

A Winning Season Opener Expo

Following in Belichick's winning footsteps, we kicked off the 2017 season under the leadership of the NEPPA Season Opener Expo as our Coach to Victory at Gillette Stadium. Distributors from across New England showed up to check out our top vendors featuring their new rookie products as well as their tried and true seasoned veterans. Collaboratively suppliers and distributors worked to create individual game plans to bring back to clients.

A new “app-ening” this year was the roll-out of the new NEPPA App to further engage members as part of the team. The app allowed people to engage with each other on the floor along with key features such as supplier and individual member listings, New Product Pavilion and Sponsor previews and direct site links, and even a collective note/favorites feature enabling you to leave the floor with a solid game plan. The app served both function and fun adding a unique twist to the standard tradeshow format. While we weren't able to have any celebrity photos – Brady was booked – instead it was great to see our all-star members interacting with the app taking pictures throughout the day.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated board and committee volunteers working behind the scenes to make our show the MVT (Most Valuable Tradeshow) of the Northeast. Special thanks and high fives all around for this year's committee of Jeremy Ratcliff of Craft Corporate, Paul Brancaleone of Halo and Jill Ludwig of Barker Specialty. As always, we are under the fierce leadership of Carol Boutwell of NEPPA.

While the committee is behind the scenes, we can't thank enough our stellar lineup of members that show up year after year contributing to a winning experience. The shows work on our skills and game plans but part of being your coach is team morale.

To expand on the team camaraderie, we are adding new networking events this season so keep your eyes open not only for Factory Tours and Fenway but some new ways to engage... plus more fun! We hope to see you at our upcoming events as well as look forward to rounding out the solid year in Providence at the Fall Expo in September!

Heather O'Neill, Walker-Clay Inc.

Christie Wright, CPS Keystone

Committee Co-chairs

Beacon Awards Presentation

President Pat Buff and Awards Committee Co-chairs Lee Coscia and Jim Curtis presented the 2016 Beacon Awards to NEPPA members during the awards ceremony at Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA, the evening prior to the Season Opener Expo.

2016 Award Recipients:

Supplier of the Year – Non-Apparel: Hit Promotional Products

Supplier of the Year – Apparel: SanMar

New England Supplier of the Year: Hub Pen Company

Technology Award: Polyconcept NA

Supplier Representative of the Year: Kris Kopka, Prime Resources

Multiline Representative of the Year: Dave Mattson, Dave Mattson & Associates

Distributor of the Year: NEPM

Humanitarian Awards

Two deserving NEPPA members who donate their time and energy to local charitable organizations were presented with the Humanitarian Award. \$500.00 donations from NEPPA Cares were made on behalf of John Resnick of Proforma Printing & Promotion to S.C.O.R.E. Boston Hockey and on behalf of Glen Jusczyk of AMGC, Inc. to The For Kids' Sake Foundation.

NEPPA Cares has Another Record Breaking Event for Fundraising.

NEPPA CARES, the philanthropic arm of NEPPA had another record-breaking fundraising raffle event at the awards dinner preceding the Season Opener Expo.

The member engagement and networking event was enormously successful. We couldn't continue to give to the community and our Humanitarian winners without the tremendous support of our Supplier Members who donate the very best of the best items for raffles.

The competition is "fierce," the waiting, the oohs, the ahs, make for a super fun night with the claps of hands, and a shout "it's ME"! It's all in with a great spirit of giving and shared happiness when your colleague packs up their loot... All knowing it goes to a great cause.

NEPPA is so fortunate to have a strong membership that supports our efforts.

Lee Coscia, THEMCO, LLC and Jim Curtis, JC Corporate Sales

NEPPA Cares/Awards Co-chairs