

## And the Honorees Are . . .

**2021 Small Business of the Year is Gordon Wood Insurance & Financial Services**

**2021 Medium-Sized Business of the Year is Douglas County Farmers Co-op**

**2021 Large Business of the Year is Lone Rock Resources**

And, our . . .

**2020 First Citizens are Sue Van Volkenburg and Steve Loosley**

**2021 First Citizens are Andrea Zielinski and Dave Leonard**

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting of the membership and awards dinner on Thursday, March 24. Along with presenting its executive team for 2022, chamber leadership also shared the organization's [activities and accomplishments for 2020 and 2021](#), as well as some of the chamber's [key priorities for 2022](#). The chamber's annual event celebrated Roseburg and Douglas County businesses and provided the chamber the opportunity to recognize business excellence and distinguished service of individuals in our community.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors announced Tammy Turner from the Community Cancer Center will continue as chair of the board for 2022. Also holding leadership positions in 2022 are Gabe Crane of Roseburg Forest Products as vice chair and Sam Carter of Pacific Power as treasurer. They join Allen Pike, Hampton Inn & Suites, as the immediate past board chair and chamber president & CEO Debbie Fromdahl as the five corporate officers for the Roseburg Area Chamber in 2022.

The Roseburg Area Chamber key priorities for 2022 are founded in its mission to serve, promote and protect the businesses of Douglas County. The chamber will continue its work to create a strong local economy; represent the interests of business through political advocacy; promote the community and our member businesses; and, provide the quality programs chamber members have come to expect. In early 2022, the chamber focused on defeating anti-business legislation and promoting pro-business legislation during Oregon's 2022 legislative session. The chamber will continue to participate in local and statewide coalitions for economic development and government affairs endeavors. Other chamber priorities in 2022 include bringing all programs, events and committees back to "in-person;" implementing several new programs; expanding member and business resources and opportunities on the chamber's website; and, launching new business councils, to name a few.

During the evening's festivities, the chamber recognized three local companies for their excellence in business. The 2021 small business of the year award went to Gordon Wood Insurance & Financial Services. Douglas County Farmer's Co-op was recognized as the chamber's medium-sized business of the year for 2021, with Lone Rock Resources celebrated as the 2021 large business of the year award recipient.

Board chair Turner shared that a future plaque at the chamber of commerce and the chamber website will list honorees for each category for every year the business of the year awards are presented. The exception will be for the year 2020. There was simply no way to choose one business over another in a year where businesses were fighting to get their doors open, keep their doors open, keep workers employed and keep customers and employees safe, all while managing ever-changing operating mandates; a year where many businesses were fighting for survival. And, so, for the year 2020 under each category...small, medium and large business of the year...it will read, "Every Douglas County Business."

Since the pandemic postponed and, ultimately, shuttered the chamber's annual event last year, the chamber recognized its first citizens for both 2020 and 2021 this year. Sue Van Volkenburg and Steve Loosley received 2020 First Citizen honors for their longtime service and outstanding volunteer activity in our community. Loosley was recognized as a true servant leader whose community volunteerism included the YMCA, Casa de Belen, the Community Cancer Center, Southern Oregon Goodwill, the Legion Field turf project, Umpqua Community College board of trustees and more.

Van Volkenburg previously served on the Roseburg Chamber board of directors and a number of chamber committees. She has a long service association with Battered Persons Advocacy, LeTip, local youth sports to include the Cal Ripkin board and coaching girls' volleyball. A Roseburg Rotarian for more than 16 years where Van Volkenburg's service includes "being Mama Duck" and a Rotary Youth Exchange Officer, where she's been instrumental in coordinating both local youth exchange and setting up hosting families for international exchange students.

Andrea Zielinski and Dave Leonard were honored as the chamber's 2021 First Citizens. Zielinski was recognized for service as a Roseburg city councilwoman since 2015, including chairing the Historical Review and Roseburg Library commissions. She serves on the boards for the Family Development Center, Greater Douglas United Way and Douglas County Traffic Safety Commission. She volunteers time and talents to both the Music on the Half Shell committee and Friends of Umpqua Valley Police K9 programs committee. Zielinski is a Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce Project Leadership graduate.

Leonard was honored for his more than 30 years of volunteer service in our community. He served on the Mercy Medical Center and Mercy Foundation board of directors, four years as Mercy Medical Center's board chairman. Leonard served on a variety of commissions and boards for the city of Roseburg and Douglas County. Generous with his professional expertise as an engineer, Leonard is also known for designing the Marion Carl Memorial at the airport, Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center, the Half Shell Amphitheater, Fish Ladder at Winchester Dam, Children's Fort at River Forks Park and more projects throughout Douglas County than can be counted. Leonard also served several terms on the Roseburg Area Chamber board of directors and chamber Foundation board, serving as the Roseburg Chamber's chairman of the board in 2002.

Congratulations to all our 2020 and 2021 honorees for your most-deserved recognitions! What a great community we have the privilege to live, play and work in, with amazing leaders so willing to share their time and talents! And, what incredible businesses we have the absolute honor to serve!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the annual dinner press packet, which includes more details about all our honorees. Look for photos and more specifics in the chamber's May/June issue of its *Business Perspectives* newsletter.

## **Education in Douglas County Topic at April Membership Lunch**

[TICKETS ARE ON SALE](#) for the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's April 11 membership meeting lunch where we'll welcome UCC president Rachel Pokrandt and superintendent of Roseburg Public Schools, Jared Cordon to discuss education in Douglas County. Of the variety of topics discussed, attendees can expect a brief recap of how our public schools and community college met the numerous challenges during the pandemic from remote to in-person learning. We'll hear about ongoing and new programs and activities, future priorities and community/educational partnerships, and more. Chamber lunches are held at the Douglas County fairgrounds from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Tickets for the lunch program are on sale now. Advanced ticket purchase is required. Deadline to purchase ticket for the April 11 membership event is April 6 at 5:00 p.m. [MAKE MY RESERVATION!](#)

**Please support our local businesses!**

**Many local businesses and organizations are still experiencing staffing shortages.**

**Please be patient. Please be kind.**

*Debbie*

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM

President & CEO

Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce

