



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: 11AM on October 1, 2020 (please hold until then)

Chamber Announces Award Winners

MASON CITY—Northwestern Steakhouse received the *Business of the Year* award at the 104th Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. The restaurant is owned by Bill and Ann Papouchis and celebrated its 100th year in operation in July. Due to the pandemic, the annual meeting event was held at Cinema West Theatre, and the program was presented as a movie simultaneously in all ten auditoriums to achieve appropriate physical distancing.

Clear Lake Bank & Trust, REG-Mason City, and 98.7 Kiss Country / 103.7 The Fox served as corporate sponsors for the event, which featured a Hollywood Premiere theme.

Matt Curtis, owner-operator at Wayne's Ski & Cycle, received the *Boss of the Year* award based upon a nomination submitted by Wayne's staff members. They described Curtis as a caring leader with a deep commitment to the physical and mental well-being of his customers and staff. He promotes the entire bicycling community in North Iowa and beyond.

This year's *Distinguished Citizen Award* was presented to Waldo Smeby. Smeby serves the community in various volunteer capacities, oftentimes behind the scenes. He received special recognition for the creation of the Jan Again Foundation. The foundation was instrumental in Mason City's Blue Zones Project efforts and especially in the new MercyOne Behavioral Health Center. The *Distinguished Citizen* is selected each year on the basis of

leadership, membership and participation in community organizations, length of residence, and active service to the community.

Each year, the Chamber teams up with CG Public Health to recognize a worksite that emulates total worker health and well-being with the *Workplace Wellness Award*. This year, two local manufacturers went above and beyond customary health and wellness standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. Assa Abloy-CURRIES and Smithfield Foods were recognized for programs such as on-site clinics and testing, remote work, and re-working production lines to accommodate physical distancing.

The Ambassadors annually present an award to one of their committee members who shows exemplary support of the Chamber. Abigail Lee of Lee Realty was named Ambassador of the Year in recognition of her commitment and hard work.

Outgoing chamber board members were recognized for their service. Board members completing terms are: Rodney Huber, Huber Supply Company; Scott Smith, Diamond Jo Casino-Worth County; and Jamie Nelson, Coloff Media.

Tyler Kerr, Plant Manager at REG-Mason City, LLC is chairperson of the chamber board and presided over the meeting. Andy Meyer, architect and principal with Bergland + Cram Architects, will serve as chairman of the board for the year ahead.

Photos:

Bill & Ann Papouchis

Matt Curtis

Waldo Smeby

Abigail Lee

Tyler Kerr

Andy Meyer