



THE GEM OF THE VALLEY GALA

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce

Awards of Excellence Criteria

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – Harry E. Nelson Award

An individual who has demonstrated exemplary service to the business community. Nominees' achievements must demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Improve the free and competitive enterprise system of business by creating a greater appreciation of the value of the commitment of oneself to the business interests of the Spokane Valley.
- Enhance business and community growth and development by promoting civic, social, and cultural programs designed to improve the functional and aesthetic values of the community.
- Design economic programs that strengthen and expand the income potential of the commerce arena.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Each tier of the Business Of the Year Awards recognize a Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce member business or individual that best exemplifies attributes of excellence in leadership of their organization and who have advanced business conditions in the community.

- **SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR** 1 – 15 employees
- **LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR** 16 + employees

Awarded to each company in their respective category who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, initiative, and recognized success in their day-to-day operations.

They are judged to be outstanding in their employee environments, customer service, community service, contribution to economic development, job creation, and uniqueness of product or service to the community.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

The Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce **Entrepreneur of the Year** is an outstanding individual who inspires others with their farsightedness, guidance, and accomplishments. *Wikipedia* defines an entrepreneur as an enterprising individual who builds capital through risk and/or initiative. The **Entrepreneur of the Year** has displayed exceptional achievements and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, fiscal performance, and personal dedication to the community and their business.

COMMUNITY CARING AWARD

Eligibility: Any individual, business, or non-profit organization residing or located in Spokane County. Nominees for this award do not necessarily have to be a member of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, but should be an active part of the local business community.

Criteria: Awarded to an individual, business, non-profit organization, municipality, or government program that has made significant changes and improvements in the condition of the community as a result of their volunteer service. Nominees should be an active participant in the Spokane Valley business community and exemplify the spirit of true community service through dedication to enhancing the quality of life for those they serve.

CHARITY/CULTURAL SERVICES AWARD

Eligibility: Any registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization within Spokane County.

Criteria: A non-profit organization that provides a direct contribution to the quality of life in the Spokane Valley area. This award goes to the organization that involves itself in the community and directly assists people or events through staff, volunteer time, or direct participation.

The recipient of the Charity/Cultural Services Award exemplifies the following characteristics:

- Nominee has made a meaningful, impactful achievement in the past 12 months.
- Nominee has made an improvement to the community.
- Nominee develops and fosters the virtues and skills of civic engagement and social responsibility within their community.
- Nominee has not been the recipient of the award in past two years.

CHAMBER MEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

A Chamber member who has served as a positive role model and demonstrated exceptional support of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber through volunteerism, leadership, and advancement of the general interests of the Chamber.

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

A Chamber ambassador who has served as a positive role model and demonstrated exceptional support of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber through volunteerism, leadership, and advancement of the general interests of the Chamber.



1421 N. Meadowwood Lane, Liberty Lake, WA 99019
(509) 924-4994, Toll Free (866) 475-1436, (509) 924-4992 FAX
www.spokanevalleychamber.org info@spokanevalleychamber.org