

Scouting America
National Capital Area Council

10TH ANNUAL

**PREPARED.
FOR LIFE.**

Gala



Eric Hoplin

President & CEO,
National Association of
Wholesaler-Distributors

Hospitality Good Scout Honoree



Kevin Burke

President & CEO,
Airports Council International

John Graham IV
Association Executive Award



**Congressman
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.**

United States House of Representatives
Citizen of the Year



Shirley Contracting

**Leadership in Corporate
Responsibility Award**



Cullen Bengtson

**Baden Powell Award-Honoree
Volunteer of the Year**



Michelle Mason

President & CEO, ASAE
Gala Co-Chair



Keven Keane

**CEO of the American Beverage
Association
Gala Co-Chair**

Eric Hoplin is President and CEO of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW), which represents the \$8.2 trillion wholesale distribution industry, that powers one-third of the American economy by delivering the essential products businesses need to serve customers across nearly every sector of commerce.

Since joining NAW in 2020, Hoplin has led a transformative period of growth, more than doubling the size of the organization. Under his leadership, NAW launched new capabilities in analytics and AI, and it acquired Modern Distribution Management (MDM), which significantly broadened NAW's reach and impact across the industry. In the advocacy arena, NAW launched the Legal Policy Center and has expanded into handling state-based issues in addition to federal. A strong believer in the vital role wholesale distribution plays in the American economy and way of life, he is committed to positioning distributors for long-term success through advocacy, thought leadership, and innovation.

A seasoned executive and communicator, Hoplin previously served as Head of External Relations for Wells Fargo, where he led initiatives to enhance the company's reputation and advance pro-growth policy objectives through partnerships across the political spectrum. Before that, he was Executive Director at the Financial Services Roundtable (now BPI), representing the CEOs of the nation's largest financial firms. He also worked in management consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton, advising senior government leaders, and earlier in his career, worked in politics, supporting numerous congressional, gubernatorial, and presidential campaigns.

Hoplin is a leader in the charitable community, where he serves on the Board of the Trust for the National Mall, the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors, and the Corporate Advisory Board for So Others Might Eat (SOME). He's a prolific fundraiser, having raised millions of dollars for charitable organizations, NGOs, and political causes.

A Minnesota native, Hoplin holds a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University, an M.B.A. from Augsburg College, a B.A. in political science and communications from St. Olaf College, and a certificate in Change Management from Georgetown University McDonough School of Business. Eric has spent the last 11 years as a den leader for Cub Scout Pack 987. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Order of the Arrow, and proud father of three boys each working their way toward earning the rank of Eagle and Arrow of Light. They hiked 50 miles this summer at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Eric and his wife Nicole, live in Oakton, VA.

Kevin M. Burke joined Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) as President and Chief Executive Officer in January of 2014. Since he joined ACI-NA, Burke has expanded ACI-NA's reach and influence as the Voice of Airports® in North America by amplifying the important role airports play in our everyday lives, unifying the industry behind shared priorities, and advancing a common cause with non-traditional allies.

In addition to his proven government relations background and immense experience managing associations, Burke is a visionary leader who serves the airport industry as a passionate advocate for legislative and regulatory policies that strengthen the ability for airports to serve their passengers, customers, and communities.

Prior to joining ACI-NA, he served for 13 years as President and CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA). Growing its member programs, its financial position, its standing on Capitol Hill and around the world are among his many accomplishments at AAFA.

Burke began his career in 1979 at the Republican National Committee and later the Reagan-Bush Presidential Campaign, where he served as Outreach Director for the campaign's Nationalities Division. Following the campaign, he moved to Capitol Hill to work as a legislative assistant and later press secretary to Representative Norm Lent (R-NY). Burke has more than 30 years of experience as a government relations professional, having previously led government affairs efforts for Food Distributors International, the American Bakers Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters.

Burke is a graduate of American University in Washington D.C., with a Master's degree in Public Administration. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from the State University of New York at Brockport. Kevin and his wife Barbara Ianniello reside in Great Falls, Virginia.

Michelle Mason, FASAE, CAE, serves as the President and CEO of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), where she is focused on advancing the professional practice of association management. Prior to ASAE, Michelle served as the President and CEO of Association Forum for seven years; as Managing Director of Strategy and Innovation at the American Society for Quality (ASQ); and Vice President of Strategic and Future Focused Research Programs at ASAE. Michelle currently serves on Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, Destinations International Foundation, and Tourism Diversity Matters (TDM).

Michelle is a Chicago Business Journal Women of Influence Honoree 2019; Chicago Defender Women of Excellence Honoree 2019; the CEO Update Professional Society CEO of the Year 2020; and Smart Women in Meetings Hall of Fame inductee 2022. Michelle is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), Fellow of the American Society for Association Executives (FASAE) and a Certified Quality Improvement Associate (CQIA).

Chairperson 2025

Michelle Mason

President & CEO

ASAE