

# MORE STATIC

April 2009

Presented by Loehr Lightning Protection Company



Founded in 1932, the ULPA is an association of lightning protection manufacturers, engineers, contractors and technicians dedicated to promoting and supporting lightning protection codes and standards published by the National Fire Protection Association, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. and the Lightning Protection Institute.

Call us for information on ULPA membership at 1-800-668-ULPA.



## Industry Meets in New Orleans for 77th Annual Conference

The 77th annual conference was a Big-Easy success with over 100 industry members and guests traveling to New Orleans, LA, for our industry meetings. Mike Riley of Bonded Lightning Protection and Jeff Regan of Erico served as gracious hosts in organizing hotel arrangements, hospitality and special events to make our industry visit to the Big Easy memorable. The week kicked off with Mardi Gras festivities and ended with the industry awards banquet which included the delicious New Orleans cuisine. In addition to enjoying the sights and sounds of New Orleans, hotel amenities and social events, LPI and ULPA members were treated to a full educational program about lightning protection which included dynamic speakers and presentations that addressed industry concerns. Highlights from the conference education sessions included:

### Contract Documents/Issues Michael P. Davis, Esq. Chamberlain, Hrdlica, White, Williams & Martin

Michael Davis shared his expertise on construction law practices, contract disputes, arbitration, mediation and issues of special concern to subcontractors. His presentation reviewed areas of special concern to industry members, such as contract language, conditioning bids, retainages, lien laws and consensus documents. Michael's considerable experience in construction law provided timely information for industry members to help avoid costly and time-consuming construction and contractual disputes—all valuable information for protecting your contract and business rights in a tough economy.

*(Conference wrap-up continued, page 2)*

### ULPA Board of Directors

ULPA welcomes our newest Board member, Justin Harger with HLP Systems, Inc.

#### Officers:

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## Conference Wrap-Up (continued)

**“Surge Protection Safety”****Louis Farquhar, PE, CEM, GBE, Advanced Protection Technologies**

With a wealth of experience and knowledge in electrical engineering and surge protection, Lou Farquhar has developed and taught numerous presentations to consulting engineers on a national level. He is an instructor and Administrator with the State of Florida Board of Professional Engineers Continuing Education program. In addition to providing an overview of surge protection and electrical transients, Lou's presentation reviewed the upcoming changes for UL 1449 and implications for UL 96A.

**“Lightning Protection Roundtable”****Lance Fleming and George Portfleet**

Lance and George lead an open forum, roundtable-style discussion which addressed installation scenarios and industry issues of concern to lightning protection installers. The discussion centered on UL interpretations with regard to Master Label Certification inspections and future implications for installers with regard to the phase-out of the UL surge protection exemption.

**“UL Program Overview & Update”****Rich Bouchard**

Rich Bouchard provided a review of programming to update attendees on UL services and changes planned for the lightning protection program. Bouchard reviewed information which included: intensified grounding requirements in the works for future Master Label inspections, the reintroduction of the Letter of Findings to address the phase-out of the surge protection exemption and the Collaborative Standards Development System, which needs to be the venue for Standard changes and initiatives. Bouchard also addressed questions from the group and reminded attendees to refer to the UL News Section to receive quarterly updates for lightning protection program information.

**“Insurance Statistics re: Lightning Losses”****Jeanne Salvatore, Insurance Information Institute**

As the senior vice president of Public Affairs at the Insurance Information Institute (III), Jeanne plays a highly public role in representing the III and the insurance industry. She works closely with national and local media as a spokesperson for insurance-related issues that directly affect the consumer. The III contributes to approximately thousands of news stories a year, handles thousands of requests for information and receives nearly 50,000 questions from consumers.

In addition to direct contact with the media and the public, the III publishes an array of helpful pamphlets and books, designed to provide consumer support on insurance subjects. Jeanne's information included a statistical overview of lightning claims and what these claims are costing consumers and the insurance industry. Jeanne also discussed opportunities and ways our industry can work with the insurance industry in encouraging insurers to provide discounts, credits and incentives for lightning protection systems.

**“Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) and Lightning Protection”****Mark Morgan**

Mark's presentation reviewed the latest information on the CSST gas tubing issue as it relates to lightning protection, bonding and grounding. He also outlined installation measures for installers to be aware of when providing lightning protection systems for homes or businesses where CSST is present.

**“Advancing Disaster Safety Through Story Telling” Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President/CEO, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc.**

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. (FLASH), is an award-winning national, non-profit corporation founded in 1998 by a collaborative of organizations dedicated to strengthening homes and safeguarding families from disaster. Speaker, Leslie Chapman-Henderson shared information as to how FLASH has championed the cause of disaster-resilient construction methods through the creation of groundbreaking consumer awareness programs. Such recent programs include, the recently-launched StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes at INNOVENTIONS at Walt Disney's Epcot and “Blueprint for Safety” an educational program on disaster-resistant construction techniques for homebuilders, homeowners and design professionals. LPI looks forward to future Contact with Leslie and FLASH, as we plan to explore networking and collaborative opportunities which may exist between FLASH and the lightning protection industry.



## Conference Wrap-Up (continued)

## “Protecting a Living Resource From Lightning (Trees)”

### E. Thomas Smiley, PhD, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory

Dr. Tom Smiley is an arboricultural researcher at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory in Charlotte NC and an adjunct professor of Urban Forestry at Clemson University. He serves as a technical advisor to the American National Standards Institute A300 committee in the preparation of the Standards for Tree Care Operations and is chair of the International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices committee that interprets the Standards. Dr. Smiley’s presentation highlighted information from his research data and the International Society of Arboricultural Standard for tree protection. Dr. Smiley stressed his desire to continue collecting data on the effects of connectors, conductors and terminal efficacy, as well as lightning-related root damage. He expects his research in this area will continue to propose incremental improvements to lightning protection system designs and installation practices so that arborists can effectively protect more trees and people.

## THE ANNUAL FINNY



### AWARD WINNERS



The “Finnys” are the Oscars of the lightning protection world, recognizing outstanding achievement, originality and creativity in the industry. Once again, we saw a host of interesting and awe-inspiring entries. The winning honors went to the following ULPA members who took home the bronze Finnys (finals):

#### Promethean Award:

Kathy Golla with Bonded Lightning Protection in Argyle, Texas, for the “Job Safety Analysis (JSA)” scorecard/booklet which Bonded has implemented for its work crew. Golla explained that the JSA has helped Bonded further its commitment to job safety with regard to OSHA requirements and has also helped the company receive a rebate toward lower worker compensation insurance rates.

#### Harvest Award:

Jennifer Morgan with East Coast Lightning Equipment, for her company’s new branding, tagline (Get grounded.) marketing campaign and ECLE’s implementation of earth-friendly “green” marketing products and practices, designed to complement the design community’s push for sustainable products.

#### Promotional Award:

Heath Howe with Bonded Lightning Protection in Argyle, Texas, for his firm’s team of LSA presenters executing a record-breaking 67 LSA 101 (Lightning Safety Alliance Continuing Education Program) presentations to architects, engineers and building planners.

*Congratulations to our 2009 Finny Award Winners and thank you to East Coast Lightning Equipment for supplying the Finny trophies.*

## THANK YOU!

ULPA extends a sincere THANK YOU to our generous sponsors....

The following firms contributed cash and/or prizes to support this year’s conference:

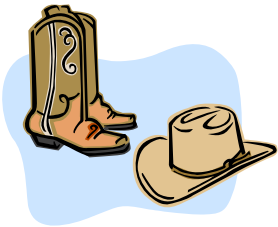
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A very special THANK YOU to Mike Riley & Jeff Regan for hosting this year’s conference and coordinating social functions.



U.L.P.A.  
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Libertyville, IL 60048



## Dust off your dancing cowboy boots!

In 2010 the ULPA / LPI Conference will be heading to Nashville, Tennessee! Jeff Harger of HLP Systems has offered to host the event.

### Newsletter Duty Calls...Don't Dodge the Draft!

Mark your calendars, the following members have volunteered to produce More Static Newsletters for the 2009/2010 season:

- *June Newsletter: Mark Hicks—Hicks Lightning Protection*
- *August Newsletter: Mike Weir—Taylor Lightning Protection*
- *October Newsletter: Kim Stauder—Bonded Lightning Protection*
- *December Newsletter: Simon Larter—Warren Lightning Protection*
- *February/pre-conference Newsletter: Doug Franklin—Thompson Lightning Protection*

Please remember to forward your newsletter materials to the ULPA office by the 15th of your assigned month. Contact Pat Dillon, ULPA President, at [pat@bondedlightning.com](mailto:pat@bondedlightning.com) if you have any questions.

**Thanks for your cooperation!**



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