

Industry Leadership Awards

The goal of these awards is to recognize IAAP member companies and individuals that have demonstrated leadership excellence within our mining industry. Leadership can be demonstrated in part by employee participation in IAAP committees, achieving awards, and participation in events. However, more significantly, leadership may be demonstrated by member companies engaged in efforts to promote and advance the image and well-being of the industry, company, and its employees that may not be related to IAAP activities.

Now in the 6th year, IAAP members once again recognized a mining company and an associate member company whose contributions to the IAAP and industry are significant and long lasting. All IAAP members were eligible and encouraged to submit nominations. IAAP staff and committees submitted nominations as well.

Alan Shoemaker and Tuscola Stone Company

Tuscola Stone Company has mined stone in Illinois for 50 years and was recognized with the Producer Member Industry Leadership Award. The company is one of the most steadfast supporters of the IAAP, a company whose employees have attended and supported all IAAP events, a PAC Rock Star and a sponsor of area teachers attending the IAAP's Teachers Workshop.

This company realizes how important it is for the public to understand what we do, and the benefits mining provides to communities. The quarry hosts students, teachers, community groups and elected officials serving East-Central Illinois to learn more about our industry and what's going on beyond the fence. For their ongoing efforts, mine employees receive a Community Relations award, a Rock Solid Safety award and the IAAP's recognition each year.

Tuscola Stone is mining a geological anomaly that has attracted the attention of researchers from universities all across the Midwest as well as a television production by the History Channel titled, "How the Earth Was Made; America's Ice Age."

The company's manager, Alan Shoemaker, chaired the IAAP's Safety Committee for five years and helped refine and create many of the member recognition awards, including this one. Over the years he has actively served on numerous member committees and volunteers for activities like the Teachers Workshop and awards judging. He can quite often be heard saying, "Where do you need me, and what can I do to help?"

Shoemaker understands how government officials make decisions and has participated in the IAAP's lobby days at the Capitol here in Springfield and kept his legislators informed about the importance of passing the



"This is the top achievement a company can receive from the IAAP and it is a great honor to be recognized by our peers. I am surprised and humbled by the Association acknowledging me and the company for our leadership. Success comes from teamwork - the owners, management, and all of our employees. Without their support and hard work, this could not have been achieved. I am so proud of everyone!"

Alan Shoemaker

capital infrastructure bill a couple of years ago. He continues to participate in key legislative meetings regarding legislation that would hinder or benefit what we do. And after the recent capital infrastructure bill was passed by the General Assembly, he represented the mining industry at a celebration of this achievement with Governor Pritzker. But for him this is more than just answering the occasional call for assistance, for the past ten years he has served as a city council member working to address community concerns. Alan is the current president of the Tuscola Community Foundation and past president of the local chapters of Kiwanis and the Rotary Club.

Shoemaker began his mining career more than 45 years ago in 1976 as an underground, union coal miner in Murdock, Illinois. He later managed a coal mine, but soon after passage of the Clean Air Act began to affect coal mining in Illinois, he moved to surface aggregate mining working in management roles for Vulcan Materials in northern Illinois. In 2007, the owners of Tuscola Stone hired him to manage the quarry in Tuscola.

Alan Shoemaker stands out as an inspiration to us all. He remains a long-time IAAP Board member, currently serving as Vice-President, and at the next convention will begin serving as the IAAP's president.

Conn Maciel Carey and Nick Scala



Conn Maciel Carey has been involved with the IAAP Convention and Aggregate Miner Safety Conference offering presentations on timely topics of importance to this industry every year since becoming a member in 2017. Its principal attorney handling MSHA litigation, Nick Scala, is an active IAAP Safety Committee member advising on critical issues as the committee works to produce and share information for the health and safety of miners. He supports the IAAP and its work by generously answering questions posed by IAAP staff as well as people working for member companies and each time offering advice to best deal with their situation.

During Conn Maciel Carey's first year of membership, Nick offered to produce free, online webinars on topics chosen by the Safety Committee, the first one offered in September of 2017 and numerous free webinars each year since. Now during every safety committee meeting, members brainstorm ideas for these webinars to address MSHA and OSHA regulations and enforcement concerns.

IAAP President, Jack Keeler,
presents the award to Nick Scala

I trust you all will agree Conn Maciel Carey is an industry leader among our associate member companies.