Executive Committee 2019 -2020

President
Mitchell Katz, ELITE Landscaping

Mitch grew up in the pool and spa industry. When he wasn’t working with his father at ELITE Landscaping, he was spending time at the pool as a competitive diver and lifeguard. Mitch received a Bachelor’s degree in Business from Marist College with a double emphasis in finance and human resources.

Upon graduating, Mitch joined ELITE as General Manager. From the start, he recognized the value of supporting our industry and has served as president of the Metro Chapter as well as on the PHTA Service Council, PHTA WAVE (young professionals) Steering Committee and numerous NESPA and METRO Committees.

Mitch has a passion for life-long learning and a goal of continuous improvement through education. As a result, he has gained a number of industry certifications including the PHTA Certified Building Professional, PHTA Certified Service Professional and the PHTA Certified Pool Operator.

Vice President
Amy Rullo, Premier Pool Renovations

With relatives owning and operating a large local Swim Club and Golf course in Blue Bell, PA as well as a local service business and retail store, Amy has been part of the pool and spa industry from a very young age. She has spent most of her life in the pool industry. Growing up she spent her weekends out in the field with her dad testing water, vacuuming pools and delivering chlorine.

She graduated from West Chester University with a BS in Education and taught elementary education for several years before joining the construction department of Genuardi Family Markets. After starting a family in 2003, Amy transitioned back into the pool industry working with 2 local service companies running their residential and commercial divisions as well as their retail store. During this time she became a PHTA Certified Pool Operator and earned the National Plasterers Council’s Pool Start-Up Certification.

In 2014, Amy left the service side of the industry and joined Premier Pool Renovations as the Residential Division Manager for new pool constriction and pool renovations. She currently serves on the Penn Jersey Board of Directors, as well as the chair of NESPA’s Education Super Committee and on several other committees and taskforces.

Secretary
Chas Bogardus, Budd’s Pools & Spas

Who would have ever thought volunteering to be a lifeguard at his churches summer camp would have led to a lifelong career in the pool industry. That’s how it started for Chas in the summer of 1990. “It made sense to me, since I was going to be at the camp anyhow, to just get my license and lifeguard in the afternoons.” Working as a lifeguard didn’t last long as he was drawn into the mechanical side
and how things worked in the pump room.

In the fall of 1991 he started full time in the commercial service side of the business and received his first certification as a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) in the spring of 1992. Moved over to full time residential service in 1996 where he received his Certified Service Professional (CSP). In January of 2004 he joined Budd’s Pools and Spas as their service manager and experienced the building side of the business for the first time. It was there a few years later that he received his Certified Building Professional (CBP) certificate. During his time as service manager, they started a plaster renovation division and he quickly joined the National Plasterers Council (NPC) and became a Certified Start Up Technician. Although his role has changed at Budd’s to primarily be in sales of renovations, service and spas, he is still continuing his education every chance he gets.

Chas has been extremely active as a board member of both the Penn Jersey Pool & Spa Association and Northeast Spa & Pool Association Board of Directors. He is an Association of Pool and Spa Professionals approved instructor for the Certified Maintenance Specialist (CMS) and Certified Service Technician (CST) courses as well as the opening and closing classes for NESPA for many years.

**Secretary**

**Julie Kazdin, Kazdin Pools Inc.**

The pool industry runs in the family for Julie. Her father founded Kazdin Pools in 1972 and it’s been a family effort ever since. Having grown up in the industry, Julie brings a unique perspective to her volunteerism with NESPA that combines an understanding of where the industry has been with a keen focus on where it needs to be going.

In addition to her volunteering for NESPA, she is also president of the Long Island Pool & Spa Association (LIPSA) and a dedicated volunteer for our national association (The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance). Committed to bettering her community, Julie is an active member of the Rotary Club of Hampton Bays and currently serves as the club’s president.

A believer in collaboration, getting to work with professionals from across the pool and spa industry and in her local community has been an invaluable resource for Julie. Sharing new ideas and building diverse relationships has helped her develop innovative solutions to industry challenges.

Julie holds a B.S. in Business Administration with a focus on management from Bryant University. She is a partner at Kazdin Pools and oversees business operations for the business. She holds several industry certifications including PHTA Certified Service Professional, PHTA Certified Building Professional and PHTA Advance Service Technician.

**Past President**

**Barry Kenny, Bel-Aqua Pool Supply Inc.**

Barry began his career in the pool industry in 1999 as a retail store manager in Long Island. After working in the retail and service side of the industry for eight years, he switched to the distribution side in 2007 when he joined Bel-Aqua Pool Supply.

Barry has been actively involved in the Long Island Pool & Spa Association (LIPSA) for many years. In addition to his role on the NESPA Executive Board, he also a past president of the Long Island Pool & Spa Association (LIPSA).