



2025 Awards Nominations

Excellence in Small Business

This award recognizes a Chamber Business Member with 25 employees or less for its success and growth; improvement to the business; community involvement; leadership development; dedication to employees and commitment to customer service.

Banner Up Signs

I would like to nominate Banner Up Signs for the Excellence in Small Business Award. Over the past year, their growth has been highly visible through the addition of several new staff positions, but what is even more impressive is the palpable shift in their company culture. It is evident from the outside that their team is engaged, happy, and dedicated to the mission. Their success and growth are a direct reflection of their leadership's dedication to their employees and the high level of service they provide to other local businesses. They are a true pillar of the business community.

Cougars Venue, Bar & Gaming

Another nomination we would like to make is Cougars. This adult space provide a gaming lounge, barn and event venue that seems to be a fun, popular place among local residents. They offering live music and entertainment throughout the week too. They use their facility to bring people together for community gatherings and personal celebrations. They are becoming a big supporter of the Genoa Area Chamber as well.

Davidson Pargman & Company

Davidson Pargman and Company is a shining example of excellence in business through its leadership, service, and unwavering support of the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce. The firm demonstrates strong community involvement and leadership through Melissa Davidson, who serves as Treasurer on the Chamber's Board of Directors, providing trusted financial oversight and guidance that helps ensure the organization's long-term stability and success.

The firm's commitment extends beyond board service. Employee Angie Uthe went above and beyond by personally training the Chamber's Executive Director in QuickBooks, payroll, and accounting processes. This has empowered the Chamber with the tools and knowledge needed to operate efficiently and confidently. Additionally, Carissa Brindle, the Chamber's

2024 Ambassador of the Year, is a consistent volunteer and enthusiastic ambassador whose dedication strengthens Chamber programs, events, and member engagement.

Davidson Pargman and Company also gives back to the community by proactively sharing email communications and social media updates that educate businesses and residents on tax law changes, regulatory updates, and best practices, helping the community stay informed and compliant in an ever-changing financial landscape. Their commitment to community investment is further demonstrated through sponsorships of local FFA programs and area youth sports teams, reinforcing their dedication to supporting education, leadership development, and the community.

Through exceptional service, employee dedication, community leadership, and a commitment to education and transparency, Davidson Pargman and Company continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact making them a truly deserving recipient of the Excellence in Business Award.

Davidson Pargman & Company

I am pleased to nominate Davidson Pargman and Company LLC for the Excellence in Small Business Award. DPC, deserves to be recognized for their sustained excellence, professional integrity, and meaningful impact on both its clients as well as surrounding businesses in the community.

Davidson Pargman and Company LLC has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality professional services marked by deep expertise, responsiveness, and a client-first philosophy. The firm consistently demonstrates a commitment to helping businesses and individuals make informed, strategic decisions while navigating complex financial and operational environments. Its work reflects not only technical proficiency, but also a clear dedication to long-term client success.

In addition to volunteering her time as a board member and serving as the Chamber's Treasurer, Melissa - along with members of her team at Davidson Pargman & Company - works extensively behind the scenes to ensure the Chamber's financial reports are timely, accurate, and reliable. The firm also provides valuable support through training and guidance for the Chamber's Director and board on accounting practices and financial functions. Davidson Pargman & Company is a true asset to the Chamber and the broader community, as Melissa actively volunteers with numerous nonprofit and civic organizations, including Fox Valley WIM (Board Treasurer and former Operations Chair), G-K AYSO Soccer (Board Treasurer and Coach), Genoa Ambassador, G-K Trailblazers Snowmobile Club, the American Institute of CPAs, and the Illinois CPA Society.

For its consistent excellence, positive economic impact, and commitment to community and professional standards, Davidson Pargman and Company LLC is highly deserving of this Chamber Business Award.

Keep It Poppin

We would like to nominate Keep It Poppin for their popcorn business. This business was started and we believe they are currently still working out of their home to provide handmade popcorn of all sorts. We love that they 'lit a spark rooted in community and happiness' as they say. Their actions match their intention to bring quality snacks and

positive vibes to Genoa. They continue to grow locally and are actively engaging customers through word of mouth and social media. They offer both pick-up and delivery services that reinforce their service-oriented mission.

Lou's Lemonade

I would like to nominate Lou's Lemonade for the Excellence in Small Business award. Lou is a young entrepreneur that has shown dedication and passion in her business. She had a desire to make money and had a product she felt the community would enjoy. She took all the needed steps to pursue her dreams in 6th grade! She followed you tube video's, studied chemistry and learned about the correct sanitation skills to get certified from the health department and made it work. She does all of this while still being a full-time middle school student in clubs and sports. She is involved in community events and is a leader among her peers. Her commitment to her product and the ability to adapt and pivot in a business world is admirable.

Responsive Roofing

I am nominating Responsive Roofing for the Excellence in Small Business Award. As a customer who recently had my roof replaced by them, I experienced firsthand their incredible commitment to customer service and professionalism. Beyond my personal experience, it is clear they are in a season of impressive growth and internal improvement. They have expanded their team with a new Office Manager, Kayli, and are clearly investing in their leadership and operational structure to better serve our community. Their dedication to doing things the right way, both on the job site and in the office, makes them a standout example of a thriving Genoa small business.