

## **Mario Guertin – Co-owner**

Mario came into the painting industry in 1989 with a strong business background, which includes an MBA, a CPA, a BBA and many years of experience in the financial and consulting areas. However, knowing little about the painting industry, Mario set out to learn as much as possible about how to build a great painting company by joining the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) and surrounding himself with the most successful painting contractors he could find.

Mario has always believed that the best way to help himself is to help others. That inspired him to get involved in the leadership of the national association for painting contractors, (PDCA) as a volunteer. In 1996, he founded the PDCA Schaumburg Chapter and three years later founded the PDCA Lincoln State Council to better represent the needs of open-shop contractors in Illinois and at the national level. Having recognized that the lack of work standards in the painting industry was hurting the entire industry and consumers alike, Mario acted in 2000 to found the PDCA Craftsmanship Forum, a group dedicated to the advancement of craftsmanship across the industry. The group's primary mission currently consists in the development of Craftsmanship Operating Procedures (COPs) for the US residential painting industry. As president of the Forum, Mario wrote over 15 articles on different aspects of craftsmanship, management and leadership ([Click Here](#) for a sampling).

Mario's passion for the painting industry, coupled with his commitment to be of service to all participants in the industry, has enabled him to lead Painting in Partnership into becoming a company with national notoriety for its craftsmanship and corporate excellence. In 2006, Painting in Partnership became the first painting company in the United States to become nationally accredited under the new PDCA accreditation program. In 2006, the company won the National Residential Interior Award. In 2007, the company made a sweep of the national awards for mid-size companies by winning *both* the Interior and Exterior National Residential Awards. Lastly, in 2007, Mario was chosen as Top Honoree for Residential Small Business in the "Who's Who in the Painting Industry", published by the *American Painting Contractor*, a painting industry publication since 1923.