



Congratulations 2022 Frank Award Winners

On Nov. 10, I had the privilege of attending The Cannata Report's 37th Annual Awards and Charities Gala, themed "Shake It Up," held at The Madison Hotel in Morristown, New Jersey. It is always a very enjoyable event, attended by both dealers and vendors. Congratulations to Frank, Carol and CJ Cannata — and the rest of the team at The Cannata Report — for their collective efforts in hosting such a wonderful event.



Congratulations, too, to the 2022 Frank Award winners. Following are the winners listed in the order they were announced at the event:

- **Best Production Print Manufacturer:** Ricoh USA
- **Best A4 Manufacturer:** KYOCERA Document Solutions America
- **Best in Class:** Sharp Imaging and Information Company of America
- **Best Diversification Partner (new this year):** ConnectWise
- **Best Marketing Strategy:** Sharp Imaging and Information Company of America
- **Best ECM/Document Management Software Provider:** DocuWare
- **Best Print Management Software Provider:** ACDI and PaperCut
- **Best IT and Security Services Provider:** ConnectWise
- **Best Technical Service Provider:** Ricoh USA
- **Best Leasing Company:** GreatAmerica Financial Services
- **Best Female Executive:** Laura Blackmer, president of dealer sales, Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A.
- **Best Male Executive:** Mike Marusic, president and CEO, Sharp Imaging and Information Company of America

■ **Best Manufacturer:** Sharp Imaging and Information Company of America

In addition to the Frank Awards, two special awards were bestowed. Larry Weiss, CEO of Atlantic Tomorrow's Office, was presented with the Frank G. Cannata Philanthropy Award for his support of a wide array of charitable organizations, including The Mariano Rivera Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation and the Jillian Fund, among others. Weiss, a board member of The Mariano Rivera Foundation, was congratulated at the gala by Baseball Hall of Famer Mariano Rivera via a video tribute.

Mike Jones, president of vendor equipment finance, CIT Business Capital, a division of First Citizens Bank, was also honored, receiving The Cannata Report's Veteran's Award in recognition of his military service and dedication to helping fellow veterans transition from military life to the workforce. Jones is devoted to many veterans' initiatives, including Wounded Warrior Project and Operation New Uniform, where he serves as a board member.

Through the years, the gala has served as a fundraiser. This year's event raised \$180,000 to create the Marie Cusumano Endowed Scholarship at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, located in Nutley, New Jersey. The scholarship serves as a memorial to Frank's late sister. Beginning in the spring of 2024, the Marie Cusumano Endowed Scholarship will provide funds to a student selected by the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine's academic board. To date, The Cannata Report's Annual Awards & Charities Gala has raised \$1.5 million for endeavors funded by Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation and has collectively raised more than \$3 million for many charitable organizations nationwide. ■

— Brent Hoskins

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FLASHBACK



The association's magazine cover 58 years ago this month — the NOMDA Spokesman, December 1964.