



FORT • ATKINSON

FORT ATKINSON AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Yearly Awards

## Economic Contribution Award

1973 - Doris Masters/Gus Klatt  
1974 - Bill Stark  
1975 - Hugh Highsmith  
1976 - Harold Logan  
1977 - Norm Godfrey  
1978 - Elmore Klement  
1979 - Dick Klopccic  
1980 - Gordon Day  
1981 - Ben Beebe  
1982 - Gene Meyer  
1983 - Ed Garthwait  
1984 - Bill Knox  
1985 - Al Haukom  
1986 - Jim Weiss  
1987 - Sheldon Mielke  
1988 - Moore's Food Products  
1989 - Arthur Nesbitt  
1990 - John McKenzie  
1991 - Ted Batterman  
1992 - Joel Winn  
1993 - Gary Schimek  
1994 - Leslie Family  
1995 - Joseph Tate  
1996 - Hartel Family  
1997 - Dianne Hrobsky  
1998 - John Neill  
1999 - John Albaugh  
2000 - Fort Atkinson School District  
2001 - James Vance  
2002 - Randall Knox  
2003 - FA Community Foundation  
2004 - Jones family  
2005 - Fort HealthCare  
2006 - John Wilmet  
2007 - Spacesaver Corporation  
2008 - Larry & Sherry Starkweather  
2009 - Steven Zimmerman  
2010 - John Anderson/Steve Wiesmann  
2011 - NASCO  
2012 - Dave Bienfang  
2013 - Digi-Star  
2014 - Wisconsin Packaging Corp.  
2015 - Jones Dairy Farm  
2016 - Ball Corporation  
2017 - Fort Community Credit Union  
2018 - Lumani/Beqiri Family  
2019 - CBF Investments, LLC  
2020 - No Award Given  
2021 - Opportunities, Madison Area Technical College,  
Crown of Life Christian Academy, City of Fort Atkinson  
2022 - Waterfront Restaurant Group  
2023 - Green Bay Packaging  
2024 - Fort HealthCare



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## Tourism Counts

- 1993 The Fireside Dinner Theatre (Rick Klopccic)
- 1994 Roger Kriedeman
- 1995 Marilyn Thorndycraft
- 1996 Gus Klatt
- 1997 June Brandow (The Fireside)
- 1998 Mike & Debbie Rusch (Lamp Post Inn B&B)
- 1999 Don Schink
- 2000 The City of Fort Atkinson
- 2001 Hoard Historical Museum
- 2002 High Pointe Properties (Sandy Mayer)
- 2003 Fort Atkinson Beautification Council
- 2004 Jefferson County Bicycle Club
- 2005 Rudy Bushcott
- 2006 Holiday Inn Express
- 2007 Fort Community Foundation
- 2008 Dennis & Gerry Rybicke (LaGrange B&B)
- 2009 Steve Cline (Jellystone Park)
- 2010 Cynthia Holt (Farmer's Market development)
- 2011 Fort Atkinson Generals Baseball
- 2012 Café Carpe
- 2013 Sue Zimmerman
- 2014 Koshkonong Mounds Country Club
- 2015 2 Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor
- 2016 Busy Barns Adventure Farm
- 2017 Joel Winn (Buckskinners Rendezvous)
- 2018 Friends of Lorine Neidecker
- 2019 Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation
- 2020 Jim & Christa Bowers (Island Bar & Grill, North Shore Chophouse, The Bridge/Good 2 Go)
- 2021 Ryan & Kristi Klopccic
- 2022 W & A Distribution
- 2023 Bait Box On the Rock
- 2024 Merrilee Lee (Hoard Historical Museum)



# Chamber Yearly Awards

## Small Business Person of the Year

- 1980 Doug Hartel  
Bill Weh
- 1988 Ted Batterman, Spacesaver
- 1990 Barb Congdon, Robin's Nest
- 1991 Jim Vos, Sentry
- 1992 Tom Goyer, Ace Hardware
- 1993 Tim Humphrey, Humphrey Floral
- 1994 Randy Marion, Fort Vision Clinic
- 1995 Tom Gobel, Gobel & Bender
- 1996 Frank Brown, Badger Press
- 1997 Fred Negus Sr., Wisconsin Packaging
- 1998 Helmut Ajango, Helmut Ajango Architect
- 1999 Daryl Spoerl, Havill-Spoerl
- 2000 John Anderson & Steve Wiesmann, W&A Distribution
- 2001 Tom & Coral Becker, Subway
- 2002 Lee Jonas, Jonas Office Products
- 2003 Don & Bill Hausz, Hausz Bros.
- 2004 Mark McGlynn, IPEC
- 2005 Jack Blodgett, Blodgett Garden Center
- 2006 Jack & Sharon Logan, Blackhawk Senior Residence
- 2007 Harry Bos, Bos Design Builders
- 2008 Lee Moldenhauer, Wood Design
- 2009 Vince Kent, Abendroth Water
- 2010 Jon Tuttle, Tuttle's Pharmacy
- 2011 Randy Schopen, Capn's Steakhouse
- 2012 Kurt Chapman, Sport N Spine Clinic
- 2013 Dan Lecher, Frostie Freeze
- 2014 Jim Goyer, Ace Hardware
- 2015 Mike Bender, Bender, Kind & Stafford DDS
- 2016 Tammy Meinel, Beauty and the Bean
- 2017 Paul & Marsha Krueger, Krueger Jeweler
- 2018 Jim Hedrick, Badger Basement Systems
- 2019 Eli Cloute, Cloute, Inc.
- 2020 Erin Patterson, Paddy Coughlin's Pub
- 2021 Lisa Tuttle Woods, Tuttle's Hallmark
- 2022 Dave Stotesbery, Effortless Elegance LLC
- 2023 Brandon Felmlee, K&F Auto Sales & Service
- 2024 Ericka Ewelt - Beauty and the Bean





# Chamber Yearly Awards

## Friend of the Chamber

- 1997 John McKenzie - For years of work to bring a health insurance program to our chamber.
- 1997 Steve Seaman- For designing the chamber's first web site.
- 1997 Roger & Denise Kriedeman - For years of volunteer efforts in Tourism
- 1998 Steve Zimmerman - Education projects leadership & facilitating Project LEAD
- 1998 Mary Heagney - Dairy Breakfast leadership
- 1998 Sheldon Mielke - Partnering with chamber on economic development
- 1998 Vickie Raatz - Dairy Breakfast leadership
- 1998 Bob Martin - cooperation and partnership (city/chamber)
- 1998 Vern Falk - Dairy Breakfast leadership
- 1999 Don Schink - Development of tourism/room tax
- 1999 Shirley Brown - Dairy Breakfast leadership
- 1999 Leo Roethe - help with chamber history
- 1999 Tom Goyer - Dairy Breakfast leadership
- 1999 Tom Belzer - Song writing and performing for chamber
- 1999 EDUCATOR - Jerry McGowan for facilitating Project LEAD (2 years)
- 1999 EDUCATOR - Jerry Keiser for facilitating Project LEAD (2 years)
- 2000 Carolyn Burtch - Wedding Fair leadership
- 2000 Vince Kent - Home Show leadership
- 2000 Joni Schultz - Education projects leadership
- 2000 Mark Maas - Plowing parking lot every year @ no charge
- 2000 Harley Peterson - Golf outing leadership
- 2000 EDUCATOR - Melody Wachter for partnership with 8th Grade Project Business
- 2001 Chamber's new Quality of Life Book (completely done in house)
- Brian and Heidi Saunders
- Al Haukom
- Eve Horton
- Sally O'Brien
- Gary Gramley
- 2001 Kim Patrick - Christmas Parade leadership
- 2001 Jim Vance - Contributions in numerous chamber projects that insure success
- 2001 EDUCATOR - Jeff Zaspel for facilitating Project LEAD (2 years)
- 2002 Bob Selberg - years as treasurer converting our big black ledger book
- 2002 Gary Moen - LEAD Facilitator
- 2002 Mark Zastrow - LEAD Facilitator
- 2003 EDUCATOR - Rick Looze for working with us on numerous projects over his career
- 2004 EDUCATOR - Vern Jordan for partnering with chamber on school to work initiatives
- 2005 Jim Callies - for assistance with computer technology, etc.
- 2006 Lynn Forseth - MATC for assisting with our school/business and training programs
- 2007 Dr. James Fitzpatrick - for assisting with our school/business efforts & Project LEAD
- 2008 Cynthia Holt & Beth Gehred - for coordinating the Farmers Market
- 2008 Joel Winn - appeared in Buckskinners video for Discover Wisconsin
- 2009
- 2010 Tony Bolz - LEAD Facilitator
- 2011
- 2012 Helen Rose - Administrative Secretary for the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation
- 2012 Elene Wagner - for chairing the Holiday Parade for 10 years
- 2012 Dan Lansing - for assisting with the Chamber Brat Stand, FBLA, Rhythm on the River, Wine & Stein
- 2013 Maria Perez
- 2014
- 2015 Jim Callies, CompuFort - for assisting with all our computer problems
- 2016 Michael Clish - for being a constant promoter of Fort Atkinson
- 2017 Chris Brown - for all his years as stage manager at Rhythm on the River
- 2018 Chris Scherer - for all the technology, music, and entertainment he provides at chamber functions
- 2019 Brandon Housley - for recruiting four new members and being a super volunteer at our farmer's market
- 2020
- 2021 Alisha Bade - Fort Farmers Market
- 2022 Tammy Schwartz - for mentoring new staff and providing accounting advice
- 2023 Sherry Stelse
- 2024 John Scott



# Chamber Yearly Awards

## Coollest Thing Made in Fort Atkinson

### **Small Businesses: 50 Employees or Less**

2020: Ryan Ebert - Handmade Spear Fishing Decoys

2021: Hippie Chick Penny's Soap - Skin Care Line

2022: Broadway Bakers - Gourmet Cookies

2024: Papa Brunks Bakery - Mint Moon Cake

### **Large Businesses: 50 Employees or More**

2018: C.H.A.R.L.I.E - Nasco

2019: Spacesaver - Mobile Storage System

2020: Spacesaver - Mobile Storage System

2021: Jones Dairy Farm

2022: Spacesaver

2024: Topcon - Agricultural Positioning Sensor

## Ambassador of the Year

2006: Rochelle Mitchell

2007: Steve Zimmerman

2008: Coral Becker

2009: Coral Becker

2010: Chuck Jacobson

2011: Mary Jo Stasch

2012: Rochelle Mitchell

2013: Rochelle Mitchell

2014: Dave Bienfang

2016: Jeff Theder

2017: Chris Scherer

2018: Chris Scherer

2019: Chris Scherer

2020: Tom Dehnert

2021: Diane Rue

2022: Rochelle Mitchell

2024: Whitney Townsend