



NEWS RELEASE

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Sphere 1 Celebrates 26 Years and Announces 2024 Award Winners

Press Release

Sphere 1 Cooperative Celebrates 26th Annual Conference in Austin, TX

Austin, TX – May 19, 2025 – The Sphere 1 Cooperative hosted its 26th Annual Conference this month in Austin, Texas, marking another milestone in the organization's continued growth and success. Members and Suppliers gathered at the JW Marriott for a powerful week of connection, education, and celebration as Sphere 1 reflected on its past achievements and looked forward to the future.

One of the most anticipated moments of the event was a keynote address by renowned performance coach and bestselling author Ben Newman. Known for his work with elite athletes and teams like Alabama Football and the Kansas City Chiefs, Newman brought his trademark passion and focus to the Sphere 1 stage. His powerful message challenged attendees to elevate their leadership, embrace accountability, and keep pushing the limits of performance — a message that resonated deeply across the room.

Throughout the week, the cooperative's spirit of giving and community was on full display. Together, Members and Suppliers raised over \$270,000 onsite in support of Building Homes for Heroes, continuing Sphere 1's longstanding commitment to helping wounded veterans and their families. The event featured a moving visit from Kato Martinez, a U.S. veteran and recipient of a mortgage-free home through the organization. Martinez, who now lives with his family outside of San Antonio, shared his powerful story of resilience and gratitude, receiving a standing ovation from the entire audience.

The annual awards ceremony once again recognized the outstanding contributions and performance of Sphere 1 Members and Suppliers. These awards highlight companies that exemplify excellence, collaboration, and commitment to the cooperative's mission.

Member of the Year

- **Emerald Echelon:** Heyden Supply
- **Sapphire Echelon:** Superior Products Distributors Inc.
- **Ruby Echelon:** Little Hardware
- **Opal Echelon:** Abilene Fastener Supply

Supplier of the Year

- **Emerald Echelon:** Diablo
- **Sapphire Echelon:** Radians
- **Ruby Echelon:** Louisville Ladder
- **Opal Echelon:** Vega Industries Inc.

Sphere 1 CEO Rob Moe reflected on the deeper meaning behind this year's gathering:

"There's something truly special about what happens when our Members and Suppliers come together. It's not just about business — it's about celebrating each other's growth, lifting each other up, and recognizing the shared success we've built together. That spirit of collaboration is what makes Sphere 1 unlike any other organization in our industry."

For more information about Sphere 1 and its programs, visit www.sphere1.coop.

About Sphere 1

Sphere 1 is a cooperative of tool, fastener, and concrete accessory distributors working together to achieve competitive and sustainable advantages in the marketplace. By partnering with Preferred Suppliers, Sphere 1 delivers enhanced vendor programs, industry-leading education, and meaningful connections that foster success. The cooperative is built on a foundation of integrity, respect, and shared achievement.