

# Welcome To Southwick's Zoo For NEAAPA Summer Meeting

Welcome to NEAAPA's summer meeting at beautiful Southwick's Zoo, and we want to take this opportunity to thank the Brewer family for their incredible hospitality.

It's quite remarkable that our organization has been entertaining New England families since 1913 and — quite frankly — the future looks brighter than ever.

Current members have added an impressive list of new attractions including The Living Shores Aquarium at Story Land In New Hampshire and Harley Quin Spinsanity at Six Flags New England in Massachusetts. In addition, Family Entertainment Group recently opened "In The Game," a new FEC in Massachusetts.

On another positive note, NE-

AAPA has aggressively sought out new members with six joining since the first of the year. They include Crayola Experience, Lucky LLC, Gulf Test Safety Consultants, ProSlide Technology, Inc., and Triotech. We have many more in the queue.

NEAAPA has established an exciting new committee,  
(See **WELCOME**, Page 2)



**Galliford's Restaurant & Tavern at Southwick's Zoo.**

## Inside This Issue

Annual Meeting	Page 2
Member Parks Pitch In	Page 8
Manufacturers & Suppliers	Pages 9-10
Great Events At Ocean Beach	Page 11
Violet Cormier—A Profile	Page 12
Appointments At ESE	Page 13
New Member Attractions	Page 14
New AIMS Director	Page 15
Big E Entertainment	Page 16

**Next Edition:**  
**2019 IAAPA Expo**



# More Than 100 Attend Annual Meeting; Gene Dean Inducted Into Hall Of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – More than 100 persons gathered for the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) 106th Anniversary Education Conference and Annual Meeting March 18-20 at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel here.



**Gene Dean**

The highlight of event was the induction of Gene Dean, owner of Fiesta Shows/Dean Enterprises, into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame during Tuesday

evening's dinner meeting.

Accepting on his behalf was Gene's son, E.J., who chronicled his father's history in the industry, which started at Salisbury Beach, Mass., before the family branched out into the carnival business in 1967.

Today, Fiesta Shows is said to be New England's largest carnival with more than 70 rides. Gene, who was



## For Dad

E.J. Dean (left) accepts the NEAAPA Hall of Fame award on behalf of his father, Gene, from association President Eric Anderson. (NEAAPA photo)

unable to attend due to prior commitments, is the first carnival operator to go into the prestigious hall since its formation in 1998.

## Welcome

(Continued From Page 1)

"Membership Value and Retainment," headed up by Steve Gioe of Sodexo USA. We are certain its work will produce great results for all members.

As a membership association, I would encourage all colleagues to assist fellow members by participating in events, attending social activities, and serving on committees or the board.

Moving forward, please accept this invitation to submit any ideas which may be of value to our organization by e-mailing me at eanderson@quassy.com.

Yours in NEAAPA,  
Eric Anderson, president

## IAAPA Meeting

Two days of seminars kicked off Monday afternoon with an International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Regional Meeting.

John Hallenbeck, vice president and executive director of IAAPA North American, provided an update on the association's activities including membership, educational opportunities, trade shows and the IAAPA foundation.

Erika Scheffer, IAAPA's director of state advocacy, addressed industry issues on state, regional and national levels. Topics included flights over amusement facilities by unauthorized third-party drones, the minimum wage and a school calendar with a post Labor Day start.

An evening reception with more than 50 in attendance capped off the day.

(See ANNUAL MEETING, Page 3)



# Annual Meeting

(Continued From Page 2)

Tuesday's agenda was kicked off with generational expert Meagan Johnson's keynote address. She pointed out that for the first time in history businesses now have five generations working side-by-side. Each generation has what she termed as a "signpost" that drives motivation and influences company loyalty.

Communication between co-workers is more essential than ever to deliver good customer service, she added during the interactive and energetic session.

Other seminars rounding out the day included:

- \* Cashless Payments Driving Revenue, moderated by Anthony Palermo of Connect&Go, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- \* No Influencers Here: Real Journalism Is Back, moderated by Brenda Connell of TK Public Relations, New York, N.Y.
- \* Impacts Of A Post Labor Day School Calendar: speakers Henry Veilleux, Sheehan Phinney Capital Group, Concord, N.H., and Brian Gottlob, PolEcon Research, Dover, N.H.



## President's Award

NEAAPA Secretary Ed Hodgdon received the President's Award from Dorothy Lewis.

Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., to the stage and turned the gavel over.

The annual business meeting was conducted, which included a number of committee reports and the election of officers and directors.

Anderson then presented the following awards:

- Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award, presented to an individual that has demonstrated unparalleled commitment  
(See MEETING AWARDS, Page 4)



**Meagan Johnson was keynote speaker at NEAAPA's annual meeting in Springfield, Mass. (NEAAPA photos)**

A vendor trade show took place during the afternoon with more than a dozen NEAAPA members displaying their products.

## Annual Dinner Meeting

A cocktail hour preceded NEAAPA's Annual Dinner Meeting with more than 100 in attendance for the gala evening.

Secretary Ed Hodgdon, marketing and Internet technology manager at Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine, welcomed attendees to the dinner followed by opening remarks and a farewell address from outgoing association President Dorothy Lewis, XpressPosts.com, Danbury, Conn.

A video presentation ran during the dinner hour highlighting the history of NEAAPA as well as clips from many of its current member properties.

As dinner was concluding, Lewis went to the podium and presented the President's Award to Hodgdon, who has served as NEAAPA secretary for eight years. She then invited incoming President Eric Anderson, president of Quassy Amusement &



### Award Winners

**Photo on the left:** Rimus Grazulis (left) received the Alan E. Safety Award from NEAAPA Awards Committee Chair John Guertin (center) and association President Eric Anderson. **Photo on the right:** Ron Gustafson (right) received the Paragon Award for excellence in promotion from Anderson. (NEAAPA photos)

## Meeting Awards

(Continued From Page 3)

to safety in the amusement parks and attractions industry. Recipient: Rimus Grazulis, Edaville Family Theme Park, Carver, Mass.

\* Paragon Award, presented to an attraction member who has created outreach or advertising pieces that demonstrate unequalled excellence in graphic promotion. Recipient: Ron Gustafson, director of marketing and public relations, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark.

\* Pinnacle Award, presented to an employee or team that has demonstrated peak perfection in customer service. Recipient: Carson Natale, Sodexo at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.



**Carson Natale (left) received NEAAPA's Pinnacle Award, presented by Anderson.**

Hall of Fame Committee Chair Ed Connor then introduced Gene Dean as the 43rd person to be inducted into the hall.

### Membership Milestones

The following were recognized for their Membership Milestones:

60 Years – Naughton Insurance, Providence, R.I.; 45 Years – Salem Willows Arcade/Campbell Enterprises, Inc., Salem, Mass.; Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach, Maine; 25 Years – Roger Williams Park Zoo & Carousel Village, Providence, R.I.; 20 Years – Daly Cavanaugh, LLP, Wellesley, Mass.; 15 Years – A&A Global Industries, Inc., Pennsauken, N.J.; Arial NDT Inspections, Inc., Milton, N.H.; Eastern States Exposition/The Big E, West Springfield, Mass.; Ellis & Associates, Windemere, Fla.; North American Amusements, Weymouth, Mass.; William H. Robinson, Inc. Hamilton, Ohio; XpressPosts.com.

Also, 10 Years – Barry Shore Associates, Farmingham,  
(See MILESTONES, Page 5)



## Milestones

(Continued From Page 4)

Mass.; Greenheart Exchange, Chicago, Ill.; Guertin Graphics and Awards, Wochester, Mass.; Uncommon USA, Lombard, Ill.; White Mountain Attractions Association, Inc., N. Woodstock, N.H.

### Officers And Board

The association's officers, serving two years are: President Eric Anderson; First Vice President Dave Oberlander, Centerplate Mashpee, Mass.; Second Vice President, Chris Nicoli, Canobie Lake Park; Treasurer, Charlene Conway, Carousel Family Fun Centers, Fairhaven, Mass.; and Secretary Ed Hodgdon.

NEAAPA Board of Directors: Chris Bourgeois, Rhode Island Novelty, Steve Gioe, Sodexo, Joe Montalto, High Mountain Enterprises, Matt Naughton, Naughton Insurance, Tom Tessitore, National Ticket Company, Peter Carmichael, Six Flags New England, Paul Cavanaugh, Daly Cavanaugh LLP, EJ Dean Fiesta Shows/Dean Enterprises, John Guertin, Guertin Graphics and Awards,



### NEAAPA Officers

From the left: President Eric Anderson, First Vice President Dave Oberlander, Second Vice President Chris Nicoli and Treasurer Charlene Conway. Not pictured, Secretary Ed Hodgdon.

## Chris Bogard Of Souvenir Source Has Passed Away



**Chris Bogard**

Chris Bogard, an icon in the souvenir industry for four decades, died unexpectedly in her home.

Many NEAAPA members admired Chris—known as the Queen of the Road as she attended numerous trade shows—for her quick wit and honesty.

Her most recent sales position was with Souvenir Source

of Chelsea, Mass.

A "Celebration of the Queen" is being planned for the Smoky Mountain Gift Show in November, organizers announced.

Melissa Plante, CLM Entertainment Group, LLC, Erik Beard, International Ride Training, LLC, Tom Brady, Six Gun City, Cindy Brewer-Lavoie, Southwick's Zoo, Cory Cormier, Funtown Splashtown USA, Sandra Manougian, Fun World.

### Sponsors

Sponsors for the NEAAPA conference and meeting were:

**Gold:** Allied Insurance, Edaville Family Theme Park, Naughton Insurance, FETCHREV, Parkpass, Premier Rides, S&S Worldwide.

**Dinner:** Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc.

**Meeting badges:** North American Amusements.

**Morning break:** Bass Resort Sales Corp., Carousel Family Fun Centers, Mini Melts Ice Cream.

**Afternoon break:** International Ride Training, Mansfield Paper Co., Inc., Weston & Sampson.

The next gathering of NEAAPA members will be held Nov. 20 for the annual Tom Morrow Social & IAAPA Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy at Pointe Orlando, Orlando, Fla.



## Photo Highlights From Annual Meeting In Springfield, Mass.



### IAAPA Speakers

John Hallenbeck, vice president and executive director of IAAPA North American, and Erika Scheffer, IAAPA's director of state advocacy, spoke during the gathering. (NEAAPA photos)



**Monday evening reception.**



**Vendor showcase—photo above and below.**



**Tuesday cocktail hour prior to annual dinner.**

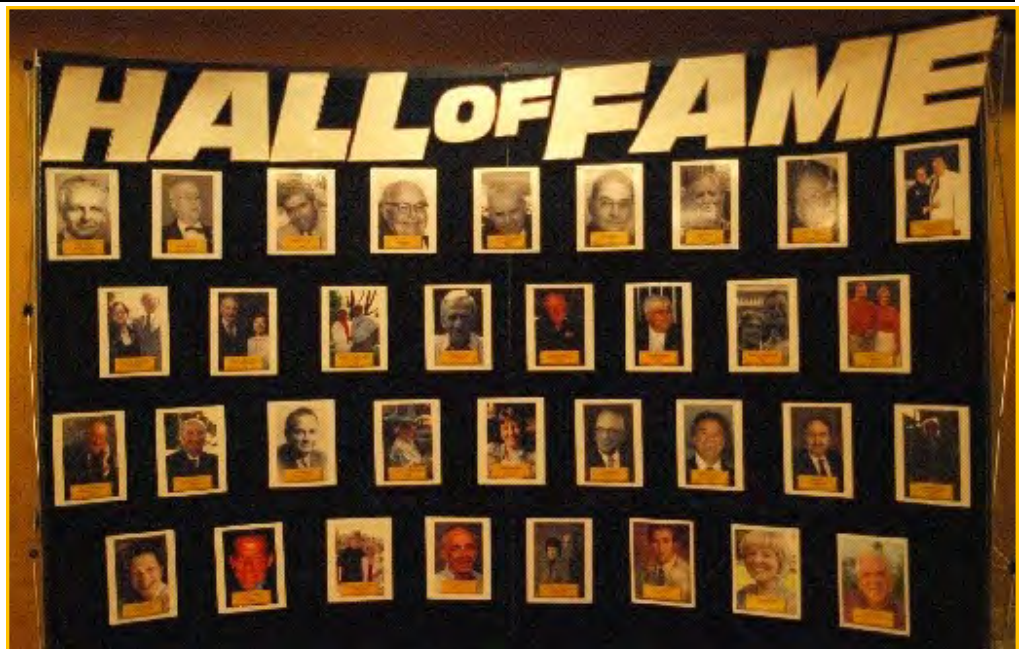




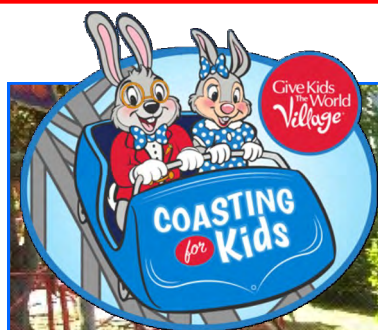


**NEAAPA Membership Milestones (left) and Board of Directors.**

**Gathering for Annual Dinner (right), welcome message from Secretary Ed Hodgdon (below), and NEAAPA Hall Of Fame display in the reception area. (NEAAPA photos)**







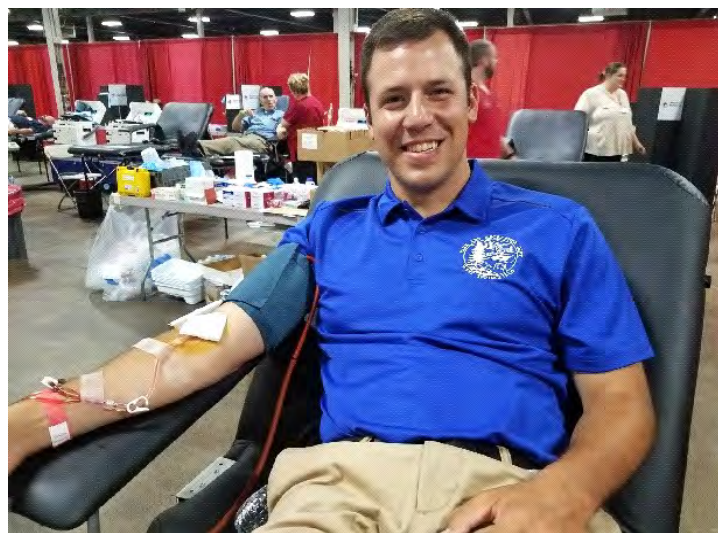
## Member Parks Pitch In For Worthy Causes



### Coasting For Kids

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., hosted a Coasting For Kids event in June to support Give Kids The World Village, an 84-acre, nonprofit "storybook" resort in Kissimmee, Fla., where children with critical illnesses and their families are treated to weeklong, cost-free vacations. Surpassing its target goal, the event raised more than \$5,300 with 49 registered for the day, which included exclusive ride time on Quassy's two roller coasters. Member park Story Land, Glen, N.H., is also holding a Coasting For Kids event this summer. (Quassy photo)

## Six Flags Partners With Red Cross For Summer Blood Drive



Blood donor during recent event.

AGAWAM, Mass.— Six Flags New England, the Thrill Capital of New England, partnered with the American Red Cross for its recent annual kickoff to summer Blood Drive. Each presenting blood donor received a free ticket to Six Flags New England.

More than 100 donors came out for the event and the American Red Cross was thrilled with the response.

Six Flags New England has been a proud partner of the American Red Cross for more than 15 years. Throughout the partnership enough blood has been collected to have saved more than 200,000 lives from throughout New England.

*Ocean Beach Park Hosts Two Events To Help Regional Organizations; See Page 11*



## Manufacturers & Suppliers News

### WhiteWater Gets High Honor

RICHMOND, British Columbia—WhiteWater, supplier of the world's leading waterparks with innovative and exciting waterslides and other attractions, has been recognized as one of the Best Managed Companies for 2019 in Canada.

The announcement was made in a leading Canada business awards program, which distinguishes notable achievements in private Canadian-owned companies with revenues of more than \$15 million.

The company has offices around the world in Vancouver, Barcelona, Shanghai, Dubai and Denver and employs almost 600 employees.

### Triotech Appoints Three

MONTREAL—Triotech, a world leader in inactive entertainment, has announced three recent appointments.

Sylvain Larose has been named chief operating officer of the company. Until recently, Larose held the post of chief financial officer.

Larose will now supervise all of the firm's operations in Montreal and around the world.

"Sylvain has the skills, and especially an in-depth knowledge of the market, and so will play a key role in defining our future orientations and business strategies," said Ernest Yale, company founder and president.

In addition, Salim Sabbagha has been named director of sales for Latin America.

In this new role, Sabbagha will become the first point of contact for sales activities in Latin America. His appointment is effective immediately.

Also, Eric Beauregard has been named as vice president global sales.

"Eric will lead our sales organization globally and help further develop Triotech's leadership position in the attractions industry" said Yale.



**Larose**



**Sabbagha**



**Beauregard**



### Before And After

Baynum Painting, Newport, Ky., completed full-scale refurb work at Wet 'N' Wild, Hapolei, Hawaii, including exterior surfaces, interior gel coating and fiberglass restoration. Photos above illustrate before and after work on one attraction. (submitted photos)

### Appointments At ProSlide

OTTAWA—ProSlide Technology's David Rozon has been appointed president, in addition to his current role as chief operating officer. Rozon has been leading global operations since 2011 and has a strong track record in strategy implementation, team performance and operational excellence.

"Dave will continue to rally the ProSlide team around our strategic vision, strengthening ProSlide on both a cultural and commercial level," said Rick Hunter, chairman and CEO of ProSlide.

In addition, the company also appointed Ray Smegal as chief commercial officer. Smegal previously



**Rozon**



**Smegal**

(Continued on Page 10)



## Manufacturers & Suppliers News

(Continued from Page 9)

served as the company's vice president of product development and design. He has played a key role in product development, ride design, sales and customer service for more than 12 years.



### New Zamperla Ride

NebulaZ is a new family thrill ride from Italian manufacturer Zamperla in which four arms rotate in fast intermeshing orbits. Eight gondolas at the end of the arms remain upright, and riders catch air as they fly over the top of the ride. It is operating at Luna Park, Brooklyn, N.Y. (submitted photo)

### Smith Leads Firestone

NEEDHAM, Mass. — Firestone Financial, a subsidiary of Berkshire Bank, announced that Michael Smith, executive vice president, chief operations officer, assumed the company's top leadership position. Long-time Chief Executive Officer David Cohen transitioned out of the company in mid-May.

"I come into my expanded role excited to continue



**Smith**

the foundation David set and bring a renewed energy and excitement for the future," remarked Smith. "David's commitment to the growth and prosperity of all the industries we serve is ingrained in everything we do. And that commitment will remain the same."

The management change is part of a well-coordinated succession plan that was in process since Berkshire Bank acquired Firestone Financial in 2015.

### Reardon Named President Of White Mountains Organization

NORTH WOODSTOCK, N.H. - Charyl Reardon has been named president of White Mountains Attractions Association, marketing the state's most popular tourism region and driving a \$900 million industry in the region.

Reardon becomes just the third president in the association's 60-year history, responsible for visitor services, public relations, and promotion of New Hampshire's fabled White Mountains in markets around the world. She succeeds Jayne O'Connor,



**Reardon**

who is retiring after 22 years at the helm.

"I love the White Mountains and I believe it is one of the best tourism destinations" Reardon said. "I am beyond excited about the energy, enthusiasm and passion of my team."

I am looking forward to leading this organization, which understands the economic impact of tourism, and has helped to make memories for generations of families from across the country and around the world."

A graduate of Lincoln-Woodstock Public School and Plymouth State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in business, Reardon joined White Mountains Attractions in 1999, handling all aspects of marketing over the years, from brochure distribution and membership, to operations and digital marketing.

"It's rewarding to turn the organization over to someone you have nurtured and encouraged," said outgoing President Jayne O'Connor.







## Ocean Beach Park Assists Two State Organizations

NEW LONDON, Conn.—Ocean Beach Park held two spring events to assist statewide organizations. outCT's 5th Annual "Born This Way Fashion Show" included a raffle and silent auction, featuring an array of products and services donated by businesses all across New England. Prior to the show, Ocean Beach's Centerplate offered a variety of hors d'oeuvres, pasta station and curated a cash bar amid the night of fun and dancing.

All proceeds benefitted outCT's Youth Program.

In appreciation for the support, Dave Sugrue of Centerplate (photo on left holding microphone) was presented with two beautiful Adirondack chairs for the park that were made by children of the outCT Youth Program.

The park hosts many events with the group, including its annual New London Pride Day in August which features a full day of entertainment and vendor booths on the boardwalk. Proceeds from that event are used to finance activities for their LGBTQ youth group.

The park also hosted the 21st annual Make-A-Wish Day (photo on right), inviting all Connecticut wish families for a day of rides, mini golf and swimming.

This marked the 20th year that the Ocean Beach Park Benefit Volleyball Tournament has supported Make-A-Wish Connecticut, making it the longest standing event in the chapter's history and has raised an average of \$20,000 per year.

This year 36 wish kids, alumni and their families were among the more than 500 people gathered for the event and more than \$18,000 was raised for Make-A-Wish. (submitted photos)



**Youngsters await Rap-Tour.**

## New Rap-Tour Safari At Story Land

GLEN, N.H.—Story Land here has introduced Rap-Tour Safari as a new attraction for 2019.

Dinosaurs have taken over the Slipshod Safari and everyone's favorite tour guide is missing. Kids help solve the mystery and spot dinosaurs along the way on this revamped ride.

Also new for 2019 is Fairy Tale Training 101, an action packed adventure. Peter Pan will show kids how to use their imaginations, Tinkerbell will show them the magic of friendship, and Little Red Riding Hood will share her skills for steering clear of the Big Bad Wolf. Back by popular demand, Daniel Tiger's Grr-iffic Day, a musical stage show starring Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittycat, returns

to the park for another season of make believe and good feelings.

"We're very excited for all things new in the 2019 season," said Eric Dziedzic, Story Land general manager.



Editor's note: This article appeared in the May edition of trade publication *Amusement Today* and is reprinted with permission.

# Women INFLUENCE

## A view from the top...

**Violet Cormier** and her husband, **Ken Cormier**, built **Funtown Splashtown USA**, Saco, Maine, from the ground up. What started as a drive-in food stand called **Marvel Drive-In** in 1960, now is home to the park with almost 30 amusement rides, multiple waterslides, a children's water play area, a swimming pool and a variety of games and food. Ken Cormier passed away in 2013, but Violet Cormier continues to be a very active part of Funtown Splashtown USA.

## Accomplishments and affiliations...

- Member, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA)
- Member, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
- Ken Cormier was named Small Business Person of the Year for Maine in 2001

## Loving the ride of her life

SACO, Maine — Violet Cormier speaks from the heart. So when she said, "Seeing people, children, families with their own challenges come into this park and have smiles on their faces, maybe just for a little while, fills me with real joy," it is very easy to recognize her sincerity.

She was 24 years old when she and her husband, Ken Cormier, opened Marvel Drive-In. She will be 84 years old this September.

"That is 60 years," she said. "That is a lifetime."

Make no mistake. Those 60 years had challenges and ample enough blood, sweat and tears to go around. But, Cormier looks at her life now and has no regrets.

"I have had my ups and downs, my goods and bads," she said. "I have felt it all. It is all called life. I wouldn't change any of it for the world."

In 1960 when the food stand opened, Cormier had been married for six years. She had three children. Bill was born in 1953. Gail was born in 1955 and Kevin was born in 1959.

Her husband had served three years in the Korean War and had come home, attended and graduated from college and was working in an accounting firm.

The couple had worked summers at the Palmer House in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Growing up quickly was something Violet Cormier knew all too well. It had been a way of life for her for many years.

Her dad died young, leaving her young mother, Estelle Gilbert Richard, alone to raise five daughters.

"My mother had to go to work," she said. "We lived on a farm. We were workers. We raised chickens and grew

our own vegetables."

Cormier watched as her mother sold those farm fresh products, turning that into a successful and profitable grocery business.

"I watched her start to buy property," Cormier said. "I watched her divide property. I watched her buy and build apartments and town homes."

"I can remember my mother coming home in the evenings and being so tired," she said. "She would come in and just flop back on the bed."

Cormier graduated from high school early. She met her husband-to-be when she was only 12 years old. By the time she was 18 years old, she was married and pregnant with her first child.

It had been Cormier's desire to be a stay-at-home mom. She felt all the early hard work would lead her there.

"I thought I knew everything back then," she said.

But life has those ways of twisting its own path.

"One day my mother came to me and said, 'If I loan you and Ken \$100,000, do you think the two of you could start up your own business?'"

Yes was the quick answer.

So, she and her husband purchased a parcel of land on Route 1 in Saco. At that time, the area was not very developed. They put their food stand there. Her husband continued with his day job and worked the food stand around those hours. She took her children to the restaurant.

"They always were around me," she said. "I was the boss and could do that. As they got older, I gave them chores to do there."

One of her sisters and her husband,

## Violet Cormier

Owner  
**Funtown Splashtown USA**  
Saco, Maine



Muriel and Andre (Ted) Dallaire, purchased land next door to the restaurant. They opened a miniature golf course and go-cart track.

"We put in a bat-away behind the restaurant," Cormier said. "We didn't have a ball picker. We would wait until someone came in and told us we were out of balls. Then, while we were serving food out of the front of the restaurant, we would all run out of the back door and pick up balls."

Cormier said her husband finally gave up his accounting job. They formed a partnership with the Dallaires, added several amusement rides and, all of the sudden, they had an amusement park.

That was in 1967. The park continued to expand over the succeeding years. The Cormiers eventually bought out the Dallaires in the late 1970s.

In the meantime, the Cormiers also were adding three more children to their own line-up. Karen was born in 1964. Candace in 1968 and Kimberly in 1970.

Cormier had wanted to be a stay-at-

home mom. In a way, she achieved that and a whole lot more. The park was their home and still is today. All her children have a role in the park's operations.

Cormier lives in a residence at the park. She now picks and chooses what she wants to do. She makes sure her employees feel appreciated, cooking for them often. She teaches them to be kind, courteous and outgoing to the park guests.

She also goes to the park gates and welcomes her guests. She loves to greet the children groups.

"I love watching the children come off their buses with those smiles on their faces," she said.

Losing her husband was and still is very hard. But the park and family they built together continues.

"They give my life purpose every single day. I think we become what we do. I am right where I am supposed to be."

The fast lane has treated her very well.

—Pam Sherborne



# ESE Announces Appointments, Promotions

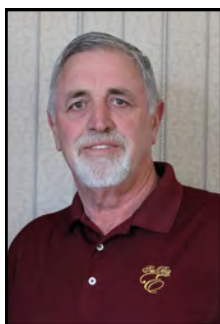


WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Eastern States Exposition (ESE) has announced the following staff appointments and promotions:

\* Timothy P. Garstka, of East Longmeadow, Mass., has joined ESE and will serve as the organization's director of sales. Garstka comes to ESE from his position at Williams Distributing, Chicopee, Mass., where he served as

sales manager/brand marketing manager.

- Robert Gottsche, Jr., a native of Agawam, Mass., and resident of Westfield, Mass., was promoted to sales manager. Gottsche will be responsible for all Big E vendors and concessionaires, and will oversee ESE's year-round event coordinators. Gottsche first joined the staff of the Exposition in 1983 and became an event coordinator in 1991.



**Kelley**

- Cliff Hedges, of Longmeadow, Mass., has joined ESE and will serve as the organization's director of public safety. Hedges has an extensive, 31-year background in federal and local law enforcement, having retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigations in 2012 after 26 years as special agent and a supervisory special agent; spending 21 of those years in the FBI's Springfield office. He also served as a patrolman and subsequently a detective on the Crimes Against Persons Unit with the Dallas, Texas, Police Department.



**Garstka**



**Gottsche**

- Maureen Freniere, of Westfield, Mass., has joined ESE and will serve as one of the organization's event sales coordinators. Freniere comes to ESE from her position at FarmTek in South Windsor, Conn., where she served as a commercial trust specialist.



**Ferraro**

- Robert Kelley, of Westfield, Mass., has been named director of operations. A graduate of Agawam High School, he continued his education at Holyoke Community College before starting his career at ESE in 1975. Over the past 25 years, Kelley has served ESE as its contractor coordinator, overseeing numerous capital improvement projects.



**Hedges**

- Steve Ferraro, of Springfield, Mass., has been named captain of parking and security. He will oversee all parking for weekend events and The Big E, as well as assist Cliff Hedges, the director of public safety & security, with scheduling security staff for 24-hour and event coverage. Ferraro started working at ESE at age 14 when his father, the late Albert Ferraro, a long-time Big E employee, oversaw parking for the exposition.



**Brown**

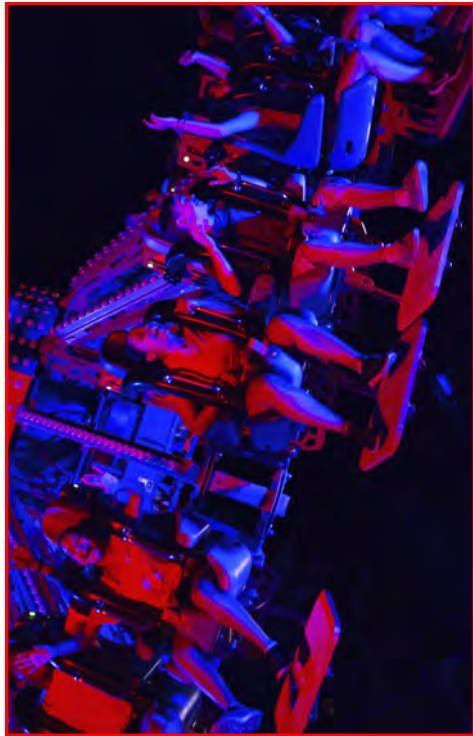
- Terri Brown, of Southwick, Mass., is ESE's Creative Arts/New England Center program manager. She has been affiliated with ESE since 2011 as the building's 4-H coordinator, served as assistant to the creative arts coordinator in 2017 and became co-coordinator of the department in 2018. In her new position, she will oversee the management and administration of all contests, 4-H participation, displays and the New England Center stage.



**Freniere**

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**CYBORG Hyper Drive at Six Flags New England. (submitted photo)**

## Six Flags Opens New Ride

AGAWAM, Mass.—Six Flags New England has opened its newest thrill ride: CYBORG Hyper Drive. This hi-tech attraction, inspired by the iconic DC Super Hero Cyborg, will enthrall thrill seekers with a dynamic ride experience, futuristic lighting and sound effects.

CYBORG Hyper Drive is an extreme, new dark ride experience and the first dark ride to premiere at the Thrill Capital of New England since 1999. CYBORG Hyper Drive invites guests to S.T.A.R. Labs to help

Cyborg tests a new technological device. As the story unfolds, the evil, sentient cybernetic system called GRID hacks into the mainframe and takes control of the entire lab. Riders find themselves caught up in the battle, spinning and whirling mercilessly through the air, while Cyborg wrestles to regain control of the enormous machine.

This thrilling, new attraction offers 360 degrees of pure, heart-pounding adrenaline.

Ride highlights include:

- 24 riders sitting in an outward facing position;
- Quick acceleration reaching intense velocity while guests whirl through countless rotations of spinning insanity;
- A DC Super Hero storyline featuring Cyborg's battle with an evil DC Super-Villain; and
- Immersive state-of-the-art digital, lighting, and hologram effects.

## Zip Ride Newest Addition At Roger Williams Park Zoo

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Soaring Eagle Zip Ride is the newest attraction in the new Explore and Soar area at Roger Williams Park Zoo here.

The ride takes guests 115 feet above the earth, offering a terrific view of the city of Providence out to Narragansett Bay in comfortable side-by-side seats.

Roger Williams Park Zoo is like a large open classroom where everyone can learn about all the animals in the zoo family.



**Soaring Eagle Zip Ride at Roger Williams Park Zoo. (submitted photo)**

ly. Once or twice a day throughout the summer animal keepers will lead a discussion and answer questions regarding the animal(s) in their care.

A schedule of talks is at the front of zoo. Animal Encounters give guests the opportunity to get up close, in a safe way, to several interesting zoo animals. Whether it is an interaction with armadillos in the Green House – next to the Big Backyard - or feeding our giraffes and harbor seals – every instance provides fun and information. For more about the zoo, visit <https://www.rwpzoo.org/>.



## Mandt Named Executive Vice President Of IAAPA

ORLANDO, Fla., – The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) has announced the promotion of David Mandt to executive vice president (EVP) and chief engagement officer (CENO).



**Mandt**

The newly created position is responsible for association member engagement, and global marketing, communications, and education.

Most recently, Mandt has served the association as senior vice president, marketing and communications.

During that time, he oversaw the marketing strategy and plans for the association's annual global expos; developed the association's year-long 100th anniversary celebration; facilitated the strategy and plan for all areas of communication including media relations, crisis communications, and executive communications; and provided staff leadership during a three-year, member-driven association-wide rebrand.

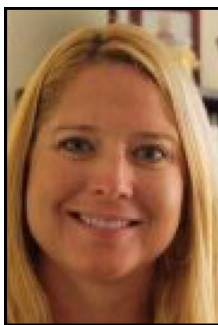
As executive vice president and chief engagement officer, Mandt will oversee member engagement and the global headquarters teams for marketing, communications, and education.

He will be the team liaison to the Governance and Strategic Planning Committees and will supervise the board and committee manager to support the work of the IAAPA board of directors and the committees around the world while also working closely with the association's regional teams in support of their goals.

## AIMS Has New Executive Director

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Board of Directors of AIMS International has appointed Mary Jane (MJ) Brewer as the next executive director.

She succeeded Karen Oertley who announced her retirement last November. Brewer brings more than 20 years of industry experience to AIMS International and assumed overall responsibility for day-to-day management and operation of the association in June. Based in Jacksonville, FL, she will report to the board of directors.



**Brewer**

"Karen and her team have put AIMS International in a healthy position, growing programs and services to an all-time level, and we are grateful for her work," said Franceen Gonzales, president of AIMS International Board of Directors. "MJ brings a wealth of industry knowledge in safety education, inspection, and aquatics and comes in at the perfect time to continue that momentum. On behalf of the entire board of directors, we are thrilled to have her join AIMS as executive director."

Most recently, Brewer worked as Vice President of Operations for USTTC (US Technical Training Center) and is an Inspection Specialist for Recreation Engineering, Inc.

AIMS International is a non-profit 501(c)(6) association dedicated to improving amusement Industry safety through leadership in education. AIMS International provides training classes and certification for ride inspectors, operations, aquatics and maintenance personnel through its annual Safety Seminar and at other venues throughout the year including the AIMS On the Road program for Ray Cammack Shows, ACOLAP, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



### Christian Rock Band To Perform

Skillet, an American Christian rock band, will perform Sunday, Sept. 15, at The Big E's xfinity arena in West Springfield, Mass. The show is free with Big E admission and a limited number of premium reserved seats available. (submitted photo)



# Big E Announces Court Of Honor Lineup



## At The Big E

Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr., will perform at 3 p.m. Sept. 20-22, at the Big E's Court of Honor. The Grammy award-winning "First Couple of Pop and Soul," will take guests on a journey and musical celebration of their iconic music from their founding years with The 5th Dimension to tributes to fellow music legends. (submitted photo)

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—The Big E has announced a number of concerts for its Court of Honor Stage, sponsored by Mattress Firm, for the Sept. 13-29 fair. All shows are free with Big E admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The stage is located in front of the iconic Coliseum.

### \* Drake White & The Big Fire, 8 p.m., Sept. 13

Drake White and The Big Fire kick off opening day at The Big E with their brand of rock-infused country featuring White's undeniably soulful voice.

### \* Brynn Cartelli, 3 p.m., Sept. 13-15

Winner of season 14 of The Voice, Cartelli is the youngest person in the show's history to win the competition. She is currently working on her debut project and recently finished touring as the opening act for megastar Kelly Clarkson. Come see why this local teen is now a national sensation.

### \* Bowling for Soup, 8 p.m., Sept. 14

25-year veterans of pop punk music, the always intimate and always entertaining Bowling for Soup will bring their infectious personalities to The Big E.

### \* Blue Öyster Cult, 8 p.m., Sept. 15

Listed in VH1's countdown of the greatest hard rock bands of all time, Long Island, N. Y.-based iconic Blue Öyster Cult, brings its unique catalog of hits to Big E fans.

### \* Rave On, 3 p.m., Sept. 16 and 17

Featuring the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and other legends of rock-n-roll, Rave On is living proof that the music

that paved the way for the genre is timeless and continues to appeal to people of all ages.

### \* The Georgia Satellites, 8 p.m. Sept. 16-18

The Southern Rock genre has a home at The Big E and the music continues with Atlanta's Georgia Satellites, of "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" fame.

### \* Ambrosia, 3 p.m., Sept. 18 and 19

Founded in 1970, Ambrosia garnered five Grammy nominations and five hit singles and performed sold-out concerts around the world.

### \* Lettuce, 8 p.m., Sept. 19

Selling out shows across the country, Lettuce has truly earned its name as a can't-miss live act.

Visit <https://www.thebige.com/> for additional shows scheduled at the Court of Honor.



## In Honor Of A Classic

Rus Ozana (left), American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) New England regional representative, presented a plaque to Quassy Amusement & Waterpark President Eric Anderson recently at the Allan Herschell Little Dipper roller coaster in recognition of the park's "commitment to maintaining and preserving" the classic ride. Since opening at the Middlebury, Conn., property in 1952, it is estimated that more than 10 million guests have enjoyed the coaster. "ACE salutes Quassy for the diligent care they have given this coaster across many decades, allowing for generations of families, past, present and future, to share in the joy of this riding experience," Ozana said during the presentation. Quassy's maintenance department completely refurbished the ride's three-car train last winter with the track and supports freshly painted this spring. (Quassy photo)