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ACCA-AZ recognizes members, industry at Annual Awards Dinner

Jayne Cook HVACR Today

On Dec. 4 at the Doubletree Paradise Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz. the Arizona chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA-AZ) held its 56th Annual Awards Dinner, attended by about 140 members, associates and guests. Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard was the keynote speaker.

The annual dinner serves as a venue to recognize outstanding members and industry associates.

This year the ACCA-AZ Contractor of the Year went to Tom Palmer, president of Palm Aire.

According to ACCA-AZ Executive Director Antoine Coffe, Palmer worked hard in 2009. "He sits on our Board of Directors and is a very integral part of our Public Policy Committee," said Coffe. He was also very involved with the Construction Trade Coalition, which is the lobby arm we partner with. Tom is just an all around advocate for industry rights and the association's mission."

The 2009 Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Darrell Washington, branch manager for National Bank of Arizona, an ACCA-AZ associate member company. In 2009 Washington made the effort to attend all ACCA-AZ events. He is on the association's Events and Charities Committee and he has earned a reputation for always being willing to help out.

Rick Warner accepted the ACCA-AZ Associate Member of the Year award on behalf of Lennox Industries this year.

"Lennox was just a true supporter in 2009," said Coffe. "For instance, they were the title sponsor of our trade show and also sponsored different lunches and events."

This year ACCA-AZ also added its first Media Award of the Year, which was given to *HVACR Today* newspapers for its coverage and support of the HVAC industry in Arizona. Accepting the award was Advertising Manager Sherry Siegel.

"This is a real honor for *HVACR Today*," said Siegel. "I was very happy to accept the award on behalf of the newspaper, and we look forward to continuing and strengthening our industry relationships in 2010."

In addition, three \$500 scholarships were announced for Arizona Automotive Institute (AAI), Refrigeration School Inc (RSI) and Gateway Community College HVAC Department.

The association also recognized the more than 50 members of its five committees and 2009 Past President Louis Hobaica was honored as 2009 was his last year on the ACCA-AZ board.

The 2010 President for the association is Daryl Roysce of AccuTemp. 2009 President Corky Pond is now the Immediate Past



Above. Tom Palmer (with plaque) accepts the ACCA-AZ Contractor of the Year Award from (left to right) Antoine Coffe, Daryl Roysce and Corky Pond.



Right. Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard with Antoine Coffe.

President.

Goddard received a standing ovation from attendees for his address, which focused on the responsibilities of the Attorney General's office, and initiatives like combating personal and business identity theft and border issues. He also spoke of his four terms as Mayor of Phoenix.

Though Goddard has not announced his intentions, in various polls he has emerged as a

strong possible candidate for Governor of Arizona in the November 2010 election.

"Even though he is on a particular party, it was a refreshing, non-partisan speech," commented Coffe."

The evening also featured a live jazz band and an invocation given by Fidelis Garcia, former ROC Director, now with the law firm Lang Baker & Klain.