



**Legends**  
*Awards*



2022  
LEGENDS  
AWARDS DINNER



September 27, 2022  
COMMEMORATIVE DINNER JOURNAL

# Congratulations

and thank you!

**Matt Cota**

Executive Director  
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association

**Eric DeGesero**

Executive Vice President  
Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey

**Kris DeLair**

Executive Director  
Empire State Energy Association

**Michael Ferrante**

President  
Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association

**Ted Harris**

Executive Vice President  
Pennsylvania Petroleum Association

**Chris Herb**

President  
Connecticut Energy Marketers Association

**Rocco Lacertosa**

Chief Executive Officer  
New York State Energy Coalition

**Diane Quesnelle**

Executive Director  
Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island

**Bob Sculley**

Executive Director  
Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire

**Charlie Summers**

President & CEO  
Maine Energy Marketers Association

**Ellen Valentino**

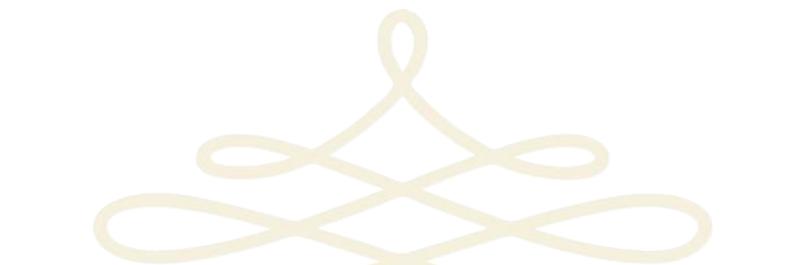
Executive Vice President  
Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

We at Global appreciate a job well done and offer our most sincere congratulations and thanks to these industry State Association leaders rightly honored as 2022 NEFI Legends.



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# 2022 Honorees

September 27, 2022

**Christian A. Herb**

**President**

*Connecticut Energy Marketers Association*

**Robert Sculley**

**Executive Director**

*Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire*

**Eric DeGesero**

**Executive Vice President**

*Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey*

**Kris DeLair**

**Executive Director**

*Empire State Energy Association*

**Rocco J. Lacertosa**

**Chief Executive Officer**

*New York State Energy Coalition*

**Ellen Valentino**

**Executive Vice President**

*Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association*

**Charles E. Summers, Jr.**

**President & CEO**

*Maine Energy Marketers Association*

**Michael Ferrante**

**President**

*Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association*

**Ted Harris**

**Executive Vice President**

*Pennsylvania Petroleum Association*

**Diane Quesnelle**

**Executive Director**

*Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island*

**Matt Cota**

**Executive Director**

*Vermont Fuel Dealers Association*



# A Letter from the Chariman of the Board

## Raymond Hart



Now that the HEAT Show and Legends Dinner have been held in-person two years in a row, it seems like we are back to normal times. But don't let that fool you. Any of us working in and serving this industry know there is NO normal, maybe "new" normal but never normal. We endure many challenges within the industry, keeping up with and developing new technology to make our operations more efficient, to make our fuel cleaner. We face the challenge of finding employees who are proud to work with their hands or enjoy speaking with customers to resolve problems. We have learned that good teamwork is the foundation of our success. As described by Andrew Carnegie, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward **organizational objectives**. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Today, I'd like to thank my predecessor, Ed Scott, and his family for allowing us to ask so much of him and his time. During Ed's tenure serving NEFI, this industry faced many challenges, obstacles that surely gave many people the impression that our industry is facing its demise. If it weren't for Ed's levelheadedness, kind demeanor, and determination to keep moving forward, the journey would have been much more challenging.

Many of our elected officials think there is only one solution to a cleaner energy future and don't care how we get there, not recognizing we have a real solution that doesn't cost the consumer any money. Our drop-in fuel called Bioheat® is already on the market, and we'll continue to research how we can adopt higher blends and look for feedstocks that ensure a clean and stable future. Getting this message across isn't easy — it takes a lot of money — which means we need donations to our Advocacy Fund. It takes making appearances at fundraisers, enabled by financial support for our PAC. Most importantly, it takes a team of people who make it their job to be aware of all these challenges, all the political posturing, and all the opportunities to share the vision of our industry's family-run businesses. We know there are risks in facing these political challenges. It was John F. Kennedy who said, "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction." These people are our state association executives, who help and guide us to the risks and rewards of bettering our industry and the lives of those we serve. Our thanks to the honorees, these Legends:

- Chris Herb - *Connecticut Energy Marketers Association*
- Bob Sculley - *Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire*
- Eric DeGesero - *Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey*
- Kris DeLair - *Empire State Energy Association*
- Rocco J. Lacertosa - *New York State Energy Coalition*
- Ellen Valentino - *Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association*
- Charlie Summers - *Maine Energy Marketers Association*
- Michael Ferrante - *Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association*
- Ted Harris - *Pennsylvania Petroleum Association*
- Diane Quesnelle - *Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island*
- Matt Cota - *Vermont Fuel Dealers Association*

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# Program For The Evening

6:00pm

*Cocktail Reception*

7:00pm

*Seating*

7:15pm

*Welcome Remarks*

7:25pm

*Dinner*

After Dinner

*Awards Presentation: Jim Townsend Master of Ceremonies*

*Awards will be presented in the following order:*

Connecticut Legend, **Chris Herb**

New Hampshire Legend, **Bob Sculley**

New Jersey Legend, **Eric DeGesero**

New York Legend, **Kris DeLair**

New York Legend, **Rocco Lacertosa**

Mid-Atlantic Legend, **Ellen Valentino**

Maine Legend, **Charlie Summers**

Massachusetts Legend, **Michael Ferrante**

Pennsylvania Legend, **Ted Harris**

Rhode Island Legend, **Diane Quesnelle**

Vermont Legend, **Matt Cota**

Following the awards, Jim Townsend will give closing remarks – thanking the Legends past and present and all who have made this evening a success.





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Robert Barrieau  
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Raymond P. Bellemore  
Alvin Bicknell  
William J. Breed  
William F. Briggs, Sr.  
Bruce S. Buckingham  
Cy Buckley  
Lawrence S. Burke  
Charles H. Burkhardt  
Sean Cota  
Donald B. Craft  
Cullinan Family  
David Daoust  
Robert E. DeBlois  
Michael Devino, Jr.  
James J. Diotalevi  
Milton Dolinsky  
Charles H. Downey  
Louis Ehrich, Jr.  
Roberta Fagan  
Ermer Family  
Estes Family  
Sandra Farrell  
Robert W. Fawcett  
Robert R. Fawcett  
Richard J. Fleming

Royce Friedman  
Judy Garber  
Gault Family  
Julie Gill  
Pam Giordano  
Richard "Dick" Gower  
Andrea J. Grant, Esq.  
John J. Griffin  
Ronnell F. Harris  
Hart Family  
Allison Heaney  
Richard T. Horan, Sr.  
Charles S. Isenberg  
Albert Kaneb  
John Kaneb  
Korrow Family  
Peter Lombardi  
Peter F. MacFarlane  
Larry K. Mahaney  
Thomas Malloy  
Gerald "Gerry" Martel  
Dave Martin  
Norbert Mitchell, Sr.  
John Mitchell, Sr.  
Terry Moran  
Richard Morrell  
Robert Noble  
Noonan Family  
Walter Noyes  
Susan Ware Page

John Peters  
Stanley W. Peters  
Howard W. Peterson, Jr.  
Joe Petrowski  
Lawrence F. Pfaff  
Joyce Porto  
Henry M. Powers  
Robert Richard  
William B. Riddell  
James Robertson  
Kevin Rooney  
Richard B. Salmonsens  
George S. Santa  
Joseph Santoro  
Eugene F. Scopa  
Edward P. Scott, Sr.  
Katrina Scully-Ohl  
Irik P. Sevin  
Alfred Slifka  
Richard B. Slifka  
Christian O. Smart  
Bernard A. Smith  
Jack Sullivan  
Charles E. Thomas  
Dorothy R. Townsend  
James Townsend  
John B. Tucker  
Kelley Tully  
Richard "Dick" C. Whiting, Sr.  
Lee Yaffa

## Thanks to Our Legends Dinner Sponsors



## Thanks to Our Table Sponsors



# *Congratulations to this Year's Legends Award Honorees*

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among our friends and partners.

Thank you for all you do.



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## • HONOREE •

# Christian A. Herb

## President

*Connecticut Energy Marketers Association*

Chris Herb has been with the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA) for 22 years, where he held the position of vice president for 12 years and currently serves as president. In this role, he is principally responsible for state government relations work and staying out of the way of the staff, who ensure that members are adequately served in the areas of management education, technology, networking, information sharing, taxes, transportation, occupational safety and health administration, and all the environmental, regulatory, and legal issues that accompany these areas. Chris is also the incoming chairman of the Energy Marketers of America State Executives Conference and has served on the State of Connecticut Low Income Energy Advisory Board for the last 15 years.

In addition to his responsibilities with CEMA, Chris also runs ENTECH, a state-certified not-for-profit trade school geared to preparing people for the state licensing exam, their apprenticeship, and ultimately a career in the HVAC trade. ENTECH provides students a pathway to become CDL drivers and also offers a number of certification programs, including CETP, OSHA 30, and EPA, along with vibrant continuing education programs.

Chris worked for Bob Dole in his campaign for president of the United States from 1995 to 1996 as a congressional district coordinator. From 1999 to 2003, he was elected and served for two terms as a burgess for the Borough of Naugatuck, where he was the liaison to a number of town departments and chaired numerous subcommittees. Prior to serving as an elected official in his hometown of Naugatuck, Chris worked as a legislative aide at the Connecticut General Assembly from 1996 to 2000. As an aide, he worked as the liaison to dozens of state agencies, managed constituent relations, testified before legislative committees, and performed research on legislative issues. He also worked as the director of public support for the American Red Cross in the late 1990s. Prior to his time with the Red Cross, he was the head track and field coach and an assistant football coach at Naugatuck High School.

Chris remains an active part of his community, where he has taught Sunday school at the Naugatuck United Methodist Church for nearly 12 years and also runs a number of church fundraisers like the Pumpkin Patch and dinners. He also served as a commissioner on the Charter Revision Commission and helps out on the weekends as a volunteer track and field coach.

Above all, he is the VERY PROUD father of two boys, Austin and Steven, who are both in college. Chris lives with his immensely patient, understanding, and forgiving wife, Lisa, who is a school teacher in Naugatuck and will be completing her Ph.D. this fall.

Chris has informed his wife that if he is required to call her doctor, he will request that the CEMA Board of Directors change his title from president to emperor because he is fairly certain that an emperor is higher up than a doctor.

Chris Herb considers it an honor and a privilege to have been able to represent CEMA's 600 family-owned energy marketers for the last two decades, and takes immense pride in the work that he does on their behalf. Please join us in congratulating him as one of NEFT's 2022 Legends.



2022 LEGENDS  
AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to  
Chris Herb*



*2022 NEFI Legends Honoree*





• HONOREE •

# Robert Sculley

**Executive Director**

*Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire*

Tonight, we honor Robert J. “Bob” Sculley for his work as executive director of the Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire (EMANH). But the truth is that this is just one of numerous organizations Bob represents.

At the state level, Bob is perhaps best known as the president and CEO of the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association (NHMTA), a position he’s held since 1989. In addition to his roles at EMANH and NHMTA, he also manages NHMTA Services Inc., the NHMTA Employee Benefits Trust, NHMTA Self Insurance Group Trust, New Hampshire Hospitality Group Trust, New Hampshire Transportation Safety Group, Vermont Truck & Bus Association, and Vermont Transportation Management LLC.

Collectively, these organizations represent over 1,000 companies and their employees in two states. Bob is supported in his efforts by a staff of 14 qualified employees with decades of combined experience under their belts. In 2008, they had a 10,000-foot facility built so they could properly handle the workload their jobs demand.

And properly handle it, they have.

Bob lives in Merrimack, New Hampshire with his wife, Theresa. Together, they have four children and 10 grandchildren.

Bob Sculley plans to retire at the end of 2023. We salute him for all that he has done on behalf of our industry and congratulate him as one of our 2022 Legends Award Winners.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*

*2022 NEFI  
Legends  
Honoree*



*From Your Friends At*



**Robert Sculley**

*Executive Director*

*Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire*



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## ☞HONOREE☞

# Eric DeGesero

### Executive Vice President

*Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey*

Eric DeGesero just celebrated a milestone birthday. Fifty never looked so old! Soon he will soon join the club of colonoscopy veterans.

(In case you couldn't tell, Eric wrote this bio himself – we hope that last image hasn't completely spoiled your appetite.)

Eric was born, raised, and still lives in New Jersey. Even though he was born and raised in New Jersey, he was 19 before he was ever on the New Jersey Turnpike, because he lived in the boondocks of Northwestern New Jersey. He graduated from Rutgers in 1994, a school whose excellent academic reputation is inversely related to one's proximity to New Jersey.

Eric began his career with the Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey upon graduating college, which means he has spent more than half his **entire** life — not merely his professional life — in the industry.

He spends most of his waking hours strategically plotting how to navigate the industry through a minefield without stepping on one of said mines. To date he has not. He has, however, stubbed a toe on numerous occasions.

In his spare time, Eric enjoys ignoring his beautiful wife and two sons by watching the Arizona Cardinals, doing crossword puzzles, petting his dog, and trying really hard but not quite succeeding at CrossFit. Eric also recently became a New York Mets fan. This means he wasn't a fan of the Mets in 1986 ... although he does find it humorous that there are two Mookies that have broken Red Sox hearts.

Please join us in welcoming NEFI Legends Award Winner Eric DeGesero. Here's hoping he doesn't stub another toe on his way up here.



2022 LEGENDS  
AWARDS DINNER



*Congratulates our  
colleague and friend*

**Eric DeGesero**

**Executive Vice President**

*Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey*

*On Becoming a  
2022 NEFI Legends Honoree*





## HONOREE

# Kris DeLair

**Executive Director**

*Empire State Energy Association*

In many ways, New York is at center of the fight for the future of the liquid fuels industry. All at once, the Empire State has: 1) more oil-heated homes than any other state in the U.S.; 2) a law requiring increasingly higher blends of biofuel in all heating oil sold across the state; and 3) a Climate Plan containing several different “mitigation scenarios” that could lead to either electrification of the entire building sector OR a massive influx of low-carbon fuels that could help the industry expand for the first time in generations.

For Kris DeLair, these are everyday considerations.

Kris joined the Empire State Energy Association (ESEA) in 2006 and was named its executive director in 2018. In this role, she serves as both a spokesperson for the liquid fuels industry and the leader of ESEA's government affairs team representing the interests of energy marketers before New York's governor's office, state legislature and various regulatory agencies. In addition, she currently serves on the Energy Marketers of America's Executive Committee as the Northeast region's association executive.

In all of these roles, she remains a staunch proponent and defender of our industry's core values. In one of the industry's largest marketplaces, she is one of its greatest champions.

She is also, just like everyone in this room, dedicated to her family. Kris lives in Wynantskill, New York with her husband, daughter and Labrador retriever. She and her husband will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary tomorrow, September 28.

On the eve of this very special occasion, please join us in congratulating Kris DeLair as one of NEFI's 2022 Legends honorees.



2022 LEGENDS  
AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*

2022 NEFI  
*Legends  
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*From Your Friends At*



**Kris DeLair**

*Executive Director*  
Empire State Energy Association



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• HONOREE •

# Rocco J. Lacertosa

**Chief Executive Officer**

*New York State Energy Coalition*

New York City represents the single largest residential heating oil market in the entire country. It's also the home of one of the nation's first Bioheat® fuel requirements, a 2% minimum blend that was later increased to 5% and later expanded to include neighboring Long Island and Westchester County – collectively known as the New York City metro area or simply downstate New York.

Rocco Lacertosa has been representing this market's interests before local, state and federal policymakers as an association leader since 2015. Formerly the chief executive officer of the New York Oil Heating Association, he directed that group's merger with the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island to form the New York State Energy Coalition (NYSEC) in 2020 and has since served as CEO of NYSEC.

Prior to this, Rocco held several senior level leadership positions on the retail side of the industry. He is perhaps the only NEFI Legend being awarded tonight who can say that he remembers what it was like to drive a delivery truck during the oil embargoes of the 1970s. As such, he is well versed in many of the issues our industry currently faces. He has been working in the heating fuel trade since 1966 and has experienced firsthand the many changes this industry has undergone since then.

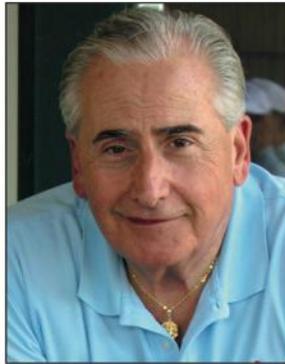
A realist, Rocco believes in an “all of the above” approach to energy policy. At the same time, he is not a climate change denier. He looks out the front door of his home in New York each morning and can feel that there is something clearly going wrong in our atmosphere. Facing this reality, Rocco helps to lead our industry toward a cleaner fuel that will assist local communities, New York State and the federal government in achieving their climate goals.

Please join us in thanking Rocco Lacertosa for his decades of service to this industry as we proudly present him with the 2022 NEFI Legends Award.



2022 LEGENDS  
AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*



**Rocco J. Lacertosa**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
New York State Energy Coalition

*On Becoming a  
2022 NEFI Legends Honoree*

*From Your Friends At*



**Legends**  
*Awards*



•HONOREE•

# Ellen Valentino

**Executive Vice President**

*Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association*

Ellen Valentino began her professional career as an executive in grassroots lobbying management with the Greater Washington/Maryland Service Station and the Automotive Repair Association.

In 1991, she broke out on her own to establish a legislative and association management consulting firm. A Catholic University alumna, Ellen now has over 30 years' experience in legislative advocacy before the Maryland General Assembly, the Delaware General Assembly, the District of Columbia City Council, and local governments throughout Maryland.

In addition to representing selected corporate clients, she currently serves as the executive vice president for the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Beverage Association and the Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association.

Ellen is married to Robert Benitez, and they have two daughters.

Please join us as we honor Ellen Valentino with the 2022 NEFI Legends Award.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*

*2022 NEFI  
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**Ellen Valentino**

**Executive Vice President**  
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## HONOREE

# Charles E. Summers, Jr.

**President & CEO**

*Maine Energy Marketers Association*

Even with just over two years of experience in the energy sector, even in a room full of industry Legends, Maine Energy Marketers Association (MEMA) President & CEO Charlie Summers is by far the most decorated of tonight's honorees.

Charlie came to MEMA in 2020 after serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Defense. Prior to that, he served the state of Maine as Secretary of State and as a State Senator. Additionally, he has served in the U.S. Navy Reserve since 1996 as a public affairs officer, currently holding the rank of Captain. He is also Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Naval Information for the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet.

Today, Charlie serves our industry with the same dedication he has always demonstrated.

An Iraq War Veteran, Charlie has shined light on MEMA's patriotism and along with it, the camaraderie that exists both within the membership and among the students and instructors at the MEMA Technical Education Center (MTEC). His unique experiences in the military have given him a keen eye to see areas that require improvement and immediate attention. It is this sensibility that will keep MEMA thriving and relevant as we approach the end of 2022.

As for his decorations, Charlie has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), U.S. Army Combat Action Badge, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and various other service awards.

We thank him for his service to both our country and our industry, and we are proud to honor him with the 2022 NEFI Legends Award.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER



*Charlie Summers accepts this award  
on behalf of the men and women in  
Maine who work in the industry  
every day, who are the true legends.*



**Charles E. Summers, Jr.**

**President & CEO**

*Maine Energy Marketers Association*

*2022 NEFI Legends Honoree*



✧ HONOREE ✧

# Michael Ferrante

**President**

*Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association*

Born and raised in the neighborhoods of Boston, Michael Ferrante received his undergraduate degree from Salem State University and his master's degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University's School of Public Communication. Following his graduate work, he began his professional career as a television news writer and broadcast news producer with WCVB-TV, Channel 5, the ABC News affiliate in Boston.

Michael then served as the local media spokesman for Wang Laboratories, which at the time was a Fortune 50 company and recognized worldwide as a pioneering high-tech firm. From there, he was recruited by Missouri-based Monsanto Company to work as director of public affairs, assisting in communicating the environmental cleanup and eventual closing of one of the oldest chemical manufacturing facilities in the country located in Everett, Massachusetts. The site is now occupied by the Encore casino. While working for Monsanto, Michael collaborated with trade associations on emerging state and federal regulations governing chemicals and petroleum. One of those associations was the Better Home Heat Council of Massachusetts – now known as the Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association (MEMA).

Michael's transition to the association occurred during staff changes at both the number one and number two leadership positions at the Better Home Heat Council. Ed Scott, with Scott Energy, who served as chairman of the Council at the time, led the search team that hired Michael. Before assuming his current role, Michael worked under another Legend, Jack Sullivan.

Michael's achievements have had a significant positive impact on the industry. Using his media relations skills over the years, he has been a spokesman on many important topics, including energy pricing, petroleum supply, natural gas competition, electrification, climate legislation and policy, and renewable biodiesel/Bioheat® fuel. Michael's commitment to advancing Bioheat fuel for the industry spans 20 years of work with his friend and colleague Paul Nazzaro and the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), now the Clean Fuels Alliance of America. Because of his work, NBB named Michael a Biodiesel Ambassador and he has been a featured speaker at several biodiesel conferences.

Michael has also held leadership roles with the heating fuel industry's marketing and advertising groups, including the Metropolitan Energy Council, East Coast Energy Council, the American Energy Coalition and the Consumer Education Committee for NORA, the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

In the area of government affairs, Michael helped represent Massachusetts before the U.S. Congress as the industry collectively lobbied for passage of the statute establishing NORA 22 years ago. In Massachusetts, Michael was the industry's advocate and lobbyist as the state passed landmark legislation in 2008, including the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Clean Energy Biofuels Act, and the Green Communities Act. His work on those laws earned him an appointment on the state's Energy Efficiency Advisory Council, a position he still holds today. The Council oversees the development of Mass Save programs and heating equipment rebates.

Over the past six years, Michael's government affairs accomplishments for the industry in Massachusetts have been noteworthy. He played an integral role in the establishment of regulations for the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, the first program of its kind in the U.S. that provides financial incentives for retailers selling renewable biofuel blends in heating oil. He managed to turn back two attempts by the Town of Brookline to ban fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction and building rehabs. He also successfully led a legal intervention before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and stopped the utility-run Mass Save program from cutting equipment rebates for oil-fired boilers and furnaces. And in January of this year, Michael succeeded in securing the appointment of former NORA Chairman Charlie Uglietto, of Cubby Energy, to Governor Charlie Baker's Commission on Clean Heat. The Commission is charged with developing a roadmap for reducing carbon emissions in the building sector.

Please join us in thanking Michael Ferrante for all that he continues to do on behalf of our industry and in honoring him with the 2022 Legends Award.

# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS RECIPIENT



# M|E|M|A

MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

*The Board of Directors and the members of the Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association congratulate association President Michael Ferrante on his 2022 Legends Award.*

*We are most pleased and proud of Michael's accomplishments and leadership and we are fortunate to have him as our industry executive in Massachusetts.*

The logo for the Legends Awards. It features the word "Legends" in a large, bold, serif font, with "Awards" in a smaller, elegant script font below it. The text is flanked by decorative flourishes and topped with a stylized, ornate crest.



## HONOREE

# Ted Harris

### **Executive Vice President**

*Pennsylvania Petroleum Association*

Ted Harris has worked in the petroleum and energy industry for over 10 years. He held senior level positions prior to joining the Pennsylvania Petroleum Association (PPA) in 2016 as director of marketing. He served in that role for more than three years, with a primary focus on restructuring association membership experience and expanding technical training programs. Continued growth in training activities ultimately led to the introduction of the PPA Technical Education Center (PPATEC) in 2019, which serves as the trade school for the association.

In January 2020, Ted was promoted to the role of executive vice president. His current EVP duties include managing the general operations of the association, overseeing government affairs relations, expanding PPATEC training operations, and working with association leadership to provide strategic direction for the industry. He also represents PPA members by participating on the Pennsylvania LIHEAP Advisory Committee (LAC) and as a liaison for the state's Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund (USTIF).

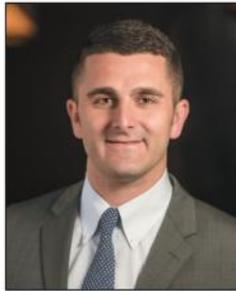
A Pennsylvania native, Ted currently lives in Harrisburg with his wife, Mary Clare, and son, Hudson.

Please join us in congratulating Ted Harris as one of our 2022 Legends Award winners.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER

*Ted Harris accepts this award on behalf of the men and women in Pennsylvania who work in the industry every day, who are the true legends.*



## Ted Harris

**Executive Vice President**  
Pennsylvania Petroleum Association

*Congratulations to Ted Harris for being named as a 2022 NEFI Legends Honoree*

*From Your Friends At*





• HONOREE •

# Diane Quesnelle

**Executive Director**

*Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island*

Diane Quesnelle grew up in Vernon, New Jersey and attended college in Vermont. After graduating, she worked for Green Mountain College in admissions. Her goal was to land a job in scenic coastal New England. Success: she moved to Bristol, Rhode Island, working for Roger Williams University. Diane worked in college admissions for over 20 years, traveling the country and helping young adults find the right fit for a college and a degree program.

Most people wonder how she ended up as the executive director of the Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island (EMARI) with such a long career path in higher education.

COVID happened!

Diane was working at New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) as the director of high school recruitment, supervising a staff of nine. NEIT offers associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in the trades and health sciences. And then, BAM! In March 2020, the pandemic took down all college admissions recruitment and Diane's entire team was furloughed.

When in a career path for so many years, you must understand that you have developed so many transferable skill sets.

So it happened that in March 2021, Diane began as the new executive director of EMARI. This industry took her under its wing immediately. The mentorship and kindness extended instantly rooted Diane to EMARI. She already had an education background and was ready to use it to get this industry's message out there.

The pace was fast and learning curve immense, but Diane came into this position at a very crucial point. EMARI was working on expanding and increasing Rhode Island's biodiesel blending requirement. There was no time to waste and no learning curve could stop this process — the bill had to get signed into law.

Diane is proud to have been a part of the August 2021 signing. She is also proud to note that the same governor who signed the state's new biofuel requirement also agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Southern New England Energy Conference held this past summer. Building relationships with legislators in the state is a key priority to help our industry thrive.

The challenges are many and the mountains to climb are high, and every day Diane wakes up saying, "It's time to spread some common sense!"

Beyond this recognition at the Legends Dinner, Diane Quesnelle is extremely grateful to so many in this room for all the support and expertise they've provided her along the way. Likewise, we are grateful for all that she has already done on behalf of our industry. Please join us as we congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved honor.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*

*2022 NEFI  
Legends  
Honoree*



*From Your Friends At*



**Diane Quesnelle**

**Executive Director**

Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island



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## ✧ HONOREE ✧

# Matt Cota

**Executive Director**

*Vermont Fuel Dealers Association*

Vermont Fuel Dealers Association (VFDA) Executive Director Matt Cota grew up in southern Vermont and attended schools in Westminster, Bellows Falls, and Saxtons River. He earned a master's degree in public policy from California State University Northridge and a Bachelor of Arts in political communication from the George Washington University.

Prior to joining VFDA in 2007, Matt worked as a journalist and school teacher in Santa Barbara, California. In 2021, he was elected to the South Burlington City Council. Matt has volunteered his time on numerous boards and commissions, including the South Burlington Development Review Board, the Vermont Climate Action Commission, the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee, and the Vermont Home Energy Assistance Task Force.

In 2013, VFDA was awarded a Rural Enterprise Development Grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assess the feasibility of producing a renewable liquid heating fuel derived from oleaginous algae with raw materials from Vermont dairy farms and breweries. Matt is a contributing author of "Bioenergy," published by Academic Press and a frequent speaker on the emergence of biofuels in home heating.

In 2009, Matt Cota was named "Financial Services Champion of the Year" by the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 2012, he received an Environmental Excellence Award from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Tonight, we are delighted to honor him as one of NEFI's 2022 Legends Awards winners.



# 2022 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER

*Congratulations to*

*2022 NEFI  
Legends  
Honoree*



*From Your Friends At*  
**VFDA**  
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association

**Matt Cota**

**Executive Director**  
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association



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