

NEPPA Season Opener Expo

Another "WIN" for the Team!

NEPPA's Season Opener Expo was held on March 12th and 13th at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA. The excitement began on Monday night at Scorpion Bar with the Beacon Awards Presentations – congratulations to our winners! – and spectacular entertainment by Dave Andrews and Matt Hallahan! Check out NEPPA's Facebook page for video of this great performance. This annual event is a great opportunity for distributors to meet and mingle with our favorite suppliers in a festive environment. If you weren't able to join us, be sure to plan to attend next year!

The Putnam Club at Gillette Stadium continues to be a popular venue for distributors and suppliers. There was a line at the door to get in as everyone was excited to see all the new products that were being shown, including 43 items showcased in the New Product Pavilion.

In keeping with our slogan "It's what you do before the season starts that makes you a champion" – everybody left with something to build their business – samples, product information and new marketing ideas! This year's theme was soccer and we enjoyed watching the New England Revolution practice on the field below the Expo.

Thanks to everyone behind the scenes – board, committee and volunteers – and our sponsors, exhibitors and distributor attendees making this another great and productive show! See highlights on pages 14–16.

Steve Bohn, Lynx Promotions

Karen Santos, HUB Promotional Group

Show Committee Chairs

Beacon Awards Presentation

President Christie Wright of PCNA opened the awards ceremony introducing Vice President Deanna Cross, CAS of Cross Promos and Secretary Pamela Clement of BIC Graphic to present our 2018 Beacon Awards. The presentation took place at Scorpion Bar, Foxborough, MA, the evening prior to the Season Opener Expo.

The NEPPA Beacon Awards recognize outstanding achievements of NEPPA members throughout the year. NEPPA members vote to determine the "Best of the Best" suppliers, multi-line representatives and distributors. Two new awards were presented this year. The Distributor Representative of the Year Award is presented to a distributor who is an example of integrity and professionalism for his or her company and the industry and who makes contributions that help elevate the industry and its members. The Rising Star

Award is presented to an up-and-coming promotional professional who brings new ideas, dedication and enthusiasm to both his or her company and the industry.

2018 Award Recipients:

Supplier Representative of the Year

Kris Kopka, alphabroder/Prime Line

Multi-line Representative of the Year

Jenna Larned, Freedom Line Marketing LLC

Distributor Representative of the Year

David Kennealey, BrandHero promotions inc., A Geiger Affiliate

Supplier of the Year

HUB Promotional Group

Distributor of the Year

Walker-Clay Inc.

Rising Star

Lycia Nadolny, Walker-Clay Inc.