

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

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SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

WATKINS GLEN, NY – The Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce will be presenting their annual awards at the 2017 Winter Gala on January 20, 2017. Nominations are being sought for four awards including Community Spirit, Lifetime Achievement, Leader in Business, and The Max Neal Award. The award criteria for consideration are listed below. Community members are invited to nominate deserving individuals!

Community Spirit Award – must be awarded to a business and/or individual that has demonstrated leadership and excellence in philanthropy; must have encouraged civic initiatives, and/or facilitated humanitarianism; made a significant contribution within the last five years; positively impacted the community in which the business operates.

Lifetime Achievement Award – may include a successful partnership of one or more persons; must own or manage a local business and have taken business risks to create jobs or trade over a period of time; must have demonstrated staying power as an established business; must be actively involved in community and civic organizations in Schuyler County over the last 15 years; must be of the stature as to keep the award prestigious and compliment past/future winners; must be respected and recognized throughout the community; and must be a resident or own/manage a business in Schuyler County.

Leader in Business – must have made a dynamic contribution to the Schuyler County business community within the last decade; must have expanded the business mix in Schuyler County; continues to foster economic opportunity such as creating new job opportunities; must have assumed considerable risk; highly respected entrepreneur.

The Max Neal Award – must have demonstrated consistent dedication, selflessness, faith, determination, and solid support in the future and well-being of the Chamber; must have made it clear to the Community that they recognize the Chamber as their Schuyler County organization of choice; is an amazing investor and mentor into the future leadership of Schuyler County; must be well-respected, highly honored and beloved by the residents of Schuyler County; and must have served on a committee or the board of directors or been employed by the Chamber for a minimum of five years.

Nomination forms can be found on the Chamber website: <https://www.watkinsglenchamber.com/winter-gala>. Please note that past award recipients are also listed on the forms. The deadline for the receipt of the nominations is **Friday, December 9**.

For more information please contact Chamber President and CEO Rebekah Carroll, via email (rebekah@watkinsglenchamber.com) or phone (607-535-4300).

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