

## DBIA-MAR BRINGS HOME TOP NATIONAL HONOR AWARD

As you may know, the DBIA Regions are often the first or the primary contact many of our members have with DBIA. Local volunteers are the grassroots leaders of this organization, and their efforts will influence the way many people view design-build and DBIA. Every year, National offers our Regions an opportunity to apply for Region Awards to highlight those that are performing at an extraordinary level by providing outstanding service to their members. This year, National presented five different such awards. Each category evaluated performance as it relates to activities that are critical to DBIA's overall success now, and into the future. Numerous areas were assessed including:

- membership marketing
- percentage of membership growth both in individual and industry partner categories
- industry education
- promotion of designation
- chapter programs
- networking opportunities
- advocacy
- owner engagement at the grassroots level
- legislative support and education
- newsletters
- region or chapter awards program(s)
- cultivation of design-build as a profession
- articles for Dateline magazine
- infrastructure of the region and the chapters
- website
- collaboration with related industry organizations.

The final award was the highest honor of the afternoon at the National Convention in November - the "Region of the Year Award." Winning this prestigious award means scoring the highest points in most if not all of the categories above. Here is what the National jury had to say about DBIA-MAR's submittal and highest award winner:

The region taking home the honor this year has demonstrated exemplary performance in all areas - Membership, Education, Information, Advocacy, and Operations.

For years, the Mid-America Region has been a leader in DBIA's Designation and Education efforts. While they have continued to be one of DBIA's strongest regions, this past year they have shown themselves to be in a class above the rest. 2008 brought about many noteworthy accomplishments for the Mid-America Region. For example, in Nebraska, house bill LB889 became a law, allowing public entities for the first time to utilize Design-Build as a project delivery method. Mid-America successfully executed a first ever event -- the Public Owners Symposium -- which was simulcast live to all four states within the region. Due to the success of the event, it has now been implemented in their already expansive calendar as an annual event.

The Mid-America Region has dedicated itself to quality and growth by never forgetting that its success is measured by the success of their members. It is my privilege to award our highest honor today to the Mid-America Region of DBIA. Congratulations -- your submittal clearly showed the jury just how hard you worked to accomplish so much!"



A note from DBIA-MAR's Executive Director concerning this honor:

It is certainly true that DBIA-MAR had a record setting year. We increased our membership by 19%. We had more than 200 individuals attend our education classes – not to mention the hundreds that came to our Chapter programs across our four-state region. Efforts were undertaken on legislation in Missouri as well as the success in Nebraska already cited. We completely revamped our website and continue to work on making it what it ought to be for our members' benefit. We worked hard to provide newsletters of the highest quality. The content of these publications was recognized both locally and nationally when our articles were reprinted in *Dateline* – and, additional articles were solicited. This year's awards banquet was the best one yet -- not only were the entrants of highest quality according to our jury; but, the actual event received rave reviews. Our golf event was both a financial and social success. Our first ever trap shoot raised more than \$3000 for scholarships. We provided another outstanding program on design-build at the University of Missouri in Columbia. This panel discussion was attended by owners, practitioners, design professionals and students. Our officers spoke at several universities and of course their topic was design-build. For the first time ever, DBIA-MAR conducted a "Past Presidents" luncheon drawing additional support and insight into making our Region even better. Other firsts included a collaborative effort with six other like-minded industry organizations – currently labeled the BEC (Build Environment Collaborative). Look for much more from this group in 2009 – all involved have very high expectations for this joint effort. With all of this said, among the things that I find personally rewarding is working with such great people who volunteer their time, expertise, innovation and creativity to help make DBIA-MAR all that it can be. It is because of you that I put my all into the role of Executive Director. Thank you and remember that the honor of this award truly belongs to everyone involved in DBIA-MAR.

Again, I say THANK YOU - Oretta Smith, Executive Director, DBIA-MAR