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Contact: Pam Schur
Marketing Manager
847.375.4831

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION ASSOCIATION AWARDS RETAILERS, SUPPLIERS
WITH HIGH HONORS AT ANNUAL GALA**

Glenview, IL (March 7, 2011) — The Awards and Recognition Association (ARA) recently announced the winners of the association's 2011 Award Competitions. The winning individuals and companies were recognized at the association's International Awards Gala, February 25 in Las Vegas.

This year's **ARA Gold Obelisk Industry Award winners** were:

- **ARA Speaker of the Year: Eddie Hill, CRS**, Award Masters, Pensacola, FL
- **ARA Customer Service Representative of the Year: Kathy Woods**, Tropar Manufacturing Co., Florham Park, NJ
- **ARA Outside Sales Representative of the Year: Marty Burke**, Marco Awards Group, Charlotte, NC
- **ARA Volunteer of the Year: Guy Barone**, Xenotech Global, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA
- **ARA Small Business Retailer of the Year: Leisure Time Awards**, Boulder, CO
- **ARA Large Business Retailer of the Year: American Awards and Promotions, LLC**, Milton, WI
- **ARA Supplier of the Year – Single Location: Crystal By Design**, El Monte, CA
- **ARA Supplier of the Year – Multiple Locations: Johnson Plastics**, Minneapolis, MN
- **ARA Founder's Award: Cathy Garcia**, Plastic Dress-Up, South El Monte, CA
- **ARA Hall of Fame Inductee: Peter V. Ilaria**, Tropar Manufacturing Co. Florham Park, NJ

In addition, 2010 ARA President **BJ Bailey, CRS**, presented the **2011 ARA President's Award** to his father, **Barton L. Bailey, Sr.**

Awards were also handed out to several retailers in the **Retailer Product Awards Contest**; winners included:

Best Trophy – A-1 Awards, Indianapolis, IN

Best Plaque: Laser Creations, South Bend, IN

Best Sublimation, Prestige Engraving, Moncton, NB, Canada

Best Recognition Package: A-1 Awards, Indianapolis, IN.

Champagne Recognition, Carlsbad, CA, was recognized in three categories: **Best Engraving**, **Most Creative and Best Sandblasting/Etching**. The award for **Best Retailer Website** went to **Helm Pokale** (www.helm-pokale.de) and **Topmost World, Inc.** (www.prismproduct.com) took home the first ever **Best Supplier Website** award.

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In the **ARA Supplier Product Awards Contests**, honors went to:

- **Best Supplier Catalog: JDS Industries**, Sioux Falls, SD
- **Best Supplier Retail Catalog: Marco Awards Group**, South Windsor, CT
- **Best Trophy Component: Winners Awards**, Monterey, CA
- **Best Plaque Component and Best Imprintable: Victory**, Chicago, IL
- **Best Engravable Material: R.S. Owens**, Chicago, IL
- **Most Creative: Pacesetter Awards**, Chicago, IL
- **Best New Technology: LaserBits**, Phoenix, AZ.

In the **Exhibit Booth Contests** awards went to: **Best Booth Multiple Locations: Title Craft, Inc.**, Maple Grove, MN and **Mega Booth: Marco Awards Group**, South Windsor, CT.

The final awards were for the **Best New Product Showcases**:, first place went to **Continental Trophies**, Bartlett, TN, second place went to **JDS Industries**, Sioux Falls, SD and third place honors went to **Crystal D**, St. Paul MN.

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The Awards and Recognition Association (ARA) is an international not for profit organization serving both retailers and suppliers in the awards and engraving industry. The association is comprised of 2,600 member companies. In line with its mission of advancing the professionalism and success of the industry, the association hosts an annual International Awards Market in Las Vegas, the largest trade show in the industry, publishes a monthly magazine, Recognition Review (both in print and digital versions), and offers a variety of member benefits including seminars and webinars, professional certification, the ARA Online Buyer's Guide, and the new Recognition is Rewarding website (www.recognitionisrewarding.com). For more information, visit www.ara.org.

**CRS and CRM stands for Certified Recognition Specialist and Certified Recognition Master, respectively, and is accreditations sponsored by ARA.*