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## AH&LA HONORS ALLIED MEMBER, HOTELIERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH AWARDS

Washington, D.C., March 15, 2010 – The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) announced the winners of the **2009 John Whitaker Award** and **2010 State Leadership Awards** during the first day of the association's annual Legislative Action Summit (LAS).

Hans Disch, vice president, general manager of lodging for domestic North America and Latin America, Dometic, LLC, received the 2009 John Whitaker Award, which is presented to an outstanding hotel supplier for their dedication to and innovation within the industry. This annual honor is named for a long-time hospitality veteran who served as international sales manager for SICO America, Inc., who died suddenly in 2007. Disch was selected for the honor by his peers on the AH&LA Allied Executive Council.

The State Leadership Awards, formerly known as the Most Valuable Volunteer Awards, were created in 1998 to honor standout members in each partner state association who help implement and strengthen programs. Award recipients, who are chosen by AH&LA's partner state associations, included the following:

- Arkansas Hospitality Association  
Larry Farrar  
*General Manager, Hilton Metro Center, Little Rock*

- California Hotel & Lodging Association  
Bhupen Amin  
*Chief Operating Office, Lotus Hotels & Investments, Inc., Walnut Creek*
- Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association  
Cindy Johnson  
*Director of Human Resources, The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs*
- Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association  
Carlos Molinet  
*General Manager, Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, Fort Lauderdale*
- Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association  
Robert Woolridge  
*General Manager, Marriott Atlanta Airport Gateway, Atlanta*
- Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association  
Fred Orr  
*General Manager, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel, Honolulu*
- Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association  
Andrew Schwebel  
*General Manager, Chicago's Essex Inn, Chicago*
- Indiana Hotel & Lodging Association  
Phil Ray  
*General Manager, Omni Severin Hotel, Indianapolis*
- Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association  
Michael Henningsen  
*Vice President, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, Frederick*
- Massachusetts Lodging Association  
John Murtha, CHA  
*General Manager, Omni Parker House Hotel, Boston*
- Michigan Lodging & Tourism Association  
Cindy Bowen  
*General Manager, Lexington Lansing Hotel, Lansing*
- Montana Innkeepers Association  
Steve Wahrlich, CHA  
*Owner, Best Western Clock Tower Inn, Billings*
- New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association  
John Irvin  
*General Manager, The Otesaga Resort Hotel & The Cooper Inn, Cooperstown*
- North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association  
Doyle Parrish  
*Owner/Partner, Summit Hospitality, Raleigh*
- Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association  
Joe Martin, CHA

*Owner, Stillwater Hospitality, LLC. Stillwater*

- Oregon Lodging Association  
Marc Dryden  
*Owner/Partner, Best Western Inn at Face Rock, Bandon*
- Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association  
James C. Miles  
*Vice President, Hershey Resorts. Hershey*
- Rhode Island Hospitality Association  
Walter Andrews  
*General Manager, Newport Marriott Hotel & Spa, Newport*
- Texas Hotel & Lodging Association  
Al Deberry  
*Area Director, East Central Texas, Tharaldson Lodging, Flower Mound*
- Vermont Hospitality Council  
Sheri Baraw Smith  
*General Manager, Stowe Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe*
- Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association  
Patrick M. Foley, CHA  
*General Manager, Baywood Hotels, Alexandria*
- Wisconsin Innkeepers Association  
Kirk A. Drusch, CHA  
*Vice President and General Manager, Brookfield Suites Hotel & Convention Center, Brookfield*
- Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association  
John Eastman  
*Owner, Inn on the Creek, Jackson*

For more information on the John Whitaker Award or the State Leadership Awards, please visit [www.ahla.com](http://www.ahla.com).

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Serving the hospitality industry for a century, AH&LA is the sole national association representing all sectors and stakeholders in the lodging industry, including individual hotel property members, hotel companies, student and faculty members, and industry suppliers. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AH&LA provides members with national advocacy on Capitol Hill, public relations and image management, education, research and information, and other value-added services to provide bottom line savings and ensure a positive business climate for the lodging industry. Partner state associations provide local representation and additional cost-saving benefits to members.