

## NEPPA Fall Expo – A Resounding Success!

This year's Fall Expo was held on September 9th and 10th in a brand-new location – the DoubleTree in Andover, MA! The night before show day, we held our Annual Meeting and Dinner at The Autograph American Tavern – with 55 members in attendance. There were some amazing raffle prizes, games, and camaraderie – as well as the official introduction of our new 2025 Board! The food was excellent, and everyone had a great time.

It's always a bit nerve wracking trying something new, especially when it comes to tradeshow planning, however everyone was really impressed with the new venue. The suppliers were appreciative of the easy loading and distributors enjoyed the new location and accessibility.

The show floor was buzzing and there was a lot of enthusiasm surrounding the Holiday Product Pavilion. With all the excitement and anticipation surrounding Q4 and our upcoming holiday season, it is obvious that our FUTURE IS BRIGHT and there is so much more to come!

A special thanks to all NEPPA members, committee members, and volunteers for your unwavering support and for making the event a success. We look forward to seeing you at our HOLIDAY PARTY on December 12<sup>th</sup>!

*Co-chairs:*

*Ben MacDonald, The Ad King*

*Jessica Neipris, Stran Promotional Solutions*

## NEPPA's Annual Meeting

NEPPA's Annual Meeting was held on September 9th, the evening prior to the Fall Expo, at The Autograph American Tavern in Andover, MA. Led by President Rachel Wright, elections for NEPPA's 2025 Board of Directors took place.

Nominating Committee members were announced: NEPPA President Rachel Wright of Leaderpromos, NEPPA Vice President Lori Donovan of S&S Activewear, Loren Cayer of SnugZ USA, Nadia Cornelio of Brand Fuel and Jennifer Pollano of OMO Specialties.

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate:

President: Lori Donovan, S&S Activewear

Vice President: Ben MacDonald, The Ad King

Treasurer: Jessica Casaubon, Gemline

Secretary: Emily Codner, iPROMOTEu

Immediate Past President: Rachel Wright, Leaderpromos

Directors:

Lisa Fosdick, Branded Treats

Tim Fox, Spector & Co.

Kathy Lojacono, HALO Branded Solutions

Nick McAlley, Hit Promotional Products

Sarah McMahan, MPG Promotions

Todd Wallace, SourcePromo

The 2025 Board will take office on January 1st.

Rachel thanked Immediate Past President Christine Carpenter Gleason for her many years of dedication and service to NEPPA and Jessica Neipris for her service with NEPPA as a Director.

Past Presidents in attendance were Nancy Bercovitz of BAG MAKERS, Loren Cayer of SnugZ USA, Dale Johnson Cornell of Dale B. Johnson & Associates, David Kennealey of BrandHero promotions inc./Geiger, Christie Miselis of PCNA, Heather O'Neill of Walker-Clay and Karen Santos of Alphabroder.

Rachel introduced our Ambassadors, an extension of the board and supporters of NEPPA! In attendance were Nancy Bercovitz of BAG MAKERS, Lee Coscia of Bel Promo, David Kennealey of BrandHero promotions/Geiger, Heather O'Neill of Walker-Clay and Christie Miselis of PCNA.

The Fall Expo Committee was introduced. Co-chairs: Jessica Neipris of Stran Promotional Solutions and Ben MacDonald of The Ad King. Committee Members: Loren Cayer of SnugZ, Pam Clement of Storm Duds, David Kennealey of BrandHero promotions/Geiger, Karen Santos of Alphabroder and Nicole Wolfrum of Campus Stop.

In keeping with NEPPA's 50th anniversary, Rachel acknowledged the contributions and dedication of three members who have been supporters of NEPPA since the very early days. The Ad King (Distributor) and Bay State Specialty Co. (Supplier) have been members of NEPPA since 1974! Dale Johnson Cornell of Dale B. Johnson Associates was NEPPA's first Multi-line Representative President (1985-1986). Both Ben MacDonald of The Ad King and Dale Johnson Cornell were in attendance and recognized for this prestigious distinction.

Michele Jennrich, SAAGNY Past President, of Howard Miller Clocks & Crystal Awards congratulated NEPPA on its milestone 50th anniversary on behalf of sister District 1 regional association, SAAGNY.

Once again this proved to be a "not to be missed" event – everyone enjoyed great food and drink and had fun spending time together!

## NEPPA Cares

We were excited to hold our President's Charity raffle for Playworks New England at the Annual Meeting prior to the Fall Expo. Playworks is an amazing organization that ensures kids have access to fun and healthy play environments, which are crucial to their development. This charity pick was near and dear to Rachel as her son Sam works with them. Sam was in attendance at the dinner and gave a great presentation on the positive impacts that Playworks has in the community and even got us playing a game too!

There were some amazing donations from our supplier members that made this raffle so successful, and we cannot thank them enough. Check out the top 3 items from the raffle below. With our suppliers' help and your generosity, NEPPA Cares was able to donate \$1000 to Playworks New England.

Thank you for being the best members and coming together in support of this great cause.

Top three items from raffle:

PCNA - #7195-02 - Bose Soundlink Revolve II Bluetooth Speaker

Gemline - #102136 IGLOO KoolTunes Cooler

HPG Handstands - #75700 Dryfter RC Car

*Nick McAlley*

*Hit Promotional Products*

*Chair*

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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