

NEW JERSEY--SKYLANDS CHAPTER 1-41-0

Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties

International Association of Electrical Inspectors



9 January 2014

Officers:

President

Robert Rutan

1st V/President

Robert Moentenich

Secretary

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Treasurer

Donald Storms

Board of Directors:

James Alsop
Frank Baguiao
Stan Fagerty
Chris Frankowski
Roy Konwiser
David Menendez
William O'Connor
Chris Walthour

President Bob Rutan opened the meeting at 6:07pm with the flag salute and a moment of silence for our men and women overseas. President Rutan started off with the announcement that this was the first meeting of the newly formed New Jersey Skylands Chapter. After five years of being a division of the New Jersey Chapter, we are now standing on our own. In that time we have produced a web site that has a number of useful tools including a load study calculator and helpful links. We are also offering continuing education classes. However, he warned of the concern of stagnation. We need to continually bring in new members in order to keep the organization active. Bob then introduced the board members in attendance to indicate an active organization. He continued by reminding everyone that because of a show of hands, we bought cases of code Analysis books and reminded all to please make their purchases. Secretary Greg Chontow mentioned that the Board of Electrical Contractors requires licensees to bring either a 2014 NEC or the Analysis with them to every continuing education course. President Rutan then asked for a treasurer's report. Treasurer Don Storms reported a balance of \$5,114 for the month. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasure's report. The President then continued the meeting by asking for an approval of the minutes which was posted on our website. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as published. Bob announced that the Skylands Chapter will be holding a 10 hour code update class in April. Emails will be sent out when information is available. Bob then introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Susan McCollum of Schneider/Square D. Sue started out with a history lesson by asking if anyone knew where the name of Square D came from. As no one in attendance was old enough, she said that the original name was Detroit Fuse, its logo being a D inside a square. She mentioned that their most popular breaker is the QO. QO stands for Quick Open as it was faster than any other breaker at the time. The QO panel has some important features such as a shielded bus, copper bussing and visi-trip breakers. In the 90's they created a less expensive line, the Homeline series removing some of the costly features of the QO series but maintaining the quality of the internal workings of the QO breaker. Branch feeder AFCI breakers have been a requirement in the NEC since the 2005 code, however New Jersey did not adopt that section of the code until the 2008 NEC when the code required the use of combination

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AFCIs protecting against both series and parallel faults. The AFCI breakers have diagnostics built in, however, Square D did a poor job of disseminating that information as it was in the instruction booklet with the breaker (that nobody reads). Sue used a demonstration model to instruct the audience on how the diagnostics work. She also mentioned that the AFCI "testers" that some manufactures are selling are not really testers and considered AFCI Indicators. UL states that the only approved method of testing is with the test button. She mentioned that a two pole AFCI will be out in the next few weeks which is required for multiwire branch circuits. The 2014 NEC added kitchens and bathrooms to the list of required rooms to have AFCI protection. The new requirement created a new product. The Dual Purpose breaker, combining a combination AFCI with GFCI protection. That breaker too will be available in the next few weeks. She went on to explaining the test button color for identification purposes. The blue button was their original AFCI color and that product was recalled. The green button is the branch feeder type. Neither blue or green should be seen installed. A white button is the combination AFCI, a yellow button is for GFCI protection. The new dual purpose breaker will have a purple button. The QO line offers a plug on neutral bus. This feature allows for less wire clutter in the gutter as there is no neutral wire coming from the AFCI or GFCI to the neutral bus which is very beneficial as the requirements for more protection increases with the new codes. Sue's concluded with a question and answer period then was given a well deserved round of applause. With that, President Rutan closed the meeting with 39 in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Greg Chontow