



National Awards

Sam Kovnat Award

The Sam Kovnat Award was established in 1987 (formerly called Member of the Year Award from 1981 to 1986). This is the highest award bestowed by the WIA. This award is given to a regular paperhanger member who has given outstanding service to the WIA/NGPP over an extended period of years. The nominations come from the Board of Directors. This award requires a minimum of ten years of service to the Association at a combination of local and national levels.

- 1981 Izzy Dubin (Delaware County Chapter)
- 1985 Joe Murphy (Philadelphia Chapter)
- 1986 Izzy Dubin (Delaware County Chapter)
- 1987 Bill Spires (Los Angeles Chapter)
- 1988 David Groff (Central North Carolina Chapter)
- 1992 Don Leetz (Milwaukee Chapter)
- 1993 Bill Cloonan (New York/Long Island Chapter)
- 1994 Izzy Dubin (Delaware County Chapter)
- 1995 Lou Schiavo, C.P. (Delaware County Chapter)
- 1996 Robert D. Kelly, (Colchester, CT)
- 1999 Bob Isenberger, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2000 Larry Duval, C.P. (Atlanta Chapter)
- 2001 Paul & Joan Gartland, C.P. (Boston Chapter)
- 2002 Robert Kelly, C.P. (Berkshire Chapter)
- 2004 Jack Heinrich, C.P. (Greater Cincinnati Chapter)
- 2005 Patti Niehaus, C.P. (At-Large Member)
- 2007 Elsie Kapteina, C.P. (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2008 Michael J. Kelly, Jr., C.P. (Delaware County Chapter)
- 2009 Lou Ligeri (New York Chapter)
- 2010 Phil Curtis, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2011 David DiBacco, C.P. (Upstate New York)
- 2012 Jack Egan (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2013 Anthony Russo, C.P. (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2014 Joe Parker (Delaware Chapter)
- 2015 Phil Reinhard (At-Large Member)
- 2016 Cyndi, Green, C.P. (At-Large Member)
- 2017 Bob Banker (At-Large Member)
- 2018 Scott Peto, C.P. (Northern Ohio Chapter)

2019 Steven Kaye, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
2020 No Award presented due to pandemic
2021 No Award presented due to pandemic
2022 Susan Macuna, C.P. (Twin Cities Chapter)
2023 David Dubose (Minneapolis Chapter)

Best Chapter Newsletter Award

Any chapter may nominate their newsletter and its editor for this award. There must be three consecutive newsletters from the current year submitted to be eligible.

- 1992 Northern California Chapter, Steve Schielie, Editor
- 1993 Central Florida Chapter
- 1994 Central Florida Chapter
- 1995 Northern Virginia Chapter, Leo and Melva Grabowski, Editors
- 1996 Greater Cincinnati Chapter, Jack Heinrich, C.P., Editor
- 1997 Atlanta Chapter, Larry Duval, C.P., Editor
- 1998 Northern California Chapter, Laretta Jenkins, Editor
- 1999 Northern California Chapter, Laretta Jenkins, Editor
- 2000 Chicago Chapter, Lynn Winter, Editor
- 2001 Northern California Chapter, Laretta Jenkins, Editor
- 2002 Northern New Jersey Chapter, Glenn Gundersen, Editor
- 2003 The Carolinas Chapter, Michael Stachnik, Editor
- 2004 The Carolinas Chapter, Michael Stachnik, Editor
- 2005 The Boston Chapter, Bill Archibald, Editor
- 2006 The Boston Chapter, Bill Archibald, Editor
- 2007 The New York Chapter- Lee Epstein, Editor
- 2008 The Boston Chapter, Bill Archibald, Editor
- 2009 The New York Chapter's Straight Edge, Lee Epstein, Editor
- 2011 Northern California Chapter, Laretta Jenkins, Editor
- 2012 The Connecticut Chapter News, Bill Linke, Editor
- 2013 The Connecticut Chapter New, Bill Linke, Editor
- 2014 The Westchester Chapter News, Marcie Cooperman, Editor
- 2015 The Connecticut Chapter News, Bill Linke, Editor
- 2016 The Connecticut Chapter News, Bill Linke, Editor
- 2017 N/A
- 2018 The Wall Paper, Phil Reinhard, Editor
- 2019 N/A
- 2020 No Award Covid
- 2021 – No Award Covid

The Bob Isenberger Paperhanger Member of the Year Award

This award is named after Bob Isenberger of the Chicago Chapter of the WIA. The award was formerly The Paperhanger Member of the Year (Paperhanger of the Year (1995-2001)).

This award is for an installer who has made noteworthy contributions to the WIA and/or the industry during the preceding twelve months.

- 1995 Ken Lambert, C.P. (Columbus Chapter)
- 1996 Klaus Michaletz (Milwaukee Chapter)
- 1997 Joe Maurer (Upstate New York Chapter)
- 1998 Bill Armstrong (At-Large Member)
- 1999 Carl Bergman, C.P. (Rockford Chapter)
- 2000 Gary Lucas, C.P. (Columbus Chapter)
- 2001 Lillian Weist (At-Large Member)
- 2002 Terry Lichtenberger (San Antonio Chapter)
- 2003 Steve Pagliaroli (Westchester County Chapter)
- 2004 Bill Archibald (Boston Chapter)
- 2005 Glen Olsen, Jr, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2006 Gary Lucas, C.P. (Columbus Chapter)
- 2007 Tim Bodine (At-Large Member)
- 2008 Roger Coupal, C.P. (Berkshire Chapter)
- 2009 Alan Rada, C.P. (New York Chapter)
- 2010 Eunice Bokstrom (At-large)
- 2011 Michael DiGilio, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2012 Heidi Wright Mead, C.P. (Northern California Chapter)
- 2013 Gerri Beauvais, C.P. (Northern California Chapter)
- 2014 K.L. Conner (Atlanta Chapter)
- 2015 Denis Picard (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2016 Scott Kitchen (New York Chapter)
- 2017 Nancy Proctor, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2018 Jennifer Curtis, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2019 Heidi Wright Mead, C.P. (Northern California Chapter)
- 2020 No Award Covid
- 2021 No Award Covid
- 2022 Susan Macuna, C.P. (Twin Cities Chapter)

The Guy Cooper Golden Plumline Award

The Golden Plumline Award is presented to an outstanding WIA/NGPP affiliated chapter. The chapter should demonstrate how it stands out; such as, having 75% of its members attend meetings/activities; performing regular charity installs; conducting excellent programs; hosting workshops; and focusing on membership recruitment and retention.

1995 Greater Cincinnati Chapter
1996 Chicago Chapter
1997 Atlanta Chapter
1998 Los Angeles Chapter
1999 Milwaukee Chapter
2000 Atlanta Chapter
2001 Connecticut Chapter
2002 Chicago Chapter
2003 Chicago Chapter
2004 Chicago Chapter
2005 Chicago Chapter
2006 Westchester County Chapter
2007 Connecticut Chapter
2008 Chicago Chapter
2009 Chicago Chapter
2010 Chicago Chapter
2011 Berkshire Chapter
2012 Chicago Chapter
2013 Chicago Chapter
2014 Connecticut Chapter
2015 Connecticut Chapter
2016 Boston Chapter
2017 Chicago Chapter
2018 Chicago Chapter
2019 Chicago Chapter
2020 No Award Covid
2021 No Award Covid
2022 N/A

Golden Shears Innovative Service Award

This is awarded to someone in the WIA/NGPP who has developed a new and/or innovative program or service that furthers the Association within the industry, the profession, and/or membership, at the local or national level. Nominations can be for an individual or group for its collective work.

- 1990 Izzy Dubin (Delaware County Chapter)
- 1992 Ed Watzel, C.P. (New York Long Island Chapter)
- 1994 Terri Sloan (Connecticut Chapter)
- 1995 Bill Cloonan (New York Chapter)
- 1996 Mike DiGilio, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 1997 Jim Goetzke, C.P. (Milwaukee Chapter)
- 1998 Glenn Hall, C.P. (Los Angeles Chapter)
- 1999 David DiBacco, C.P. (Upstate New York Chapter)
- 2000 Joe Parker, C.P. (Delaware County)
- 2004 Elsie Kapteina, C.P. (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2007 Charles Grippo (Westchester County Chapter)
- 2010 Mike DiGilio, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2011 Sarah Smyth (Boston Chapter)
- 2014 Marketing Task Force: Bob Banker (At-Large Member), Greg Laux (Chicago Chapter), Michael DiGilio, C.P. (Chicago Chapter), and Elsie Kapteina, C.P. (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2015 Jeanette Gilbreath (At-Large Member)
- 2016 Craftsmanship Awards Committee: Eunice Bokstrom (At-Large), Scott Carmichael (At-Large), Jon Fuglestveit (At-Large), Michelle Garner (At-Large), Jeanette Gilbreath (At-Large), Chris Johnson (At-Large), Vincent LaRusso, C.P. (Westchester County), Philip Reinhard (At-Large), Jeff Rinehart (At-Large), Lillian Weist (At-Large)
- 2017 Mick Wells (At-Large) and Gary Stanley (At-Large)
- 2018 Gary Stanley (At-Large)
- 2019 Greg Laux (Chicago Chapter)
- 2020 No Award Covid
- 2021 No Award Covid
- 2022 N/A

Skip Lowe Award

This award is given for outstanding service to the WIA by an industry member and WIA associate member.

- 1994 Jack Ford, The William Zinsser Company
- 1995 Allyn Clausen, R.C. Shaheen
- 1996 Dan Jackson, OMNOVA Solutions, Inc.
- 1997 Jerry Russo, Roman Adhesives
- 1998 Jack Ziegler, Ramco Industries
- 2001 Gail Cox, American School of Paperhanging Arts
- 2002 Jerry Russo, Roman Adhesives
- 2003 Ron Soeder, 4walls.com
- 2004 Jack Ford, The Zinsser Company
- 2005 Jerry Russo, Roman Decorating Products
- 2006 Ed Hovnanian, Cavalier Wall Liner
- 2007 Steve Andrews, Roysons Corporation
- 2008 Bob Senior, Thibaut Wallcovering
- 2009 Greg Laux, MDC Wallcovering
- 2010 Jack Ford, XIM Products, Inc.
- 2011 Deanna Shallcross, Advance Equipment Manufacturing Company
- 2012 Arthur Phillips, (Formerly) Stark Wallcovering
- 2013 Greg Laux, MDC Wallcoverings
- 2014 Doug Joyner, Thibaut Wallcoverings
- 2015 Greg Laux, MDC Wallcoverings
- 2016 Gardner-Gibson, Inc.
- 2017 Verne Manson, The Paint Store Online
- 2018 Bradbury & Bradbury
- 2019 Koessel Studio

The Patricia Niehaus Award (established in 2009)

This award is for an individual who has displayed leadership, initiative, creativity, dedication and through involvement has inspired others. WIA members, leaders, staff or industry related organizations may nominate an installer member for this award.

- 2009 Patricia Niehaus
- 2010 Jennifer Curtis, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2011 Sarah Smyth (Boston Chapter)
- 2012 Bob Kelly (Berkshire Chapter)
- 2013 Elsie Kapteina, C.P. (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2014 Michael DiGilio, C.P. (Chicago Chapter)
- 2015 Pam McCartney (At-Large Member)
- 2016 Jack Egan (Connecticut Chapter)
- 2017 Heidi Wright-Mead, C.P. (Northern California Chapter)
- 2018 Susan Macuna, C.P. (Twin Cities Metro Chapter)
- 2019 Pam McCartney (At-Large Member)

The Harold Laffer Award

This award is presented to an individual who was instrumental in the charting of a chapter in the WIA/NGPP. It was officially established in 1983, but several founders of chapters established pre-1983 have been recognized.

Atlanta Chapter (1985)	Larry Duval, C.P. (1986)
Baltimore Chapter (1987)	William Kraft (1988)
Bay Area Chapter (1988)	Don McCully (1989)
Berkshire Chapter (1984)	Robert M. Kelly (1985)
Boston Chapter (1985)	Laura Brown (1986)
Buffalo Chapter (1991)	Ron Hallen (1992)
Canton-Akron Chapter (2000)	Gary Lucas, C.P. (2001)
Capital Region Chapter (1992)	Mary Ann Foley (1993)
Central Alabama Chapter (1991)	John Adair (1992)
Central Florida Chapter (1989)	Susan Koch (1990)
Central New Jersey Chapter (1989)	Janis Hall (1990)
Central North Carolina Chapter (1987)	David Groff (1988)
Central Pennsylvania Chapter (1989)	Steve Schultz (1990)
Central Virginia Chapter (1989)	Sam Palmer (1990)
Chicago Chapter (1983)	Steve Hockwert (1984)
Coachella Valley Chapter (2001)	Glen Hall, C.P. (2002)
Columbus Chapter (1989)	Ken Lambert, C.P. (1990)
Connecticut Chapter (1986)	Denis Picard (1987)
Delaware County Chapter (1981)	Lou Schiavo, C.P. (1983)
Down East Chapter (1989)	David Groff (1990)
Eastern Tennessee Chapter (1999)	Bill Armstrong (2001)
Greater Cincinnati Chapter (1994)	Jack Heinrich, C.P. (1995)
Greater Seattle Chapter (1988)	Dave Sommer (1989)
Green Mountain Chapter (1991)	Charles Bogert (1992)
Los Angeles Chapter (1985)	John Perak-chartered (1986)
Low Country Chapter (1991)	James Ambrose (1992)
Madison Chapter (1994)	Greg Anderson (1995)
Metrolina Chapter (1991)	Sharon Crosby (2002)
Miami Valley Chapter (1993)	Beverly Holgate (1994)
Michiana Chapter (1986)	Richard Hostetler (1987)
Mid South Chapter (1991)	James Alexander (1992)
Milwaukee Chapter (1985)	Don Leetz (1986)
New Orleans Chapter (2007)	Cyndi Green, C.P.(2008)
New York/Long Island Chapter (1974)	Harold Laffer (1983)
Northeast Ohio Chapter (2004)	Jack Heinrich, C.P. (2005)
Northern California Chapter (1985)	Rebecca Dustman (1986)
Northern New Jersey Chapter (1974)	Arthur Sarlat (1983)
Northern Virginia Chapter (1986)	Chester Marciniak (1987)
Northwest Chapter (1993)	Jim Rurner (1994)
Orange County Chapter (1986)	Ronald Carr (1987)

Palmetto Chapter (1987)
Philadelphia Chapter (1974)
Pittsburgh Chapter (2000)
Rhode Island Chapter (1988)
Rockford Chapter (1994)
Rocky Mountain Chapter
San Antonio Chapter (1989)
San Diego Chapter (1998)
South Bay Chapter (1992)
South Florida (2010)
South Florida Gold Coast Chapter (1980)
South Jersey Chapter (2002)
Suffolk County Chapter (1985)
Suffolk County Chapter Re-Chartered (1993)
The Carolinas Chapter (2002)
Tri-City Chapter (1991)
Twin Cities Metro Chapter (1990)
Upstate New York Chapter (1988)
Virginia Beach Chapter (1997)
Washington DC Chapter (1986)
Westchester County Chapter (1993)
Western Carolina Chapter (1992)
Western Lake Erie Chapter (2000)
Claudia Castillo, C.P. (2016)

Wilbur Ross (1988)
Joseph Murphy (1983)
Gary Lucas, C.P. (2001)
Dick Poholek (1989)
Paul Erickson, C.P. (1995)
Rex Landem (2009)
Jerry Farley (1990)
Michael Baughman, C.P. (1999)
Leta Elchesen (1993)
Patrick Oseteck, C.P. (2011)
Saul Cantor (1983)
Philip Reinhard (2003)
William Detmer (1986)
Robert Hartig (1994)
Joan Hobbs, C.P. (2003)
Virginia Weaver (1992)
Denise Sullivan (1991)
Joe Maurer (1989)
Benson Davis (1998)
Patrick Shields (1987)
Charles Grippo (1994)
Becky Duvall (1993)
Gary Lucas, C.P. (2001)