



# WELCOME TO THE **2023 LDAC** ANNUAL MEETING

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

The Glass Room, Acqua Turf Country Club, Plantsville, CT

# Schedule of Events

## Welcome & Introductions

*Jeff Bickel, Northeast Building Supply*

## Recognition of Past Lumber People of the Year

*Jeff Bickel, Northeast Building Supply*

## Sponsorship Recognition

*William Clark, Herrington's*

## Scholarship Recognition

*Robert P. Sanford, Sanford & Hawley*

Recipients: Shauna Kehoe, Emily Shanahan, & Stefanie Szawerda

## NRLA Chair Remarks

*Incoming Chair, Doug Ford, Curtis Lumber*

## Dinner

## 2023 Lumber Person of the Year Presentation

*Recipient: David Bitso, Reeb Millwork Corp.*

*Presented by: Steve Jenkins*

## Closing Remarks

*Jeff Bickel, Northeast Building Supply*

# Past Presidents

2021 Robert P. Sanford	1976 William Goldberg	1931 Frank H. Warr
2020 Robert P. Sanford	1975 John Caruso	1930 John A. Dodd
2019 David Bitso	1974 Leon H. Stone	1929 John A. Dodd
2018 Bruce McCrary	1973 John Hrusa	1928 Richard Warren
2017 Joe Cecarelli	1972 Paul W. Slosberg	1927 Harold E. Thompson
2016 Joe Cecarelli	1971 Gordon T. Schielke	1926 Albert Seibold
2015 Peter Rogers	1970 Russell J. Quinlan	1925 John G. Schwarz, Jr.
2014 Peter Rogers	1969 Sherman H. Brown	1924 N.B. Richards
2013 Lorraine Miner	1968 Charles E. Drazen	1923 John C. Barry
2012 Lorraine Miner	1967 Verne R. Spear	1922 Robert W. Chatfield
2011 Lorraine Miner	1966 Edward Glenney	John C. Barry
2010 Lorraine Miner	1965 Martens E. Goos	1921 William J. Riley
2009 Lorraine Miner	1964 John A. Evangelisti	1920 Arthur C. Tyler
2008 Dave Bitso	1963 Robert L. DeCourcy	1919 Arthur C. Tyler
2007 Dave Bitso	1962 J. DeForest Venter	1918 William N. Keogh
2006 Aileen O'Hara	1961 Steele C. Smith	1917 William N. Keogh
2005 Aileen O'Hara	1960 Raymond R. Bushnell	1916 Louis A. Mansfield
2004 Adrian Baker	1959 Donald C. Davis	1915 Louis A. Mansfield
2003 Adrian Baker	1958 Alexander McFarlane	1914 Louis A. Mansfield
2002 Gregory Branecky	1957 Everett T. McKinney	1913 A. Shumaker
2001 Gregory Branecky	1956 Earl M. Smith	1912 A. Shumaker
2000 Mike Lauren	1955 Ellsworth Matthias	1911 A. Shumaker
1999 Mike Lauren	1954 Raymond C. Rubley	1910 A. Shumaker
1998 Ernest N. Duhaime	1953 Edmund S. Smith	1909 Louis A. Lampson
1997 Ernest N. Duhaime	1952 J. Alfred Dodd	1908 Louis A. Lampson
1996 John Manners	1951 Harvey J. Stowe	1907 F.W. Bogardus
1995 John Manners	1950 William P. Miner	1906 A. Shumaker
1994 J. Peter Tripp	1949 William P. Beach	1905 Eugene P. Pelton
1993 Charles Heyman	1948 George E. Carr	1904 F.B. Chappell
1992 Charles Heyman	1947 Arthur Clifford	1903 L.O. Davis
1991 David E. Miner	1946 Arthur Clifford	1902 Elliot B. Bronson
1990 David E. Miner	1945 Rudolph F. Bailey	1901 Everett J. Lake
1989 John A. Hopkins	1944 Rudolph F. Bailey	1900 F.G. Platt
1988 John A. Hopkins	1943 Frank S. Davis	1899 Chas. D. Barnes
1987 Arthur Iffland, Jr.	1942 Arthur B. Iffland	1898 John L. Billard
1986 Richard Litke	1941 J. Burton Smith	Horace L. Hubbell
1985 Charles Hale, Jr.	1940 Willard F. Terrell	1897 Chas. S. DeForest
1984 Kenneth Roos	1939 J. Francis Smith	1896 E.S. Davis
1983 Al A. Ginn, Jr.	1938 George N. Haigh	1895 Thos. A. Lake
1982 Mike Turnure	1937 Harold B. Senior	1894 Chas. H. Getman
1981 Andrew Perry, II	1936 Harold B. Senior	1893 Ebenezer J. Hill
1980 Greg Seeley	1935 Burton H. Phelps	1892 J. Gibb Smith
1979 Ralph Sabia	1934 Josiah G. Venter	
1978 Arthur C. Hannan	1933 Clarence Crofoot	
1977 Harry H. Taylor, Jr.	1932 George Loewenthal	

# 2022-24 Board of Directors

## *Officers*

President - Jeff Bickel, Northeast Building Supply  
1st Vice President - Sean Ryan, National Lumber Company  
Treasurer - Abigail Sanford, Sanford & Hawley  
Secretary - LDAC Board of Directors  
NYLE Trustee - Matt McCammitt, Huber Engineered Woods

## *Ex-Officio*

Robert P. Sanford, Sanford & Hawley

## *Directors*

Dave Baldino, US Lumber  
David Bitso, Reeb Millerwork Corp.  
Eric Bushka, H.J. Bushka & Sons Lumber & Millwork  
Don Carfi, Seven D Wholesale  
William Clark, Herrington's  
Tim Landon, Landon Lumber Company  
Matt McCammitt, Huber Engineered Woods  
Bruce McCrary, Interstate + Lakeland Lumber Corp.

## *Honorary Member*

Gregory Branecky, Miner's Inc.

## *Regional Director*

Tammy Wandler-Ginexi, NRLA



# *Past Lumber People of the Year*

- 2022** Marc Landon, Landon Lumber Co.
- 2021** John Debrowin, Sanford & Hawley
- 2020** Mark Lefsky, National Lumber
- 2019** N/A
- 2018** MARGARET PRICE, Ridgefield Supply Company
- 2017** RAY BERGERON, Eastford Building Supply
- 2016** EVAN MACDERMOTT, Coastal Forest Products, Inc.
- 2015** TOM BARTRAM, Ed Herrington, Inc.
- 2014** LAURENCE LAURENO, Sanford and Hawley, Inc.
- 2013** ROBERT A. KELLY, Torno Lumber, Inc.
- 2012** EDWARD BUSHKA, JR. , American Millwork & Lumber
- 2011** SHELDON KAHAN, Interstate + Lakeland Lumber
- 2010** RICHARD SLEVINSKY, Miner's Inc.
- 2009** JOSEPH C. YURSIK , Ridgefield Supply Co.
- 2008** ROBERT SANFORD, Sanford & Hawley, Inc.
- 2007** AILEEN O'HARA, Northeast Builders Supply
- 2006** ADRIAN BAKER, BROSCO
- 2005** SCOTT CHACE, Chace Building Supply, Inc.
- 2004** DAVID CAMPBELL, Ring's End, Inc.
- 2003** GREGORY BRANECKY, The Hatch & Bailey Lumber Co.
- 2002** DAVID MINER, Miner's Inc.
- 2001** MIKE LAURENO, Stevenson Lumber & Millwork, Inc.
- 2000** JIM LYKE, Cleary Millwork
- 1999** LOUIS H. PRICE, Ridgefield Supply Co.
- 1998** JAMES SHANBROM, West Haven Lumber Co., Inc.
- 1997** FRED INDERMAUR, Retired Regional Director, NRLA
- 1996** J. PETER TRIPP, The A.D. Tripp Co.
- 1995** CHARLES HEYMAN, Washington Supply Co., Inc.
- 1994** MIKE TURNURE, Community Lumber & Hardware
- 1993** ANDREW W. PERRY, II, Stonington Lumber Co., Inc
- 1992** GREGORY SEELEY, E. Rabinowe & Co.
- 1991** CHARLES R. HALE, JR., The Tuxis Lumber Co.
- 1990** JOHN A. HOPKINS, Eastford Building Supply, Inc.
- 1989** HARRY H. TAYLOR, Jr., H.H. Taylor & Son, Inc.
- 1988** VERNE R. SPEAR, Spear Lumber Co.
- 1987** GORDON T. SCHIELKE, Southbury Building Supplies, Inc.
- 1986** AL A. GINN, JR., Cashway, Inc.

# *Congratulations!*

## *2023 Scholarship Recipients*

Shauna Keohoe

Sponsored By: Country Lumber, Inc.

Emily Shanahan

Sponsored By: Iffland Lumber Company

Stefanie Szawerda

Sponsored By: National Lumber, Inc

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Northeastern Retail  
Lumber Association

**ABMA**  
AMERICAN BUILDING MATERIALS ALLIANCE



## *2023 Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut Lumber Person of the Year*

David Bitso  
Reeb Millwork Corp.

Not every successful lumber person's tool of the trade is the saw. For some, it's the phone.

Dave Bitso of Reeb is a master craftsman with his.

"Most of my career I was on the road. I knew where every payphone was – especially the phones you could drive up to with your car," he recalls. "I sometimes waited 20 to 30 minutes for my turn and then was on the phone for an hour or two."

In time, he was able to make the salesperson's equivalent of the upgrade from a hand saw to a power tool.

"I was one of the lucky ones to have a car phone when they first came out," he says. "It was 75 cents a minute and it was not unusual for the bill to be over \$1,200 a month."

Of course, the phone wasn't the first tool Dave picked up. "I came out of school swinging a hammer," he notes. He started his own contracting company, doing additions and remodeling, but he hadn't truly found his calling in the industry yet. "After five years I realized that the winters were too cold and the summers too hot."

He spent a couple of years in a lumber yard in Milford before finding a job in millwork distribution. He was with BROSCO for 24 years as a territory manager, then joined REEB, where he's been for the past 16. "I feel very fortunate to have worked for two of the most respected companies in our industry," he says.

Dave has certainly found his place. "I love my job and enjoy what I do," he says. For him, it beats an office job, providing him with the opportunity to stay on the move, seeing and talking to different people. He relishes the chance to put his skills to work even in everyday interactions. "Getting the grumpy cashier at a grocery store to smile makes my day," he says.

He's still working on upgrading the tools, though. "My biggest challenge in the last 15 years or so has been keeping up with technology," he notes. "Just when I have it figured out, it changes. I often joke that I still have a box of carbon paper in my desk drawer at home."

When he's not selling, Dave is serving. He joined the LDAC board in 2003 and served two separate terms as president. Still, he's sometimes surprised by the leadership role he's grown into.

"When I received a call from Bruce Charleston (NRLA chairman) from Arnold Lumber asking me if I would consider a term on the executive committee, I asked him "if he dialed the wrong number. I'm a sales guy, not an owner or top management," Dave laughs. Bruce then said, "that he dialed the correct number." It was truly an honor."

Outside of work, Dave is dedicated to his family, his hobbies and community service. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 36 years and they have two adult sons. They have a camp in northern Connecticut where they enjoy time with family. Dave has been active in his community, coaching youth basketball, baseball, soccer, being a member of the Great Hill Fire Department, and serving on local boards for planning and zoning, finance, and police commissioner.

For others who may be looking for a path on the sales side of the industry, Dave advises, "Do what you say you are going to do. Follow through and get back to your customers. Problems do not go away. Take a problem and turn it into a sales opportunity."

# Thank you 2023 Sponsors!

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RA Graham Co., Inc.  
Rafferty Wholesale  
Timber Trading Group  
Universal Forest Products  
Versatex Building Products