

The Chamber Pride & Progress Awards are nominated by outside sources and judged independently by a committee using a scoring criteria for questions related to the award. All scores are then tabulated to bring you the following results;

The New Business of the Year opened in 2011 offering 24 hour service to anyone in town. The owner of this business invested a lot of time to renovate an old building to bring it back to life. With now 450 members, this business is growing quickly. On opening day, they had over 200 members already signed up, which is over twice the pre-registered membership of an opening facility. Of the 279 facilities opened in 2011, the Lincoln facility was ranked number 4. It is a great place to get personal training and keep yourself in shape. Being so involved with the community is why Anytime Fitness is the 2011 New Business of the Year.

The Beautification Award winner is one that has made the historic downtown Lincoln area a real beauty. After many coats of paint and much time and money spent, this Chamber business reaped in the love from the community. Before renovations, the age was show by a run down building, but after the renovations, the age is shown through the beauty of architecture. The results speak for themselves and truly have made Lincoln/Logan County a more beautiful place to live. That is why the Lincoln Theater 4 is the 2011 Beautification Award Recipient.

The Excellence in Service Award goes to a Chamber business that is very involved in the community and the Chamber. Each employee of this business makes sure that you are helped when you walk in the door, and make sure that you feel welcome until you get in your car to leave. The owners of this business are very involved in the community and make sure that each customer is served at the most convenient hours. With changing hours for different seasons, and having much appreciation for their customers, we believe that NAPA Auto Parts is the Excellence in Service Award winner.

The Ambassador of the Year will be given to the Chamber Ambassador who has attended ribbon cuts, business afterhours, and other chamber events and encourages chamber membership and is an overall ambassador and steward of Logan County. It is rare that there is an event in Logan County that this person is not in attendance to support and report. The Chamber Ambassador of the Year is Marcia Cook.

The 2011 Distinguished Business of the Year is a business that not only serves their customers, but also the community of Lincoln and Logan County as a whole. The staff spends a lot of their time volunteering for events and giving to charities as well as making sure their customers always have a way to get where they need to be. With most of the staff being Logan County residents, this business will always have a hometown spirit. This business is heavily involved in every event at the Chamber as

well as many events around the Lincoln and Logan County area so that is why we welcome Graue, Incorporated as the 2011 Distinguished Business of the Year.

The Mike Abbott Volunteer of the Year is an individual that goes above and beyond in the biggest event that the Chamber puts on, the Art & Balloon Festival. Without this individuals help, the Art & Balloon Festival would be not what it is today. Since 2005 when the festival first moved to the airport, this person was there to help with the planning and build out of the electrical infrastructure that was required for the event. Thousands of dollars in materials and countless man hours were donated to help make the event successful. Since then, this individual works weeks in advance to make sure that everything is taken care of. Many trips from downtown to the airport are made, and this person is always on hand during the festival if we need anything. After the festival, this individual is back to help take it all down. It is an honor to present Joe Fitzpatrick with the Mike Abbott Volunteer of the Year Award.