## NEPPA Young Professionals: Where We've Been; Where We're Going

On September 24, the NEPPA Young Professionals Group met virtually to look back on our first stretch together and plan what's next. Turnout was great, and the conversation was full of ideas.

We started by looking at how far we've come. We began as a small Facebook group and now have 64 members, two in-person gatherings, three virtual meetings, and several features in the Beacon. For 2027, our goal is three in-person events and four virtual meetings a year.

Members brought a lot of ideas. One was to run virtual meetings with a short opening followed by topic-based breakout rooms, plus an online space where members can share trade show tips between meetings. Another was more casual in-person meetups, with members offering venues across the region so events can reach more of New England. We also talked about starting a mentorship program that pairs experienced industry professionals with newer people in similar roles, and about visiting schools and career fairs to promote promo as a career path.

To keep this going, we're forming a YP volunteer committee with three roles to start: Membership, Social Media, and Events. If you're interested, please fill out the follow-up survey that was sent after the meeting. We want to hear from you even if you couldn't attend.

There's a lot ahead. The NEPPA Holiday Party is December 10 in Grafton, and PPAI is hosting a Young Professionals meetup at the Expo in Las Vegas this January. We hope to see you there.

*NEPPA Young Professionals Group Co-chairs:*
*Sarah McMahon, BAMKO*
*Halle Moore, Bay State*