



## 2017 Annual Dinner Meeting \* November 30 \* Providence Biltmore Hotel

**THANK YOU** for attending the NEPTA Annual Dinner meeting on Thursday, November 30 at the Providence Biltmore Hotel. The event is always a wonderful way to welcome in the holiday season, catch up with old friends, make new ones along the way and join in the celebration of the NEPTA Hall of Fame Award presentation.

NEPTA wishes to acknowledge Mary Beth Mello, FTA Administrator Region 1, for the continued guidance on issues at the Federal level. NEPTA will continue their dedication to serve and improve passenger transportation throughout the Northeast region and we extend a thank you to all who support the association which enables us to continue this mission.

As President of the New England Transit Club in 1981, George Anzuoni, was instrumental in establishing the bylaws which are still used today to govern the association; he also noted a simple statement which is still a strong belief of the association "Like any other endeavor, one gets out of something, only what is put in." He encouraged members to get involved and focus on one constant, the fact that operating challenges are essentially the same whether private or public. Time has changed the way we do business, to the new methods of disseminating information, and the various avenues of member communication, technological advances has undoubtedly attributed to the growth of this association. No matter how far these improvements may take us, NEPTA members will always remain an essential part of this association, and coming together as a group for the best interest of transit will always be our belief.

Past Presidents Recognized:

1993 Peter Hefler  
1996 David Lee  
1997-1998 Frank Gay  
1999 Michael Blondin

2009 Chris Anzuoni  
2010, 2011, 2015 & 2016 Vicki Shotland  
2013-2014 Bill Pellegrine

**Hall of Fame** It is an honor to welcome this year's Hall of Fame recipient, Joel S. Abramson of New Flyer of America. Joel was nominated by James Gallagher of Bus Stuf, Inc. and a representative on the NEPTA Board of Directors. According to the NEPTA bylaws the association recognizes members who have made outstanding contribution to the transit industry. Joel has been a contributing factor to transit improvement for over 40 years. We give credit to John Andrews for developing this award idea in 1999, and by member vote, this award was added to the NEPTA bylaws.

Paul Smith, Vice President Sales & Marketing enjoyed talking about the loyalty and dedication Joel has exhibited both personally and professionally during this time with New Flyer. Joel and his wife Ellen enjoy traveling and have a full calendar of events planned. On behalf of NEPTA and the transit industry, we wish Joel the best in all he continues to do. Thank you to Carmine Fiore and Paul Smith and to the attendees present for helping to make Joel's evening very special. Joel enjoyed his evening being surrounded by friends and colleagues.

**Congratulations Joel!** NEPTA is proud to welcome you, along with these wonderful members, to the NorthEast Passenger Transportation Association (NEPTA) Hall of Fame.

2001	David Lee George S. Anzuoni J. David White	2004	Ed Gallagher Larry Anzuoni, Sr.	2011	Gary Thompson
2002	Raymond Gareu	2006	Peter Hefler Arthur Handman	2012	Joseph J. Costanzo
2003	John Tibbetts Peter Picknelly	2007	Herbert Pence	2013	Michael Blondin
		2010	John McDonough Robert Rizzo	2014	Louis Schulman
				2016	Michael A. Sanders
				2017	Joel S. Abraman

**Scholarship Recipients** From the introduction in 1999 by Michael Blondin, General Manager of East Coast Transit, this award program has offered students studying in the transit industry \$87,000 in scholarship awards. Primary consideration for awards is based on students planning to pursue a career in transit, a cross-section of applicants' skills, and course of study ranging from technical, management, business, administration, and more. Complete application requirements are available at [www.nepta.org](http://www.nepta.org) starting August 1 each year with a deadline of November 1. Mark your calendar for next year's golf tournament – June 19, 2018 at Blackstone National Golf Course in Sutton, MA.

**Congratulations** to this year's scholarship recipients for their academic achievements.  
Joshua Bellomo, dependent category scholarship recipient of Tom Bellomo, an employee at Power Washer Sales  
Isabel Ramirez, employee of CT Transit  
Tyler Caye, dependent category scholarship recipient of Patrick Caye, an employee at CT Transit  
Marjorie Sanon, employee at Brockton Area Transit  
Kaylyn Lockyer, employee at Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway

**50/50 Raffle** In addition to the yearly golf tournament, NEPTA will offer a 50/50 raffle ticket purchase during events to help increase funds for the scholarship award program. The tickets will be available at the registration desk at all event and the winner will be announced after each event. Ticket Donation      \$5/ticket      6/\$20

### **Recognition and Thanks to Year's Event Sponsors**

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