

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Elects its 2022-2023 Officers and Directors, Presents Sponsor Awards, Celebrates 50 Years

Brielle, NJ – On April 28th, 2022, the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) held its Annual Dinner & Elections at The Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant Beach and elected its 2022-2023 Officers & Directors. The event also included a celebration of the Association’s 50th Anniversary and Top Sponsor Awards.

Greg Wright of John B. Wright Insurance Agency in Manasquan will continue the role of President of the Association. George Fuller of George Fuller's Marine & Machine in Bayville will remain the First Vice President, and Colleen Blake of All Points Marine Services in Point Pleasant Beach will continue as Second Vice President. Ed Harrison, III of Baywood Marina in Brick remains the Treasurer and Raymond Bogan of Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan, West & Steuerman in Point Pleasant Beach continues as Secretary. Ed McCarthy of McCarthy’s Marine Sales in Brielle remains on the board as Immediate Past President.

The following directors were re-elected to serve another two-year term: Jerry Bench of Win-Tron Electronics in Manasquan, Aaron Held of Octopus Yachts: Marine Electrical Systems in Wall, Brian Houf of MESCO in Thorofare, and Eric Traber of Pier 47 Marina in Wildwood. Tom Micali of Margarita Yacht Sales in Waretown, Mark Cassidy of Cassidy's Breton Woods Marina in Brick, Karen Gruppuso of Coastal Environmental Consulting in Toms River, Debbie Mooers of Grassy Sound Marina in North Wildwood, and Pat Salinas of Morgan Marina in Parlin will all continue their terms as directors.

The active Past Presidents that will continue to serve on the Board include Jim Cerruti of Fair Haven Yacht Works in Fair Haven, Don Ditzel of Comstock Yacht Sales & Marina in Brick, Fred Brueggemann of Statewide Marine Services in Waretown, Ed Harrison, Jr. of Baywood Marina in Brick, Tom Leaming of Leamings Marina in Waretown, Paul Terzian of Causeway Marine Sales in Manahawkin, and Rick Traber of Pier 47 Marina in Wildwood.

“As a member of the Association for over 30 years, I am very proud of all of our accomplishments and am honored to serve as President,” stated MTA/NJ President Greg Wright. *“Our founders came together out of necessity and to accomplish what no one person could do. It is through their efforts and successes that we are here today protecting, growing and advancing the boating industry in New Jersey.”*

The MTA/NJ held its Sponsor of the Year Awards at the Annual Dinner. The MTA/NJ established this award eighteen years ago to show its appreciation and to recognize the leading sponsors and supporters of the Association. This year, the MTA/NJ was pleased to be able to award three very deserving and supportive companies. The Top Sponsor of the Year awards went to John B. Wright Insurance Agency of Manasquan, Lockwood Boat Works of South Amboy, and Travelers Ocean Marine Insurance of Edison.

The highlight of the evening included a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Association. In 1972, a number of business owners united to have a stronger voice to address the challenges the industry was facing. The first MTA/NJ President, Richard Korman of Capt. Richie's Marina in Forked River was quoted as saying, *"The marine industry currently faces a lack of representation on all levels of government, inaccessibility to area officials, a lack of bargaining power when dealing with suppliers and disunity in other business dealings."*

The MTA/NJ, now 50 years old, is stronger than ever as a powerful organization that affects real change. In her Association update, Melissa Danko highlighted the work of the Association over the years including successes such as the reduced boat sales tax, public access, two highly successful boat shows and the work in helping members navigate through difficult times like the luxury tax, recession, Hurricane Sandy and most recently a pandemic. The Association has worked hard to protect New Jersey's waterways by ensuring they are clean, safe and navigable. In addition, has provided thousands of dollars in scholarships and training dollars to help support and grow the boating industry's workforce, helped grow the industry by bringing new and younger boaters on the water, created partnerships and forged valuable relationships with state agencies, legislators and organizations across the nation.

"It was a wonderful night to celebrate our 50th anniversary and look back on so many accomplishments, successes, events and the incredible people involved along the way," stated Executive Director Melissa Danko. *"I have had the honor of representing the Association for over 20 years and I know that I would not be here if it was not for all those that worked so hard before me. I look forward to continuing the great work of our Association and supporting our members for many more years to come".*

Attendees were able to browse through vintage photos and documents from over the years reflecting on the history and major milestones and accomplishments of the association. Everyone enjoyed a special anniversary cake to close out the evening and parted with an anniversary favor.

About the MTA/NJ

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, advancing, 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 for the benefit of its individual members and the consumers whom they serve. In addition to many accomplishments, the MTA/NJ produces two boat shows, the Jersey Shore Boat Sale & Expo held in September at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood and the New Jersey Boat Sale & Expo held in February at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison. The MTA/NJ proudly endorses the Progressive Insurance Atlantic City Boat Show.

For more photos from the Annual Dinner & Elections, visit the MTA/NJ on [Facebook](#).