

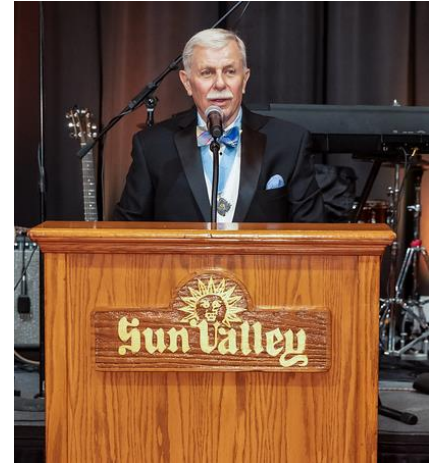
## Recap of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Academy in Sun Valley, ID

**David Hardt** ('07) chaired the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Academy of Electrical Contracting meeting at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, ID.

One-hundred-two (102) Fellows and 89 guests were surrounded by pure mountain magic and breathtaking unobstructed views, nestled between five distinct mountain ranges. The Academy programs and networking opportunities were similarly outstanding and very well received.



The **opening reception** was held on the Lodge Terrace, which offered extraordinary views of the nearby mountains. The weather was spectacular, and it was a great setting for greeting old friends and welcoming new Fellows.



For Thursday's **Business Workshop**, we had two guest speakers. **Chris Kuehl**, an Economist from Armada Corporate Intelligence, spoke about the overall economy as well as areas specific to our industry. **Rafique Decastro**, from Merrill Lynch's CIO Office, presented an overview on venture capital – a requested topic from last year's business workshop.



Participants at the **spouse breakfast and program** on Thursday were treated to a discussion, lead by Jim & Wendy Jaquet, former City Administrator and Chamber Director respectively, about historic Sun Valley and neighboring Ketchum. They learned about Mary & Ernest Hemingway's last dinner, the Ore Wagon Museum, Ketchum Kamp Hotel, and other historic sites.

The **Board of Directors** held their annual meeting to act on Academy business including recommendations from the Jury of Fellows and requests for Change in Fellow Status. A link to the **Board of Director meeting minutes** can be found [here](#).

A little rain didn't stop our festivities at the Wednesday evening reception and dinner held at the **Trail Creek Grounds**. We were entertained by a local bluegrass band, **Dewey, Pickette, and Howe**, and treated to a great BBQ dinner with all the trimmings. Guests enjoyed playing cornhole, exploring the grounds and the fantastic mountain views.



On Friday morning, the **Jury of Fellows**, chaired by **Dennis Quebe**, selected the following seventeen individuals for induction into the Academy in San Diego, CA on Sunday, September 29, 2024:

**John Banks**, Motor Shop Electrical Construction Company, Inc. in Battle Creek, MI  
**Jeffrey T. Barber**, VEC, Inc. in Girard, OH  
**Thomas Braley**, Pritchard Electric Company in Huntington, WV  
**Ben D'Alessandro**, L.K. Comstock and Company in Farmingdale, NY  
**Harold Danforth**, Buffington - Burns Electric, Inc. in Conyers, GA  
**Robert W. Davies, Jr.**, Davies Electric Company in San Diego, CA  
**Kevin E. Gini**, Collins Electrical Company, Inc. in Stockton, CA  
**Richard Hall**, Tennessee Associated Electric in Knoxville, TN  
**Richard A. Jamerson**, Jamerson and Bauwens Electrical Contractors, Inc. in Northbrook, IL  
**Frederick A. Jensen**, J M Electric in Salinas, CA  
**Patrick J. Maloney**, Tice Electric Company in Portland, OR  
**Debra Margraf**, Arizona Chapter, NECA in Phoenix, AZ  
**Todd T. Michaelsen**, Ohio/Michigan Chapter, NECA in Rossford, OH  
**Christopher Olson**, RME Electrical Corporation in Aurora, CO  
**Marvin "Barney" Pottebaum**, Thompson Solution Group in Sioux City, IA  
**Jeffrey L. Seidel**, Hudson Valley Chapter, NECA in Central Valley, NY  
**Jules W. Weaver**, Western Line Constructors Chapter, NECA in Cottonwood Heights, UT

**Recognition** is a key component at the annual meeting. During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected **Bruce Creen ('19)**, **Chris Foster ('22)**, **Tom Kyle ('18)** and **Bob Van Ert ('21)** to the **Academy Board of Directors** for the **term ending in 2027**. Thanks were offered to Fellows going off the Board, as follows: **Wes Anderson ('16)**; **Michael B. Joyce ('14)**; **Rilo Stephens ('17)** and **James M. Willson ('14)**.

**Jim Johannemann ('15)** presented on the topic: ***Amping Up Skills: NECA's Educational Pathways for Estimators and Admin Personnel - An Overview of NECA-Offered Estimating Courses***. Jim's paper, along with his recorded presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Our **General Meeting** speaker, **Daniel Burrus**, spoke on the topic, ***"Retirement Reinvented: Why Learning, Experimenting, and Serving Others Hold the Key to a Prosperous Future!"***. Daniel also spoke about industry trends and artificial intelligence, including applications in our work and personal lives.

**Secretary Walker** announced that the next gathering of the Academy will be a reception for Academy Fellows and guests during the NECA Convention in San Diego, CA. New Fellows will be installed on Sunday morning, September 29, 2024, at the Opening General Session and the Academy reception will be held at The Ultimate Skybox at DiamondView Tower that evening.

The **2025 annual meeting** will be at The Wild Dunes Resort in Isle of Palms, SC from June 4-6.

A link to the **General Meeting minutes** can be found [here](#).



The **formal reception and dinner** on Friday evening was fantastic and the menu excellent! Chairman Hardt welcomed those attending their first annual meeting.

After dinner, **Jerry Lee Raines**, who played for us at the opening reception and dinner, was joined by a few of his friends to keep the evening going.

If you would like to see and download photos from our meeting, please click [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you all in San Diego!

*Traci M. Walker*

Traci M. Walker ('13)  
Academy Secretary

