



# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Elects its 2011-2012 Officers and Directors and Presents Annual Awards**

**Manasquan, NJ:** On April 28, 2011, the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) held its Annual Dinner & Elections and elected its 2011-2012 Officers & Directors. The MTA/NJ Hall of Fame and Sponsor of the Year Awards were also presented during the event.

Kersten Roehsler of Viking Terminal Marine in Sayreville was newly elected as the President of the Association and the first woman to serve in this position. Fred Brueggemann of Key Harbor Marina & Yacht Sales in Waretown will serve as First Vice President and Walter Johnson, III of Johnson & Towers, Inc. in Mount Laurel will serve as Second Vice President. Ed Harrison, III of Baywood Marina in Brick will now serve as Treasurer and Raymond Bogan of Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan & West in Point Pleasant Beach will continue as Secretary.

The following Directors were elected and will serve staggering terms: Dave DiPaolo of Shore Point Marina & Yacht Sales in Bayville; Don Ditzel of Comstock Yacht Sales and Marina in Brick; Brian Fischer of MESCO in Thorofare; Tom Mackie of South Harbor Marine in Waretown; Chris Ohrenich of Christopher J. Ohrenich in Cape May and Greg Wright of John B. Wright Insurance in Manasquan.

The following new Directors were appointed by the President to serve a one year term: Rick Castellini of Island Marine Center in Ocean View; Jim Cerruti of Fair Haven Yacht Works in Fair Haven; Ray Fernandez of Bridge Marina in Lake Hopatcong and Ed McCarthy of McCarthy's Marine Sales in Brick. Pat Salinas of Morgan Marina in Parlin and Michael Sinnema of Birdsall Services Group in Lakewood were re-appointed to serve another term. The active Past Presidents that will continue to serve on the Board include: Bill Crooks of Coldwell Banker Joe Connell Realty in Forked River; George Francis of Surf & Offshore in Point Pleasant Beach; Ed Harrison, Jr. of Baywood Marina in Brick; Tom Leaming of Leamings Marina in Waretown; Paul Terzian of Causeway Marine in Manahawkin and Immediate President Rick Traber of Pier 47 Marina in Wildwood. The Regional Board of Governor's includes Kersten Roehsler representing the Northern Region, Dave DiPaolo representing the Central Region, Chris

Ohrenich representing the Southern Region and Ray Fernandez representing the Lake Hopatcong Region.

The MTA/NJ Hall of Fame was established to honor an individual, group or organization who, over the years, has proven to be outstanding in furthering MTA/NJ's objectives of promoting and protecting the marine industry. This year, the Hall of Fame Award was presented to John Curtis of The Ship Chandlers in honor of his outstanding contributions and tireless commitment to the Association and the marine industry in New Jersey. John Curtis has been a strong supporter of and involved in the MTA/NJ for over 25 years. He joined the MTA/NJ Board of Directors in 1993 and became Treasurer in 1995 where he has served for the last fifteen years. "John has been extremely dedicated and committed to the Association, always looking out for the best interests of the organization and its members. He has provided his continuous support and assistance on many committees and Association efforts over the years and it has been a pleasure working with him." stated MTA/NJ Executive Director, Melissa Danko.

Since 1995 there have been nine recipients of this special award. It was last awarded in 2008 to Genevieve Boehm Clifton of NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources. Prior to that was in 2004 to Ken Winter of Winter Yacht Basin in Mantoloking; 2003 to Walter F. Johnson Jr., of Johnson & Towers in Mt. Laurel; 2002 to Larry Polizzotto of Ocean Beach Marina in Lavallette; 2001 to Georgianna Forlenzo, MTA/NJ Executive Director 1991-2001; 1998 to Bob Healey of Viking Yacht Company in New Gretna; 1997 to The Harrison Family of Baywood Marina in Brick; 1996 to Don Challoner of Antique & Classic Boats of NJ; and 1995 to Alan Davidson of Green Cove Marina in Brick NJ.

The MTA/NJ also held its Sponsor of the Year Awards at the Annual Dinner. The MTA/NJ established this award seven years ago to show its appreciation and to recognize the leading sponsors and supporters of Association events. This year, the MTA/NJ was pleased to be able to award three very deserving companies sponsorship recognition. The Top Sponsor of the year award for the sixth consecutive year went to John B. Wright Insurance with offices in Manasquan and Waretown. The second runner up award went to Point Bay Fuel of Toms River and the third runner up was Comstock Yacht Sales & Marina in Brick.

For more information, contact Melissa Danko, MTA/NJ Executive Director; phone: (732) 292-1051, email: [mdanko@mtanj.org](mailto:mdanko@mtanj.org); mtanj.org.

### **About the MTA/NJ**

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), established in 1972 and comprised of over 300 marine related businesses, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the recreational marine industry and waterways in the State of New Jersey. The MTA/NJ is dedicated to the interests of the industry as a whole for the benefit of its individual members and the consumers whom they serve.

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