Vice President Frank Baguiao opened the meeting at 6:15 pm with the flag salute and a moment of silence for our men and women overseas. The Vice President requested a report from Treasurer Don Storms who stated that he was unable to make a report at this time. He will provide the November as well as the January report at the next meeting. Baguiao then asked Greg Chontow for the Secretary’s report. Chontow stated that the July minutes were posted on the Chapter’s website. He asked if there were any necessary corrections from anyone who read the minutes. As there were none, he requested and received a motion to accept the minutes. Chontow continued the meeting with Old Business as he provided a recap of the 2018 Eastern Section meeting. The IAEI now has an app that will provide the online magazine for members, in addition to access to meeting information. Everyone is encouraged to download it. The organization provides up to 3 scholarships each year for students in the electrical field, whether that be in a college for electrical engineering, or a trade school. Anyone that knows of someone in this course of study should nominate them for the scholarship. As we all know, there are many code panels for the future NEC. IAEI has a Main and Alternate sitting on every panel. These people are members that originally were on the candidate pool. Out of the more than three thousand Eastern Section members, there is only one candidate in the pool. Anyone that is interested in applying for the candidate pool should see Chontow for the application and guidance to completing the form. The Section is requesting “off year” topics for the years that are not the release of new codes for the training sessions. As the membership structure has changed with the creation of Professional Membership to incorporate both Associate and Inspector members, The I/O will be changing the Bylaws. When that is done, the chapter will be following suit and doing the same with it’s bylaws. With over three thousand members the Eastern Section has a retention rate of 91% which is great, but as the membership gets older, we will need to bring in new members. Chontow encouraged everyone to bring in new interested people to the meetings, as everyone knows of others in the field that would benefit from the education and comradery at the meetings. Finally, next year, the Eastern Section meeting will be held in Syracuse. Anyone interested in code education is encouraged to attend. As there was no additional old business, Chontow continued with new business. He stated that there was some inconsistency with the fee for CEU credits, where
some months there was a charge, and other months there was no charge. As Treasurer Storms consistently states that we have a healthy balance in our account, Chontow made a motion that “The chapter waive the meeting CEU fee for all paid members, until such time as the Board sees the need to return to a charge based meeting CEU.” There was no discussion. All members voted in the approval, and the motion passed. Baguiao then asked for any questions or comments from the floor. A member brought up a discussion from the last meeting about the on-line submittal for the cut-in cards. Chontow stated that there didn’t seem to be any interest in the JCP&L training. With another show of hands, it was determined that the interest of those in enforcement would prompt a training session. Chontow said he’d set something up and email the membership. Another member stated that he was having issues with JCP&L and they were very unresponsive and just had to give in to their whims. Chontow mentioned that if they have Utility issues, they need to contact the BPU. If the Utility is not following BPU guidelines, they will take action. Another member asked about a municipal zoning requirement about exterior pole lights pertaining to light trespass. Another member responded that zoning requirements supersede any building requirements.

As there were no additional questions, Baguiao introduced Jeff Sargent, Regional Code Specialist of NFPA. Sargent started out by stating that the 2020 NEC will be on the streets in less than 1 year. He said that since the electrical industry is changing exponentially, the need for a three year cycle is vital. This three year cycle has been done since 1950. Some of the fast changing technologies that prompt code changes are PoE (Power over Ethernet), Solar, and LED lighting. The 2020 code will recognize the lower energy consumption of LED technology by changing the lighting calculations in Article 220. He stated the DC Power is coming back (Mr. Westinghouse would be proud). EMerge Alliance is a consortium of industry leaders developing standards for safe DC distribution, and its implementation into the NEC. NFPA also is creating a standard for Electrical Inspections (NFPA 1078). This will provide guidance to the enforcement professional in electrical inspections. There was a question as to why the NEC gives the AHJ the flexibility to approve or disapprove when it should be consistent. Sargent stated that it is put in place specifically for the Authority in the field to make a judgement about specific situations that can not be determined if not in the field. Sargent started his comparison between the 2014 and the 2017 NEC with the definition of Structure, stating that the 2017 NEC added the language “other then equipment” to prevent freestanding electrical equipment from being defined as a structure. There is now language and guidance in the code regarding reconditioned equipment. Article 210.8(B) now requires single phase receptacles 50 amps or less to be GFCI protected. There is also guidance in this article for how to measure six foot from a GFCI to the inside top edge of a sink and not behind doors. There is now a requirement for receptacles in a meeting room of a specified size. Article 250.52(A)(2) refers to Metal In-Ground Support systems and allows it to be used as a grounding electrode. Article 250.52(B)(3) prohibits the pool structure to be used as a grounding electrode.

Respectfully Submitted
Greg Chontow, Secretary