



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

York County Economic Development Authority Honors Three Businesses at Annual Distinguished Business Affair

Marina Electrical Equipment awarded the 2018 William Rogers “Poor Potter” Award for their significant investment in York County in 2017, *Walsh Electric* awarded the 2018 “Pete Sterrett” Small Business of the Year Award, & *The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown* awarded the 2018 Lafayette Award for Best Placemaking Business in York County.

York County, February 13, 2018 – The Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Office of Economic Development (OED) awarded Marina Electrical Equipment (MEE) with the 2018 William Rogers “Poor Potter” Award, for their significant investment in York County. Owner, Bob Dively, is a long-time York County businessman and a serial entrepreneur. Mr. Dively has developed several products and taken them to market over the years, all from various commercial locations in York County. In 2017, MEE purchased the former Altria manufacturing facility on Merrimac Trail in upper York County and is now producing their high-quality, weatherproof electrical equipment for the marina industry from that 142,000 square foot building. York County is proud to recognize this growing business who gives back so much to our community.

The award, named after William Rogers who is known as the “Poor Potter” of Yorktown, was given during the EDA’s Distinguished Business Affair, held on February 13th, 2018, at The Freight Shed in Historic Yorktown, with over 100 County business representatives in attendance. In the early 1700’s, Rogers was a highly successful entrepreneur, who established a producing pottery, which operated in violation of British law, that crafted 23 types of earthenware and stoneware products. His goods were sold throughout the Colonies and the West Indies and Rogers is credited with helping to establish Colonial America’s economic independence.

In addition to the William Rogers Award presented by the EDA, Steve Ward, President, and Chris Davidson, Vice President, of the York County Chamber of Commerce, recognized Walsh Electric, as the Chamber's Small Business of the Year. The award is named after the late John D "Pete" Sterrett Jr., who was York County's first Industrial Development Authority Executive Director.

New this year, Karen Riordan, President of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, recognized the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown with the 2018 Lafayette Award for Best Placemaking Business in York County, which was accepted by Phil Emerson, Executive Director. This award, which will be presented annually, recognizes placemaking projects that improve the community through revitalization, blight reduction, historic preservation, or high quality new construction, and that contribute to the creation of unique and memorable places and help develop York County's identity. Placemaking has become a critical element in a community's competitiveness for quality Economic Development.

York County thanks each of the reception sponsors; Dominion Energy, Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, Henderson, Inc., Mid-Atlantic Commercial, Plains All American Pipeline, Davis and Associates, TowneBank, and the York County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact the Office of Economic Development at 890-3317.

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Poor Potter Award Winner Bob Dively, CEO of Marina Electrical Equipment (middle), Rick Moberg, York County EDA Chairman (left), and Jim Noel, York County Economic Development Director (right).



Photo of Marina Electrical Equipment's new production facility on Merrimac Trail.



Pete Sterrett Small Business of the Year Award Winner Bill Walsh of Walsh Electric (left) and Steve Ward (middle), President, and Chris Davidson (right), Vice President, of the York County Chamber of Commerce.



2018 Lafayette Award for Best Placemaking Business in York County Winner Phil Emerson, Executive Director of The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown (right), and Karen Riordan, President of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance (left).



Photo of The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown .