



Annual Award History

J. PAT LAPPIN AWARD

The J. Pat Lappin Award is given in memory of retired Colonel James P. “Pat” Lappin, who served as the Chico Chamber of Commerce executive from 1968-1974, and served the Chico community as its outstanding volunteer until his death in 1976. The award is presented to members of the Chico Chamber of Commerce whose outstanding contribution through service to the Chico area is an example to be followed. This prestigious award is presented at the Chamber Annual Dinner.

Criteria to consider in nominating an individual:

Must be active Chamber member in good standing; must be involved in a business or profession that furthers the free enterprise system; must have been on some Chico Chamber committee as an active member; will be an example to volunteer leadership in the Chico area relative to time; will have displayed broad involvement in volunteer activity in that area; will have been an example to others to look up to as a volunteer.

1977 - Al Stephens
1979 - Jim King
1980 - Clay McGowan
1981 - Ted Meriam & Marilyn Warrens
1982 - Steve Nettleton
1983 - Frank Mertz
1984 - Allan Forbes
1985 - Lou Chrysler
1986 - Gene Penne
1987 - Harry McGowan
1988 - Scott Chalmers
1989 - Suzy Roach
1990 - Fred Montgomery
1991 - Howard Isom
1992 - Frank Sisco
1993 - Dino Corbin
1994 - Abe Baily
1995 - Hank Marsh Jr.
1996 - Ken Lange
1997 - George Dailey
1998 – Dan Davis
1999 – Glenn Dunning
2000 – Fred Davis

J. Pat Lappin Award Recipients (con't.)

- 2001 – Al Silva
- 2002 – Syl Lucena
- 2003 – Bruce Norlie
- 2004 – Ed Kimball & Joy Anderson-Kimball
- 2005 – Tod Kimmelshue
- 2006 – Georgie Bellin
- 2007 – Vic Alvistur, Aero Union Corporation/Chico Air Museum
- 2008 – Jack Sterling, Madison Bear Garden
- 2009 - Tom Lando, Lando and Associates
- 2010 – Ken Grossman, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
- 2011 – Mark Francis, Golden Valley Bank
- 2012 – Bill Gaines, Transfer Flow, Inc.
- 2013 – Roger Hart, Woof & Poof
- 2014 - Mark Sorensen, Mayor, City of Chico
- 2015 – Farshad Azad, Azad’s Martial Arts Family Center

BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Business Advocate of the Year Award was established in 2000 for the purpose of recognizing a Chico Chamber of Commerce member who has done the most to move forward the Chamber’s business advocacy agenda. The award is presented at the Chamber’s Annual Dinner.

Criteria to consider in nominating an individual:

Must be a Chamber member in good standing; recipient’s business advocacy activities must help move forward the Chico Chamber of Commerce’s public policy goals as defined by the Chamber’s Mission Statement, Vision Statements, Public Policy Handbook and Annual Business Plan; recipient’s business advocacy activities should occur within the Chamber’s organizational structure; Business Advocacy is defined as the effort to influence decision-makers at the Federal, State and Local levels to make decisions consistent with the Chamber’s stated goals, objectives and policy.

- 2000 – Howard Slater, Slater & Son
- 2001 – Craig Alger, V-Tech
- 2002 – Jack Sterling, Madison Bear Garden
- 2003 – Rick Coletti, Lands End Real Estate
- 2004 – Jamie Johansson, Lodestar Farms and Ryan Schohr, Schohr Ranch
- 2005 – Mark Sorensen, ACC Satellite TV
- 2006 – Norm Nielsen, Chico Electric
- 2007 – Steve Gonsalves, Nichols Melburg & Rossetto Architects and Engineers
- 2008 – Bill Brouhard, Guillon Brouhard Commercial Real Estate
- 2009 - Dave Burkland, City of Chico
- 2010 – Jim Stevens, North Star Engineering
- 2011 – Tom Lando, Lando and Associates
- 2012 – Mike Ward, Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management at the California State University, Chico

2013 – Marc Nemanic, 3CORE
2014 - BT Chapman, S.C.O.R.E.
2015 – Kate Leyden, Valley Contractors Exchange

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Community Service Award is presented to an individual or individuals in our community the Chamber feels should be recognized for exceptional work they have done in a specific area of service over the past year for the betterment of others and/or the Chico community. This award is presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

1990 - Tom Lando & Beverly Verlinde
1991 - Leonard Whitegon & Jeff Lobosky
1992 - Fred Davis
1993 - Louise Philippi, Hank Marsh, Robert V. Bellin, DDS
1994 - Jon Luvaas, Pete Giampaoli, Judge Darrell Stevens
1995 - Howard Slater, Pat Furr, Joel Adema
1996 - Jim Massie, Tom DiGrazia, Laura Urseny
1997 - Bob Malowney, Larry Juararena
1998 - Mary Andrews, Glenn Dunning, Mark Francis
1999 - Pat Haley, Coleen Jarvis, Molly Terrano, R.N.
2000 - Patrick Kopp
2001 - Dr. Gary Incaudo, Greg Webb
2002 - Dr. Alfred Konuwa, Dr. Curt DeBerg
2003 - Frank Ritter
2004 - Chris Mulqueeney
2005 - Farshad Azad
2006 - Maureen Pierce
2007 - Judy Sitton
2008 - Cindi Alaan
2009 - Leanne Chrisman, Matthews Jackson
2010 – Jane Dolan
2011 – Rory Rottschalk
2012 – Tod Kimmelshue
2013 – Jovanni Tricerri
2014 - Scott Gruendl
2015 – Laurie Maloney, Coldwell Banker Dufour Realty

JEANNE POSEY AWARD (formerly Athena Award)

The Jeanne Posey Award has been established to recognize top women business leaders in the community and honor their outstanding career achievements. This prestigious award will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

Criteria to consider in nominating an individual:

Must be an active Chamber member in good standing; demonstrates commitment to excellence; possesses outstanding management and leadership skills; supports the goals and achievements of other professional women in Chico and the surrounding area; is an inspiration to other businesswomen in the community.

ATHENA Award Recipients

1985 - Jeanne Posey
1986 - Fran Shelton
1987 - Mary Andrews
1988 - Valene Smith
1989 - Carla Dittman
1990 - Judy Brislain
1991 - Patricia LaBreacht
1992 - Mary Anne Houx
1993 - Sarah Dahl
1994 - Bonnie Huntington
1995 - Jackie Faris-Rees
1996 - Valerie Miller
1997 - Kay Zimmerlee
1998 - Jolene Dietle
1999 - Kathy Chance
2000 – Katy Thoma
2001 – Debbie LaPlant
2002 – Joy Anderson-Kimball
2003 – Janet Walther
2004 – Judy Sitton
2005 – Bonnie Peracca

Jeanne Posey Award Recipients

2006 – Pat Furr, Computers for Classrooms
2007 – Maxine Bigler, Healthy Enterprises
2008 – LaDonna Joyner, Bidwell Title & Escrow
2009 – Shelly Blanshei- Owner T-TBar and Fusion Café
2010 – Julia Sabin, Smucker Natural Foods, Inc.
2011 – Maisie Jane Hurtado, Maisie Jane’s California Sunshine Products
2012 – Laura Hennem, Enloe Medical Center
2013 – Lisa Johnson, Transfer Flow, Inc.
2014 - Audrey Taylor, Chabin Concepts
2015 – Trish Dunlap, City of Chico (Retired)

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Young Professional of the Year Award was established in 2012 for the purpose of recognizing a Chico Young Professional Organization (YPO) member whose outstanding contribution through business and participation in the Chico YPO has done the most to move forward the YPO's positive business and civic advocacy agenda. This award is presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

Criteria to consider in nominating an individual:

Must be an active YPO member; demonstrates commitment to the organization and participation at events; is an inspiration to other young professionals in the community.

2012 - Kimberly Fleming, ServiceMaster Select

2013 - Natasha Beehner, Golden Valley Bank

2014 - Danie Schwartz, LRT Graphics

2015 – Ariann Cook, Alleivity HR & Payroll

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD (formerly President's Award)

The President's Award was established January 1993 by Ken Lange. The award is selected and presented by the immediate past president to a fellow Chamber director in recognition of exemplary service to the Chamber.

1993 - Rick Lytle, Blue Shield of California

1994 - Roger Swanson, Roger Swanson, CPA

1995 - Bonnie Huntington, Bank of America-NVP

1996 - Cliff Neill, Financial Network Investment Corp.

1997 - Jolene Dietle, Tehama Bank

Al Silva, North Valley Disposal

1998 - Richard Matson, Richard S. Matson Law Office

Debbie LaPlant, Beach It

1999 - Dan Davis, Chico Filmworks

2000 - Kathy Barrett, Chico News & Review

2001 - Bob Persons

2002 - *No award given*

2003 - Rick Krepelka

2004 - LaDonna Joyner, Bidwell Title & Escrow

2005 - Cap Porterfield, North Valley Financial Services

2006 - Dawn Buchanan, Matson and Isom

2007 - Roger Hart, Butte Community Bank

2008 - Rick Coletti, Lands End Real Estate

2009 - Mark Sorensen, ACC Satellite

2010 – Valerie Reddemann, Greenfeet.com

2011 – Jolene Francis, Chico Chamber of Commerce

2012 – Rick Anderson, AT&T
2013 – Audrey Taylor, Chabin Concepts
2014 - Mark Francis, Golden Valley Bank
2015 – Mark Pierce, North Valley Ag Services

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

The Ambassador of the Year is awarded at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, held in January of each year. The Ambassador of the Year is selected by the Ambassadors themselves. The candidates are determined by a committee of previous award recipients and placed on a secret ballot, then voted on by the Ambassadors.

1986 - Nancy Borge
1987 - Tom Fiscus
1988 - Al Redman
1989 - David Gunn
1990 - Tom Fiscus
1991 - Patricia LaBreacht
1992 - Al Mattison
1993 - CeCe Bunch
1994 - Bernadette Pla
1995 - Jerry Urban, Paradise Post
1996 - Tina Bratcher, Fantastic Sams (now Trends for Hair)
1997 - Larry Scott, Clear Channel (KPAY, KMXI, KHSL)
1998 - Geri Lee, Geri Lee Realty
1999 - Roger Hart, Tehama Bank
2000 – Sharon Schacht, CSUC
2001 – Larry Ducommun, Picture Plus
2002 – Jennifer Martin, Anderson & Associates
2003 – David Heath, Avrit Insurance Services
2004 – Maxine Bigler, Healthy Enterprises
2005 – Brian Teal, Golden Valley Bank
2006 - Judy Smith, FAFCO, Inc.
2007 - Barbara Rupp, Coldwell Banker DuFour Realty
2008 – Elizabeth Daniels, Reflexology
2009 - Susan Gutierrez
2010 – Chris Mulqueeney
2011 – Crystal Torres
2012 – Mert Ahlstrom
2013 – Mariah Hurlburt
2014 - Anne Johnson, Asset Management Group
2015 – Danie Schwartz, LRT Graphics

LEGACY AWARD (FRED DAVIS AWARD)

The Fred Davis Award was established in 2015 to honor the memory of Fred Davis who served as Chico's City Manager for 33 years, a city official for over 45 years, and serving our community for over 62 years until his death in 2015. The award is presented to members of the Chico Chamber of Commerce whose lifelong service to our city and community is an example to be followed. This prestigious award is only given when earned and is presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner when applicable.

2014 - Fred Davis

Past Award Categories & Winners

RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award was presented to an individual whose business thrived and made strides in Chico during the year. The award was presented to those in the Chico business community whose outstanding contribution through business to the Chico area is an example to be followed. This prestigious award was presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

Criteria to consider in nominating an individual:

Individual's business must be based in Chico, California. Nominee should be a business owner who will make significant strides towards job creation, improving the business climate and the local economy in the year to come.

2010: Aaron Stewart, Law Offices of Aaron J. Stewart

2011: Jennifer Carvahlo, Skyway House

2012: Toni Scott, Morrison & Company

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award was established to honor a woman in the community who operated a for-profit enterprise, showed exceptional vision, commitment and development to the success of her business, and is a Chamber member in good standing. The award was presented at the Annual Women's Achievement Awards Celebration, held in November each year until 2009.

- 2003 – Maisie Jane Hurtado, Maisie Jane’s California Sunshine Products
- 2004 – Shelly Blanshei, Bidwell Perk and Teaz Me, Inc.
- 2005 – Kathleen Friend-White, Friendly Farm Alpacas
- 2006 - Connie Wright, The Wright Mortgage Company, Inc.
- 2007 – Amy Louis, Six Degrees Coffee Service & Distribution, Inc.
- 2008 – Valerie Reddemann, Greenfeet.com

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN HEALTH CARE

The Outstanding Woman in Health Care Award was established in 2003 to honor a woman whose work has helped improve the health of the North Valley community. The award was presented at the Annual Women’s Achievement Awards Celebration, held in November each year until 2009.

- 2003 – Janet Ellis, R. N., Nurse Administrator, Enloe Medical Center
- 2004 – Marcia F. Nelson, M.D.
- 2005 – Carol Blacet, Director of Education and Clinical Practice, Enloe Medical Center
- 2006 – Nancy Ledoyan, RN, BSN, OCN, Director of Oncology & Integrative Medicine, Enloe Cancer Center
- 2007 – Judy Cline, R.N., C.F.N., Enloe Medical Center
- 2008 – Ruth (“Ruthie”) Cooper, Oncology Nurse, Enloe Medical Center (Retired)

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE AWARD

The banking/finance profession was selected as the 2005, 2006, and 2007 industry award (Excellence in Finance Award). The purpose of the award is to honor a woman who is viewed by her customers as a “trusted advisor,” who is someone they can call anytime with questions regarding personal or business finances, and who works beyond the scope of their own business for the betterment of others and the community. The award was presented at the Annual Women’s Achievement Awards Celebration, held in November each year until 2009.

- 2005 – Bonnie Huntington, Tri Counties Bank
- 2006 – Noreen Bray, Vice President, Branch Manager, Tri Counties Bank
- 2007 – Katy Thoma, Vice President, Branch Manager, Butte Community Bank - Forest Ave.

EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

The human resource management profession was selected as the 2008 industry award. The purpose of the award is to honor a woman who is viewed as a leader in the knowledge, education, and solutions of the day-to-day issues related to human resource management, and who has made significant, long-term contributions to the advancement of her company's mission and goals. The individual or her company must be a Chamber member in good standing. The award was presented during the Sixth Annual Women’s Achievement Awards Celebration luncheon held on Friday, November 7, 2008, at Manzanita Place, Chico.

2008 – Tri Counties Bank Human Resources Team - Shelley Darms, Marilyn Kirklin, and Heather Graham

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Chico Chamber of Commerce presented the Business Person of the Year award during Business Showcase each year. Business Showcase was held in April at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds.

1988 - Bruce Norlie, Norfield Manufacturing
1989 - Jim King, King Chevrolet
1990 - Bob Steveson, Tri Counties Bank
1991 - Steve Nettleton, Food-4-Less
1992 - R. Scott Chalmers, RSC Associates
1993 - Richard Braak, Quadco Printing
1994 - Ken Grossman, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
1995 - Bob Malowney, Media Screenprint/Bird In Hand
1996 - Barbara Hanna, California Health Professionals
1997 - (no award given)
1998 - Steve Gonsalves (Architect)
1999 – (no award given)
2000 – (no award given) *(Now giving Business Advocate of the Year Award)*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

1997 – Jane Dolan
1998 – Joel Adema
1999 – Tom Dickinson
2000 – Susan Murphy
2001
2002 – Tod Kimmelshue

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The Employee of the Year was established in 1992. The award was designed to recognize a Chamber member employee for outstanding service to both the Chamber of Commerce and the business community of Chico. Nominations were solicited from Chamber members via a special form (may also come from throughout the community via a news release) and selection made by special committee.

The award was presented, along with the Business Person (and Volunteer) of the Year award(s), during Business Showcase (Business After Hours or Business Success Breakfast).

1992 - Gloria Ross, KPAY AM/FM Radio
1993 - Kathryn Holestine, Ingram & Shelton Realtors
1994 - Cece Bunch, Bank of America-North Valley Disposal
1994 - Jon Gregory, Tri-County Economic Development Corp.
1995 - Brad Van Alstyne, Jobs R Us
1996 - Jack Coots, Durham Pump Inc.
1997 - (no award given)
1998 - Jerry Urban (Paradise Post)
1999 - Margaret Schmidt (CEPCO)
2000 – 2004 (no award given)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Volunteer of the Year Award was established in 1992. The award was designed to recognize the Chico area's top volunteer. Nominations come from throughout the community (via a news release and/or flyer) and selection made by special committee. The 1992 and 1993 awards were presented by the Non-Profit Network during a special Business After Hours, held at the Albatross Restaurant. The format for presenting the award was changed in 1995 to be presented, along with the Business Person and Employee of the Year awards, during the Eggs-N-Issues Business Success Breakfast.

1992 - Hank Marsh, Marsh, Marsh & Volpe
1993 - Abe Baily, California State University, Chico
1994 - Sheryl Lange, CUSD PTA
1995 - Len Whitegon, Retired/Volunteer/CUSD
1996 - (no award given)
1997 - (no award given)
1998 - Velma Coon, Chamber volunteer
1999 – 2004 (no award given)

FARM-CITY CELEBRATION AWARDS

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

1981 – Fred Montgomery
1982 – Leonard A. Monaco
1983 – Jack Vanella
1984 – Nancy Skinner and Gerald Geiger
1985 – Harry McGowan
1986 – Frank Mertz
1987 – Bud Hennigan
1988 – Don and Cindy Heffren
1989 - No award given

1990 - No award given
1991 - No award given
1992 – Steve Dilg
1993 – Alva Mitchell, Clem Meith, Jerry Smith, Carl Wick, and Bob Willoughby
1994 – Myron Openshaw and Gary Griswold
1995 – Tom Guarino and Ed McLaughlin
1996 – Howard Isom
1997 - Les Heringer
1998 – Diane Avrit
1999 – Lance and Audrey Tennis
2000 – Roger Swanson, CPA
2001 – Dick Cassady
2002 – Dr. Manuel Esteban

AGRI-BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

1992 – Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
1993 – University of California Cooperative Extension Service
1994 - CSUC School of Ag & University Farm
1995 – Pat and Larry’s Steakhouse
1996 – Northern California Farm Credit
1997 – Durham Pump, Inc.
1998 – Thomas Welding & Machine
1999 – Lundberg Family Farms
2001 – Golden West Nuts
2002 – Book Family Farm