



A gold medal performance

By Executive Director Dave White

The judges have submitted their scores and the results are in – the 2016 NEPPA Annual Conference was a gold medal performance. The event received high marks in all of the major categories, including speakers, group discussions, and opportunities to network. Survey respondents raved about the roundtable discussions and the beautiful location and accommodations. If you missed out, please be sure to keep August 20-23, 2017 open on your calendar.

While Murphy's Law and Mother Nature got together to throw off the first event of the conference, we were still able to enjoy the Lake Placid experience while getting to know our fellow attendees. Brian Evans-Mongeon and the team at Utility Services were recognized for their outstanding contributions to NEPPA in 2016 and we were all able to be inspired by the "Miracle on Ice."

The first full day of the conference started off running with the energetic and entertaining Anthony Huey reviewing effective communication techniques. We then heard from Steven Goreham who shared his view that climate change is not caused by humans, an opinion not shared by many, leading to a robust discussion. Anthony Huey then returned to finish his discussion and was followed by roundtable discussions that attendees had designed themselves. Thank you again to our wonderful facilitators for assisting with those sessions. Finally, Walt Stasinski helped us add a little fun to work. The day concluded with the election of new NEPPA Officers and Directors as well as a wonderful celebration of the NEPPA members who help make this organization great.

Tuesday was equally successful, providing more learning opportunities and a chance to support the NEPPA Benevolent Fund. Elizabeth Kelsey and Deborah Sliz gave us an excellent update on the scene in Washington and potential consequences for public power. We were then joined by Jeff Haas of the APPA who shared how that group is implementing its strategic plan to provide value to its members. The speaking program concluded with Mark Chrisos describing the work that Con Edison has been doing to develop solar projects in Massachusetts.

By all accounts this was a very successful conference and an excellent follow-up to the 50th anniversary celebration last summer. Thanks again to everyone who participated in our Baseball Squares fundraising activity for the Benevolent Fund and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2017. Do you have any suggestions you would like to share? Email me at dwhite@neppa.org, or Kris DiGirolamo at kristind@neppa.org.

Thanks!

