

Distinguished Service Award Winners

The CAHF Distinguished Service Award recognizes individual members who have demonstrated an exceptional ongoing commitment to the goals of the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF). This award is given annually to members who exhibit an understanding of the long-term care profession and the challenges it faces, while fostering the highest professional ideals.

PREVIOUS WINNERS



2022

Margarita Kechichian

Executive Director, Ararat Nursing Facility

Since 2013, Margarita Kechichian has been the Executive Director of the Ararat Nursing Facility (Ararat) in Mission Hills. In 2017, she further expanded her leadership skills by completing CAHF's Nursing Home Leader Academy. Featuring Kechichian and Ararat, a short documentary film called, "Closed Doors, Open Hearts: Nursing Homes and COVID-19," provided an intimate look at the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tireless efforts to keep residents and caregivers safe. Under her guidance, the facility has received multiple awards from CAHF and the American Health Care Association.



Mark Payne

Purchasing Consultant, HPSI

Mark Payne plays a pivotal role behind the scenes in CAHF's partnership with HPSI. Currently, Payne works with both the Sacramento and Sierra Chapters. Additionally, since 2018, Payne has been the convention committee chair. Always willing to help, he continually goes above and beyond by taking on a multitude of tasks that someone in a leadership role might otherwise delegate to their team. Payne approaches every request with a smile and a desire to help others.

2021

Lori Cooper

As a former administrator at Stonebrook Healthcare in Concord, Lori and her team obtained the state's first AHCA Gold, Excellence in Programming Award. Lori is a licensed administrator in three states and has served on numerous CAHF committee's and leadership position culminating with her service as Chair of the Board of Directors.



Ron Wall

With more than 30 years of experience in long term care, Ron has been a program director, administrator, corporate consultant and owner. He serves as the vice chair of the CAHF Political Action Committee and has been a long-time participant in the Public Advocacy Committee. Ron is an active participant in association political activities and a generous supporter of CAHF.



PREVIOUS WINNERS

2019

Bill Wilson

Regular attendees of CAHF's Legal Series or members who attend sessions on elder abuse, fraud or arbitration have been on the receiving end of valuable legal insights from Bill Wilson. A partner in the law firm Wilson Getty, Bill is a frequent lecturer at CAHF conferences, sharing stories and advice about legal challenges facing providers. He has successfully defended a number of CAHF members and long-term care clients against civil liability claims. Bill has been an active member of the CAHF Legal Subcommittee and a relentless supporter of the association.



Nanci Wilson

Nanci brings energy and passion to every position she holds. Nanci is a licensed physical therapist and clinical instructor, an RCFE and Home Care Administrator, and board certified in wound management. She was responsible for 32 facilities at North American as Vice President of Rehab Services, but Nanci has spent much of the latter part of her career at Plum Healthcare. As director of Rehab Services or as VP for Research and Development, Nanci has used her skills to create focus and vision in areas of clinical and financial compliance. Lately, she has been instrumental in helping providers understand the new PDPM payment model. She remains an active member of CAHF's Government Relations and Strategic Planning committees.



2018

Julianne Williams

Julianne Williams started her career as a skilled nursing administrator and quickly rose through the ranks, working mostly with Beverly and then Golden Living where she held various positions of increasing responsibility up to and including company President. In the middle of her career, she took a stint at Country Villa where she was chief operating officer. Now, Julianne is testing the waters as a co-founder and CEO at Dycora. Even with all that responsibility, she has remained active, as a chapter president and a member of various CAHF committees and as an association leader culminating with her recent role as CAHF Board Chair.



Kevin Lawrence

Kevin Lawrence began his career as an accounting clerk at MBFR, the predecessor of Foster and Lawrence. An experienced certified public accountant for almost 20 years, Kevin is a hands-on partner. His family-owned firm serves more than 60 healthcare clients ranging from skilled nursing to home health and intermediate care facilities. Kevin has been an active CAHF participant on the AR Task Force, Business Management and Products and Services committees. He also serves as vice chair of the GR Payment Subcommittee.

ADDITIONAL PREVIOUS WINNERS

2017 Rosemary Campos Kilby
Terry Sheets

2016 Leslie Cotham
Christine Wilson

2015 Eric Burger
Clay Green
Dr. Karl Steinberg

2014 Deanna Hill
Jennifer Sprow
Matthew Steinorth
Mark Uranga

2013 Mark Argabright
Carol Burger
Becky Joseph
Sharolyn Kriger
Michael Raffee

2012 Frances Foy
Linda Mullany
Rose Tupaz
Mike Uranga
Marcy Woolpert
Matt Yarwood

2011 Russell Boydston
Cheryl Jumonville
Cheryl Loflin-Wertz
Joe Miceli
Maricela Santana
Lee Sommars

2010 Deborah Davis-White
Tiffany Karlin
Michael Mamot
Juanita Rettinghaus
Brett Watson
Larry Zweigle

2009 Corine Bernard
Scott Carlson
Mike Dodge
Velvet Mayes
Richard Mendlen
Scott Tarde
Robert Taylor

2008 Al Braswell
Daniel Cipponeri
Ron Dodgen
Debra Friedman
A. Eduardo Gonzalez
Ed Long
Scott Kiepen
Tracie Murray

2007 Fran Abdou
Terry Bane
Mark Johnson
Dan Murray

2006 Jill Capella
Sue Curfman
Mike Cutchshaw
Mike Leznick
James Napoli
Marianne Schultz

ADDITIONAL PREVIOUS WINNERS

2006
(cont.)

Kennon Shea
Phil Sullivan
Rebecca Turner

2005

Calvin Callaway
Dorothy Haemer
Mark Reagan
Elizabeth Plott Tyler

2004

Beth Brizee
Gary Collins
William Cloonan
Steve Flood
Adelle Leber
Roland Rapp
Joanne Van Dyke

2003

Rhonda Anderson
Richard Evatz
Holly Johnson
Carole Lillis
Dawn Martin
Johana Martz
William Schifferli

2002

Berry Crow
Lucille Epperson
Juliana Glydon
Richard MacFarlane
Terry Mundy
Tom Turner

2001

Jane Berk
Renate Fassbender
Marilyn Groves

2001
(cont.)

v zJan Harshman
Jim Koontz
Deborah Portela
Eric Schaffer
Aaron Straus

2000

Jim Bursey
Sandra Haskins
Georgia Otterson
Jon Pasqua
Regina Scott
Carol Van Horst
Corey Wright

ADDITIONAL PREVIOUS WINNERS

Helen D. Anderson
Mary Baker
Robert Bates
Harold Becker
Bruce Bennett
Mary Berndt
Marjorie Blanchard
Jolana Borlaug
Jack Boyson
Juanita Boyson
Brigitta Braswell
Ruth Braswell
Rachyl Bruton
Rodger Caddell
Josephine Carrigan
Kenneth Cess
Ben Cipponeri
James Cook
Richard Feingold
Jean K. Filer
Mary Ellen Forrest
Ann Gaal
Mary E. Granneman
Marise Goetzl
Ezekiel B. Griffin Jr.
Richard Hauser
Tom Heath
Richard Hebbel
Ken Heffel
Blaine Hendrickson
Wiland Henry
Victoria Hibarger
Gail Horrigan
Jim Livermore
Sam Macomber

Jack Markovitz
Dennis Mattson
Charles McClain
Jeanne McClain
Robert Miller
Charles Monedero
Robert J. Myers
Loretta Myers
Ron O'Haver
Gene Rapp
Sally Rapp
Mary Roberts
Ruby Shields
Gladys Straus
Margaret Timberlake
Carol Wagner
Jeanne Weizoerick
Jerry Wells
Esther Williams
Ritchie Wills