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AWARDS GIVEN TO COMMUNITY LEADERS AT REGIONAL CHAMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS LUNCHEON

TRI-CITIES, Wash. – 11 awards were presented to businesses, organizations, and individuals during the Regional Chamber's 2026 Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, March 25 at the Three Rivers Convention Center. The premier sponsor of the event was Numerica Credit Union.

The awards were distributed as follows:

- New Business of the Year – Grumpy Monkey Cookie Co.
- Small Business of the Year – The Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business
- Business of the Year – Ice Harbor Brewing Company

The Business of the Year awards recognize Regional Chamber members that achieved significant success over the previous year while positively impacting the community. Criteria include financial success, future planning, community involvement, and more. The New Business of the Year is intended for a business that has been in operation for fewer than three years. The Small Business of the Year is intended for a business with 50 full-time employees or fewer. The Business of the Year Award doesn't have either qualifier.

- Non-Profit of the Year Award – Columbia Ability Alliance

The Non-Profit of the Year Award recognizes a non-profit organization that achieved great success during the previous year while positively impacting the community.

- Spirit of Tri-Cities Award – Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation

The Spirit of Tri-Cities Award is intended for a business or organization that has demonstrated exemplary leadership and community engagement to positively impact the quality of life in the region. The recipient is selected by the Regional Chamber's Stakeholder-level members.

- Business Champion Award – Rep. Stephanie Barnard, 8th Legislative District

Introduced in 2026, the Business Champion Award is presented to an elected official who has gone above and beyond in fostering a strong business climate in the region. The recipient is selected by the Regional Chamber’s Local Government Affairs Committee and is recognized for supporting pro-business legislation, championing job creation, promoting economic development, and governing with fiscal responsibility.

- Board Members of the Year –
1st Trish Herron, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
2nd Jennifer Cunnington, Q Home Loans
3rd Tyler Best, Abadan

The Board Member of the Year recognition honors the Regional Chamber board members who demonstrated the highest level of engagement over the previous year, as tracked through a points-based system. Points are earned by attending meetings, participating in events, and supporting Chamber initiatives.

- Chamber S.T.A.R. Award – Brian Moreno, Steward Leadership

The Chamber S.T.A.R. Award is presented to a volunteer who goes above and beyond for the Chamber. S.T.A.R. is an acronym for service, time, attitude, reliability.

- Community Impact Award – Ben Franklin Transit

The Community Impact Award is presented to the non-profit organization or government entity that provided the Chamber with the most financial support over the previous year.

- Corporate Impact Award – Hanford Tank Waste Operations & Closure (H2C)

The Corporate Impact Award is presented to the for-profit organization that provided the Chamber with the most financial support over the previous year.

- Tom Powers Ambassador of the Year Award – Chad Yost, HAPO Community Credit Union

The Tom Powers Ambassador of the Year Award is given to the Regional Chamber Ambassador who amassed the most points for participating in Chamber activities over the previous year.

Award videos can be viewed on the [Chamber’s YouTube channel](#) and at <https://www.tricityregionalchamber.com/annualmeeting.html>.

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce is the catalyst, convener and champion for community and business prosperity. For further details about the Regional Chamber, visit www.tricityregionalchamber.com or call 509.736.0510.

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