



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Business of the Year Award is presented to a business/organization able to demonstrate outstanding leadership and vision, successful performance and substantial growth, and able to serve as an inspiration to other businesses. The award is designed to recognize and reward a business or organization that has invested in the region by creating economic success in the Greater Watertown Area and continually gives back to the community.

The annual Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Awards will be presented on Thursday March 23, 2017, at the Watertown Elks Lodge 496. Top organizations will be recognized during this prestigious event for their outstanding contributions to our community.

Award categories of recognition are open to all chamber members. Nominations include: Emerging Business Award, The Greater Watertown-North Country Farm and Craft Market Vendor of the Year, Non-Profit 50 or fewer, Non-Profit 51 or more, Small Business, and Large Business of the Year Award.

Companies and individuals may submit self-nominations or enter other companies. A distinguished panel of judges will review nomination forms, deliberate and choose a winner in each category.

If your organization has already previously won, you cannot nominate yourself again.

Please complete the following nomination form and submit it to the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All nomination forms must be received by 4:00 pm on March 6, 2017

- Please be sure to fill out all forms completely and reference letters are attached.
- Questions? Contact Stephanie Mason at (315) 788-4400 or events@watertownny.com
- Nomination forms may be emailed to: events@watertownny.com
Faxed to: (315) 788-3369
Mailed to: Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce
1241 Coffeen Street
Watertown, NY 13601
- The awards luncheon and presentation will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2017. Invitations will be mailed to all winners

NOMINATION FORM

1. Review the category descriptions on the following pages. Choose the appropriate category for the company you want to nominate. A company may only be nominated in one category. Please note that the judges reserve the right to re-assign a nominee to another category that may be more appropriate.
2. If you wish to nominate a company other than your own, complete sections A, C, and F below. If you are nominating yourself, please fill out all sections below (A-F) and continue to the section that you are applying for.
3. Please return to the appropriate category description and answer all questions listed. You must supply both the information below and the answers to the category-specific questions in order for your nomination to be accepted.

A. Company Name: _____
CEO or Primary Owner: _____
Company Address: _____
Phone: _____ Company Website: _____

B. Year Founded: _____ Current Number of Full-time Employees: _____ Current Number of Part-time Employees: _____
Company Mission: _____

C. Nominators Information, if different from above
Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

All of the information presented on this form is true to the best of my knowledge

Signature: _____ Title: _____
Print Name: _____

D. Two supporting letters of reference are required, preferably from a customer/vendor, banker, accountant, lawyer.

E. Please check that category which you would like your nomination to be considered. Category descriptions and nomination instructions are on the following pages. Nominees may enter only one category.

Business of the Year Award

Emerging Business Award

Farm & Craft Market Vendor of the Year

Non-Profit 50 or Fewer Employees

Non-Profit 51 or more employees

Small Business

Large Business

Submission Instructions:

Nomination forms can be emailed to: events@watertownny.com

Faxed to (315) 788-3369 ATTN: Stephanie

Mailed to: 1241 Coffeen Street

Watertown, NY 13601

Deadline: 4:00pm on March 6, 2017

EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

Complete this section to be considered for the Emerging Business of the Year Award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any company that has been in business for five years or less and that has significant operations in Jefferson, Lewis, or St. Lawrence County. May not have previously won Emerging or Entrepreneur Business of the Year Award. Nominees do not need to be a Chamber member. Business cannot be a buy-out of an existing company.

CRITERIA

Company will be recognized as an up and coming business based on the actual or potential growth of its business, innovative products, or services.

Please answer and type your responses.

1. Give a brief background of the company's history.
2. Briefly describe the company's actual growth rate and potential growth.
3. Describe the company's products or services and their marketing strategies. (What gives them a competitive advantage?)
4. Describe the work environment and employee relations.
5. Describe major challenges the company has overcome.
6. List the company's community involvement in civic and non-profit groups.

NON-PROFIT AWARD

Complete this section to be considered for the Non-Profit Business of the Year Award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any non-profit organization that is a 501(c) (3) organization and has been in operation for over five years. The organization must be a Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber member in good standing. May not have previously won a Non-Profit Business of the Year Award from the GWNCC.

CRITERIA

The organization is recognized as an outstanding model of mission achievement and community impact.

Please answer and type your responses.

1. Describe the mission of the organization.
2. Briefly describe how the organization impact the community and their involvement.
3. What are the organization's most significant accomplishments?
4. Briefly describe customer service/client satisfaction. Identify any awards that may have been won.
5. Describe your fundraising campaigns that your organization created that exceeded your own expectations. (How did you appeal to donors? What were your goals? Did you achieve or exceed them? How did you come up with the campaign?)

SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

Complete this section to be considered for the Small Business of the Year Award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any for-profit company that has been in business for five years or more and a member of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce in good standing. The organization must employ no more than 50 full-time and part-time employees. May not have previously won a Business of the Year Award from the GWNCC.

CRITERIA

Company will be recognized for demonstrating achievement and innovation in management, product development and having commitment to growth in the Greater Watertown-North Country region.

Please answer and type your responses.

1. Please provide the number of employees your business employs. (Full time/ Part time)
2. Briefly describe the business history, including its products and/or services offered. Include what makes your business stand out and what awards and recognitions your company has received.
3. Describe growth and/or stability for the business, sales volume, location (possible expansion), and expanded or enhanced services to clients.
4. Describe the strategic vision and management philosophy.
5. Briefly describe any business challenges your business has faced and how they're being addressed.
6. Describe innovation and creativity in areas of product development, marketing, etc. you use in your business.
7. Describes your business's community involvement.

LARGE BUSINESS AWARD

Complete this section to be considered for the Large Business of the Year Award.

ELIGIBILITY

Any for-profit company that has been in business for five years or more and a member of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce in good standing. The organization must employ more than 51 full-time and part-time employees. May not have previously won a Business of the Year Award from the GWNCC.

CRITERIA

Company will be recognized for demonstrating achievement and innovation in management, product development and having commitment to growth in the Greater Watertown-North Country region.

Please answer and type your responses.

1. Please provide the number of employees your business employs. (Full time/ Part time)
2. Briefly describe the business history, including its products and/or services offered. Include what makes your business stand out and what awards and recognitions your company has received.
3. Describe growth and/or stability for the business, sales volume, location (possible expansion), and expanded or enhanced services to clients.
4. Describe the strategic vision and management philosophy.
5. Briefly describe any business challenges your business has faced and how they're being addressed.
6. Describe innovation and creativity in areas of product development, marketing, etc. you use in your business.
7. Describes your business's community involvement.

FARM & CRAFT VENDOR AWARD

Complete this section to be considered for the Farm and Craft Vendor of the Year Award.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations are open to all reserved vendors in good standing, who participated in the 2016 season, and have been a vendor at the market for at least three consecutive years. Vendors may nominate themselves or another market vendor. **Nominees do not need to be a Chamber member.**

CRITERIA

The Vendor of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding Vendor for his/her work and accomplishments related to the GWNC Farm and Craft Market

Please answer and type your responses.

1. Brief history on the vendor.
2. Please provide a brief description of product(s) and how they add value to the market.
3. Describe the approach the establish and maintain strong connections with customers. Mention any creative marketing that was used.
4. Describe if the nominee serves as a leader and a role model to other vendors, willingly sharing their knowledge with them and is committed to observing the rules and regulations of the market.
5. Describe the nominee's involvement and participation in any trade associations and/or civic and community organizations.