

## Recap of Academy Annual Meeting at the Broadmoor

June 15, 2012

We've just concluded the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Academy at the fabulous Broadmoor resort in Colorado Springs. **Rex Ferry** ('02) chaired the meeting that included 80 Fellows and 73 guests. All arrived in "the Springs" to find gorgeous weather and an excellent program of education and entertainment. Please remember to complete and return the evaluation form that was in your registration packet. Contact me if you need another copy.

There were so many highlights that it's hard to know where to start. But here are several memories to choose from and I'll elaborate on them below:

- The opening event at Cheyenne Lodge that provided a spectacular view and a fabulous musical duo that seemed to play all the right songs
- Our featured speaker Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL
- The Formal Dinner concert remembering John Denver by Jim Salestrom and friends
- The dual Working Group topics of Estate Planning Strategies and Social Media
- The hole-in-one by **Eddie Horton** on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole of the West Course at the Broadmoor
- Two trips to Pike's Peak on the COG Railway and two magnificent weather days
- Tours to the Air Force Academy and US Olympic Training Center (with visits to the Garden of the Gods thrown in for good measure)

Regarding the education component, the **Working Group program** varied from past meetings where they had primarily focused on industry related issues, frequently revolving around foundation projects (and their researchers). Instead, we reacted to a comment from the Greenbrier meeting suggesting that we consider a general topic like business or investment.

**Steve Young** ('06) served as the chairman for the Working Group. Breaking from the tradition of addressing electrical construction industry issues, the Working Group heard two presentations on current topics. The first was on *Estate Planning Strategies* and the second was on *Social Media*.

Vincent Garone, a certified financial planner with Vanguard, provided an overview of economic conditions and market highlights, including the performance of the U.S. equity and fixed income markets as well as international markets.

Moving on to the main topic Mr. Garone talked about the importance of estate planning, making sure that your wishes are carried out after you are gone. He then covered the ways in which assets transfer and how probate works. He went on to discuss how an estate is valued; the impact that tax-free transfers can have on the value of the estate and the amount of taxes that will be due; and the use of trusts.

A handout with several checklists was provided. These checklists could be very useful in preparing an estate plan. Mr. Garone concluded by discussing the action steps each Academy fellow should consider:

- 1) Identify your goals
- 2) Have your estate planning documents drafted
- 3) Name your executor, trustee and other key parties
- 4) Make sure your beneficiary designations are correct and filed
- 5) Make sure your property is titled correctly

The second presenter was Joanna Pineda, CEO of Matrix Group International, a web design, development and hosting services company. Matrix has been NECA's web services contractor for nearly 20 years. Ms. Pineda addressed the topic of social media.

With the recent Facebook IPO being covered by all the major news outlets, social media has been a very popular topic. Ms. Pineda described the various types of social media (links are included if you would like to explore further).

The hottest social media site is Pinterest (<http://pinterest.com/>) – a content sharing service that allows members to “pin” images, videos and other objects to their pinboard. Other types include:

- Social Networks – Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/>) and LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/>)
- Bookmarking – Delicious (<http://delicious.com/>) and StumbleUpon (<http://www.stumbleupon.com/>)
- Social News – Digg (<http://digg.com/>) and Reddit (<http://www.reddit.com/>)
- Media Sharing – YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>) and Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/>)
- Microblogging – Twitter (<http://twitter.com/>)
- Forums and Blog comments

Statistics about the number of users or volume of content posted on line for each type and ways they are used were discussed. Ms. Pineda concluded by providing advice on how to use social media:

- Decide which platforms are public vs. private, professional vs. personal
- View social media as marketing and customer relations tools for business
- Know that everything could be made public at any time
- Teach your kids or grandkids about good social media behavior
- Use social media to build your public persona

**Recognition** is an important component at the annual meeting. The Jury of Fellows selected the following 10 individuals for induction into the Academy at the NECA convention in Las Vegas on September 30:

**Joseph S Boddiford Jr**

Lee's Electrical Contracting  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Jimmy D. Coker**

Coker Electric Company  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

**Thomas Demcsak**

Scholes Electric & Communications  
Piscataway, New Jersey

**Michael T. Glasman**

Groff Electric Inc  
Tacoma, Washington

**Douglas Hague**

Shelley Electric Inc  
Wichita, Kansas

**Jarret D (Jerry) Hayes**

United Electric Company  
Marietta, Georgia

**David Long**

Miller Electric Company  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Anthony J Maloney III**

Koontz-Wagner Electric Construction Serv  
South Bend, Indiana

**Gregory A Rick**

Rick Electric Inc  
Moorhead, Minnesota

**Daniel B Walsh**

United Electric Company Inc  
Louisville, Kentucky

During the General Meeting, the Fellows elected the following to the Academy Board of Directors for the term ending in 2015: **Scott Bringmann** ('09), **Larry Cogburn** ('08), **Lanny Thomas** ('09) and **Don Wilson** ('04).

Two Academy papers were presented. The first suggested a different look at preparing for the job. It was presented by **Lanny Thomas** ('09) and was entitled "*Using Electrical Installation Shop Drawings for Jobsite Labor Savings*". **Russ Alessi** ('03) discussed how to better utilize the resources of ELECTRI International in his paper entitled: *Seeing the Forest Through the Trees by Using ELECTRI International Products*. Both papers can be seen at the Academy website: <http://www.necanet.org/about/meet/academy/?fa=papers2010>

#### **Now back to some of the memories and photos:**

**Eric Greitens** delivered a riveting address regarding his experiences as a Navy SEAL (Sea, Air, and Land). SEAL training is considered to be the most rigorous training in the world. He vividly described some of the rigors required during his BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEALS) training as he attempted to qualify as a Navy SEAL. In his class of 220, only 21 survived the training.

Since returning from his last mission, Eric started a charity (The Mission Continues). Actually "it's not a charity, but a challenge" ~ that challenges veterans to serve and lead in communities across America. Greitens explained that when visiting wounded veterans he encountered veteran after veteran that indicated that they wanted to be useful; to have some purpose. To see more about this initiative visit the website: [www.missioncontinues.org/](http://www.missioncontinues.org/).

If you would like to order either of Greitens books you should go to: <https://ericgreitens.zissousecure.com/shop> and use discount code: AEC2012

Every book ordered through Eric's website will be signed by him. Both *The Heart and the Fist* and *Strength and Compassion* are available for purchase. Using the AEC2012 discount code at checkout will take 10% off the total purchase amount.

At the **formal dinner**, Chairman Ferry recognized all of the Fellows and guests attending their first annual Academy meeting. This included the following: Kirk & Becky Davis ('11), Tom & Shelby Driscoll ('11), Charles Ewton & Nancy Fullham ('11), John & John-Henry Frantz ('11), Charles & Shaleen Freeman ('10), Tom & Pamela Ispas ('11), Tom Moore ('11) and Alex & Marilyn Owen ('11). Also Buck & Betty Autrey ('73) were recognized for their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.



*Betty & Buck celebrate 62<sup>nd</sup>; Escort Committee (Dickey, Quebe, Greitens, Schaeffer & Walter)*

Following up on last year's successful "Jersey Boys" show at the formal dinner, we shunned the traditional dance band in favor of local musicians providing a "show". Jim Salestrom was the leader and he assembled some musicians who had played with John Denver. They paid tribute to his music and added video to enhance the event. The concert was going well, until a dance broke out!

I received an email from Jim Salestrom two days after the event and he said: "*Jim Horn hasn't played a dance for quite awhile and he really enjoyed playing flute and sax and he turned to me many times that night and said 'you've got 'em; keep 'em dancing.'*" Jim Horn played the flute in Canned Heat's classic song "Going Up the Country". It really got people dancing and, I'd have to say in my 25 years at Academy formal dinners, I don't recall as much dancing.



*Jim Horn & Jim Salestrom offer a tribute to John Denver and a packed dance floor!*



*Chairman Rex Ferry at the formal dinner and a beautiful evening at Cheyenne Lodge*

And speaking of **photos**: We'll be printing and mailing the customary photos of the formal dinner tables later this summer, but if you would like to see (or order) any other photos taken by the professional photographer (including those with Eric Greitens), the website link is <http://photos.micclik.com/Events/NECA-2012/> and password is ... Broadmoor.

One final remark: there seems to be some confusion about **my retirement from NECA** and my agreement to stay on as Academy Secretary. You are such a great group of people that my intentions are to remain as Secretary so long as it makes sense for NECA and me. I am privileged to be associated with "all y'all"! {I went to college in North Carolina!}

**Mike Thompson ('92)**