



Nominate Businesses for the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce 2016 – 2017 Annual Chamber Awards

It's time to start thinking of local businesses and companies that deserve recognition for their achievements and contributions to the community. The Chamber is accepting nominations for its 2016 Business of the Year, Business Advocate of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Awards and wants your help in finding worthy candidates to be honored. Don't hesitate to nominate more than one business or yourself if you feel you merit consideration for one of these awards. Please make your nomination before February 15, 2017.

Business of the Year, which will go to a business that will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Staying power, a substantiated history as an established business
- Growth in number of employees: a benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market
- Increase in sales and/or unit volume: an indication of continued growth
- Innovativeness of product or service offered: illustrations of the creativity and imagination of the nominee
- Response to adversity: examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them
- Evidence of contributions by nominee to aid community-oriented projects: through the use of personal time and other resources

Business Advocate of the Year, which will go to a business or group that has supported and advanced the interest of the business community, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance the business community
- Effective support within the community for the establishment of new businesses
- Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement
- Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's merit as an effective advocate for business interests

Lifetime Achievement Award, which will go to a business or individual (active or retired) that has been in business in the Blackstone area for over 20 years and will be evaluated by the following:

- Demonstrated exemplary commitment to the community above and beyond business contributions
- Service to the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
- Established ability to be successful in changing times
- Advocate for business in the Greater Blackstone area

The Chamber considers any company in the Blackstone area for nomination. Nominees must be current Chamber members in good standing. Winners will receive an engraved plaque at the Annual Meeting and the Chamber will publicize their honors through the media and our website (www.blackstoneva.com)

