

## Kim S. Schneider Elected New EAP President

Kim assumed the office of EAP President as of January 1, 2015. The EA Extra (EAX) interviewed him recently at the beginning of his two-year term:

EAX: What are your priorities as incoming president of the EAP?

*I would like to say that I am honored to be elected President of the EAP. It is an organization with a great history and a very promising future. Some of the very best people in our industry are involved, and more are joining everyday.*

*That said, I have three priorities as your new President:*

- (1) Increase membership by retaining our current members and recruiting new ones. We don't want just anyone. We want the best in companies in the Region with the same high standards as the EAP.*
- (2) Find ways to get more involvement from younger people within our industry. This is happening now through "Focus Groups" that we are holding. Younger people enjoy meeting in these Groups, and they help us see the EAP through a different "lens."*
- (3) Constantly look for ways to bring value to our members. One thing that I've learned is that our Association member companies have very different needs and wants. For instance, the manufacturers concentrate on the Electric Expo held every two years. The electrical contractors value our education programs, contractor referrals, and bulletins from municipalities and PECO. Our H&AC contractors value our Rebate Program and referrals. Distributors, electrical engineers, inspectors, and others value different things. In essence, the EAP is six or more different segments of the industry all bundled into one well-recognized Association.*

EAX: What challenges do you see for associations generally, and for the EAP specifically?

*KS: Maintaining and increasing our membership. Providing ongoing training with CEU documentation. In general, associations and their members aren't getting any younger. Finding ways to bring younger people into the EAP should be a priority. And the internet and social media have changed everything: the way people relate to each other and the way that they get information. All associations must meet these challenges to remain vital, the EAP included.*

EAX:

*Are there any new future technologies that will affect the electrical contractor?*

*KS: , NFC technology is here now and it will greatly effect how you do todays contracting and communication. It is a fast changing pace. Learn more through EAP membership.*

EAX: How do you think we can make the EAP even more valuable to its membership?

*KS: I think we need to continue to offer educational opportunities that fill real needs. For instance, our classes are emphasizing more than just the NEC these days. We have introduced more engineering, more high voltage issues, and more H&AC topics. We also need to continue to look for new benefits, which will help members in their everyday business. To do all of these things, we will need each of our members to become involved. I thank all of those who are currently participating. To those who are not involved, I say, "check us out." I think you will be surprised at some of the new programs we are doing. I Welcome your participation, and your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [kschneiderelectric@verizon.net](mailto:kschneiderelectric@verizon.net) I*

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