

NEPTA celebrated the 2015 Annual Dinner Meeting at the historic Providence Biltmore Hotel in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. This beautiful, historical hotel opened in 1922 in the height of the glitter and glam flapper era. The history of the Biltmore certainly tells a great story, visit <http://www.providencebiltmore.com/history.html> for more information.

Mary Beth Mello, FTA Region 1 Administrator, highlighted what's new at the FTA with authorization and appropriation. Eric Pettetti, Program Manager and Active Transportation Specialist made a presentation about the Bike and Pedestrian Initiative focusing in and around Providence. NEPTA extends a warm thank you to the FTA for their insightful presentations.

After a networking circle reception on the lovely hotel balcony, attendees gathered in the Grand Ballroom and were welcomed by Vicki Shotland, 2015 NEPTA President and Greater Hartford Transit District, Executive Director.

A few words from Vicki –

Thank you all for coming tonight and for your continued participating with this great organization. We have close to 115 attendees tonight, with a small decrease from last year most likely due to the legislative meeting being held in DC.

For those of you who attended the FTA session earlier, I hope you were able to take away a lot from that, as the content is always strong, relevant, and informative.

Along with association training for managers, employees, drivers and key decision-makers throughout the coming year, we are looking forward to once again teaming up with the Tri-State Conference committee this fall. We are also excited to expand our newly formed NEPTA maintenance committee and invite you to join us to discuss future training initiatives.

As the New Year approaches, we will continue to focus on educational workshops and conferences and will also be moving forward with a newly designed customer website that clearly defines our mission, highlights key information and provides users with clear navigation.

We are proud to add that NEPTA will continue its long-standing tradition by hosting the 16th annual scholarship golf tournament at Blackstone National Golf Course in Sutton, Massachusetts on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. Over the past 15 years, as well as this year, this tournament has helped raise funds totally over \$78,000 which was awarded in college scholarships to students entering into or continuing their education in the transit industry. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please join us at this event. Golfer or no golfer, you belong at this event.

NEPTA is dedicated to serving and improving passenger transportation throughout the northeast and it is with the continued support of our members that we are able to carry on with this mission. As a non-profit organization, membership dues are important and will continue to aid in sponsoring conferences, educational advancement training workshops, the association's website and the scholarship program. And more importantly NEPTA members will continue to receive a registration discount for all events.

You will note that this year we are not presenting the NEPTA Hall of Fame and the Richard H. Doyle Award due to unforeseen circumstances, but the recipients for the 2015 will receive their awards next year. So stayed tuned! As always, we appreciate your support and look forward to showcasing new programs in the upcoming year. We will also be focusing on the NEPTA Biennial Conference and Expo which will be held in the spring 2017.

From all of us at NEPTA we wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you to all our attendees and to our event sponsors who helped make this evening possible.

- Event Sponsors
 - Atlantic Detroit Diesel – Allison
 - Gillig
 - Eastern States Insurance Agency
 - AECOM
 - American Seating
 - Bus Stuf
 - SEON
 - Shepard Bros., Inc.
 - USSC Group
- Scholarship Award fund sponsors:
 - Luminator
 - Shepard Bros., Inc.
 - American Seating