



AMCI Set to Present the 2024 AMCI Awards of Excellence

The AMC Institute (AMCI) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Awards of Excellence Program. Following a comprehensive review by an esteemed panel of industry judges, the following recipients will be honored July 30 at a special celebration during [AMCs Engaged](#) conference in Montréal.



The **Excellence in AMC Client Advancement Award**, which highlights an “against all odds” situation that has advanced the AMC, goes to **Parthenon Management Group**. Parthenon

Management Group’s start came in the early 2000s when our founders, Ronnie Wilkins and Sarah Timm, were running one of the foremost scientific associations. Other associations took notice and started asking for help. Parthenon’s culture originated from Ronnie and Sarah, who are still known for exceptional customer service and work ethic. It was soon discovered that what the associations really needed was their expertise, so in 2008, they leaped into association management. In 2023, Parthenon received AMCI’s Outstanding AMC Culture Award. Parthenon leadership has an exceptional ability to see strengths and align team members in a way that plays to those strengths, so people thrive and build on opportunities for growth. They encourage team members to speak up and have a voice, allow for innovation and creativity, and seek honesty and transparency. When feedback is given, leadership listens and acts.



AMCI’s Outstanding AMC Culture Award, which measures talent experience, community outreach and internal community building, will be presented to **Impact Association Management**. Impact was founded in 2006 by Jodi Fisher, and since then the full-service association management firm has successfully supported medium-sized associations in organizational growth, development of strong strategic planning and governance practices, and creating operational

efficiencies and technology improvements. The Impact team consists of professionals with impressive backgrounds in all areas of association management. Impact is dedicated to maintaining a culture that benefits both employees and clients alike. For clients, they are the problem-solvers their clients turn to when they’re in a bind, the experts they look to when they need guidance, the positive attitude in a challenging situation, and the partners they trust to help them succeed. Employees are the #1 priority at Impact. Without them there would be no Impact. They work hard to create a culture where employees feel heard, are a part of company-wide solutions, and know that what they do each and everyday matters.



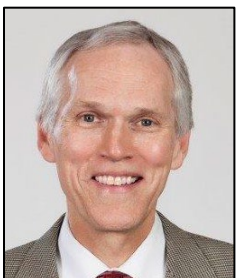
The **Rising Leader Award** honoring one who demonstrates the ability to accept and execute leadership by providing extraordinary support and service to the individual’s AMC and/or clients will be presented to **Joy DesMarais-Lanz, MA, CAE, CMM**, executive director of Synergos AMC. Praised for her commitment to mentoring both members and presidents, Joy invests her time and energy in nurturing talent, providing guidance, and empowering others, as acknowledged by one of her clients. She actively contributes to two AMCI committees and volunteers for MPI, Associations North, and serves as the Chair of LOTT (Leaders of Today and Tomorrow). In her volunteer capacity, she frequently delivers workshops on event execution and leadership. Prior to her tenure at Synergos, Joy held leadership positions at the Hugh

O'Brian Youth Leadership, the National Youth Leadership Council, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of St. Paul.

Dede Gish-Panjada, MBA, chief operating officer Bostrom, will receive the **Excellence in Leadership Award** for her leadership, vision, and teamwork through volunteerism at AMCI. Dede is a corporate culture change agent, critical thinker, and problem solver, which fits nicely with her AMC career. Dede has been in the AMC industry for more than 40 years, including the last seven years at Bostrom. She served as chair of AMCI's Board of Directors from 2012 to 2014. She earned an MBA from The University of Kansas in organizational change & development and strategic planning.



AMCI's highest honor, the **Glenn W. Bostrom Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognizes an AMC leader for outstanding career achievement benefiting the AMC industry. It is named for an association management company pioneer, Glenn Bostrom, founder of Bostrom Corp. This year's honoree is **Mark Engle, DM, FASAE, CAE**, principal of Association Management Center, headquarters to 29 associations with a staff of nearly 200 talented professionals. Mark received his Doctor of Management degree in 2011 from Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH) with his study in nonprofit governance. Mark is continually striving to develop and share new research that leads to advancing the association management profession. He is a frequent author and speaker on governance and high performing organizations and is a faculty member of ASAE's Exceptional Boards program. Engle serves on four boards of directors, including AMCI's as immediate past chair. He was recently honored with the Samuel Shapiro Award – Outstanding CEO – Association Forum of Chicagoland and was inducted into the Chicago Area Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Association Executives and the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Leadership (Case Western Reserve University) and is a BoardSource Certified Governance Trainer. Mark formerly served as a chief staff executive for trade associations and professional societies for 29 years. He has participated in more than 300 Board meetings during his career.



The evening will also feature the **Chair's Award**, presented to **Bill Grusich, CMP Fellow-Emeritus, FASAE**, who is retiring from a 51-year career in the hospitality industry, most recently with **Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI)**. Bill became part of the ALHI team and executive leadership in January 2011 when ALHI acquired Hinton + Grusich (H+G), for which Bill was the co-founder and president from 1986-2010. Throughout his career, Bill has been very active in several industry organizations, including two terms on the MPI International Board of Directors. He was the recipient of MPI's "Individual Hall of Fame Award" in 2003. He has chaired ASAE's Industry Partner's Alliance, and speaks frequently at such industry organizations as ASAE, MPI, PCMA, and AMC Institute Board meetings. Bill was appointed to the PCMA Board of Directors (2015-2017). He also regularly speaks to groups of students studying the hospitality industry at Roosevelt University in Chicago. He earned his Certified Meeting Planner (CMP) designation in 1992. Bill's involvement in ASAE led to his recognition as an ASAE Fellow Member. In 2020, Bill was awarded PCMA's Lifetime Visionary Award for a supplier.

In addition to individual and AMC organizational awards, AMCI will also honor new and renewing accredited AMCs during the celebration. The dinner is included in registration for AMCs Engaged! [Click here](#) to register.