

Elin Miller & Guy Kennerly Are Our 2023 First Citizens!

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce held its 69th annual awards dinner and meeting of the membership on March 21, 2024. Leadership announced the organization's executive team for 2024, the chamber's activities and accomplishments for 2023, and highlighted some of the organization's key priorities for this year. Each year the chamber looks forward to its annual celebration of our business community and the opportunity to recognize business excellence and distinguished volunteer service of outstanding local citizens.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce will be led by the following executive leadership team in 2024: Chelsea Buckbee of Rogue Credit Union, chair of the board; Jeff Schwendener, Avista Utilities, vice chair; chamber president & CEO Debbie Fromdahl, board secretary; Jami Seal, Lone Rock Resources, treasurer; and, immediate past chair Tammy Turner from the Community Cancer Center, as the five corporate officers for the organization.

Each year, Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce priorities focus on its core responsibility to serve, promote and protect the businesses of Douglas County. The chamber will continue to represent the interests of business through political advocacy; its work to create a strong local economy; promote the community and our member businesses; and, of course, provide the quality programs chamber members have come to expect. Specifics about the [chamber's activities and accomplishments for 2023](#) and the organization's [key priorities for 2024](#) are detailed on the chamber's website.

During the evening's festivities, the Roseburg Chamber honored four local organizations for their excellence in business. The 2023 small business of the year recognition went to Roseburg's Community Cancer Center. Abby's Legendary Pizza was honored as the chamber's medium-size business of the year for 2023, with Roseburg Forest Products receiving large business of the year honors. Aviva Health was awarded the chamber's Excellence in Business Innovation recognition.

The highlight of the chamber's awards dinner is the annual naming of its First Citizens. Elin Miller and Guy Kennerly received the chamber's 2023 First Citizen honors for their years of volunteer service and unwavering commitment to our community. Miller was recognized for her service to the youth and young adults of Douglas County and our agricultural community. She previously served on the board and as president of Umpqua Community Development Corp. She served on Umpqua Bank's divisional board and UCC's Board of Education. She currently serves on the boards of UCC Foundation, Community Cancer Center, Forest Bridges, the Oregon Wine council, where she is a past board president and Oregon's Future Farmers of America Foundation board, as its immediate past president. Elin was appointed to Oregon's Board of Agriculture in 2020, by Gov. Kate Brown. In addition to her consulting firm, Elin, and her husband Bill, have a hazelnut farm—UmpquaNut Farm—and, a vineyard.

Kennerly was recognized as a "true community servant." His involvement includes serving on the boards of Douglas County Farmers Co-op, Cascade Community Credit Union and UCC's Board of Education. He is the longest serving board member for the Community Cancer Center. Guy's past volunteerism includes the Douglas County Industrial Development Board, Douglas County Planning Commission, Winston-Dillard School District Board and the Roseburg Area Chamber board of directors. He is active with Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, Oregon Sheep Growers Assn, Douglas County Livestock Assn, Rotary Club and local 4-H and FFA livestock auctions, to name a few. Guy owns Umpqua Insurance Agency and Umpqua Valley Tractor.

For more about our incredible honorees, take a look at RACC's "[Press Packet](#)" for the event and check out pictures of our honorees on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The [annual awards dinner program](#) is also available for viewing and download. The chamber's annual awards dinner and meeting of the membership was generously supported by the evening's title sponsor [Cascade Community Credit Union](#) and corporate sponsors [Lone Rock Resources](#) and [Acrisure Northwest/Umpqua Insurance Agency](#).

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Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO
Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce

