

# Sparkplug Award Winners

(1958-1974)

- 1958 - **George L. Adams**, Institutions Magazine  
**John G. Anastos**, J. Walter Thompson Co.  
**Rolland A. Line**, Swift & Company  
**Charles F. Loeffel**, Ahrens Publishing Co.  
**Richard A. McNicol**, Kellogg Sales Company  
**Joseph L. Pruce**, The Pillsbury Company  
**Michael J. Vurek**, The Quaker Oats Company
- 1959 - **Reuben R. Cordova**, Ahrens Publishing Co.  
**Juanita B. Poston**, Ralston Purina Company  
**William F. Rathjen**, H.J. Heinz Company  
**Henry C. Wood**, Durkee Famous Foods
- 1960 - **Frank D. Barkalow**, DCA Food Industries  
**John Q. Herzog**, Ac'cent International  
**Warren K. Kloock**, Fast Food Magazine
- 1961 - **C. Vern Olmstead**, Armour & Company  
**Webster A. Young**, Volume Feeding Mgmt.
- 1962 - **Joseph M. Culbertson**, Universal Foods
- 1963 - **Joseph J. Gelfand**, Recipe Foods, Inc.
- 1964 - **William L. Gorman**, J. Walter Thompson Co.
- 1965 - **Daniel A. Gescheidle**, Morton Quality Products
- 1966 - **Glen Y. Miller**, The Procter & Gamble Company
- 1967 - **Richard K. Diehl**, Needham, Harper & Steers  
**James E. Flurry**, Quaker Oats Company  
**Stuart G. McMillan**, General Foods Corp.
- 1968 - **George F. Brummett**, Pepsi-Cola Company  
**Ted J. Holsten**, General Mills, Inc.  
**Irwin Simms**, Mandabach & Simms, Inc.  
**B.B. Whitney**, Swift & Company
- 1969 - **Charles E. Doring**, Beatrice Foods Company  
**Jack M. Eagen**, The Procter & Gamble Company  
**James R. Myers**, Cooking for Profit  
**Bruce Opsahl**, Anderson Clayton Foods  
**Milton M. Vandenberg**, McCormick & Company
- 1970 - **Barbara Hunter**, Dudley-Anderson-Yutz  
**William S. Ash**, Glidden-Durkee Division, SCM Corporation
- 1971 - **Edgar L. Davis**, Groen Div./Dover Corp.  
**Janice Kidwell**, J. Walter Thompson Co.  
**H. Kristina Paulus**, The Procter & Gamble Co.
- 1972 - **John N. Curlett, Jr.**, McCormick & Company  
**R. Starr Farish**, J.R. Simplot Company  
**Earl C. Heitger**, CFS Continental, Inc.  
**John F. Murphy**, Swift Food Service Co.
- 1973 - **Lafe J. Mattingly**, McIlhenny Company  
**James D. Walters**, American Potato Company
- 1974 - **Harry M. Carroll**, H.J. Heinz Company  
**Robert S. Conroy**, Lamb-Weston, Inc.  
**Paul C. Glick**, Quaker Oats Company  
**Roger W. Rumble**, General Mills, Inc.

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# Sparkplug Award Winners

(1975-1984)

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1975 - **Sam Arnold**, Green Giant Company  
**Robert A. Marmaduke**, Calkins and Company

1976 - **Jeffrey Berlind**, Restaurant Business, Inc.  
**Walter Chaffee**, H.J. Heinz Company  
**Philip Wheeler**, General Foods Corp.

1977 - **Fred Robinson**, CFS Continental, Inc.  
**Jerry Waxler**, Jerry Waxler & Company  
**Michael A. Hoffman**, Technomic Consultants  
**John C. Heithaus**, Hobart Corporation

1978 - **Wayne B. Durfey**, Ore-Ida Foods, Inc.  
**Shelden Jones**, Hospitality Publications  
**Math Kaemmerer**, Golden Dipt Company Div. of DCA Food Industries, Inc.

1979 - **Joan B. Bakos**, Restaurant Business  
**John J. McArdle**, Basic American Food Co.  
**Stanley Romaine**, Institutional Distribution  
**Jane Y. Wallace**, Institutions Magazine

1980 - **Thomas J. Brueck**, Institutional Sales Corp.  
**Arthur T. Conway**, Foodservice Product News  
**Charles D. Lehman**, Chef's Pantry, Inc.  
**James P. Sunderland**, Eckrich Food Service Company

1981 - **Harold Delaney**, The Food Group  
**Stephen Odell**, Sugar Foods Corporation  
**Martin Shellenberger**, Syracuse China Corp.  
**Donald G. Tober**, Sugar Foods Corporation

1982 - **J. Roy Asmussen**, Roy A. Asmussen & Associates, Inc.  
**Donna Boss**, Food Management Magazine  
**Ronald N. Paul**, Technomic Consultants  
**Joe Stubbs**, Sunkist Growers, Inc.  
**David Wexler**, Restaurants & Institutions

1983 - **Dennis C. Buda**, Castle and Cooke Foods  
**John C. Hofer**, Technomic Consultants  
**John Patten**, Butcher Boy Food Products, Inc.  
**George D. Rice**, GDR/CREST Enterprises  
**Larry A. Stone**, Food Sales/HSH, Inc.

1984 - **Robert Civin**, Institutional Distribution  
**Robert B. Galvin**, Food Dynamics, Inc.  
**Russell L. Jones**, The Quaker Oats Company  
**Kenneth A. Lapin**, Wechsler Coffee Corporation  
**Cynthia M. Seik**, Kitchens of Sara Lee

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# Sparkplug Award Winners

(1985-1993)

1985 - **Linda Awrey**, Awrey Bakeries, Inc.  
/86 **James M. Degen**, James M. Degen & Company  
**Kristin Ferguson**, Tyson Foods, Inc.  
**Marvin Goldsmith**, Campbell-Mithun, Inc.  
**Robert Petersen**, Atlantic Marketing Forces, Inc.

1987 - **Paul V. Baron**, The Quaker Oats Company  
**Jerry Collins**, Merico, Inc.  
**Edward Drucker**, The Waxler Company  
**James M. Irwin**, CODE, Incorporated  
**Jack T. Mitchell**, Nabisco Brands, USA  
**Thomas Rector**, Fred's Frozen Foods

1988 - **Catherine M. Ahern**, Foodsales/MAR-DRU, Inc.  
**Donald Axleroad**, The Food Group  
**Robert D. Berryman**, Campbell Food Service Company  
**William J. LaGala**, Nabisco Brands, Inc.  
**Jeffrey E. Wayne**, The Pillsbury Company  
**Gee Winands**, Sunkist Growers, Inc.

1989 - **William J. Caskey**, Nestle Foodservice  
**Jerry Fritz**, Pet, Inc.  
**Susan Shellenberger**, The Food Group  
**Shannon D. Talley**, ComSource Independent Foodservice Companies, Inc.  
**John Woods**, JLV Food Sales

1990 - **Charles Bernstein**, Nation's Restaurant News  
**Patricia C. Dando**, Dando & Company  
**Randolph Habeck**, Habeck-Zaitz & Associates  
**Gary Karp**, Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation  
**Mark G. Willes**, Tyson Foods, Inc.

1991 - **Thomas F. Bauman**, The L.J. Minor Corporation  
**Jerry I. Drew**, Rittenhouse Foods  
**M. Jay Heilbrunn**, Clinton Associates, Inc.  
**Joseph Myers**, Food Sales West, Inc.  
**John Rooney**, Sugar Foods Corporation  
**Robert Sala**, Distributor Marketing Alliance

1992 - **Charles E. Woodward**, Pepperidge Farm, Inc.  
**Richard W. Prescott**, Professional Marketers, Inc.  
**Tom Caron**, Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc.  
**Kevin R. Malchoff**, Rich Products Corp.  
**Robert G. Fletcher**, Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

1993 - **Mike Carpenter**, The Vollrath Company, Inc.  
**Cecile M. Crow**, James River Corporation  
**Robert Green**, HSH Food Sales  
**John J. Kelly**, Campbell Soup Company  
**Sharon M. Olson**, The Olson Group, Inc.

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# Sparkplug Award Winners

(1994-2000)

1994 - **Mary Kaye Buettgen**, Superior Coffee & Foods  
**Samuel T. Crown**, Commonwealth Brokers, Inc.  
**William Fisher**, Arby's Inc.  
**Loren Kimura**, Basic American Foods  
**Susan Saltwell**, Noble & Associates  
**R. Stephen Tanner**, Arden International Kitchens, Inc.  
**Robert K. Smith, Jr.**, Pilgrim's Pride Food Service

1995 - **Kent Walrack**, Lyons Magnus  
**Greg Lee**, Tyson Foods  
**John Guy**, Food Marketing Concepts  
**Fred Fleischbein**, Olson Communications  
**Linda Schwaba**, Groen, A Dover Industries Company  
**Kim Ewers**, Land O' Lakes, Inc.  
**James Doherty**, Nation's Restaurant News

1996 - **Laura MacPhail**, The Hale Group, Ltd.  
**Drew McMillen**, Anchor Foods Products, Inc.  
**James Orkin**, Kirstein Brokerage Company, Inc.  
**Sarah Palisi**, Enersyst Development Center, Inc.

1997 - **Kevin Delahunt**, Sargento Foods, Inc.  
**Lee Ellen Fox, FMP**, The Educational Foundation of  
the National Restaurant Association  
**David Lovvorn**, O.K. Foods, Inc.  
**James Matorin**, Smartketing  
**Bruce Robinson**, Basic American Foods

1997 (cont'd)  
**William "Buddy" Taylor**, Innovative Concept Group, Inc.

1998 - **Martin Overton**, Custom Food Products, Inc.  
**Robert W. Pierce**, Lipton Foodservice  
**Cathy Schlosberg**, Campbell Soup Company  
**Niles Crum**, ID Magazine  
**V.D. "Bud" Hilton**, Answers Systems, Inc.  
**Gary Sobkowiak**, W M S We Market Success

1999 - **Mark Blabac**, Land O' Lakes  
**Richard Francis**, Procter & Gamble Distributing Company  
**Larry Joyner**, Custom Food Products, Inc.  
**Lawrence "Laddie" Weiss**, Weiss Foodservice Visions Inc.  
**Cathy Wilson**, NPD Foodservice Information Group

2000 - **Steve Finkelstein**, Choice One Foods  
**Brenda Fried**, GOJO Industries, Inc.  
**Alan Gould**, Nation's Restaurant News  
**Reed Pless**, Innovative Concept Group  
**Steve Rudnitsky**, Nabisco Inc.  
**Jim Sinclair**, 3M Company

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# Sparkplug Award Winners

(2001-2010)

- 2001 - **Gerry Fernandez**, MultiCultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance **James Simonson**, National Food Product Research, Corp  
**Ray Herrmann**, Chain Leader  
**Sam Jackson**, Answers Systems, Inc.  
**Brad Moore**, Kraft Food Services
- 2002 - **Tug England**, Mission Foods  
**Dan O' Connell**, Foodmix Marketing & Communications  
**Ken Ruff**, Future Brands LLC  
**Jeff Sterling**, Birchwood Foods
- 2003 - **Daryl Gormley**, Sara Lee Food Service  
**Gerald White**, Nation's Restaurant News  
**Karl Kaufman**, Jennie - O Turkey Store  
**Jack Li**, Datassential Research
- 2004 - **Mike Cardello**, Nation's Restaurant News  
**Beryl Kemp**, Georgia-Pacific Corp.  
**Ken Mossgrove**, Schwan's Food Service  
**Mike Shay**, UBF Foodsolutions North America
- 2005 - **Jim Matorin**, Smartketing  
**Steven Mayer**, Plate Magazine  
**Terry Splane**, McCormick & Company, Inc.
- 2006 - **Dennis Fox**, Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
**Paul Gere**, McCain Foods USA, Inc.
- 2006 (cont'd)
- 2007 - **Billy Boswell**, Tabasco Brands/McIlhenny Company  
**Rich Tucker**, Product Evaluations, Inc.
- 2008 - **Drew Dozier**, Advance Food Company  
**Dave Leppert**, PepsiCo Foodservice  
**Caroline Perkins**, Foodservice Insights
- 2009 - **Barbara Kane**, Ecolab  
**Ellen Koteff**, NRN  
**Steve Potter**, IFDA  
**Matthew Riddleberger**, Firehouse Restaurant Group
- 2010 - **Renee Gerami**, McCain Foods USA  
**David Leppert**, PepsiCo Foodservice  
**Brenda Lloyd**, Unified Foodservice Purchasing Co-op, LLC  
**Ed Sanford**, Reinhart FoodService, LLC  
**Lela Tripp**, Tyson Foods, Inc.  
**Dan Wilkinson**, GSI US

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# Sparkplug Award Winners

(2011-2017)

2011 - **Loren Kimura**, Basic American Foods

**Richard Ferranti**, Rich Products

**Paul Saval**, Saval Foods

**Michael LaDuke**, Red Lobster

**Kevin Delahunt**, Sargento

**Kent Walrack**, Lyons Magnus

**Kent McClelland**, Shamrock Foods

**Andy Glaser**, Kellogg's

2012 - **Ben Shanley**, Coca Cola Foodservice and On Premise

**John Schmitz**, Land O' Lakes

**Bill McClellan**, Dawn Food Products

**Devon Gerchar**, IFMA

2014 - **Art Bell**, The Partnering Group

**Doug Morrison**, The Partnering Group

**Arnie Schwartz**, The NPD Group

**Jack Li**, Datassential

2015 - **Ed Medlock**, Quality Supply Chain Co-op, Inc.

**Krista Pohlman**, Quality Supply Chain Co-op, Inc.

**Dan Mueller**, Sodexo

**Kate Malaniak**, Quaker Steak & Lube

**Gary Bales**, Focus Brands Inc.

**Rich Kamph**, Focus Brands Inc.

**Gary Schwartz**, SHAKE SHACK

**Matt Riddleberger**, Firehouse Restaurant Group, Inc.

2016 - **Ben Shanley**, Coca-Cola North America Foodservice

**Tina Floyd**, The J.M. Smucker Company

**Kevin Delahunt**, Sargento Foods

**Bob Corscadden**, Kellogg's Specialty Channels

**Rod Hepponstall**, Lamb Weston

**Jane Sumner**, Dean Foods

2017 - **Keith Anderkin**, Arby's Supply Chain Cooperative

**Steve Barker**, Chick-fil-A

**Donette Beattie**, Toppers Pizza

**Jeff Bromwich**, Potbelly Sandwich Shop

**Anissa Mandell Chance**, Focus Brands

**Dennis Clabby**, IPC Subway

**Beth Cook**, IPC Subway

**Joe Hinton**, Brinker International

**Rich Kamph**, Focus Brands

**Kristi Kingery**, Tropical Smoothie Café

**Kyle Lindelof**, Brinker International

**Charlie Lousignont**, Brinker International

**Elena Palmer**, Starbucks Coffee Company

**Steve Pattison**, RSI/Burger King

**Krista Pohlman**, Wendy's QSCC

**Matt Riddleberger**, Firehouse Subs

**Dennie Sandefer**, Zaxby's

**Michele Varian**, Sonic Drive-In

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# Presidents Award Winners

(1988-2010)

1988 - **James Degan**, James M. Degan, Inc.  
**Steve MacArthur**, Nestle, Inc.

1990 - **Fred Hull**, Nestle Brands Foodservice Company

1992 - **Jeff Rymer**, Rymer Foods

1993 - **Phil Sexton**, Campbell Taggart

1994 - **Tom Bauman**, Rymer Foods

1995 - **Bob Fletcher**, Anheuser Busch  
**Ira Blumenthal**, Co-Opportunities, Inc.

1996 - **Kevin Malchoff**, Rich Products, Inc.

1997 - **Jeff Wayne**, Tropicana

1998 - EFR Working Committee Chairs:  
**Deborah Lentz**, Nabisco  
**Norb Mayrhofer**, Procter & Gamble  
**Mike Noble**, Alliant Foodservice  
**Chuck Langmead**, McCormick & Co.  
**Robert K. Smith**, Jac Pac Foods

1999 - **Carla Cooper**, Coca-Cola USA  
**Larry Oberkfell**, Anchor Food Products, Inc.

2000 - **Charles Hunn**, Kraft Foodservices  
**Greg Ibsen**, J.R. Simplot Company

2001 - **Laddie Weiss**, I Source Incorporated

2002 - **Dave Pfanzelter**, Kellogg's Food Away from Home

2003 - **Alan Gould**, *Nation's Restaurant News*  
**Kim Kelly-Bartley**, White Castle Systems, Inc.

2004 - **William Lovette**, Tyson Foods, Inc.

2005 - **Scott Siers**, PepsiCo Foodservice

2006 - **Tom Sampson**, Kraft Foodservice  
**Tim Connor**, Nestlé Foodservices North America

2007 - **Kevin Ryan**, ICCA

2008 - **Steve Caldeira**, Dunkin' Brands

2009 - **Lela Tripp**, Tyson Foods, Inc.

2010- **Ann Oka**, Sodexo  
**J. Michael Roach**, Ben E. Keith Foods  
**Tom Sampson**, Kraft North America Foodservice

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# Presidents Award Winners

(2011-2017)

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2011 - **Ron Paul**, Technomic, Inc.

**Bill Hale**, The Hale Group, Ltd.

2012 - **Kristin Newman**, International Paper

2013 - **Dennis Harrison, GSI**

2014 – **Jack Li**, Datassential

2015 – **John Inwright**, Quality Supply Chain Co-op, Inc.

2016 – **Caroline Perkins**, The Foodservice Content Company

2017– **Art Bell**, Kinetic12 Consulting

**LeAnne Garoutte**, Kinetic12 Consulting

**Tim Hand**, Kinetic12 Consulting

**Jeff Schroeder**, Kinetic12 Consulting

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# Key Person Award Winners

(1958-1995)

- 1958 - **Donald E. Swanson**, Intl. Minerals & Chemical Corp.
- 1959 - **Terman R. Englehardt**, Armour & Company
- 1960 - **Robert S. Lochridge**, Kraft Foods
- 1961 - **Frank D. Barkalow**, DCA Food Industries, Inc.
- 1962 - **Gordon R. Sawyer-Dolby**, Cramore Product, Inc.
- 1963 - **Frank H. Yaffe**, Universal Foods Company
- 1964 - **Robert E. Fleming**, J. Hungerford Smith Co.
- 1965 - **Jack H. Wall**, Carnation Company
- 1966 - **Alvin W. Cohn**, Continental Coffee Co.
- 1967 - **Daniel A. Gescheidle**, Morton Quality Products
- 1968 - **John G. Anastos, J.** Walter Thompson Co.
- 1969 - **John F. Hayes**, H.J. Heinz Company
- 1970 - **Glen Y. Miller**, The Procter & Gamble Co.
- 1971 - **Lawrence Pete**, Continental Coffee Co. of Houston
- 1972 - **Martin N. Cullen**, General Mills, Inc.
- 1973 - **H. Kristina Paulus**, The Procter & Gamble Co.
- 1974 - **James D. Walters**, American Potato Company
- 1975 - **John N. Curlett, Jr.**, McCormick & Company, Inc.
- 1976 - **Edger L. Davis**, Berkel Incorporated
- 1977 - **Richard J. Hauer**, CFS Continental, Inc.
- 1978 - **William S. Ash**, Durkee Foods, Div. Of SCM Corp.
- 1979 - **William J. Tobin**, Nabisco, Inc.
- 1980 - **Charles R. Suter**, The Suter Company, Inc.
- 1981 - **John J. McArdle**, Basic American Food Co.
- 1982 - **Donald G. Tober**, Sugar Foods Corp.
- 1983 - **Stanley J. Romaine**, Institutional Distribution
- 1984 - **Stephen Odell**, Sugar Foods Corp.
- 1985 - **John Patten**, Centre Brands, Inc.
- 1986 - **Russell L. Jones**, The Quaker Oats Co.
- 1987 - **Walter G. Van Benthuyzen**, Richardson Foods Corporation
- 1988 - **William F. McLaughlin**, The L.J. Minor Corporation
- 1989 - **John T. Mitchell**, Nabisco Brands, Inc.
- 1990 - **Ira J. Blumenthal**, Rymer Foods, Inc.
- 1991 - **Roger W. Rumble**, General Mills, Inc.
- 1992 - **Mark G. Willes**, Tyson Foods, Inc.
- 1993 - **Henry R. Lambert**, Nabisco Brands –Foodservice Division
- 1994 - **Phillip L. Sexton**, Campbell Taggart, Inc.
- 1995 - **Jeffrey Rymer**, Rymer Foods, Inc.

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# Key Person Award Winners

(1996-2017)

1996 - **Kim Ewers**, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

1997 - **Richard Smucker**, The J.M. Smucker Company

1998 - **Kevin Malchoff**, Rich Products Corp.

1999 - **Jeff Wayne**, Hunt-Wesson

2000 - **Larry Oberkfell**, SureBeam Corporation

2001 - **Greg Ibsen**, J.R. Simplot Company

2002 - **Dennis Janesz**, Rich Products Corp.

2003 - **Dave Pfanzelter**, Kellogg's Specialty Channels

2004 - **Allan Lutz**, ConAgra Foodservice Co.

2005 - **B. Kelly Brintle**, Ventura Foods, LLC

2006 - **Scott Siers**, PepsiCo North America

2007 - **Dan Manning**, Coca-Cola Foodservice

2008 - **Norb Mayrhofer**, Procter & Gamble

2009 - **Tom Sampson**, Kraft North America Foodservice

2010 - **Michael Hickey**, Ecolab

2011 - **Mark Bendix**, The Bama Companies, Inc.

2012 - **Kent Walrack**, Lyons Magnus

2013 - **Loren Kimura**, Basic American Foods

2014 - **Richard Ferranti**, Rich Products Corporation

2015 - **Joe Bybel**, Venture Foods

2016 - **Kevin Delahunt**, Sargento Foods Inc.

2017 - **Ben Shanley**, Coco-Cola North America

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