

NEW JERSEY SKYLANDS CHAPTER

International Association of Electrical Inspectors

Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties



10 March 2016

Officers:

President

Robert Rutan

1st V/President

Robert Moentenich

Secretary

Greg Chontow

29 Normandy Circle

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Treasurer

Donald Storms

Board of Directors:

James Alsop

Frank Baguiao

Stan Fagerty

Chris Frankowski

Roy Konwiser

Thomas La Monaco

William O'Connor

Chris Walthour

President Bob Rutan opened the meeting at 6:01 pm with the flag salute and a moment of silence for our men and women overseas. President Rutan then requested a report from Treasurer Don Storms. Don stated that we have a strong balance. Bob then asked Secretary Greg Chontow for the Secretary's report. Greg mentioned that the minutes of November that were not posted on the Chapter's website previously, and the January minutes are now posted. He asked if there were any corrections to be made. As there were none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as posted. Bob started the old business with a reminder that the 2014 NEC has been adopted and the grace period ends on 21 March. Additionally, the 2015 ICodes will be in affect on the same date. Greg mentioned that the approval of the new IECC will have a significant impact with contractors doing new residential construction. The previous code required 50% of all bulbs to be energy efficient. The new requirement will be 75% efficiency. Under new business, Bob mentioned that every year we are required to submit an annual audit report. He asked Don as Treasurer to continue. Don stated that the audit report was conducted by three members of the Chapter and the books balance out and will be submitted to the I/O. As there was no more new business, Bob then opened up the floor to questions. The first question was whether a receptacle behind a 12 foot molding would be considered as readily accessible in the NEC. Greg reminded him that a receptacle is not required to be readily accessible but is required to be accessible. The difference being that equipment such as panelboards are required to be readily accessible and shall be accessed without requiring tools. Receptacles are required to be accessible only and behind a screwed in building element would satisfy the code. Another member asked if he would be responsible for a violation in a subpanel next to the main panel if he was only replacing the main panel. The response was that per the UCC, an approval shall be given to the contractor for the work he performed and a violation given to the owner of the property for the violation that exists on their property. Another question came from the floor as to what the new HVAC license covers. It was explained that the license allows the licensed contractor to replace existing A/C units with new up to 10 ton units. It prohibits the installation of newly installed units. With the end of the question and answer period, President Rutan then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Peter Lum of Enphase.

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Peter began his presentation with an introduction of solar photovoltaic architecture. The traditional installation involves a series connected string of solar modules connected to a single inverter. He explained that each module would be limited to the maximum of the lowest producing of all modules. Additionally, this system relies on a single point of conversion to AC. If the inverter fails, the system will not produce any power. However in a microinverter designed system, each module is completely independent from other modules, therefore not limiting the module output nor relying on a single inverter's reliability. Additionally, inverters have a 10 year life cycle / warranty and would need to be replaced soon after. However, a microinverter boasts a 25 year life cycle / warranty thereby cutting the overall cost of the installation over its lifetime. He also referred to the safety of the installed system. An inverter type system produces between 600 and 1000 volts DC, whereas a microinverter system produces a maximum of 240 volts AC. Peter was able to clearly show the many benefits of a microinverter system and the members present were very interested in his demonstration. Peter ended his presentation with a great round of applause.

With the end of the presentation, the President closed the meeting with 37 members present.

Respectfully Submitted
Greg Chontow, Secretary