

# The North State BIA recognizes our volunteer leaders virtually this year

By Michael Strech  
NORTH STATE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

**D**ue to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North State Building Industry Association was unable to hold its annual installation event to recognize the industry professionals who are volunteering their time this year to promote homebuilding and homeownership in the greater Sacramento region. So instead, we're doing so virtually, by creating short videos to allow members to hear from incoming leaders and to recognize our leaders who have given so much to homebuilding in the region.

This year's Chairman, Michael LaFortune, senior development director for Easton Development Co., set the tone.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our area, our market fell sharply. But by year's end our builders, our members and our association had a tremendous



Mike LaFortune

year," LaFortune said in his video. Indeed, it was the first year in over 15 years that the region added anywhere near the number of new homes needed to meet the region's population growth.

But despite the successes in 2020, when more than 7,000 families were able to purchase the new home of their dreams in the

region, LaFortune warned that industry leaders must continue to fight against proposals that will make homeownership more expensive and more difficult to obtain.

"Even with our recent successes and positive outlook, the challenges facing our industry continue to grow. Now is the time to stay diligent, stay engaged, keep a clear path and clear vision on how to push back on new proposed fees and regulations. It is important that we strive to continue to make housing attainable for all."

Besides LaFortune, this year's officers are Vice Chair/Treasurer Adam Hieb, division president for KB Home; Secretary Brian Cutting, director of land acquisition for Woodside Homes; and Immediate Past President is Aren Bazzocco, division president for Taylor Morrison. I am also privileged to serve as an officer as the BIA's President and CEO.

Members of the Board of Direc-

tors are Holly Auwinger and Phil Bodem, both with TRI Pointe Homes; Jose Bodipo-Memba, SMUD; Bonnie Chiu, D.R. Horton; Tina Cruce, Tim Lewis Communities; Ray Ferrarini, Beazer Homes; Brian Hanly, Next Generation Capital; Stan Mette, Wood Rodgers; Nikky Mohanna, Mohanna Development; Michael Paris, BlackPine Communities; Ed Perez, Rain Bird; Clifton Taylor, Taylor Builders; Michael Wagener, Marquee Media; Price Walker, Elliott Homes; and Rick Wylie, Villara Building Systems.

In addition, the BIA is recognizing four individuals for their support of housing.

#### **The award winners are:**

Jim Ray, principal and president of the MacKay and Soms civil engineering firm, who was presented with the Chairman's Award; Phil Rodriguez, vice president for planned community development for Lewis Planned Communities, who received the President's Award; Christopher

Brown, principal with NEXT New Homes Group, who was honored with the Meritorious Award; and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, who received Friend of Housing honors.

These leaders continue making a difference for homebuilding and the ability of Sacramento-area families to buy a new home. Thank you for your service.

The North State BIA is the leading advocate for the homebuilding industry in the greater Sacramento region.

Representing over 500 members, which employ 50,000 people in the region, the BIA is committed to preserving and furthering the economic interests of its members while also working to enhance the industry's standing as a significant contributor to the regional economy.

Additionally, the BIA also serves as the umbrella organization for HomeAid Sacramento and the North State Building Industry Foundation.