



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AOLP HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE & EXPO

HARRISBURG, PA- AOLP hosted its Annual Conference & Expo in San Diego, California, February 20-22, 2014. Prior to conference starting, the Certified Low Voltage Lighting Technician (CLVLT) and Certified Outdoor Lighting Designer (COLD) certification training sessions were held. Class participants worked long hours in order to absorb all of the information that was presented in the trainings. Many thanks to our teachers, facilitators and proctors!

Conference began on Thursday morning with a session by Andy Thomas, CLVLT, COLD, Michael Sestak, CLVLT, and Scott Sissom, CLVLT, on their California Governor's Mansion Project. This was followed by a panel of members from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). Amelia Lima, APLD; Kelly Fore Dixon, ASLA; Laura Morton, APLD; and Nathan Smith participated in an engaging discussion regarding the two associations working more closely together.

Lunch included the Annual Membership Meeting, where members received an update on association business and held an election for three open Board positions. Congratulations to Matthew Broyles, CLVLT, COLD, Gerry De La Vega, CLVLT and Victor Samano for being elected. Thursday afternoon involved two presentations from Chip Israel, FIALD, MIES LC, LEED-AP, President of the Lighting Design Alliance. The first session was entitled "No More Pole Plopping" and the second session was "New Lighting Technologies for the Exterior Environment." Both sessions allowed for group discussion and a question and answer period.

Thursday evening was devoted to the Expo & Reception, as well as the Awards Dinner. The Expo provided a time for connecting and networking with manufacturers. This was then followed by the annual Awards Dinner, where professional excellence in outdoor lighting design is honored each year. During the awards presentation, awards were presented in five different lighting categories and a Best of Show project was named. The 2014 Industry Achievement Award was presented to Jack Miller, CLVLT, from Kichler Landscape Lighting, for his leadership and pioneering efforts in the outdoor lighting industry.

Friday's sessions included Holiday Lighting by Matthew Broyles, CLVLT, COLD; Social Media by Paul Gosselin, Sr., CLVLT; Maintenance Agreements by Michael Deo, CLVLT; and As-Built Documentation by Paul Welty, CLVLT, COLD. AOLP is very fortunate to be able to utilize the expertise of its own members!

Saturday morning began with a session that offered time for any of the AOLP Award winners to discuss the creation and process of their winning projects. This was followed by the roundtable sessions that allowed attendees to discuss hot topics in the lighting industry.

The conference concluded with an afternoon session devoted to manufacturer and distributor dialogue, which was facilitated by Gerry De La Vega, CLVLT. Attendees were able to discuss issues and concerns from both perspectives, with the goal of coming to an understanding regarding some complex topics in the industry.

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Many thanks to the following sponsors and exhibitors who continue to be leaders in supporting AOLP and the outdoor lighting industry as a whole:

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Here are just a few of the testimonials received by attendees through the conference survey:

“Every year I return to the AOLP conference and every year I have no regrets for coming. While I always walk away with new and relevant information from the workshops, the energy and passion I receive and feel from all the other attendees sends me home recharged and ready for action. The AOLP conference is always part of our strategic plan.”

– Paul Welty, CLVLT, COLD, Innovative Nightscapes, LLC, Portland, OR

“The AOLP Conference is targeted to outdoor lighting professionals in all levels of the industry. Opportunities to engage, network, and learn from experienced lighting business men and women is simply invaluable! The atmosphere is always welcoming, and I never fail to come away from conference with new ‘tools’ for my company and renewed enthusiasm!”

– Patty Gosselin, NightScenes Corporation, Kingsland, TX

“The annual AOLP conference is the single most important conference any landscape lighting contractor or professional should attend. The education and networking make it all worthwhile. For the minimal annual association fee, simply attending the conference and doing nothing else with the organization is well worth the price. This conference hits all the important aspects a contractor needs to know and learn. It is a continuing education and learning process – each year something new to learn, discuss, new people to meet, new products, things to learn on how to run your business more efficiently, how to quote, how to hire, how to train, new business opportunities, sharing ideas, etc. I don’t know how any contractor would want to miss this annual opportunity. Nothing could help their business more.”

– Jack Miller, CLVLT, Kichler Landscape Lighting, Cleveland, OH

The 2015 Annual Conference and Expo will be held February 19-21 in San Antonio, Texas. For more information about AOLP or the conference, visit our website at www.aolponline.org. The Association of Outdoor Lighting Professionals is an international organization representing the interests of lighting professionals. The mission of the organization is to establish standards, educate industry professionals and increase awareness of the outdoor lighting industry.

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Conference photos available upon request.