

Long Island

NECA

Wiring News Through The Electrical Construction Industry

WINTER 2009

WIRE

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

**Presenting the Long Island Chapter NECA 2009 Board of Directors
and Officers installed by William (Biff) Jones, NECA Eastern Region
Field Representative**



**Left to Right: Donald Leslie, Jr. – Governor; John Casciano – Director; Paul Dunn – Secretary;
Stephen Cadieux – Director; Pat Santoro – Director; James Giorgio, Sr. – Director; Michael Bender – Treasurer;
Christian Hedlund – Director; Joseph Gathard – Vice President; Robert Kohlmeyer – Director;
Nicolaus Feldmann – President; William (Biff) Jones – NECA Eastern Region Field Representative**

Photos from the 2009 Installation Dinner at OHEKA Castle are on pages 4 & 5

Visit our website at www.lineca.org

From the President...



Nicolaus Feldmann

THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN TUMULTUOUS. Subprime mortgage problems, the resultant failure of banks and financial firms, Ponzi schemes by investment bankers, high unemployment and a largely faltering economy. The reaction by the Federal Government — a Federal loan package to shore up the banks and financial institutions, a Federal stimulus package to jump start the economy, a Federal stimulus check

to taxpayers and cuts in interest rates. It is safe to say that most people didn't have an understanding of what was coming or where we are going.

As construction business owners, there is some comfort in knowing that a majority share of the Federal stimulus package will be spent on infrastructure and construction. Hopefully, New York State and Long Island will get its representative share of this Federal money.

The Long Island market place is extremely competitive. Timely knowledge and information are key elements of survival in any adverse situation. The information presented by the L.I. Chapter of N.E.C.A. through its bulletins, mailings, web site and monthly meetings are invaluable at this time.

Networking among your peers to exchange ideas, information and contacts at our trade meetings afford you additional sources.

I encourage you to be careful of contract language and payment terms. Be wary of contractors and builders new to this area.

Competition is good for the industry and our clients but buying a job for the sake of cash flow will surely result in failure.

I believe our economy and our country will survive this downturn and there will be a rebound.

Make sure you are there to rebound also. — *Nicolaus Feldman*

Chapter Presents Contribution From National ECPAC

On December 4, 2008, President Nick Feldmann, Vice President Joe Gathard and Chapter Manager Roy Richey visited Congressman Tim Bishop at his office in Coram and presented the Congressman with a contribution from the NECA National ECPAC. While there the group took the opportunity to discuss construction projects important to Long Island. •



NECA Board of Directors

President: **Nicolaus Feldmann**
Eldor Contracting Corporation

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

Secretary: **Paul Dunn**
Mainline Electric Corporation

Treasurer: **Michael Bender**
Bana Electric Corporation

Governor: **Donald Leslie, Jr.**
Johnson Electrical Construction Corp.

Directors:
Stephen Cadieux
Roland's Electric Inc.

John Casciano
A.S.R. Electrical Contracting, Inc.

James Giorgio, Sr.
B&G Electrical Contractors of L.I., Inc.

Christian Hedlund
Hedlund Electrical Corporation

Robert Kohlmeyer
CRK Contracting of Suffolk, Inc.

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

Please note new e-mail addresses for LI Chapter staff:

ROY RICHEY – royrichey@lineca.org

CHARLIE GARDNER – charliegardner@lineca.org

MARYANN EAGEL – maryann@lineca.org

Charles Gardner — Our New Director of Government Affairs

As Long Island's electrical contractors constantly struggle to stay current with myriad licenses required by the various local jurisdictions within Nassau County, Charlie Gardner is already working with Chapter Manager Roy Richey to set up meetings geared toward helping consolidate Nassau's licensing requirements and simplify the process.

Unlike Suffolk County where just one license is needed, Nassau has 30 separate electrical licensing

authorities that necessitate costly, time-consuming paperwork. Staying on top of expirations and renewal requirements causes numerous disruptions to scheduling of contractors' operations. Charlie realizes that centralizing the license procedure in Nassau will be advantageous to the county since consolidation will save taxpayer monies within the various districts.

Meet Charles Gardner, Long Island NECA's new Director of Government Affairs. He comes with a long pedigree in local county government, and like NECA contractors, a passion for getting the job done right.

Recently retired from Suffolk County as Director of the Suffolk County Office of Consumer Affairs, a position he held since 1995, Charlie's career with Suffolk spans forty years. He joined the County in 1968 as a statistician and case aide in the Labor Department, moving through a variety of positions each increasing his degree of responsibility. Charlie was appointed Director of Weights & Measure in 1985 and then, in 1995, was appointed Director of the Suffolk County Office of Consumer Affairs, a position he held until taking



leave from county service last year. Suffolk's Office of Consumer Affairs has responsibility for the licensing of approximately 16,000 contractors and businesses, some 2,400 of who are electricians.

With a list of accomplishments which include a number of "firsts" in county government such as the first-of-its-kind 24/7 "1-800" number for licensed contractors to report unlicensed contractors working in Suffolk, Charlie's work brought him recognition in the New York area as well as nationally and internationally. He has appeared on numerous television news and information broadcasts including The Oprah Winfrey Show, Dateline, and 20/20, and was selected by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to present at an international seminar in Paris concerning the potential for fraudulent use of software in weighing and measuring instruments.

Charlie is currently president of the Kings Park Chamber of Commerce

and is a past president of the Kings Park School Board. His community affiliations are numerous.

He holds a BS in Management and is working toward a Masters in Public Administration from C.W. Post College.

His wife of 40 years, Diane, is a registered nurse. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Charlie sees his new post with the Long Island Chapter as dynamic and challenging. "I intend to meet with officials at all levels of government, school districts and all other potential owners/consumers of construction services to promote the credibility of NECA contractors and their ability to get the job done safely, on time and on budget," he says. "The mark of my success in this job will be when officials, contemplating legislation or construction, immediately think 'What does NECA think about this?'"

"But I also want to encourage members to submit their ideas, too," he adds. "Our contractors in the field should be the association's eyes and ears about good or bad legislation and other matters. If individual problems with the counties come up, let us know. We can provide a valuable liaison with elected officials."

Sounds good, Charlie. NECA is looking forward to a long and fruitful association with you. •

Calendar

Board Meeting

March 19 (3rd Thursday)

April 23 (4th Thursday)

May 21 (3rd Thursday)

June 18 (3rd Thursday)

Check the Chapter Website
For Industry Meetings

Chapter Golf Outing

June 9, 2009, Hamlet Willow Creek

NECA 2009 Convention

September 13-15, 2009, Seattle, WA

Long Island Chapter NECA Installation Dinner



The 2009 Long Island Chapter of NECA installation of officers and directors was held on Saturday, January 10, at the Oheka Castle.

In addition to our members and their spouses the affair was attended by a number of distinguished guests. These included: **Robert Dow**, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Labor; **William Jones**, Field Representative, NECA Eastern Region; **Bruce DeShay**, Executive Secretary, Association of Electrical Contractors; **Michael Gilchrist**, Chapter Manager, Northeastern Line Constructors Chapter, NECA; **Christopher Kelly**, Director Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee; **Brian Conneely**, Chapter Attorney, Rivkin Radler, LLP; **Donald Leslie, Sr.**, Former President, Governor, NECA District One Vice President and Member of the Academy of Electrical Contracting, Johnson Electrical Construction Corporation. Although the weather outside was frightful, 110 members and guests ventured out to attend on a night that made driving an adventure and displayed a winter wonderland.



Congratulations. The Chapter congratulates our new Director, Christian Hedlund and his wife, Sharon of Hedlund Electrical Corporation.

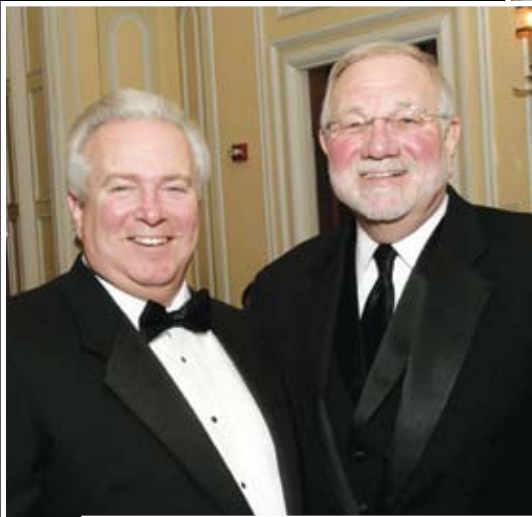


Paul Dunn, Secretary of the Long Island Chapter, NECA, and his wife Eleanor



Left to right:
James Giorgio, Sr.,
Michael Gilchrist, Bruce DeShay,
Michael Bender, Pat Santoro, Robert Mauchan

Left to right:
 Nicolaus Feldmann,
 Bruce DeShay, William (Biff) Jones,
 Donald Leslie, Sr.,
 Donald Leslie, Jr., Roy Richey



President Nicolaus Feldmann
 (right) and Vice President
 Joseph Gathard.



Patricia Feldmann (left)
 and Janet Richey



Donald Leslie, Sr.,
 former NECA District
 One Vice President
 (left) and
 Christopher Kelly,
 Director of the Joint
 Apprenticeship and
 Training Committee



Maryann Eagel
 of L.I. Chapter,
 NECA and
 husband Jeff



Michael Gilchrist, Chapter Manager
 of the Northeastern Line Constructors
 Chapter, NECA and his wife Vera



Bruce DeShay, Executive Secretary of
 the Association of Electrical Contractors
 and his wife Joyce

William H. Jones, III (Biff), NECA
 Eastern Region Field Representative
 and his wife Lois



Saying Thanks To A Disabled Vet

When Carmella Jankowski approached the Long Island Chapter to help her 8th grade daughter Kristine raise money for a worthy cause, she hardly expected the response she got.

Carmella, who works on the floor above our NECA office, stopped in to apprise Chapter Manager Roy Richey of the financial needs of the family of Corporal Christopher Levi, a 25-year old U.S. Army Ranger who lost both legs and severely injured an arm when an IED exploded near his Humvee last March. Corporal Levi is ready to return home from his long hospitalization and rehabilitation and his family is faced with the heavy costs of retrofitting their house in Holbrook to support his disability.

Carmella was hoping for a small donation. What she got was the generosity of the Chapter in the form of a check for \$1,000. In addition, members donated the electrical material necessary to the refurbishment and Local 25 donated the electrical labor.

There's more. The Long Island Chapter was about to draw a winner in an ECPAC raffle. The prize was a 42-inch plasma TV and there were 40 tickets sold. Touched by the Levi's need, Chapter Director John Casciano commented that if he won, he would donate the prize to the young soldier. He did win and Corporal Levi received the TV, fully installed.

Kristine sent a special letter of thanks to the Chapter. In it she said "Its people like Corporal Chris Levi that make our country safe today...I hope you always do things like this for all types of people who need help." •



President Nicolaus Feldmann (right) thanks Al DePace for his work on the Chapter's PPE Committee. Al's company, Advance Sound was instrumental in distributing the equipment.



Donning safety vests are left to right: Christian Hedlund, John Casciano, Maryann Eigel, Al DePace, Joseph Gathard, Nicolaus Feldmann, Roy Richey



**NECA 2009 Convention
& Trade Show**
September 13—15, 2009
Seattle, Washington

GOLF



**TUESDAY
JUNE 9TH
HAMLET
WILLOW
CREEK**