

**\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

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### **Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce to honor Award Winners at Winter Gala**

Watkins Glen, NY – On Saturday, January 20, 2018, the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Winter Gala presented by Visions Federal Credit Union at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel. The evening, which will feature a Great Gatsby theme includes champagne on arrival, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour, silent auction, live auction, Stock Your Cellar Wine Pull (and a chance to win a big cash prize!), a Casino Speakeasy, live music by the Rochester Rat Pack, a delicious dinner, and of course, the program honoring this year's award winners. The Chamber is honored to announce the following awards:

**The Community Spirit Award** is awarded to a member of the Chamber (a business or an individual) that has demonstrated leadership and excellence in philanthropy. The Community Spirit Award winner also encourages civic initiatives, facilitates humanitarianism, and positively impacts their community. The Community Spirit Award will go to Dena Carrigan of Chemung Canal Trust Company.

**The Leader in Business** is awarded to a member of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce that has made a dynamic contribution to the Schuyler County business community within the last decade, expanded the business mix in Schuyler County, and continues to foster economic opportunity, while assuming considerable risk and being a highly respected entrepreneur. The Leader in Business Award will go to Dan Bower of Watkins Brewery Vacation Rentals and Hunt Engineers.

**The Ambassador of the Year** is awarded to the Ambassador that has demonstrated complete dedication, investment, and leadership in the Chamber and its Ambassador Program. The Ambassador of the Year Award will go to Bill Sitzman, longtime Chamber volunteer and patron.

**The Max Neal Award** is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated consistent dedication, selflessness, faith, determination, and solid support in the future and well-being of the Chamber. This individual has made it clear to the community that they recognize the Chamber as their Schuyler County organization of choice and further, invests and mentors the future leadership of Schuyler County; must be well-respected, highly honored and beloved by the residents of Schuyler County. This individual must have served on a committee or board of directors or been employed by the Chamber for a minimum of five years. The Max Neal Award will go to Tony Fraboni of Community Bank, NA.



Dena Carrigan  
Community Spirit  
Award Winner



Dan Bower  
Leader in Business  
Award Winner



Bill Sitzman  
Ambassador  
of the Year



Tony Fraboni  
Max Neal  
Award Winner

Chamber President and CEO Rebekah Carroll shares, "This is always an evening to remember. Our Great Gatsby theme promises to deliver an elegant experience. We look forward to honoring our award winners and enjoying a wonderful night of dining and entertainment with all of our Chamber and community friends."

New this year, Magician Doug Welch will perform strolling and table side magic tricks and illusions! In addition, there will be a Casino Speakeasy where you can try your hand at games of chance. Space is limited and this event is always a sellout. Be sure to get your tickets today! Tickets are \$85 per person and tables of 10 are available as well. To purchase tickets, call Events Manager Anna Rainous at 607-535-4300.

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