

Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year Nomination Information

The Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee will recognize the Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year recipient at a luncheon on Monday, May 1, during Small Business Month.

CRITERIA

- **Definition:** A small business is considered to be one that employs fewer than 200 full-time employees and is locally owned and operated (within the Chamber's service area of Cleveland and Bradley County).
- **Eligibility:** The nominee must be a current member in good standing of the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce and must have been a member for at least one year prior to the deadline for nominations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- ◆ **STAYING POWER**—A substantiated history as an established business. Minimum of three years in business.
- ◆ **GROWTH IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**—A benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market (maximum of 200 full-time).
- ◆ **INCREASE IN SALES AND/OR UNIT VOLUME**—An indication of continued growth.
- ◆ **INNOVATIVENESS OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE OFFERED**—Illustrations of the creativity and imagination of the nominee.
- ◆ **RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY**—Written documentation of examples of problems faced by the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them.
- ◆ **EVIDENCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE NOMINEE TO AID COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PROJECTS**—The nominee's involvement in or contributions to civic/community, charitable, religious and professional organizations. Definitions: Involvement = Volunteer time; Contribution = Donation of funds, goods or services and/or other evidence of the nominee's effort to assist other small businesses.

Previous Winners: 1994—Ron Braam, Manufacturers Chemicals; 1995—Susan Shelton, Bradley News Weekly; 1996—Mel Bedwell, Cleveland Business Machines; 1997—Larry McDaniel, Town Squire; 1998—Reba Garrison, State Farm Insurance; 1999—Jim Duggan, Robinson Building Centers; 2000—Cathy Boettner, Cleveland Tubing; 2001—Dan Cooke, Cooke's Food Stores/Panera Bread; 2002—Kay Jenkins-Cowan, Jenkins Deli; 2003—Kenny Higgins, Santek Environmental; 2004—Loye Hamilton, Coldwell Banker/Hamilton & Associates; 2005—Ross Tarver, Tarver Distributing; 2006—Lynn Jones, Lynn Jones Enterprises; 2007—Steve Robinson, Cleveland Plywood; 2008—Don Geren, Cleveland/Bradley Business Incubator; 2009—Jim Workman, Bender Realty; 2010—Hal Roe, Bradley Rentals; 2011—Ed Jacobs, Ed Jacobs & Associates; 2012—Shannon Ritzhaupt, Café Roma; 2013—Debbie Melton, Don Ledford Automotive; 2014—Roger Pickett, Murmaid Mattress; 2015—Greg Hicks, Impressions Catering; 2016—Jeff Cocks, Corporate Networking Solutions.

DEADLINE

*Mail, email or deliver the nomination by **March 31, 2017:***

Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year Award

Email: BDouglas@clevelandchamber.com

Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Inc.

225 Keith Street, SW

P.O. Box 2275

Cleveland, TN 37320-2275

Cover Sheet
MEL BEDWELL SMALL BUSINESSPERSON
OF THE YEAR AWARD

Name of Nominee _____

Business of Nominee _____

Nominator: _____

Contact Information: _____

Include this form as the cover sheet for the nomination. Please fill in any blanks as indicated and attach narrative information as indicated.

1. **NOMINATION LETTER**—Attach a cover letter addressing why you as the nominator feel that this person should receive the Mel Bedwell Small Business Person of the Year Award.
2. **STAYING POWER**—Minimum of three years in business.
Date Business Formed: _____
Number of Years Continuous Operation: _____ (If business has not been in continuous operation, attach a paragraph titled “Staying Power” (of 100 words or less) to explain any gaps.)
3. **GROWTH IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES** (maximum of 200 full-time)
Number of employees in first year of operation: _____
Current number of employees: _____
4. **INCREASE IN SALES AND/OR UNIT VOLUME**—An indication of continued growth.
Attach a statement indicating the growth of the company.
5. **INNOVATIVENESS OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE OFFERED**—Attach a paragraph of 500 words or less titled “Innovativeness” describing same.
6. **RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY**—Attach written documentation of examples of problems faced by the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them. (No more than 500 words)
7. **EVIDENCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE NOMINEE TO AID COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PROJECTS**—Attach description of the nominee’s efforts in this area.
8. **LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT**—No more than two (2) letters of endorsement may be included.