



NEWS RELEASE

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Paducah Chamber Celebrates at Annual Meeting and Business Celebration

PADUCAH, KY – The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Meeting and Business Celebration sponsored by Lourdes and CSI was held at the Julian Carroll Convention Center on January 26 with approximately 750 attendees.

Outgoing board chair, Tammy Zimmerman, President/CEO of Payment Plus, officially passed the gavel to Leon Owens, President of Swift & Staley, as the board chair for 2018. The Chamber also honored several area businesses and individuals with their annual awards ([note: additional information on the awards is attached](#)):

- [Business of the Year](#) – Community Financial Services Bank
- [Small Business of the Year](#) – Lundberg Medical Imaging, owners Dr. Gersh and Terri Lundberg
- [Entrepreneur of the Year](#) – Sara Bradley with freight house restaurant
- [Non-Profit Organization of the Year](#) – Purchase Area Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy Center
- [Summit Award](#) – Mary Hammond, Executive Director of the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau
- [Chamber Volunteer of the Year](#) – Jessica Newman with Advantage Insurance
- [Leadership Paducah Alumnus of the Year](#) – Darlene Mazzone, Publisher of Paducah Life Magazine and owner of Mazzone Communications. This award is selected and presented by the Leadership Paducah Foundation.
- [Young Leader of Western Kentucky](#) – Matt Snow, Executive Director of Facilities, Baptist Health Paducah. This award is selected by the Four Rivers Business Journal. There were 10 finalists honored.

The entertainment of the evening was Vallie Collins, a passenger on the plane that made an emergency landing in the Hudson River. This event has become known as “Miracle on the Hudson” and she shared her inspirational story.

Suzanne Farmer (Lourdes) and Mike Mallory (WPSD Local 6) served as the emcees for evening.

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce is the region's largest business advocacy organization with more than 1,000 member firms and is the fifth largest Chamber in the state. The Chamber was named the "2017 Chamber of the Year" by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. They were a repeat winner having also won in 2011.

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Additional information about award winners:

2018 Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce Award Recipients Information

Note: All Chamber award recipients must be a member of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

Business of the Year – Two Categories – Attributes for this award included: possesses staying power, has seen company growth and involvement in the community.

Business of the Year (more than 15 employees) – Community Financial Services Bank (CFSB)

Community Financial Services Bank entered the McCracken County market in 2003 with four team members. In the past 15 years, they have built two Banking Centers in Paducah including one on Park Avenue in 2007 and a new center on the Southside. They purchased the property on Irvin Cobb Drive in 2015 to renovate and opened it in 2017 maintaining the integrity of a historical building.

CFSB is also the only area bank to partner with Western Kentucky school systems to provide financial literacy through Dave Ramsey. They provide textbooks, seminars, and one-on-one coaching from elementary through college age students, as well as offering individual coaching sessions.

"While we are proud of the progress we have made in McCracken County, we continue to look ahead and are excited about what the future holds. On behalf of CFSB, thank you to McCracken County for welcoming us into this amazing community. We look forward to the continued success that will allow us to keep giving back for years to come," said Betsy Flynn, President and CEO of CFSB.

Small Business of the Year (15 or less employees) – Lundberg Medical Imaging

In 2012, a long time business and medical provider changed names and ownership to become Lundberg Medical Imaging. In the early 1990s, radiologist Dr. Gersh Lundberg and his wife, Terri, moved to Paducah to join the father-son practice of Crawford Radiology. For more than 20 years the doctors practiced as Crawford and Lundberg.

In October 2012, the Lundbergs assumed full ownership of the practice and renamed it as Lundberg Medical Imaging. Since then, they have invested over \$2.5 million dollars replacing imaging equipment, moving to more efficient software, opening a second location in the Strawberry Hills area and expanding their diagnostic services.

Non-Profit Organization – Purchase Area Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy Center

They received a \$1,000 award from sponsor The Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky

The Purchase Area Sexual Assault Center (PASAC) has been providing intervention services to victims of sexually-based crimes since 1987. As the regional state-designated rape crisis and child advocacy center by Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services, this organization serves the area by providing free and confidential services to all-age survivors of sexual violence and their supportive family members. In addition, they provide prevention education programming to children and adults in the community as well as specialized training to community partners.

PASAC also engages in all phases of support to survivors and their family members by providing intervention services including 24-hour crisis hotline services, medical advocacy at local emergency rooms, legal and personal advocacy, information and referrals, clinical therapy services, and holistic health coaching. Executive Director Lori Brown accepted the award.

Entrepreneur of the Year – Sara Bradley, chef and owner of freight house

This award is open to Chamber members who established a business within the past five years, recognized for innovative products or services, demonstrates community involvement and exceptional performance and growth.

Born and raised in western Kentucky, Sara Bradley is no stranger to the delightful taste that seasonal items bring to the dinner table. From the smooth, tart flavor of her grandmother's homemade apple butter served in the fall, to the sweet taste of strawberry pie that her mother baked in late spring, she learned at a young age that fresh produce, eaten in its proper growing season, is a far better reward than frozen foods could ever promise. After honing her culinary skills under the tutelage of renowned chefs in New York and Chicago, she decided to put down roots in her hometown of Paducah, to open her very own restaurant - freight house.

Summit Award – Mary Hammond, Executive Director, Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Summit Award is one that is not presented every year but is reserved as a special presentation.

Mary Hammond was recognized for "literally putting our community on an international map." The award presentation stated that through her vision, determination and a lot of hard work, Paducah has been the designation for travelers from throughout the world. More than 30 years ago Mary started selling Paducah and has never stopped. She is the Executive Director of the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 2011 she traveled to Seoul, South Korea to present our community's first application to be a member of the UNESCO Creative Cites Network. Two years later we were awarded this highly coveted designation. In 2017 she led the team that hosted the first meeting in the United States of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts and Folk Art in Paducah.

Over the past decades she has been a leader in the world of Tourism. Under her leadership, tourism has continued to grow in McCracken County with direct tourism expenditures totaling almost \$227 million with an economic impact of more than \$356 million in 2016.

Chamber Volunteer of the Year – Jessica Newman, Advantage Insurance

This award is presented to someone who has made significant contributions to the goals and mission of the Chamber, donated time and/or resources and embodies the ideals of volunteerism and provided leadership in a key area.

Jessica Newman serves on the Chamber's Membership and Marketing Committee and has been active in all areas of the Chamber. She has been recognized as a top recruiter during the Chamber's membership campaign for the past three years.

Leadership Paducah Alumnus of the Year – Darlene Mazzone, Publisher of Paducah Life Magazine and owner of Mazzone Communications, Leadership Paducah Class 1 Member

This award is selected and presented by the Leadership Paducah Foundation. Criteria includes: sought out opportunities to improve the Paducah community; innovative; inspired others to assist in the process of accomplishing the vision; leads by example; provided encouragement and recognition to those who worked together to accomplish the goal.

As a member of Class #1, Darlene Mazzone's appreciation for Leadership Paducah remains as strong today as it was then. When she recently spoke at the 30th anniversary celebration, she mentioned lifelong relationships she formed during her time with the program, both personally and professionally, and that these relationships have continued to grow through the years from her experience with Leadership Paducah.

Darlene continues to have a passion for developing young leaders as her company is the presenting sponsor for the Paducah Young Professionals.

According to the nomination's information, "Darlene chose a professional path that would not only allow her to channel her personal strength of creative writing and storytelling but would at the same time showcase Paducah and all it has to offer. Just when you think you know anything and everything there is to know about our town, you can pick up a Paducah Life magazine and learn something new."

Young Leader of Western Kentucky – Matt Snow, Executive Director of Facilities, Baptist Health Paducah

Matt Snow received a \$1,000 continuing education award from the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce.

Other finalists included:

- Leigh Ann Ballageer - Marketing Manager with Lourdes-Mercy Health
- Brandi Bone - Owner of Soirees Events
- Beth Clements - Treasury Management and Payments Consultant with US Bank
- Mason DeJarnett - Territory Manager with Fabick CAT
- Whitney Denson - Attorney with McMurry & Livingston
- Justin Jackson - Vice President & COO with Pearson Safety Services
- Richard "Richie" Kemp - Attorney with KempWrightLaw
- Amy Roof - Associate Vice President – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
- Bradley Shoulta - Account Executive, Payment Plus, Inc.