**Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year**

**Nomination Information**

The Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee will present the Chamber’s Small Businessperson of the Year Award named in memory of Mel Bedwell during Small Business Month activities in May.

# 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 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; 2017—Bob McIntire, McIntire & Associates Insurance; 2018—Pam Nelson, Ocoee Insurance Services; 2019—Jeff Wolfenden, Crawford’s Pharmacy; 2020—Steve Hartline, WCLE-Mix 104.1; 2021—Brad Benton, Baskin-Robbins.

# DEADLINE

*Mail, email or deliver the nomination by* ***March 31, 2022****:*

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 SheetMEL 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.)

1. **GROWTH IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES** (maximum of 200 full-time)

Number of employees in first year of operation: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Current number of employees:\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **INCREASE IN SALES AND/OR UNIT VOLUME**—An indication of continued growth.

Attach a statement indicating the growth of the company.

1. **INNOVATIVENESS OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE OFFERED**—Attach a paragraph of 500 words or less titled “Innovativeness” describing same.
2. **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)
3. **EVIDENCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE NOMINEE TO AID COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PROJECTS—**Attach description of the nominee’s efforts in this area.
4. **LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT**—No more than two (2) letters of endorsement may be included.