

January 23, 2020

To: All Media

From: San Angelo Chamber of Commerce

The following is a list of the awards that will be presented this evening, as well as the actual scripts that will be utilized during the presentations. **All of the award recipient names are confidential until they are announced at the Banquet.**

Outgoing 2019 Chairman Sheryl Pfluger will make the following presentations:

Outstanding Member

Awarded to: San Angelo To Go

A dream of three childhood friends, San Angelo To Go has been providing restaurant and grocery delivery services in the Concho Valley since October 2015. In January of 2019 San Angelo To Go expanded their services to now include catering services. The business has experienced great success and growth. In 2018 they delivered 71,000 orders and fulfilled 86,000 orders in 2019 thanks to the hard work and dedication of their 5 shift leaders, 97 drivers, and 1 general manager. San Angelo To Go has been an active Chamber member, including serving on the Concho Cadre, volunteering at the Business Expo, Goodfellow Appreciation Day, and West Texas Legislative Summit.

Outstanding Director

Awarded to: Janis Baucom

Janis Baucom is the owner of Walls & Windows, office manager for Pierce Miller, and has been a member of the Chamber for 30 years. With years of experience coordinating the Home and Garden Show, Janis brought her expertise and new ideas to the Chamber's Business Expo, overhauling the Expo to breathe new life into it. She has made the Expo a massive success and an event to build on. Janis gives her all in everything she does and is the first person to volunteer or help in any way she can.

Outstanding Chairman

Awarded to: Dr. Brook Dickison with special appreciation to Joanne Powell, Cheryl DeCordova, Laura Lewis, and Evan Thomas

For over 15 years, the Chamber has been fortunate to host the West Texas Legislative Summit. Held in August each year, it rotates between federal and state issues. The 16th Annual West Texas Legislative Summit in 2019 was a federal year and focused on international trade. With the help of Congressman Mike Conaway, Senator Charles Perry, and Representative Drew Darby the event was a tremendous success. Leading the planning and implementation of the event was Dr. Brook Dickison. Dr. Dickison is an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at Angelo State University and the chairman of the West Texas Legislative Summit planning committee. Her passion and dedication to the event has helped it continue to grow and succeed.

Dr. Dickison would be the first to tell you that something as big as the West Texas Legislative Summit does not fall together nor happen with a couple of phone calls. It takes an entire team of dedicated individuals working

behind the scenes to make everything happen. The Chamber also recognizes the following individuals with a Special Appreciation Award:

- JoAnne Powell, regional director for Congressman Mike Conaway
- Evan Thomas, district director for Congressman Mike Conaway
- Laura Lewis, district director for Senator Charles Perry
- Cheryl DeCordova, district director for Representative Drew Darby

Dr. Dickison and her incredible team have committed innumerable hours to the West Texas Legislative Summit and are already hard at work planning the 17th Annual West Texas Legislative Summit.

Innovation Award

Awarded to: Old Central Firehouse Bed and Brew

In 2017, Michele and Jody Babiash purchased the Old Central Fire Station, built in 1929, with a plan in mind to give the building a facelift and a new purpose. In January 2018 renovations for what would become the Old Central Firehouse Bed and Brew began. After many hours of hard work, done mostly by Michele and Jody, the Babiash family proudly opened their new bed and breakfast to the public in May 2019, but had no plans on limiting their creative and innovative efforts. In addition to serving as a bed and breakfast, Old Central Firehouse will be operating as a pizzeria and taproom as soon as April 2020. The pizzeria will feature a brick oven and one of the first self-pour tap walls in the state. Michele and Jody trained in Staten Island, New York at the world renowned Original Goodfella Brick Oven Pizza to learn all they could about the fine art of brick oven pizzas. The couple also visited taprooms across Colorado to learn from the best of the best. Be on the lookout for the opening of the Old Central Firehouse Pizzeria and Taproom this spring.

Special Recognition Award

Awarded to: Ken Landon

Ken Landon is the founder and Superintendent of the International Waterlily Collection, a position he has held with pride for the past 31 years. Ken is also a founding member of the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society. Ken has a passion for waterlilies and works to research them and capture their beauty. Through his many years of dedication and work in the field, Ken has become one of the foremost experts on waterlilies alive today. In addition to his work with waterlilies, Ken is also known for the fantastic fireworks displays he creates for the annual July 3rd Pops Concert and Lake Nasworthy fireworks shows. Ken has been wowing crowds with his fireworks displays since 1987. His dedication to the pyrotechnic displays has put San Angelo on the map and helped him to meet two presidents. Ken's patriotism shines bright all year round and his fireworks shows are a tradition for many in San Angelo and the Concho Valley.

Chairman's Award

Awarded to: Dave Erickson, Angelo State University Small Business Development Center

For 30 years the Angelo State University Small Business Development Center (ASU-SBDC) has been providing business advising and training services to the ten-county area of the Concho Valley. The ASU-SBDC has provided thousands of small business owners in the area free and confidential business advising and training to better manage their businesses and to help entrepreneurs create new businesses. In the last two years they have served 1,100 small business clients on a one-on-one basis. They have also recorded over 100 new business startups and 70 business expansions. Yet another benefit of the ASU-SBDC is the creation of 489 jobs in the past two years as well as the help they provided in securing more than \$20 million in loans and owner investments. They also host the annual San Angelo Business Plan Competition, which has seen massive participation and success from area business owners.

At the head of the ASU-SBDC is Dave Erickson. Dave joined the ASU-SBDC team in 1999 as a business advisor and has been the Director since 2005. With 20 years of experience in managing business, the contributions Dave has made alongside the entire ASU-SBDC have helped to shape the face of business in San Angelo and has gifted the city with their critical services.

Special Merit Award

Awarded to: Goodfellow Air Force Base

In 2019, Goodfellow Air Force Base donated nearly 14,000 volunteer hours at over 130 events in the community. Team Goodfellow is comprised of service members from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Air Force, as well as civilians, contractors, spouses, and family members. These incredible individuals continue to enhance the quality of life in the community. From advocating for abused and neglected children to participating in clothing drives, preparing meals for families in need, and much more, Team Goodfellow is dedicated to San Angelo and the Concho Valley. Goodfellow Air Force Base also sustains a wonderful partnership with the San Angelo community that has been recognized in recent years with the ALTUS Award in 2014 and 2018. San Angelo is the only AETC community in nation to win the award twice.

Phil Neighbors Spirit of San Angelo Award

Awarded to: Lee Pfluger

For the last three decades Lee Pfluger has been working to make our community a better place to work, play, and live. Lee's efforts have been woven into the fabric of the city and have made San Angelo a unique and special place. Along with Howard Taylor, Henry Schmidt, Steven Brown, and many others, Lee worked diligently on a strategic plan to preserve and restore our historical downtown and heritage. From the construction of Celebration Bridge, to The Cactus Hotel, to the Concho Christmas Celebration, his touch can be seen throughout the city. The Cactus Hotel remains an iconic landmark for our city and a gem in downtown. Lee's joy in giving comes to life with his incredible Christmas lights display, aptly named the Concho Christmas Celebration. Founded in 1994, the Concho Christmas Celebration now features over 3 million lights in various Christmas scenes. The display is ever expanding and growing with Lee's goal to add a new celebration each year. Kayaking and running through the Christmas lights are among the newest additions to the Concho Christmas Celebration. Lee's passion for San Angelo has shone bright for well over 30 years now and will continue to grow, just as his impact on the city has.

Retiring Directors – Service Awards

- Trinidad Aguirre, Jr.
- Jeff Chandler
- Keith Dial
- Scott Jameson
- C.J. Muniz

The following award will be presented by 2018 Citizen of the Year recipient, Ret. Lt. Gen Ronnie Hawkins.

Citizen of the Year

The Citizen of the Year Award will be presented by last year's award recipients, Ret. Lt. Gen. Ronnie & Maria Hawkins. The name is confidential until announced.