**Annual Chamber Awards and Social returns to in-person format**

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WARRENSBURG — The Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce is hosting its Annual Chamber Awards and Social on July 15 and returning to an in-person format after switching to a virtual format for last year’s event.

Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Suzanne Taylor said the annual event gives the Chamber an opportunity to let attendees know what the organization has accomplished over the past year and recognize local businesses and individuals for their accomplishments as well.

“Community partnership is critical to a thriving community,” Taylor said. “We have incredible organizations, business owners and individuals that give so much and volunteer so much for the betterment of the community. We think it’s really important for them to be recognized.“

This year’s event starts at 6 p.m. at Lamplighters Event Center (Twister Sports) located at 240 N.W. State Route 13, Warrensburg.

“The theme of this event is ‘Going for the Gold’ – which accurately represents the

dedicated businesses in our community who work hard and strive for success,” a Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce press release states. “Just like Olympians, the Chamber has been working hard to bring new and enhanced benefits for the betterment of our members.”

Since 2015, the Chamber has handed out awards to local individuals and businesses at the event.

Some of the awards being given out include: Glazebrook Community Partner of the Year, Chamber Businesses of the Year, Young Professional of the Year and Chamber Member of the Year.

Taylor said the Chamber sought nominations from the public for its awards and the organization’s selection committee chose the award recipients. She said this committee is made up of three to five Chamber Ambassadors, individuals who have served on the Chamber’s Board of Directors at any point.

In addition to the awards ceremony, new chamber board members will be installed and outgoing board members will be recognized.

Taylor said members on the Chamber’s board typically serve a term of three consecutive years and board chairs serve an additional year.

Dustin Fritsch will be recognized as the outgoing board chair at this year’s event and Jamie Brisbin will be inducted as the new board chair.

Brisbin highlighted the amount of work Fritsch and the whole board put in during the past year as they navigated the hurdles caused by the pandemic.

“This past year going through COVID, we needed everyone’s support and ideas to make it through this past year,” Brisbin said. “Every board member that rotates off is key to our success as a chamber, but I feel these (members) hold a special place because of what we’ve had to go through as a community this past year.”

The 2020 Annual Chamber Awards and Social event was hosted virtually due to COVID-19.

Taylor said the Chamber was still able to distribute awards to recipients and a video was uploaded by chamber staff in which they gave their thanks to the community and recognized community members and businesses.

“We’re excited to be in-person this year,” Taylor said.

Tickets for the 2021 Annual Chamber Awards and Social are $25.00 per person. This includes heavy hors d’oeuvres from Heroes Restaurant and Pub and a chance to listen to Dueling Pianos and guest motivational speaker Drew Frizzell.

To purchase tickets, visit the Chamber’s office, which is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or call the Chamber at 660-747-3168.

Tickets are also available online at warrensburg.org.

For more information, contact the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce at 660-747-3168 or by email at chamber@warrensburg.org.