



Northeast News

2022 Annual Meeting Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

Patten And Gulezian Are Going Into NEAAPA's Hall Of Fame

MYSTIC, Conn. – Industry icons James Patten III and the late Haig Gulezian will be inducted into the Northeast Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 15.

The gala event will take place during NEAAPA's 109th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting at the Hilton Mystic here.

Patten, a past secretary, vice president and president of NEAAPA, served as general manager at the former Shaheen's Fun Park, also referred to as Fun-O-Rama, in Salisbury Beach, Mass., while Gulezian was known as an entrepreneur in the amusement industry and had other business ventures.



James Patten III



Haig Gulezian

Worked For Father-In-Law

While attending Babson College in Massachusetts, James Patten III started working at the Salisbury Beach facility in 1965 for the late Roger J. Shaheen, owner of the amusement park. It was there he met and married Shaheen's daughter, Jilda.

Following his college graduation in 1967, James was named general manager of the amusement park and was involved with the business until it closed in 1990. It was during his management stint that Shaheen's facility evolved from a tiny business with one ride and a couple of food stands into a full-fledged beachfront park.

James also served on the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Board of Directors (1976-82) and chaired the organization's safety committee. In addition, he was chairman of IAAPA's ASTM International F-24 Committee on Amusement Ride and Devices from 1978-82. IAAPA honored James with its meritorious service award for all of his volunteer work during those years.

Associated With Other Properties

He built a national reputation throughout the industry and assisted with the construction of Whale's Tales Waterpark in Lincoln, N.H., worked with Morey's Piers, Wildwood, N.J., and the former Boblo Island Amusement Park, Ontario, Canada, prior to his retirement in 1990.

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*Next Edition:
2022 Summer Meeting*

*Submissions to: secretary@neaapa.com
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Hall Of Fame

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In 1970 he and the late Myron Klayman, who worked at the former Paragon Park, Hull., Mass., introduced the vendor showcase at NEAAPA's annual gathering. Klayman, a past president of the organization (1976-77), was inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame in 2016.

Now residing in Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Patten have three children, Janel, Jarrod and J.R., and three grandchildren.

Businessman

Haig Gulezian was the son of hard-working Armenian immigrants who set the example for him. He strived to own his own businesses since he was young, including making false teeth and then opening a potato chip company. He also owned numerous apartment buildings in Haverhill, Mass., according to family members

He entered the amusement industry by creating Haig's Miniature Golf in Methuen, Mass. It was there, in the 1950s, he met the love of his life (Gladys) when a local church visited the attraction.

On Sundays he turned the business over to his brother so he could see Gladys at church and the couple eventually married.

Last Venture

In 1979 Haig put all he had accomplished on the line to purchase land in Nashua, N.H., and construct Fun World, an indoor entertainment complex with the latest video games such as Pacman and Asteroids.

Family members said it was his keen sense of anticipating evolving trends that allowed him to be successful in the growing video game market during that era. An annual buyer at the IAAPA Expo, he would purchase the latest state-of-the-art games for his business.

During one instance, he had to shut down a lane of Daniel Webster highway adjacent to Fun World, install a garage door, and then crane a full-sized Mazda Miata car frame video game into the building.

He made multiple expansions and changes at his business, including outdoor go-karts, indoor bumper cars, and even an indoor mini golf course.

Making a transition with more popular family attractions in the late 1990s, he replaced his lineup with an indoor roller coaster, Himalaya ride, and a two-story Venetian carousel imported from Italy.

The success of the new attractions was attributed to his son, David, who oversaw the construction.

Family members added that Haig had the grand vision, yet David was the brains in making Fun World a reality.

Haig Gulezian, who died in 2002, may best be remembered for successfully creating affordable year-round indoor fun for all ages, but he was also a caring family man. Supported in all of his endeavors by his wife, Gladys, the couple had five children.

Haig's legacy continues today as Fun World is operated by his daughter, Sandra Gulezian-Manougian, and grandson, Peter Manougian.

Those In NEAAPA Hall Of Fame

Since 1998, NEAAPA has inducted 43 people into the Hall of Fame. The past inductees are:

Roger Shaheen, Shaheen Enterprises
Anthony Pero, Ocean Beach Park
Edward J. Carroll, Jr., Riverside Park
Henry Bowen, Whalom Park
Edward J. Carroll, Sr., Riverside Park
Lawrence Stone, Paragon Park
Alton Lipkin, NANCO / Nancy Sales Co.
George Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
Anthony Sr. and Laura Berni, Canobie Lake Park
Claude and Stella Captell, Canobie Lake Park
Kasmir and Rita Ulaky, Canobie Lake Park
Kenneth and Violet Cormier, Funtown Splashtown
Tom Morrow, Canobie Lake Park
Ed Connor, Riverside Park
John Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
Robert & Ruth Morrel, Story Land
James P. & Eleanor R. Brady, Six Gun City
John F. Naughton, Naughton Insurance
Wayne McCary, Eastern States Exposition
Conrad Ferla, Rocky Point Park
Suzanne McHugh Piscitello, Canobie Gifts
Fred L. Markey, Dodgem Corp.
Kate Horner-Wall, Lake Compounce/Riverside Park
Anthony Berni, Jr., Carl Berni, Christine Ulaky,
Raymond Captell, Canobie Lake Park
Alan Ramsay, CLM Entertainment
Robert Harkins, Six Flags New England
John & Elizabeth Bowen, Whalom Park
Normand & Cecile Dubois, Santa's Village
Myron Klayman, Paragon Park
Justine Brewer, Southwick's Zoo
George Frantzis II, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark
Gene Dean, Fiesta Shows/Dean Enterprises



Welcome To The Annual Meeting

Greetings and welcome to the Historic community of Mystic Connecticut for NAAPA's 109th Conference and Annual Meeting....and let me be clear, "What happens in Mystic, doesn't stay in Mystic!"

We are here today to share ideas, and knowledge, in the hopes that we improve our memberships experience and to assist others through the exchange of concepts and education by industry experts



Dave Oberlander

One of the elements of the annual meeting is to announce the recipients into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame. This year, we are pleased to recognize, in person, the induction of James Patten III and Haig Gulezian into the Hall of Fame! Originally, they were selected to be inducted into NEAAPAS's highest honor at the 2020 annual meeting, however due to the pandemic, the meeting was cancelled.

Eric Anderson, my predecessor, had said, at the time, that both "James Patten III and Haig Gulezian were part of a select a group of industry innovators and pioneers and that we have two excellent recipients being added to a growing list of exceptional people." I concur and congratulate the inductee's and their families and friends.

I am also pleased to announce that this is our third in-person event since the start of the pandemic. Let's keep this going and never look back, except that in true NEAAPA form that we learn from the past.

One of the positive takeaways show how Americans are processing the reality that upended life across the country, and the world, is that people are spending more time with family and friends and want to get out more.

They are getting out to enjoy hiking, dinner, theater, entertainment and more, on all levels. Many of our members had a significant increase in attendance and experienced record crowds this past year. Even for the introvert, there's such a thing as too much isolation.

What we need to do now is take all that we have learned and formulate operating parameters that ensure that our collective guests and team members have a great experience.

How do we do that? That is one of reasons why we are here this week, and we know that through the process we will come away with actionable strategies to assist you in maximizing and improving how we all manage moving forward. That said, it is also the backbone that drives the organization, so Let's Go NEAAPA!

It is also my great pleasure to officially announce the formation of the NEAAPA Academy. Although education is a significant component of what we do as an association, this new direction, driven by our Education Committee, will continue to be one of the cornerstones, without compare, of the association moving forward. I hope you all enjoyed the seminars today and please continue to share and participate in this effort any way you can.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to "Thank" all the members of the Board of Directors, our committee chairs and team members, President Council members, Ed Hodgdon as secretary and Ron Gustafson as the editor of our newsletters, for all they do. I have seen significant growth, participation and extraordinary effort and materials designed to ignite the level and value for all.

In closing, I'd like to also acknowledge all our sponsors for all that they do for the organization throughout the year. Without their support, perceptions, and associations with other professionals around the county, we wouldn't be the organization that we are today. We truly value your continued support. "THANK YOU!"

Yours in NEAAPA,
Dave Oberlander, President

"If you focus on what you left behind, you will never be able to see what lies ahead." - Walt Disney

Northeast News

The official newsletter of NEAAPA

Submissions may be e-mailed to:

secretary@neaapa.com or ron@quassy.com

Text files and jpeg photos preferred for editing



NEAAPA.com

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Martin & Vleminckx Changes

MONT-ROYAL, Quebec, Canada - Alain Vleminckx, president and co-founder of Martin & Vleminckx, is stepping down as president, but will remain with the company as CEO and will act as senior advisor.



Alain Vleminckx

As the co-founder and president of Martin & Vleminckx, founded in 1984, Vleminckx was the cornerstone of the company's success and he was instrumental in building Martin & Vleminckx's enviable reputation in the amusement park industry.

Kevin Hehn has been promoted to president. Kevin has been working in the amusement park industry for more than 30 years. In 2010 he joined Martin & Vleminckx and previously held the position of vice president of operations.



Kevin Hehn

Through Alain's leadership, the Martin & Vleminckx company accomplished an outstanding number of realizations worldwide, including the installation of the two tallest roller coasters in the world and completed wood coaster installation projects at renowned amusement parks.

For more information visit www.martin-vleminckx.com.

Fisher Named President Of OV

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Bahman Azarm, founder of Outdoor Venture Group (OV), designer, builder and operator of The Adventure Parks of Outdoor Ventures, has announced the promotion of Candie Fisher to the role of company president.



Candie Fisher

Fisher has been the company's vice president of sales and marketing since 2019. Azarm, who was serving as both chief executive officer and president since the company's founding in 2008, will continue as CEO.

Ms. Fisher will also serve as president for Ropes Park Equipment (RPE), producer and distributor of equipment for the adventure recreation industry.

"Working with Candie during these past years has proven how much she and I see eye to eye on all aspects of the vision I have had for our Parks and Ropes Park Equipment equally," said Azarm, adding, "I feel very fortunate that she is willing to take on broader leadership responsibility of managing the general activities of the company."

With Fisher handling daily operations of the company, Azarm will now be free to focus on new opportunities and products for OV and RPE — both domestically and internationally.

ProSlide Wins Brass Ring

OTTOWA, Ontario, Canada - ProSlide Technology Inc. — the industry leader in water ride design, technology and manufacturing — was honored with a Brass Ring Award during November's International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' Expo in Orlando, Fla.

ProSlide won Best New Water Park Ride for its innovative Launched Dueling RocketBLAST/FlyingSAUCER Water Coaster at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Ind..

"We're thrilled to be awarded the first place Brass Ring Award for Best New Water Ride," said ProSlide Chairman and CEO Rick Hunter. "This award recognizes the incredible passion, performance and innovation that goes into every ProSlide water ride, and we couldn't be happier to celebrate alongside our staff and client partners."



Rendering Of Palindrome

Ride Entertainment Coaster

STEVENSVILLE, Md. — Ride Entertainment, the gold standard in the attractions industry for safety, sales and support, has announced Palindrome, a one-of-a-kind Gerstlauer Infinity roller coaster for Cotaland in Austin, Texas. The ride is expected to debut late this year.

Named after a word, phrase or sequence that reads the same backward as forward, Palindrome will feature a 95-foot vertical lift hill, 51 mph top speed, two inversions and a vertical "hop-stall" before riders experience the ride again, only backward. It will be the first Infinity shuttle roller coaster built by Gerstlauer in the United States.

"Working with a new facility like Cotaland has been an absolute pleasure," said Ed Hiller, CEO and founder of Ride Entertainment. "Both Gerstlauer and our own installations team look forward to seeing those first riders take their inaugural runs on this incredibly unique roller coaster."

"We are thrilled to be able to bring the first Infinity shuttle coaster to the United States," said Siegfried Gerstlauer, managing director of Gerstlauer Rides GmbH. "Guests riding Palindrome are in for a truly special experience aboard the newest icon of Cotaland."

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

RWS Acquires JRA

NEW YORK—RWS Entertainment Group (RWS) Founder and Chief Executive Officer Ryan Stana, along with JRA Chief Executive Officer Keith James, announced the acquisition of JRA by RWS.



**RWS
Entertainment
Group**

This acquisition expands RWS' capabilities and creates the world's exclusive, full-service provider of visitor attractions and experiences.

For decades, both leaders have pioneered the attractions industry's approach to entertaining and educating guests.

Today, with headquarters in New York City, London, and now Cincinnati, this powerful combined RWS team of dreamers, designers, creators, and operators is set to provide endless experiences for theme parks, attractions, cruise ships, zoos, aquariums, museums, theater venues, casinos, hotels and resorts, botanical gardens, visitor centers, port of call destinations, retail and real estate, municipalities, airports and corporations around the world.

The acquisition comes at a time when both firms are busy preparing for record growth in all sectors.

WhiteWater Wins Brass Ring

VANCOUVER, Canada — WhiteWater was honored with a Brass Ring Award at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo in Orlando, Fla., for its racing slide, Parallel Pursuit, in the category of Best New Product—Water Park Ride/Attraction.

Parallel Pursuit is designed for high throughput in a compact footprint, and with power and water efficiencies as well as high-quality fiberglass that make the total cost of ownership very attractive.

"We are honored, once again, to be recognized by the industry. The IAAPA Brass Rings not only serve as proof of our expertise, they are a testament to the care and hard work of our product development team, our project managers, and our installers around the world," said WhiteWater President and CCO Paul Chutter.

Triotech Honored By IAAPA

MONTREAL—Triotech was awarded the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' Brass Ring Award for Best New Product "Major Ride/Attraction" category for Hyper Ride, its innovative interactive media-based dark ride.

Hyper Ride is a first of its kind media-based attraction that delivers a dynamic, action-packed experience in a small footprint. large theme parks.

Hyper Ride's provides an anchor attraction with a world-class guest experience that fits a smart budget and a much smaller footprint than conventional dark rides.

"Our first Brass Ring Award was in 2013. For Triotech this is an amazing recognition for the hard work and creativity of our dedicated team," said Ernest Yale, president and CEO of Triotech.

Triotech also won a Brass Ring Award (2nd place) for Best Exhibit at the IAAPA Expo 2021.

Hovagimian Promoted To Ag Post At ESE

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Elena Hovagimian, of Hampden, Mass., has been promoted to director of agriculture at Eastern States Exposition (ESE) here after a 25-year career spanning agriculture and education, IT and retail sales management .



Elena Hovagimian

ESE President and CEO, Eugene J. Cassidy, said, "I am so proud to have the opportunity to appoint Elena Hovagimian as Eastern States Exposition's Director of Agriculture. This important role has a national standing within our industry; Elena's appointment reflects her professional growth within this organization and her accomplishments for agriculture in New England and beyond. I am excited for her to lead our agricultural programming, knowing that she will advance our mission and our impact in new and exciting ways."

Hovagimian succeeds retiring Director of Agriculture, Donna Woolam. She will oversee all agriculturally-based events year-round as well as the hundreds of animals entered in shows and contests, educational presentations, the Creative Arts department, the Fiber Festival of New England, the Gold Medal Wine and Cheese competitions and retail sales for the Farmers Market, Storrowton Village Museum Gift Shop and Christmas Shop.

"I am committed to the agricultural mission of the Exposition and am excited to work with the stakeholders of New England agriculture. I look forward to continuing to grow the local agricultural economy by strengthening relationships between the farmer and the consumer," Hovagimian said.

She joined the Eastern States Exposition staff in October, 1997 as a part time data entry clerk, and shortly thereafter became assistant to the Agriculture manager. In addition, she took on the management information systems (MIS) coordinator duties, supervising and implementing the computer systems and programs in the company.

In January, 2007, she became a full-time staff member at ESE as Agriculture and Education/MIS coordinator. She was responsible for coordinating and producing more than 119 agricultural events throughout the year and during The Big E.

CLM Entertainment Taking On New Name, Logo

WOONSOCKET, R.I. - NEAAPA member CLM Entertainment, LLC will soon be known as CLM Risk Management.

"The re-branding has been a few years in the making. We had hoped to go live with it in for 2020 but Covid made it impossible. We are happy to now have a name and logo that clearly identifies who we are and the industry we serve," said Melissa Plante, president and CEO of CLM. Entertainment.



Melissa Plante

Enlisting the help of Xpress Posts Marketing, Danbury, Conn., the new website and look will debut in April at www.clmriskmanagement.com.

One of the most important elements in the amusement industry is risk management. CLM specializes in onsite risk management surveys of facilities for insurance companies, prospective buyers and—of course—individual facilities themselves. While most surveyors only look at the physical site, CLM not only assesses the physical but the operational policies and procedures as well.



New Logo For CLM

Canobie Lake Park Honored With IAAPA Brass Ring Award



ORLANDO, Fla. – The games department at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., was honored by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions



(IAAPA) with the associations' Brass Ring Award for Best Midway Games Operation.

The award was presented during IAAPA's Attractions Expo here in November.

The IAAPA Brass Ring Awards recognize the innovation and unwavering spirit of the industry. Just like how a ring is an unbreakable connection, so too are our connections as a community - bringing out the best in one another.

For more information about Canobie Lake Park visit www.canobie.com. For more information about IAAPA visit www.iaapa.org.

Golden Ticket Awards To Be Held At Texas Parks In Sept.



ARLINGTON, Texas— The 2022 Golden Ticket Awards, hosted by trade publication *Amusement Today*, will be held Sept. 9 and 10 in San Antonio, Texas, Publisher Gary Slade has announced.

Host parks for gala event will be Morgan's Wonderland and Six Flags Fiesta Texas with the awards ceremony to be held at Six Flags.

Lodging will be at the JW Marriott Resort, San Antonio.



Amusement Today began publication in 1997, and the award-winning magazine is now a leader in the amusement industry.

The Golden Ticket Awards were established in 1998 and are the direct result of votes cast from around the globe. More than 500 experienced travelers, divided equally among the nation as well as internationally, receive ballots. Industry journalists and ride suppliers also have categories devoted to professional topics.

Complete details for this year's awards will be announced in late March at www.GoldenTicketAwards.com.

Slade is a long-time supporter of NEAAPA and has sponsored association events throughout the years. He also sponsors the NEAAPA online newsletter archive.



Big E Ranked Third Largest Fair On Continent

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.— The Big E is officially the third largest fair in North America, based on attendance measured during the 17-day fair and compared with that of hundreds of fairs in the U.S. and Canada.

“Astoundingly, we beat Minnesota,” said Eastern States Exposition President and CEO Gene Cassidy with a gleam in his eye. “The Minnesota State Fair is a benchmark in our industry and attracts visitors from all over the state and beyond. We have waited 105 years for this.”

Cassidy explained that the first Eastern States Exposition “general purpose fair” took place in 1917, following a successful run of the National Dairy Show the previous year.

To ensure the success of the new endeavor, the exposition board, led by founder Joshua Brooks, recruited and hired the manager of the highly successful Minnesota State Fair.

John Simpson was at the helm of the fledgling exposition for five years, from 1917-1922, and through his efforts, the event was established as a dynamic showcase for New England agriculture and industry, innovation and entertainment, but heretofore had never surpassed the attendance numbers recorded by Minnesota.

Figures revealed that 1,498,774 visited the 2021 Big E, held Sept. 17-Oct. 3, establishing the ranking, according to Carnival Warehouse’s annual Top 50 Fairs list. The 2019 Big E came in at number five.

The Big E set four daily attendance records over the course of the 17-day event, including an all-time single day attendance of 177,238 on the final Saturday.

Cassidy said, “This milestone is the result of the hard work and the efforts of our employees, volunteers, contractors and partners, who went more than the extra mile to produce a memorable event under challenging circumstances. We are thrilled to have presented a safe and successful fair and are grateful to our many guests who supported us and spent one or more September days at The Big E.”

He challenges all of New England and beyond to sustain the momentum of the 2021 Big E “and top Minnesota again in 2022!”

The Big E’s ranking among the largest fairs in the nation is surpassed by the State Fair of Texas (Dallas), first; and the Arizona State Fair (Phoenix), second.

The 2022 Big E takes place Sept. 16-Oct. 2.



Eugene Cassidy

Freeman, Mendes Are Honored With IAAPA Service Awards



Jason Freeman

ORLANDO, Fla., – Jason Freeman, corporate vice president of security, safety, health and environmental at Six Flags Entertainment Corp. and a past president of NEAAPA, was honored with the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Meritorious Service Award during the IAAPA Attractions Expo here in November.

In addition NEAAPA member Jack Mendes, president of BSR Group, LLC, Daytona Beach, Fla., was presented with IAAPA’s Lifetime Service Award.

The IAAPA Service Awards honor individuals in the global attractions industry for their commitment to excellence, leadership, innovation, service, and safety.

For more about the organization visit www.iaapa.org



Jack Mendes

Send your news to:

secretary@neaapa.com

and ron@quassy.com for the Summer Meeting Edition of Northeast News

Submission deadline: June 10



Crazy Cabs (photo courtesy SBF/Visa Group)

PGAM Adding Four New Rides

CORFU, N.Y. — NEAAPA member Powers Great American Midways (PGAM) will be adding four new rides for 2022, show owner Corky (Les) Powers has announced.

Two of the pieces will be from SBF/Visa Group of Italy, represented in North America by NEAAPA member supplier Rides 4-U, Somerville, N.J.

PGAM will theme SBF/Visa's Crazy Cabs as Crazy Cars and the carnival also purchased the first portable Reverse Time, which it will call Wipeout.

Two other spectacular rides will be arriving from European suppliers in coming months, including an Orbiter called Tesla AC and a Techno Bounce.

PGAM has a route of festivals and fairs in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia and North and South Carolina.

The carnival company maintains a year-round shop for its 50-plus rides, fleet of trucks and other equipment in Whiteville, N.C.

For more information visit powersgreatamericanmidways.com.

For more information visit powersgreatamericanmidways.com.



Yuletide At ESE

Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass., presented Yuletide at Storowton Village Museum in December. The winter festival brought the community together to celebrate the season with traditional Yuletide activities, entertainment and shopping in the historic village. (submitted photo)



Coasting For Kids

Employees of NEAAPA member supplier Premier Rides, Baltimore, Md., raised funds for Give Kids The World during a Coasting For Kids event at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va., in August. The event provided participants the opportunity to enjoy a day celebrating their fundraising success by riding rides and attractions at the park. Give Kids the World Village is an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort in Kissimmee, Fla., that provides week-long, cost-free wish vacations to critically ill children and their families from around the world to ignite an enduring sense of hope in their hearts while visiting Central Florida. For more information, visit www.gktw.org. A number of NEAAPA member parks will host events for Give Kids The World this summer. (submitted photo)

NEAAPA Welcomes News From Member Manufacturers, Suppliers
E-mail your news of interest (text files) and jpeg photos to:
secretary@neaapa.com
ron@quassy.com