

Continues Aggressive Trenchless Education Activities

The Northeast Trenchless Association (NTA) concluded a busy and productive 2007 at its annual meeting in January in Framingham, MA. Members braved a blizzard to participate for two days of meetings, educational sessions, learning about new products and networking.

Danielle Martin closed out her one-year term as NTA president, and reflected on accomplishments during the preceding 12 months.

"In our fourth year," said Martin, "our association is gaining wider recognition throughout the industry for its educational

programs and marketing efforts promoting the trenchless industry."

Committees have been established to focus on specific issues and seek practical solutions including risks caused by sewer lateral crossbores and issues regarding pipe for horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

Other noteworthy accomplishments:

- Member "Project Presentations" were made a part of each regular meeting for members to share details about challenging projects and how obstacles encountered were overcome;

- NTA members met with representatives

of the Ohio HDD Association to exchange information and share resources; and

- Brian Dorwart, Haley & Aldridge, Manchester, NH; and Tod Cote, ECI Directional Drilling, Burlington, VT, brought recognition to the association by serving as panelists on HDD Summit Sessions at the Underground Construction Technology International Conference & Exhibition (UCT) in Atlanta.

Honors, commitment

Honored at the annual meeting with the association's Founder's Award for 2007 was Bill Haines, Vari-Tech, Liverpool, NY. The award is presented to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the NTA and the industry.

"NTA's accomplishments throughout the year are the result of the dedication of our members and their commitment to cooperation for the benefit of our industry," said Martin.

Looking ahead, Martin said NTA goals for 2008 include:

- Continuing focus on business development;
- Continuing to conduct trenchless and HDPE pipe capabilities presentations throughout the Northeast;
- Complete revision of the NTA web site;
- Recruitment of new contractor and engineer members; and
- Promotion of trade opportunities.

Outgoing association president Martin is vice-president of Henniker Directional Drilling, Henniker, NH.

Taking over as president at the annual meeting is Bruce Hubbard, project manager, ETTI, Lisbon Falls, ME.

Other officers for 2008 are: senior vice president - Ralph Edwards, Vermeer Northeast, Hopkinton, MA; second vice president - Jim Hargraves, Ashby, MA; treasurer - Matt Timberlake, Ted Berry Co., Livermore, ME; secretary - Brian Dorwart, Haley & Aldrich, Manchester, NH.

The NTA was established to advance the professionalism of its members and increase awareness of the benefits of trenchless construction among the owners and operators of area utility providers, general contractors, engineers and the general public through regularly scheduled meetings, industry-specific presentations, broader educational programs and sharing information through networking opportunities.

Information about the association and meeting schedules and locations is available on the NTA web site, www.northeast-trenchless.com. ■



New officers for the NTA are (left to right): Brian Dorwart, Matt Timberlake, Ralph Edwards, Danielle Martin, Bruce Hubbard and Jim Hargraves.