



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Sharon Bounvongxay
Sphere 1, Inc.
949-932-3600
sharonb@sphere1net.com

Sphere 1 Cooperative Announces Top 2017 Award Winners

San Antonio, TX. (May 25, 2018) - Sphere 1 hosted their 19th Annual Meeting and Conference at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa for 820 guests across the country and celebrated another record-breaking year for 2017.

This year's event theme focused on "Making the Right Moves." With Member-led breakout sessions, enhanced meeting content and recognizing more Members and Suppliers during the Awards Celebration, Sphere 1 was able to make a positive impact that will leave a lasting impression.

The most prestigious Sphere 1 awards are the 2017 Member and Supplier of the Year. This award is based on the best overall score on Sphere 1's annual support card, which ranks 106 Sphere 1 Preferred Vendors on seven criteria and 153 Distributors Members on six different criteria that are critical to the success of the cooperative.

The 2017 Preferred Supplier of the Year awards for excellent service and a quality program to the Sphere 1 Membership were presented to ERB Industries in the Opal echelon, Norton / Carborundum / Clipper in the Ruby echelon, JPW Industries in the Sapphire echelon and Milwaukee Tool Corporation in the Emerald echelon.

Sphere 1 President, Rob Moe noted, "It's no surprise as to why ERB, Norton, JPW and Milwaukee are successful within Sphere 1, as they all offer an excellent product mix, wonderful marketing programs and they're always on the cutting edge of providing Sphere 1 Members what they need to persevere in today's tough market conditions."

The 2017 Member of the Year awards for demonstrating excellence in collaboration and growth within the cooperative were presented to Harmco Fastener in the Opal echelon, Ace Tool in the Ruby echelon, ASI-Auxiliary Service in the Sapphire echelon and L.W. Meyer in the Emerald echelon.

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Moe expressed, "Our Members of the Year by echelon, like our Preferred Suppliers, all exhibit exceptional values through Sphere 1 and their support of our Supplier network, coupled together with their outstanding performance within Sphere 1's platforms for planning and education.

The 2017 Preferred Brand of the Year has been awarded to DeWalt Power Tools & Accessories for highest sales achievement by brand.

Sphere 1 emphasized the importance of using their two online platforms to maximize training and growth this past year to their cooperative: Gateway for Growth, a resource that allows our Members and Suppliers to create strategic programs, and Sphere 1 University, a solution where Suppliers can provide training courses for our Members.

The top performing Members who received this year's Gateway for Growth awards were Momentum Rental and Sales Inc in the Opal echelon, Cornerstone Tool & Fastener in the Ruby echelon, ASI – Auxiliary Service in the Sapphire echelon and Triangle Fastener Corporation in the Emerald echelon.

The Preferred Suppliers who also had the highest performance within Gateway for Growth were Wacker Neuson in the Opal echelon, International Fasteners in the Ruby echelon, Freud America in the Sapphire echelon and Simpson Strong-Tie in the Emerald echelon.

For Sphere 1 University, Diamond Tool & Fasteners won the Member award for the highest number of course completions by Member location, and the top Preferred Suppliers who demonstrated outstanding support for our training program were Lackmond Products in the Opal echelon, Diamond Products in the Ruby echelon, ITW CCNA in the Sapphire echelon, and Stanley Black & Decker for the Emerald echelon.

Additional Preferred Supplier award winners included: Magnolia Brush, Surface Shields, Werner Ladder and Stanley Black & Decker for the Overall Sales Volume award; Albion Engineering Company, Radians, SONOCO Products Company and Husqvarna Construction Products for the Largest Percentage of Sales Growth.

Additional Member award winners included: SouthernCarlson for Overall Purchase Volume; Tools Plus for Highest Volume by Location Average; C-K&W Supply, Muller Construction Supply Inc, The Tool Nut and Foundation Building Materials for the Largest Percentage of Growth award; L.W. Meyer for the Member Supporting the Most Preferred Suppliers; and ELFCO and Atlas Bolt & Supply for the Moves Management award, which is in recognition of the largest conversion to new Preferred Suppliers.

The Board Member Service award was presented to Andrew Marker of L.W. Meyer for seven years of outstanding dedication and service to the cooperative.

Sphere 1 will host their 20th anniversary of their Annual Meeting on May 13 – 16, 2019 in Marco Island, Florida.

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About Sphere 1

Sphere 1 is a cooperative of tool, fastener, and concrete accessory distributors, working together to achieve competitive and sustainable advantages in our marketplace. By partnering with preferred suppliers, we provide our members with enhanced vendor programs, superior education and innovative practices. While fostering community among our peers, we are committed to integrity, honesty and respect in all that we do. For more information, contact Sharon Bounvongxay at 949-932-3600 or visit www.sphere1.coop

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