

Inside...

Safety & Training Update.....	6-7
People Power	9
Employment	10-11
Member Notes	11
Meetings.....	16

NEPPA members meet with Congressional Members



Congress hears from Public Power

Over 700 public power officials from around the country traveled to the nation's capital in February to attend the annual Legislative Conference of the American Public Power Association, and to meet with their own Congressional Delegations while they were there. Thirty NEPPA members were in attendance at the conference, representing public power systems from each New England state. The meetings, held on February 8 – 10, covered a wide variety of legislative and policy issues of concern to municipal electric utilities, ranging from transmission pricing and access to renewable energy development and clean air.

For NEPPA members who attended, the principal topic of discussion revolved around the new Regional Transmission Organization in New England, and concerns over RTO costs, benefits, and accountability to the region's electric utilities and their customers. To help sharpen the focus on these issues, a separate briefing was held in the Capitol for staff members from the New England Congressional delegation, along with NEPPA members not otherwise occupied. The briefing was led by Scott Strauss of Spiegel & McDiarmid, who gave a detailed history of the ISO-NE and described public power's concerns over its lack of real accountability to electric utilities and consumers in the region. He also addressed concerns by public power over electric costs in the region due to

proposed changes in transmission owner's return-on-equity, as well as the proliferation of "reliability must run" contracts for generators, and ISO's proposed "locational installed capacity" program for generators. During the briefing, and in separate Congressional meetings, NEPPA members requested their Representatives

continued on page 3

Information Forum on Cutout Failures

Tuesday, March 22, 2005
10 AM – 2 PM

Sheraton Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH
Hosted by the
**Energy Council of the Northeast
Northeast Public Power Association**

This forum will provide an opportunity for utility officials to discuss their experiences with cutout failures and to hear from manufacturers on what they are doing to address these performance issues.

Mark your calendars and watch your mail for details.



2005 Expo and Operations Conference

June 7 & 8, 2005

Holiday Inn
Boxborough Woods

Boxborough, MA

NEPPA's 2005 Expo and Operations Conference is New England's premiere meeting for electric utility vendors, service providers and public power officials. The conference will feature a one-day trade show with adjoining indoor and outdoor exhibit areas, hands on demonstrations of the newest utility tools and equipment and a reception and dinner for all exhibitors and conference participants.

Hugh Hoagland, the founder of ArcWear.com, will open the conference. ArcWear.com is dedicated to providing content and links to information and products for protection from electrical arc hazards and flash fire conditions. Hoagland helps electrical companies find the best arc resistant materials, assess their hazards and implement training, PPE and safety programs to prevent or mitigate the effects of electric arc.

He also works extensively with product development engineers to develop textiles, fibers, garments and PPE solutions for the

electric arc and flash fire hazards.

On the second day of the conference, Dan Tilton, national safety director at Tilton Equipment, will demonstrate chain saw safety. Both his father and grandfather made their livelihoods in the chain saw business and Tilton began his career in the field in 1977 when he trained in Sweden under two internationally renowned forestry experts. Over the past 26 years he has traveled extensively across the Eastern United States training woodcutters in the safe and efficient use of chain saws and brush cutters. Besides teaching, Tilton helps manage the family business of importing and distributing outdoor power equipment and related accessories.

Throughout the expo, exhibitors will perform demonstrations of underground splices and terminators.

Watch your mail for more information on this event and plan to register early.

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The Northeast Public Power Association is an organization representing and serving consumer-owned electric utilities in New England.

Staz elected to APPA Board

Sharon Staz, general manager and treasurer of the Kennebunk Light and Power District in Maine, was elected by the American Public Power Association Board of Directors to fill the northeast region seat previously occupied by William Gallagher of the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority. Gallagher recently stepped down from his board seat, but retains his position as vice-chair of APPA.



Staz

Staz was nominated for the position by John Clark, general manager of the Houlton Water Company and NEPPA president. Her nomination was unanimously endorsed by the NEPPA Board of Directors last fall, and was approved by the APPA Nominations Committee during the recent legislative rally in Washington, D.C.

"I'm thrilled to be able to serve and represent the Northeast," said Staz, "and I look forward to working with the APPA Board to further public power."

Staz has served as Kennebunk's manager since 1998. Previously, she served as the manager of the Princeton (Mass.) Municipal Light Department for 12 years.

She has been an active member of APPA, serving on several task forces and committees, including the 21st Century Task Force, Legislative and Resolutions Committee (immediate past chair), and a speaker at the 2004 APPA annual conference. In 1987, she was awarded APPA's prestigious Seven Hats Award while serving as manager of Princeton Municipal Light Department.

She has also been an active member of NEPPA for many years, serving on the Board of Directors and as a long-time member of the NEPPA Legislative Committee, which she has chaired for the past five years. In this role, she has been a leader in the association's legislative programs, and has been instrumental in forging close working relationships with the Maine Congressional delegation. She is also the recipient of the NEPPA Skip Willey Award, which recognizes association members who demonstrate a professional commitment to public power through personal development and participation in association educational programs and other activities.

Congress

continued from page 1

and Senators to sign a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) encouraging the agency to impose a higher degree of accountability on ISO New England in its corporate governance and financial planning and budgeting.

Sharon Staz, manager and treasurer of the Kennebunk Light and Power District in Maine and chairman of the NEPPA Legislative Committee, extended her appreciation to all New England public power officials for their time and commitment to attend the meetings and represent their systems' interests in Washington. "On behalf of the Legislative Committee, I want to thank everyone from the New England public power community who

joined us in Washington for these meetings. They are critical to our efforts to keep our Delegation informed about public power's legislative and policy concerns, and they continue to pay dividends when we need to be actively involved in the legislative process."

During the week, Staz was also elected to fill a seat on the APPA Board of Directors which was vacated by Bill Gallagher, general manager of the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (see separate article). Gallagher is vice chair of APPA, and will be elevated to the chairman's position at the APPA annual conference in June.

ISO New England begins RTO operations

ISO New England Inc. began operation as a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in February, assuming broader authority over the day-to-day operation of the region's transmission system and asserting a greater level of independence to manage the region's bulk electric power system and competitive wholesale electricity markets.

As the RTO, ISO New England will continue to perform all of its current responsibilities and will also exercise day-to-day operational control of the transmission system under agreements with existing transmission companies. Also, ISO New England will be the single point-of-control to maintain reliability and preserve the integrity of the bulk power system on a daily basis and in emergency situations.

Under the RTO structure, ISO New England will have the authority to file proposed market rule changes with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but plans to work closely with stakeholders, including participants in the marketplace and regulators, to develop enhancements and changes to the region's wholesale markets.

ISO New England will also manage and coordinate the regional system planning process that identifies New England's

electricity needs and promotes infrastructure improvements where they are most needed, and plans to phase in a collaborative regional planning process that will expand to fourteen northeast states and the District of Columbia, in an effort to coordinate resources and determine needs.

FERC conditionally approved an RTO for New England in March 2004 and approved a settlement agreement reached among the stakeholders in November. While most public power systems in New England have voted to support the agreements leading to the final RTO filing, they have expressed a number of concerns to the FERC regarding the RTO's governing structure, costs and accountability to consumers in the region. Public power comments on these issues were formally filed with the FERC in November 2004, following a "Notice of Inquiry" asking for public input on these issues. Many systems are also strongly opposed to the ISO proposal to implement Locational Installed Capacity (LICAP) charges, which are designed to provide financial incentives for the construction of new generation facilities in different parts of New England. FERC decisions on these matters are expected sometime in 2005.

New contract awarded for wood poles

The Holyoke Gas & Electric Department has recently awarded a new contract for wood poles to the North Pacific Lumber Company, based on written bids submitted by several vendors. Pricing was broken out between the cost of poles and freight charges, which were bid firm with no additional surcharges. Any NEPPA system that wishes to pur-

chase poles through this contract should reference contract # 04-50. Pricing information has been forwarded to all NEPPA members and is available by contacting the NEPPA office. Questions on the contract should be directed to Jeff Brouillard at Holyoke Gas & Electric (jbrouillard@hged.com).

Seminar highlights community telecom networks



Bottiggi



Josie

The Massachusetts Telecommunications Council hosted a breakfast seminar on February 15 in Newton on the topic of "The Broadband Last Mile: The Emergence of Community Networks." The program featured presentations by two NEPPA members whose communities have already developed extensive telecom networks, and are offering a variety of telecom services to their customers. Tom Josie, general manager of Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations, and Bill Bottiggi, general manager of Braintree Electric Light and Broadband, both described the history of their involvement in telecom networks and the benefits that their services have delivered to their communities. Other speakers on the program included James Budwey, President of ICT Strategies Group, David Brown, CEO of US Metronets, Thomas Lynch, VP Information Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Jim Baller, Esq., founder of the Baller Herbst Law Group.

Budwey described the rapid growth of broadband access in European and Asian countries, and the slower but still rapid growth in the United States. The principal companies expanding broadband access in the US will continue to be cable and telephone, but financial considerations will keep rural and low density communities as lower priorities for these

companies. As a result, he strongly encouraged these communities to "take it upon themselves" to fund their own open broadband infrastructures utilizing local resources and, possibly, partnering with private entities.

One such entity, US Metronets, also participated in the seminar, and described the partnerships that they have developed with small cities around the country to plan, build and operate open service provider networks. Using public financing tools (such as municipal revenue bonds), these communities have been able to construct the infrastructure for municipal broadband systems, and then contract with private companies to provide different services and operate the system.

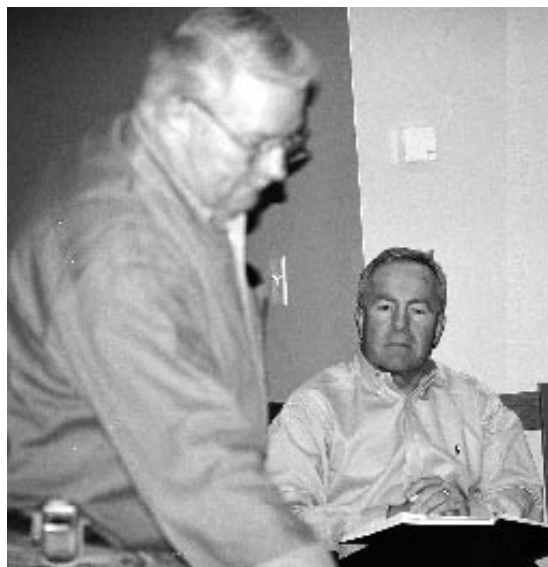
Jim Baller provided an overview of legal developments which are affecting public entry into the telecom field, and said that the 109th Congress will be undertaking major changes to existing telecom law. In Massachusetts, he noted that municipal electric utilities have express authority to provide and fund telecom services, including cable television, but he cautioned any electric utility which is considering entering the telcom business to carefully research and understand all of the filings and other procedures that are required by state and federal laws and regulations.



Safety & Training Update

Braun joins NEPPA training staff

Wyn R. Braun of Watervliet, N.Y. has joined NEPPA as a contract trainer. Braun comes to NEPPA from the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation where he oversaw and directed the operations of the Eastern Division.



Braun began serving Niagara Mohawk in 1969, and over the years worked in accounting and collections, as well as capital transmission and distribution. He has a background in labor relations, and he has taught, trained and tested employees for

over 24 years. He has ten years experi-

ence in field operations and has a working knowledge of transmission, distribution and underground facilities, and he has co-authored switching procedures for system manuals.

“Wyn brings some specialized skills to the NEPPA contract staff,” said NEPPA Safety Director David Fabrizius. “He will be using his extensive safety training background and his experience in substation maintenance in safety and training meetings throughout New England.”

Braun is a member of the New York State Special Olympics Area Ten Board and the recipient of the 1988 United States Presidential Citation Program Award for his work with this organization. He also was awarded the Northeastern New York State Cystic Fibrosis Continual Service Award in 1991.

Meet master sergeant, fitness instructor and CPR facilitator, Linda Calderiso

Linda Calderiso, master sergeant for the U.S. Army Reserves, has been a fixture at NEPPA for seven years, both as office support and a trainer for the Safety & Training Department.



Calderiso in Atlanta, Ga. with the US Army Reserves

She lives in Bellingham with husband Tom and two sons, (her eldest is serving in the U.S. Air Force in Japan). She worked for NEPPA as a temporary administrative assistant for two years before being hired to facilitate CPR training for NEPPA members. She has recently added automated external defibrillator training to her roster of skills.

Calderiso’s military occupational skill is in administrative and personnel, and she is now assigned to the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer Team for

Region I, which encompasses the six New England states. The officer team is comprised of all service branches and she is the only non-commissioned officer on the team. The agency’s mission is to support FEMA in the event of emergencies. Ironically, her first day serving on the EPLO team was Sept. 11, 2001.

“The FEMA Region I bunker became the main entry point for information because Region II, in New York City, was recovering from impact,” she said. “I didn’t even know where the fax machine was.”

Recently, she spent two weeks with her team in Atlanta, Ga. helping Region IV recover from the devastation caused

Continued on page 8

Safety & Training Update

NEPPA trainers make plans for 2005

NEPPA brought together all of its trainers for an annual two-day Train the Trainer meeting held at the NEPPA office in January. New communications policies and procedures within the Safety and Training Department and with the contractors were reviewed as well as some new and improved training programs for 2005.

On the second day of the meeting

the trainers visited Stockwell Testing Laboratories in Millbury, Mass. Jody Stockwell-Jerszyk and her father Bob Stockwell provided a brief history on the business. During their visit, the trainers were given a tour of the facility and were provided demonstrations on rubber gloves, line hose, blankets and sleeve testing. Jody is a third generation owner of the lab.

Front, Trainers Bill Hesson, John Jankowski, Bob Henriksen; Rear, Bob Gautreau, Lou Gabriel, NEPPA Executive Director Pat Hyland, Safety Director David Fabrizius, and Trainer Wyn Braun. Missing from photo is Linda Calderiso.



www.neppa.org
Click on Safety & Training Center

Keep up to date on-line

NEPPA's new Safety & Training Calendar is now on-line at www.neppa.org. Click on Safety & Training Center to get a complete, up-to-date schedule of NEPPA training programs and safety meetings, as well as contact information for NEPPA instructors.





Ipswich residents, (from left) power plant employee Bob Stone, Bird Environmentalist Jim Berry, Selectwoman Elizabeth Kilcoyne, Lighting Plant Superintendent Bill Ford and Electric Committee Member and former selectman Jim Engel took a field trip to Hull Saturday to look at the wind turbine in that coastal community. Not in picture was David Stanley of the Ipswich Conservation Committee and Don Bowen, local resident and engineer.

Photo by Don Bowen

Ipswich explores wind power

After a year of collecting wind data at an old transfer station in Ipswich, Mass. the data shows the site can support a 1.5-megawatt wind turbine that could provide low-cost, renewable energy to power more than 350 homes a year.

William Ford, plant superintendent for Ipswich Municipal Light Department has been researching the viability of wind power for the 6,500-meter utility and has posted a wind discussion page on the utility's website. (www.town.ipswich.ma.us.)

"We have received a lot of support for the wind turbine," said Ford, who believes the project could cut costs and reduce dependency on outside providers.

Ford recently organized an expedition to check out the wind turbine in Hull, Mass., the only one of its kind in Massachusetts. The purpose of the Feb 12 trip was to see what the turbine looks like and how it works. John Macleod, operations manager for the Hull Municipal Lighting Plant, was on hand to answer any technical questions as well as Malcolm Brown, a Hull Lighting Plant governing

board member and renewable energy advocate.

The Vestas V-47 660 kW machine just turned three years old on Dec. 27 and has generated 4,718,000 kWhs of clean, green electricity and is over half way to paying itself off.

Ipswich Selectman Elizabeth Kilcoyne gave her impressions of the wind turbine at the Feb. 14 selectmens meeting. "It was very impressive up close," she said. "It wasn't loud. We couldn't see it until we got right up to it." She added that and the cost savings are significant, and the government offers incentives to use alternative energy sources which trims the cost back further. "It looks like something we should do," Kilcoyne said.



during the hurricane season.

When Calderiso graduated from Malden High School, she was talked out of joining the Army by a military career uncle but never stopped thinking about it. After working as a clerk in an insurance company for a few years and enduring a disastrous marriage that ended in divorce, she joined the reserves in 1986. Calderiso, who had two sons by then, wanted to provide her boys with a strong role model and have them learn first-hand a good solid work ethic.

For herself, she wanted the challenge of completing something difficult and an opportunity to feel good about her accomplishments.

"The Military prepared me for life in general," she said. The experience has made me face fears and do things I never would have done otherwise. After basic training, I felt empowered to do almost anything."

Calderiso is also certified by the American Council on Exercise, has taught aerobics and now is teaching spinning (indoor cycling) at three gyms.

She credits the Army for enabling her to balance her careers and family life.

"The military forces me to be disciplined, organized and helps me stay in shape." She added that her father once told her "the anticipation of any event is worse than the event itself."

Calderiso

Continued from page 6

McDonald reflects on 33 years of service



Meet Ed McDonald, general foreman at Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant, who has been serving public power for 33 years. His career began in 1972 when he joined Hingham as an apprentice lineman.

"It was all on-the-job training back then," he said, "and it was simpler but not less dangerous."

He explained that although voltages were lower, a lot of the safety procedures that are used today were not in place. "Safety practices have changed dramatically and for the better," he adds.

McDonald became foreman in 1989 and says he feels fortunate to have a great line crew that obeys the rules, are good at what they do and take pride in their work. He also credits upper management with giving him the support and show of confidence that makes his job challenging but enjoyable.

Some of the challenges include an anticipated 30 percent load increase partly due to the conversion of the Hingham Shipyard. This area, where destroyers and liberty ships were built during WWII, features a dramatic view of the Boston skyline and is now becoming a high-end condominium development, a commercial area and a marina.

Also, the MBTA is reactivating the Green Bush commuter line and the light plant is involved in relocating existing underground utilities. A large assisted living residence with three phases is being developed and a 400,000 square foot

facility for Blue Cross and Blue Shield is also part of the future growth of Hingham. As a result, the Light Plant will be expanding a substation and adding eight new circuits and a third transformer.

"We need to be ready to provide quality service and reliability to our customers," said McDonald.

McDonald said the most exciting time of his life as a lineman was during the blizzard of 1978 when most of Massachusetts shut down for nearly a week due to a storm that involved heavy snow, high winds and hurricane conditions.

"It was raining, snowing sideways, thundering and lightning all at the same time," he reflected. "We walked waist deep in snow carrying all our equipment and climbing poles to get to the lines in places trucks couldn't go."

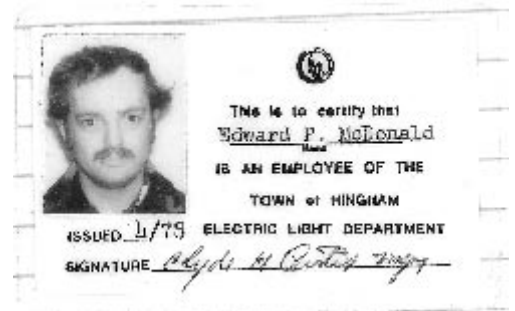
His worst experience happened in 1992 when the Town of Hingham lost power the weekend after Thanksgiving for 24 hours. The problem was with the transmission lines and Hingham employees had to wait for a high line crew to come in and fix the problem. "Seeing people without power and not being able to do anything gave us such a feeling of helplessness."

McDonald lives in Hingham with his wife of 25 years and two sons, one in college and one at Hingham High School.



Utility crews worked for weeks after the 1978 blizzard repairing damaged equipment. Hingham utility employees use a timber jack to right downed poles.

This storm was the catalyst for issuing IDs to Hingham utility employees who have to be on the road during emergency conditions.



Employment

Employment advertising in News Line is \$30 with a maximum of 50 words or is free to NEPPA members. Deadline for the next issue is March 25.

Middleton Electric Light Department Lineworker

The Middleton Electric Light Department is now accepting applications for the position of Lineworker. Applicants will be required to perform all tasks necessary to construct and maintain transmission and distribution systems up to and including 23 kV. Applicants must have experience in all phases of line work and must currently hold and will maintain a Massachusetts Commercial Driver's license. Wages commensurate with experience and qualifications. Successful applicant must pass a physical examination. Applications may be obtained at the Light Department office located at 197 North Main Street, Middleton, MA 01949. (978) 774-4313. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town of Rowley Municipal Lighting 1st Class Lineman

Immediate opening for First Class Lineman. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, all aspects of construction and maintenance of overhead and underground distribution system with voltages up to 13,200 volts. Requires rotational stand-by duty. Must have a valid Class B CDL license. Must reside within a 30 minute commute. EOE. Resumes accepted until position is filled.

Please send resume to:
Rowley Light Department
Attn: Linda Soucy
47 Summer St.
Rowley, MA 01969.

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) is the largest electric cooperative in New England, serving 116 towns in the scenic lakes and mountains region of New Hampshire. NHEC's headquarters is situated in the college community of Plymouth. The Co-op is seeking applicants for the following positions.

Electric Distribution Engineer

Four years of college with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering required. Additional specialized training in electric utility operations and construction desirable. Two to ten years of progressively responsible electric utility engineering is desired. Experience should include the design of underground and overhead distribution and transmission lines, transmission and distribution substations, special loads, transformer banks, voltage regulator and capacitor installations and other similar type facilities. Proficiency with Microsoft Office, Access, Outlook necessary as well as Project, Visio, Milsoft Windmill, PLS-CADD, and CYME preferred.

Radio/Telecommunications Technician

A Bachelor of Science degree in electrical or electronics engineering preferred. A two-year degree in technical school with experience or work/military certifications and extensive work/military or experience may be substituted for bachelor degree.

At least five years of progressively responsible work in communications and electronics or similar background preferred. Experience in wireless radio technologies, including land mobile radio, with knowledge of wireless networking a plus. Proficiencies in the maintenance and installation of communications infrastructure (including cabling, fiber optics and wireless links) desired. Must have the ability to troubleshoot complex electronic systems.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please forward your resume to Jacalyn Thompson, human resources manager, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, 579 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, N.H. 03264 or thompsonj@nhec.com with the job title of the position you are applying for in the subject line. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Employment

Town of Danvers - Electric Division Distribution Engineer

Danvers Electric Division seeks qualified candidates for the position of Distribution Engineer. Job functions include, but are not limited to, detailed electric distribution system analysis, protection and coordination studies, design distribution system, planning, preparing technical and administrative reports, performing load flow analysis using Milsoft, providing technical assistance to the Line Operations and Substation Maintenance groups, and assisting with the emergency restoration of service. Position entails project engineering to oversee and/or generate design, construction and implementation of major 4.16kv and 23 kv distribution system projects, material specifications and overseeing development of detailed construction standards. Candidate must be familiar with preparing and conducting high voltage switch-

ing orders, industry grounding and tagging procedures and OSHA regulations.

Familiarity with PCs, NESC/NEC codes, general overhead and underground construction standards and work with GIS. Requires BS degree in Electrical Engineering from an accredited institution, with specialization in Power Systems and 1-3 years experience in described utility duties; or AS in Electrical Engineering with 10 years in above described utility duties; or 20 years experience in described utility duties. 1 – 3 years of Project Engineering experience required. Residence within 30 minutes of Danvers required. Annual salary maximum is \$71,240.00. Starting salary commensurate with experience; growth potential. Qualified candidates should submit resume to: Human Resources, Town Hall, Danvers, MA 01923.

Member Notes

NEPPA welcomes three new members

Power Engineers, LLC of 415 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, Mass. has joined NEPPA as an associate member. The contact person is David Colombo, principal, and he can be reached at (508) 612-0382 or faxed at (508) 792-2920. Power Engineers, LLC is a firm specializing in electrical engineering, power, lighting, technical studies, substation design and utility consulting.

Northeast Power Delivery Group of Westborough, Mass. has joined NEPPA as an associate member. Jim O'Connor, principal, is the main contact and can be

reached at (508) 366-9456. The firm is a manufacturing representative serving the public and investor utility markets.

Massport, the state agency that operates Logan Airport, the Tobin Bridge and maritime operations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has joined NEPPA as an Associate member. Offices are located at One Harborside Drive, Suite 200S, East Boston, Mass. The contact person is Caryn M. Harding, Employee Development Manager. She can be reached at (617) 568-3918 or faxed at (617) 568-3997.