

NEPPA Fall Expo – It’s a Wrap, Mate...

NEPPA’s Fall Expo 2019 was held on September 23rd and 24th at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, and proved to once again be a huge success.

Our annual meeting on Monday, the 23rd was held in the Junior Ballroom at the DCU Center with Christie Wright, NEPPA’s President, announcing our incoming board of directors. Our supplier friends once again stepped up to the plate and donated many phenomenal raffle prizes supporting NEPPA Cares. The room was buzzing with distributor and supplier friends all coming together for a great cause.

Tuesday morning started with an education session presented by Anne Stone, PPAI Director of Advocacy and Member Engagement. Anne’s session was on Exploring the Factories in China. Anne never disappoints – her sessions are packed with relevant information; all who attended received 1 CAS point.

Promptly at 10:30 our show floor opened for distributors to Navigate their course to Success by exploring all the suppliers’ new and exciting bounty. The course also included a stop at the Holiday Product Pavilion packed with great ideas for your clients’ next events. NEPPA’s Fall Show proved to be once again your one stop shop!

The NEPPA Show Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our shows – without you we would not be the Association we are! We look forward to seeing you all at our next event at Carbone’s in Rocky Hill, CT, on November 14th and wish you all a lovely Holiday Season!

Show Committee

Pam Clement – BIC Graphic, Chair

Christine Carpenter Gleason – HALO Branded Solutions, Chair

Anthony Abatzis – ETS Express

Rosemarie Borengasser – RTS Embroidery and Promotional Solutions

Barbra DesLauriers – Staples Promotional Products

Kristen Mendes – Diversified Marketing Group

Opening Reception & Annual Meeting

NEPPA’s Annual Meeting was held during the Opening Reception on September 23rd, the evening before the Fall Expo. Led by President Christie Wright, elections for NEPPA’s 2020 Board of Directors took place.

President: Karen Santos, HUB Promotional Group

Vice President: David Kennealey, BrandHero promotions, inc./Geiger

Treasurer: Pamela Clement, BIC Graphic

Secretary: Loren Cayer, CAS, SnugZ USA

Immediate Past President: Christie Wright, PCNA

Directors:

Steve Bohn, Lynx Promotions/iPROMOTEu

Christine Carpenter Gleason, HALO Branded Solutions

Barbra DesLauriers, Staples Promotional Products

Lori Donovan, Alphabroder/Prime

Rachel Wright, Stran Promotional Solutions

The 2020 Board will take office in January.

We were honored to have several NEPPA Past Presidents in attendance:

Heather O’Neill, CAS, Walker-Clay, Inc., Immediate Past President

Nancy Bercovitz, Bag Makers, Inc.

Kim Coen, PCNA

Nick D’Eramo, Triple Stitch

Pete Gleason, MAS, CPS/Keystone

Dale Johnson Cornell, CAS, Dale B. Johnson & Companies

Christie recognized our 2019 Ambassadors, cheerleaders and supporters of NEPPA!

Nancy Bercovitz, Bag Makers, Inc.

Lee Coscia, Themco, LLC

Nick D’Eramo, Triple Stitch

Jen Pollano, OMO Specialties

Our amazing Fall Expo Committee was introduced.

Christine Carpenter Gleason, HALO Branded Solutions, Chair

Pam Clement, BIC Graphic, Chair

Anthony Abatzis, ETS Express

Rosemarie Borengasser, RTS Embroidery and Promotional Solutions

Barbra DesLauriers, Staples Promotional Products

Kristen Mendes, Diversified Marketing Group

NEPPA Cares Fundraiser

The NEPPA Cares Fundraiser always brings a spirit of giving from the awesome suppliers who donate items for our raffle as well as all of the incredible people who participate in the raffle the night of our event.

As we know, this year the fundraiser is supporting our President’s Charity, the Pancreatic Cancer Network. Christie Wright’s team, Debra’s Troops, raises funds for the PurpleStride Boston walk in honor of her mother, Debra Miselis. A donation from NEPPA Cares will be made to this charity, which funds initiatives that make an impact on the lives of thousands of patients and families affected by this disease. [Please click on this link](#) to make your own personal donation.

NEPPA Cares appreciates all your contributions and wants to thank you sincerely!

Karen Santos, HUB Promotional Group

NEPPA Cares Chair

Education Session

From Worcester to China Without Leaving Your Chair!

Over 40 distributor members kicked off the show morning departing on a virtual factory tour experience led by PPAI’s own Anne Stone. Anne, Director of Advocacy and Member Engagement, took us along a fascinating tour outlining her recent trip abroad for an inside peek at overseas factories. Her presentation was filled with insight and an abundance of images to make us feel immersed in the tour. We peeked at products, the production areas, working conditions and learned how they correlated with PPAI’s Code of Conduct. It was interesting to hear how certain policies were instituted based on factory tours with recommendations for improvement.

Anne was flexible as ever and due to engaging member questions prior to the start of the presentation, she was kind enough to add a few slides touching on the recent tariffs affecting our industry. A comprehensive timeline showed the progression from tariffs from May through the end of this year.

Feedback from the morning included “Far exceeded expectations,” “Very insightful presentation,” “Anne had terrific slides and clearly knows her topic well – great session.”

We are very lucky to have PPAI’s support with such engaging industry leaders providing relevant speaker content to expand our members’ knowledge. Each member earned 1 CAS point to use towards their industry certifications. Thank you to all that attended in affirming our commitment to the professional development of our members!

Heather O’Neill, CAS

Walker-Clay, Inc.

Professional Development Chair