

Lewis Cenker Award

Harold Cunliffe



The Lewis Cenker Award is the highest honor given by the HBA to an individual who has made a lifelong contribution to the advancement of the homebuilding industry in Atlanta. The award is named after Lewis Cenker, who was president of the National Association of Home Builders in 1974 and is the only Atlantan to have held this prestigious office.

The 2009 Lewis Cenker Award winner is Harold Cunliffe.

In 1979, Harold formed a real estate development company in Vancouver, British Columbia. In 1985, he immigrated to the United States and co-founded The Pacific Group, Inc. With Michael Kilgallon as his partner, Pacific has developed in excess of 12,000 acres totaling more than \$400,000,000 in revenue.

Harold has been a member of the HBA since 1985 and has held many positions within the HBA during these 25 years. He served on the HBA's Executive Committee from 1999 to 2004, was the HBA President in 2003 and today is a Life Director on the HBA Board of Directors.

Harold is also a board member of the Home Builders Association of Georgia and the National Home Builders Association. He has chaired the HBA's Action Fund for many years, leading the association's efforts in many legal battles, and Harold is also a Trustee for the HBA's Builders Political Action Committee (BPAC).

Harold has also served in numerous other civic capacities, including the city of Atlanta's Subdivision Task Force, the Metropolitan Atlanta Urban Watershed Initiative, Georgians for Responsible Growth, the city of Roswell Tree Ordinance Task Force and is currently serving on the Technical Advisory Committee for the

Nancy Creek Tunnel Project.

Harold also serves on the boards of directors for the Southeastern Legal Foundation and Easements Atlanta, Inc.; is a commissioner and the chair of the Urban Design Commission of the city of Atlanta; and is also a Member and Chair of the North Buckhead Civic Association Zoning Committee.

Harold is married to Karen Cunliffe and has four adult children. Ray, his oldest son, works with him at The Pacific Group. He has three grandchildren and one more expected this spring. In his personal time, Harold enjoys classic cars and is a member of the Morgan Owner's Group South, the Early V-8 Club and the Antique Automobile Club of America.

Harold Cunliffe has made an enormous impact on our community, our industry and our association. He truly represents the ideals of the Lewis Cenker Award. Congratulations!



Builder of the Year

Mike Smith



Growing up in Conyers, Mike Smith developed an interest in the building industry at a young age, working with his father as a plumber's helper during summer breaks and in a cabinet shop after school. It was while working with his father that Mike learned the value of hard work and the high standards of ethics that fostered one of his core principles: growth and success mean progressing to a level where mistakes are not made, and customers and employees are always satisfied.

Mike attended Georgia Southern University on a soccer scholarship, earning a degree in construction management in 1989. He joined Carl Riden Homes in 1992 as an assistant superintendent and quickly rose to partner. Then, in 1998, Mike started Harcrest Homes with Riden, and he was instrumental in developing the systems that led Harcrest to be named American Best Builder by *Builder Magazine* in 2001. Mike assumed ownership of the company in 2005. Through Harcrest, Mike has built more than 1,100 homes and currently builds 40 to 60 homes annually, in the \$400,000 to \$800,000 range.

Equaling Mike's dedication to a solid workforce is his emphasis on efficient systems throughout the homebuilding process. Each Harcrest home is built through a slot or even-flow scheduling system, a process that implements firm start dates, trades schedules and service delivery. This allows Mike and his team to confidently tell customers that the company does what it says and sticks firmly to a consistent schedule, which builds trust with the client. His down-to-earth management style encourages team members, trade contractors and suppliers to be caring, efficient and perform high-quality work. His contractors and suppliers consider him and Harcrest their best customers.

Mike credits his staff and efficient management systems for his company's more than 100 awards, which includes customer satisfaction awards from the Certified Professional Home Builder program and OBIE Awards. Mike is an active member of HBA, currently serving as president of The Housing Institute and a board member of the HBA.

Mike served as president of the Gwinnett Chapter in 2000, and he has been a supporter of HomeAid Atlanta, the official charity of the HBA, for many years. He contributes as a corporate sponsor and is a regular participant in HomeAid's Fairway to Haven Golf Classic. In addition, he built the Mountain Retreat playhouse for HomeAid's Project Playhouse 2006, which was auctioned to benefit HomeAid's mission of building housing for homeless families in the metro Atlanta area.

Mike lives in Dacula with his wife and three sons. Congratulations, Mike!



The Builder of the Year Award is presented each year to a Certified Professional Home Builder member of the HBA who has demonstrated a commitment to professional excellence. This award recognizes a builder for his or her contributions to furthering the goals and mission of the association through volunteer efforts within the association and the housing industry and through community and charitable programs.

The 2009 Builder of the Year is Mike Smith

Associate of the Year

Heather Bounds



Heather Bounds became a member of the HBA just three years ago when she joined Northwest Exterminating, but she has made a tremendous impact on the association in that short time. Heather has been a very active and enthusiastic member of the Membership Committee for several years, and this year, she chaired the HBA's Associates Council.

Heather also serves on executive committee of the Inner Atlanta Chapter, and she is a charter board member of the Green Building Council, the HBA's newest council, which launched earlier this year. Heather also actively volunteers with HomeAid Atlanta, and she faithfully attends nearly all of the HBA's chapter and council events.

Within her company, Heather is registered in pest control in Georgia and regularly attends training classes to ensure that she stays on top of the current changes within the industry. She has built relationships with many builders throughout Georgia and has recently begun working with builders in Alabama and Tennessee. Along with working with builders, she assists property managers with homeowner association concerns.

Heather's co-workers describe her as dedicated, dependable, having exceptional follow-through and a pleasure to work with. Her friends at the HBA would use the exact same words to describe her volunteer efforts.

Last November, Heather and her husband, Rob, welcomed a daughter to their family. Even with a young toddler at home, her ability to balance her home life and work life is enviable, and she has been an inspiration to those around her.

Congratulations, Heather!



The Associate of the Year award recognizes an associate member for his or her accomplishments in the areas of service to the industry and association, professional excellence and community involvement, furthering the mission and goals of the association. The 2009 Associate of the Year is Heather Bounds

Chapter President of the Year

John Cooper



John Cooper began building in metro Atlanta in 1982 and has been a member of the Greater Atlanta HBA since the late 80s. He has seen many ups and downs in the Atlanta housing market—enough to know that there has never been a recession that was not eventually followed by a boom.

Since 2003, John has been a member of the Certified Professional Home Builder program, and he has won several OBIE awards throughout his career. He has been an active member of numerous community organizations

In the DeKalb Chapter, John was very actively involved in the DeKalb County infill battle, during which he helped to persuade county commissioners to let the area's neighborhoods decide on a case-by-case basis whether infill development should be permitted. He has also been actively involved in the changes to DeKalb's development code.

John has been very supportive of the work of the entire association through his participation in

Council Chair of the Year

Rocco Sinisgalli



The Council Chair of the Year award honors outstanding leadership at the council level. The award recognizes achievement in the areas of education and membership development within the local council. The 2009 Council Chair of the Year is Rocco Sinisgalli, chair of the Remodelers Council.

The Chapter President of the Year award honors a chapter president for outstanding leadership at the chapter level. The award recognizes achievement in the areas of government affairs, education, public relations and membership development within the local chapter. The 2009 Chapter President of the Year is John Cooper, president of the DeKalb Chapter.

From the time Rocco Sinisgalli was in second grade, he knew he wanted to work in the construction business; he said he wanted to hammer, build and use power tools when he grew up. He got his degree in construction from Delhi, New York Technology College and then started his own business in Utica, New York, his hometown. In 1996, he moved to Georgia.

In 1997, Rocco founded Oneida Builders, and he has been involved with the HBA for 12 years. He served as vice president of the Inner Atlanta chapter and has been on the Remodelers Council board since it was formed. Rocco's two-year chairmanship of the Remodelers Council saw many accomplishments. The Remodel Atlanta magazine was created and distributed by the council, and the Remodelers Council saw a surge in membership while the HBA and its other councils struggled. Under Rocco's leadership, the council's programs were enhanced to farther reach out to remodelers and associates and be informative for all council members. He also began hosting meetings at showrooms as an additional benefit for members to show off their products and services first hand.

Rocco now owns Oneida Builders, Oneida Properties and stars in the television series *Going Green with Rocco*. He is the Green Guru for WSB 750 Radio, where he educates the public with the Green Team. Rocco is ahead of the curve educating consumers and fellow industry professionals about living a less wasteful and healthier lifestyle through promoting green remodeling and sustainable home improvements. He also serves on the DeKalb Technical College Board of Directors to help educate future generations on sustainable building concepts.

In his spare time, the thrill-seeking Rocco enjoys travelling. He and his wife, Tara, live in Dunwoody with their three children.

educational programs, as well as attendance at almost all of the HBA's membership events and chapter meetings functions. John is an HBA member that leads by example and gets things done.

In his spare time, John loves spending time outdoors and gardening, and in his younger days, he played sports and was a karate instructor for more than 15 years. He and his wife, Dianne, have three grown children who work in the family business.

Congratulations, John!

