss matters of concern to NECA.

Rep. King was advised that NECA supports legislation that would reform our nation's immigration system by increasing enforcement of existing immigration laws and enforcement against employers who knowingly violate the law. NECA opposes legislation that would hold contractors liable for hiring practices of subcontractors or their suppliers or would make employers become de facto "immigration police."

Also, President Gathard thanked the Congressman for his support in urging the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) to withdraw its proposal to require additional disclosures relating to withdrawal liability for multiemployer defined pension plans.

President Gathard requested Rep. King's support for repeal of the 3% government withholding tax that required all government entities to withhold 3% of payment due to contractors for government service providers. If no action was taken by the government, this requirement would have become effective in 2012.

Subsequent to this meeting, repeal of the 3% withholding tax was passed

by both houses of Congress. The measure cleared its final legislative hurdle by a 422-0 House vote and was signed into law by President Obama. The legislation also includes tax credits for companies that hire unemployed veterans.

Finally, the Congressman was reminded that our members must struggle daily with higher costs associated with taxes and overregulation. Rep. King assured that he understands the concerns and pledged to work with NECA towards addressing them. •

LI NECA Staff Meet With Suffolk Democratic Chairman

Chapter Manager Roy Richey and Director of Government Affairs Charlie Gardner met in September with Rich Schaffer at his Babylon office. Rich is the Chairman of the Suffolk County Democratic Committee, past Supervisor of the Town of Babylon and a former Suffolk County legislator. He is currently the counsel for the Plumbing Contractors Association.

Roy and Charlie discussed strategy to reintroduce the legislation that would require all outside electrical and plumbing work valued at more than \$10,000 performed on school buildings in areas where licensing laws are in effect would have to be done by licensed contractors. The legislation was approved by both the Senate and the Assembly last year but was vetoed by Governor Patterson. Chairman Schaffer will work with us towards that goal. •

DiFazio Power and Electric — Adapting Means Success

Observers say that recently, there has been a blurring of the once-sharp lines between contractors and architects and designers. Increasingly, contractors are being drawn into the design process. Much of this is coming about as contractors seek to expand their services to offset the precipitous drop-off in new projects.



Shown left to right: DiFazio vice presidents Larry Spring, Bob Marks, president Anthony DiFazio

DiFazio Power and Electric is not new to this concept. While most contractors in our industry have been tightening their belts over the last several years, DiFazio has added a few notches. Through a carefully calibrated “turnkey” design/build platform, constructed upon a unique system of partnering, DiFazio has established and continued to sustain a growth pattern which has been its hallmark since the firm’s beginnings in 1953.

Among the high profile, high-powered developers DiFazio has been associated with over the years has been the Tilles Investment Company, Rechler Equity Partners, and RXR Realty, the leading New York Tri-State real estate concern — all multifunctional relationships going back more than 50 years.

According to DiFazio’s president, Anthony “Tony” DiFazio, the company provides a broad range of services, including the “turnkey” option, or part thereof, throughout the New York metropolitan area, Long Island, Connecticut and New Jersey. The “power division” arm of DPE is currently engaged in a project in Pennsylvania and a recent Ontario, Canada assignment has brought them onto the international scene. Not bad for a family business.

DiFazio Electric was started by Tony’s uncle, also Anthony DiFazio, and soon joined by his sons Frank and Bob. Growing



79.9 MW natural gas-fired simple cycle Edgewood facility in Brentwood, NY, one of two power projects built using DiFazio teams. The other is oil-fired and is in Shoreham. Both plants have recently been acquired by J-POWER USA and the John Hancock Life Insurance Company. Both are fully contracted to the Long Island Power Authority.

with Long Island through the 1960s, the heyday was reached around 1972, when over 300 union electricians were directly employed. Now, much of the workforce is maintained by partnering organizations and their local unions. The DiFazio core management team is located in Deer Park, Long Island where there are some 35 staff members. Project management teams are at numerous job locations working with individual area partners.

It’s interesting that a company which is so complex as DiFazio Electric, with developer, engineering and design teams, (they also have a telephone data systems design team), project management and electrical contracting, does not work from a clearly established business or strategic plan. The programs evolve, and as vice president Larry Spring says, “we adapt to be successful and we are fortunate to have grown during a down economy.” Says vice president Bob Marks, “Understanding the diversity of our clients, DiFazio Power and Electric offers complete solutions to the complex problems that confront today’s developers.” •

Long Island Chapter NECA Installation Dinner



The 2012 Long Island Chapter of NECA installation of officers and directors dinner was held on Saturday, January 14, at the Oheka Castle on Long Island's Gold Coast in Huntington. One hundred seven members and their guests enjoyed the fairy-tale splendor of this remarkable destination known for its celebrity weddings and corporate engagements.

Guests included Jay B. Jones, Field Representative, NECA Eastern Region, William "Biff" Jones, Retired Field Representative, NECA Eastern Region, John Gilday, Executive Director of the Electrical Industry Board, Christopher Kelly, Training Director of the JATC, Kevin Harvey, Business Manager of Local Union No. 25, IBEW, Robert Dow, Jr., Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Labor, and Brian Conneely, Chapter Attorney of Rivkin Radler, LLP.



Above: Stephen Cadieux (left) receives plaque from Chapter President Joe Gathard for his service to the NECA Board of Directors.

At left: William "Biff" Jones (right), Field Representative, NECA Eastern Region, presents Robert Kohlmeyer with a plaque commemorating

his 25 years of service to NECA. Biff's son, Jay B. Jones, current Field Representative of the NECA Eastern Region looks on.



Left to right: Robert Kohlmeyer, Jay B. Jones, William "Biff" Jones



William "Biff" Jones receives congratulations on his retirement from former Long Island Chapter Presidents: (l-r) Nicolaus Feldmann, Donald Leslie, Jr., James T. Giorgio, and current Chapter President, Joe Gathard.

NECA Contractor Constantine Perakakis Perishes in Accident



Constantine
Perakakis

Constantine Perakakis, co-founder of Vincon Electric Co., Inc. in Hicksville died in a tragic bicycle accident on July 2nd in Weston, VT. An avid cyclist

for more than 30 years, Mr. Perakakis, 65, was riding with other members of the Massapequa Park Bicycle Club. He had ridden ahead of the group and apparently crashed on a long downhill slope of Route 100 nicknamed Terrible Mountain, according to Vermont police. He was found unconscious by members of the club.

Mr. Perakakis founded the Tour of the Hamptons, an annual ride that attracts as many as 1,200 people to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Michael Perakakis, a partner in the family business, plans to take over the company. •

Welcome Delcon Systems, Inc. and V.P. Edward Ritzmann



Edward Ritzmann

Welcome new member Delcon Systems, Inc. and its vice president Edward Ritzmann. Delcon provides all phases of electrical contracting

including design, installation and maintenance for institutional, industrial and commercial projects throughout Long Island and metropolitan New York.

Delcon's vice president, Edward Ritzmann, is a graduate of the Local 25 IBEW apprenticeship program and was the Long Island Electrical Industry Award winner in 1985. The former Marine has spent his career at Delcon and has been a partner since 2006. •

Zero Injury Award for Kohlmeyer's CRK

At the LI NECA Chapter meeting in November, Bob Kohlmeyer of CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc. was presented with the NECA Dis-

trict 1 ZERO INJURY AWARD. Biff Jones, NECA Eastern Region Field Representative, presented the award to Bob. •

2011 Chapter Golf Outing

Hamlet Willow Creek Golf and Country Club, Mt. Sinai, NY

On Tuesday, September 27, 2011 the Long Island Chapter held its annual Golf Outing at the Hamlet Willow Creek Golf and Country Club in Mt. Sinai. The weather was good and 119 golfer showed up for what turned out to be a great day. And no kidding, the rumors are true, **Alan Lang** of Eldor Contracting surprised himself and everyone else when his power shot pulverized his ball. Guests included **John Gilday**, Executive Director, Electrical Industry Board; **Christopher Kelly**, Training Director, Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee; **Richard Ericson**, former Training Director, Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee; **Kevin Harvey**, Business Manager, Local Union No. 25, IBEW; **Michael O'Grady**, President Local Union No 25, IBEW; **Gordon L. Seaman, Sr.**, Past President, Governor, Director and District One Vice President, Gordon L. Seaman, Inc.; **Brian Conneely**, Chapter Attorney, Rivkin Radler, LLP; **Hoby Shapiro**, Chapter Accountant, Shapiro, Goldstein, Moses & Artuso; **William Artuso**, Chapter Accountant, Shapiro, Goldstein, Moses & Artuso; **Eugene Coughlin**, former Commissioner, Nassau County Department of Labor; **Richard Brandenstein**, retired; **Louis Calderone**, Deputy Commissioner Suffolk County Department of Public Works; **Craig Rhodes**, Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

Highlights

Team Low Gross

*Kevin Quigley
Jon Cook
Dave Smith
Jamie Engel*

Closest to Pin *Steve Huggin*

Long Drive *Jon Cook*

Long Putt (94 ft.) *Roy Richey*

Biggest Surprise *(pulverized ball!)* *Alan Lang*



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