

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Announces the 2025 Choice Award Finalists

(Palmer, MA – February 6, 2025) – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, which promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced this year’s finalists for its 2025 Choice Awards.

The Chamber received more than one hundred nominations from the public and business members during the month of January. Award categories include Community Hero and Educator of the Year, Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year, plus QHMA Business and Volunteer of the Year.

“The Choice Awards are a great way for us to recognize and celebrate the outstanding businesses, organizations, and individuals that contribute to the success and growth of our local community”, shared Renee Niedziela, President of the Board of Directors for the Chamber. “The awards highlight excellence in various categories, offering a platform for local businesses to shine and for residents to show their appreciation. It fosters a sense of community pride, encourages collaboration among local entrepreneurs, and promotes the Quaboag Hills area as a hub for business development. It’s a longstanding positive tradition that helps further the Chamber’s mission to support and advocate for local businesses” concluded Niedziela.

Voting is open from now and until March 31 with daily submission allowed at QHMA.com. The Chamber encourages anyone to cast their votes for this year’s deserving finalists.

The 2025 QHMA Choice Award finalists are:

EDUCATORS

Casey Kibbe, Swift River Elementary (Belchertown)
Gregory Devine, Quabbin Regional School District (Barre)
Heather Weirbrick, Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School (Ware)
Marcie Fusco, Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School (West Brookfield)
Stephen Duff, Quaboag Regional School District (Warren)
Tina Young, Palmer Public Schools (Palmer)

FOOD/DRINK

Arcpoint Brewing Company (Belchertown)
Brimfield Winery (Brimfield)
Figlio (Palmer)
The Grapevine Grille (Belchertown)



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Hardwick Vineyard & Winery (Hardwick)
Steaming Tender (Palmer)

HEROS

Adam Brougham, Belchertown Police Dept. K-9 Officer
Amanda Hodgen, Greene Acres Equestrian Center
Jennifer Whitehead, Clapp Memorial Library
Jillian Smith, resident of Wales
Paul Kuc, Recreation Program Director for BHN/VHS
Seth Blackwell, Warren Fire Dept. (Retired)

RETAILERS

Don's Auto Sales & Service (Belchertown)
Hardwick Farmers Co-op (Hardwick)
Life's Memories & More (Three Rivers)
Monson Thrift Shop & Community Center (Monson)
The Spirit Shoppe (West Brookfield)
Tina Marie's Hair & Boutique (Belchertown)

QHMA BUSINESSES

Country Bank (multiple locations)
Hardwick Farmers Co-op (Hardwick)
J. Stolar Insurance Agency (Three Rivers)
Monson Savings (multiple locations)
Salem Cross Inn (West Brookfield)
Teresa's Restaurant (Ware)

QHMA VOLUNTEERS

Cindy Skowyra, Hitchcock Free Academy
Edward Fisher Jr., Fisher Tech Solutions
Lena Buteau, Monson Savings
Lorna Stone, Christopher Heights of Belchertown
Mary Dembowski, Cedarbrook Village at Ware
Tracey Giard, Country Bank

Finalists and winners will be honored at the QHMA Choice Awards dinner on Thursday, May 8 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, MA, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region,



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including the fifteen towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Links:

<https://www.qhma.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/QuaboagChamber/>

<https://www.instagram.com/qhccma/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/quaboag-hills-chamber-of-commerce/>

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