

2024 Star Award Winners

Kelly Callahan, Liz Higgins, Stacy Kupsky *Chamber Leaders + Super Volunteers*

Kelly, Liz, and Stacy have been actively involved in the Chamber for years, serving in various leadership and volunteer roles. They currently serve on the Programming and Membership Committee and have also contributed to the former Women in Business Committee. Noticing a growing number of women joining the Chamber with diverse professional needs, they saw an opportunity to expand programming to better serve these amazing business leaders. In 2024, the EmpowHER Women's Network was launched, offering quarterly, topic-focused roundtable discussions. The program has been a great success, with over 150 participants, and will continue in 2025. The Chamber appreciates these stars for their ongoing, dedicated leadership and support!



Thomas Brown *Wayzata Yacht Club*

Thomas Brown's creativity and vision have brightened our community, literally. This person took a simple idea and transformed it into a magical, unforgettable experience during our Wayzata Art Experience this past June.

On the Saturday evening of our Wayzata Art Experience, Tom and his fleet brought the water to life with the first-ever Light-Up Boat Parade. As the sun set over the beautiful shores of Wayzata, sailboats illuminated the lake with sparkling lights, creating a breathtaking visual display that captivated everyone lucky enough to witness it.

This parade didn't just enhance the art fair; it elevated our community's spirit. Tom led this effort, organized the participants, and made sure everything went smoothly. You are a true star, and this award is a small token of our deep appreciation.



Kirk Zahrbock and Vince Cerniglia *The Wayzata Legion*

The fantastic team at the Wayzata American Legion, including Kirk Zahrbock and Vince Cerniglia, have made exceptional contributions to our community. When the Wayzata Chilly Open was canceled this past February, it was the Wayzata Legion that stepped up with remarkable generosity and initiative.

Kirk, Vince, and their team quickly organized the “Chicken Open”, an all-you-can-eat chicken dinner fundraiser, rallying together to support our local traditions and support the loss of one of the Chamber’s largest fundraisers. Thanks to their support and all the chicken dinner fans, they helped us raise \$1,700.

The Wayzata Legion has also become more involved in our community festivals, sponsoring and participating in ways that truly make a difference. Additionally, they’ve graciously offered space for our Chamber networking series next year, further cementing their role as a cornerstone of our community. Wayzata Legion team, we cannot thank you enough!



Dawn Schelle ***Don & Co Botanicals***

It is our honor to present the Star Award to Dawn Schelle, the creative force behind Don & Co. Botanicals. Dawn has brought an incredible touch of artistry and nature to our community with her stunning botanical installations and photo displays.

For years, Dawn has generously shared her talent with us, creating immersive experiences for festival attendees at the Wayzata Chilly Open and the Wayzata Art Experience. Her floral creations aren't just beautiful; they transform ordinary spaces into vibrant, living art. Whether it's a stunning floral installation or an interactive photo backdrop made of flowers, Dawn invites all of us to pause, admire, and connect with the natural world in unexpected ways.

Dawn's dedication and creativity enrich our community, and we're truly grateful for her unwavering support and vision. Dawn, on behalf of all of us at the Chamber, thank you for sharing your extraordinary talent and passion.

