



2022 Annual Awards

Seven winners took center stage May 3 when the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber of Commerce handed out its Annual Awards at the Pittsburgh Marriott North. All of the award recipients were quick to share the spotlight with fellow Chamber members, family, coworkers and volunteers who had helped them achieve this career highlight.

BRUCE CONLEY OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF THE YEAR AWARD **AMY SCHAFER**

This year the most votes for the **Bruce Conley Outstanding Service of the Year Award** went to **Amy Schafer**, Branch Manager at Dollar Bank in Cranberry Township.

While it was the first time she had won a Chamber award, that does not speak to Schafer's lifelong dedication to volunteering and helping others. She serves on the Ambassador Committee and the Farmers Market Committee and volunteers with PNRC golf outings and the Holiday Village Market.

"Volunteering has always been important to me because I was raised to give back," Schafer said. "My dad was actively involved with the Elks and as a child he included me at events that helped people. I lost my dad in 2003 when he was only 56, so to honor him, I continue volunteering with the hope my efforts are helping people and making a difference in someone's life."

NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARD
THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

The Lighthouse Foundation, winner of the **Nonprofit Excellence Award**, takes that same approach as it operates the largest food pantry in Butler County and is the sole provider of transitional and interim housing for young adults, single parents, and families, according to Lighthouse Foundation Executive Director Victoria Spreng.

"This award is more than a plaque, recognition or a picture in a paper; this award is evidence of the hard work of all of the outstanding volunteers and staff that continue to serve our community in love, day in and day out," she said.

DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS AWARD
GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL WEXFORD

In honor of its service and commitment to the community and its dedication to its employees, **Goldfish Swim School Wexford** was presented with the **Distinguished Business Award**. A Chamber member since 2014, Goldfish Swim School offers swim lessons for children ages 4 months to 12 years and provides reliable, high-paying and rewarding employment opportunities for all ages. The Swim School gives back generously to the community throughout the year, with partnerships with gold medalist Olympians, aquatic safety organizations and philanthropic foundations.

"The award means so much to all of us that the work we do in our community is appreciated and valued by the members of the Chamber," said General Manager Carol Grande. "We are dedicated to improving our community and this award has only served to strengthen our resolve to continue that mission."

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
OF THE YEAR AWARD
PERRY LATIMER

Perry Latimer, recipient of the **Young Professional of the Year Award**, also applauded the Chamber for its support of young professionals, many of whom are involved in setting roots in North Pittsburgh communities.

"Many of the young professionals are excelling and advancing in their careers, so it is only natural the PNRC supports them in networking, relationship building, encourages their participation in events," said Latimer, Sport and Corporate Sales Manager for Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau and Chair of the Chamber's Events Committee.

2022 Current Winners:

Board Champion
Lisa Hunt
USX Federal Credit Union
(lmhunt@usxfcu.org)

**Bruce Conley Outstanding Volunteer
Service of the Year Award**
Amy Schafer
Dollar Bank Loan Center - Cranberry
(aschafer280@dollarbank.com)

Distinguished Business Award
Goldfish Swim School Wexford
(christy.payne@goldfishss.com)

Nonprofit Excellence Award
The Lighthouse Foundation
(vspreng@thelighthousepa.org)

Prestigious Business Leader Award
Anthony Savannah
Passavant Hospital Foundation
(savannahar@ph.upmc.edu)

Women Entrepreneur Excellence Award
Amy Knight
Flour Power Kids Cooking
Studio- Pittsburgh
(aknight@flourpowerstudios.com)

Young Professional of the Year Award
Perry Latimer
Butler County Tourism
& Convention Bureau
(perry@visitbutlercounty.com)



PRESTIGIOUS BUSINESS
LEADER AWARD
ANTHONY SAVANNAH

Anthony Savannah, President and CEO of the Passavant Hospital Foundation, and winner of the **Prestigious Business Leader Award**, said it is crucial for leaders to wear their organization's mission on their sleeves. "As leaders, we lead our mission, but we're also part of the mission we're leading," he said. "Leaders need to be involved as much as possible at all aspects and all levels."

That philosophy has helped Savannah experience many successes during his career, but prior to the Annual Awards Gala, accepting a Chamber honor was an experience he had never felt during his 9+ years as a member.

"It was an amazing experience – I have attended this event for most of the years I've been here," Savannah said. "Jim Boltz and the entire team at the Chamber do an amazing job in what they do for the community."

WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR
EXCELLENCE AWARD
AMY KNIGHT

Women Entrepreneur Excellence Award winner **Amy Knight's** membership with the Chamber started in November 2021, which was before her Flour Power Kids Cooking Studio opened.

"Being an active member of the Chamber has been extremely helpful in allowing me to navigate being a new business owner," said Knight. "Honestly, this award was 100% representation of my staff and how hard they work. It's a pinch-me moment when I look back on the last year and how great it has been. We have officially been open for 11 months and we have so much farther to go. This award is the cherry on top for sure!"

BOARD CHAMPION
LISA HUNT

Board Chair **Lisa Hunt**, Business Development Officer at U\$X Federal Credit Union, has won a number of awards during her nearly 12 years with the Chamber, including the Young Professional of the Year in 2012, the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award in 2014, Member of the Month (with fellow retiring board members) in December 2018, and Member of the Month in June 2019. She considers the **Board Champion** award she was presented with at the Annual Awards as a career highlight. The award started in 2020 and honors a board member who displays exemplary leadership by excelling in recruiting new members, fundraising and making board candidate nominations.

"It's truly an honor to be recognized alongside the two previous Board Champions (Gary Basilone and Tracy Armstrong), both amazing people and advocates of the PNRC," Hunt said.

More than that, Hunt is proud of her affiliation with the organization that does so much to support its members and the communities where they live and work.

"It's an incredible organization with an active and involved membership that just continues to thrive and grow," Hunt said. "The Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber is an integral part of the community. I love being involved with the PNRC, and I'm looking forward to what comes next."