

Chamber of Commerce awards Addison County excellence



**LINDSAY H. KURRLE,
ROBERT FEUERSTEIN,
DAVID PROVOST**



**UNITED WAY OF
ADDISON COUNTY**



**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
OF THE YEAR
ADAM RAINVILLE**



**LISA PHELPS,
MEGAN MANDIGO**



**HALL OF FAMERS SARAH
COWAN AND SUE HOXIE**



**COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
UNITED WAY OF ADDISON COUNTY**



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY

VERGENNES — The Addison County Chamber of Commerce recognized several area businesses and individuals for excellence this past Thursday during its annual meeting at the Vergennes Opera House.

The National Bank of Middlebury was recognized as the Business of the Year. The Community Achievement Organization of the Year was given to the United Way of Addison County, Lisa Phelps of Parlour was honored as the Buster Brush Citizen of the Year, and Adam Rainville of Maple Landmark Woodcrafts was named Young Professional of the Year. In addition, Sarah Cowan and Sue Hoxie were named to the Inaugural Hall of Fame Class.

A few comments about each recipient follows:

- National Bank of Middlebury. Nancy Foster made the presentation, which is based on a business that possesses excellent business practices within the workplace, has had a positive economic impact on the community through improvements or sustained efforts, made improvements to a building or facility that had a positive impact on the community and promoted Addison County and is a member in good standing.

Foster noted the bank, which was founded in 1831 and currently employs 92, continues to make countless contributions to worthwhile efforts each year and to volunteer at numerous community events, but also in 2022 went above and beyond the call of duty by providing over 400 PPP loans to area businesses during the pandemic and “met business challenges like temporarily pausing loan payments to help businesses through those trying times. We are

happy to see so many businesses not only survive, but come through the pandemic thriving with the help of their local bank, National Bank of Middlebury.”

- United Way of Addison County: The 2022 Community Achievement Award was presented by Karen Duguay, who noted that the award is given annually to a nonprofit chamber member that experiences a significant achievement during the year and/or has sustained efforts that greatly benefits its communities.

“For 54 years, United Way of Addison County has been a uniter, bringing people and resources together to solve complex problems,” Duguay said. “Today, UWAC is a robust resource hub for local nonprofits, offering funding, advocacy support, volunteer power, professional development, data collection, and more to organizations engaged in improving health, education, and financial stability systems and outcomes.”

Among the things accomplished in the past year, UWAC:

- Increased investments in local nonprofits by \$28,000.
- Invested \$60,000 in community programs, including the volunteer center, Vermont 2-1-1, Stuff the Bus, Days of Caring, youth scholarship awards and Learn United.
- Provided \$25,000 in flexible funding to our local Housing Solutions team.
- Launched Learn United, a free nonprofit seminar series in partnership with Hedgehog & Fox Collaborative.
- Leveraged \$400,000 of Federal funding help local youth to make healthy choices.
- Secured \$30,000 of Vermont Department of Health funding to

address youth vaping.

- Connected 287 volunteers with local jobs throughout the county during Days of Caring.

“At the heart of UWAC’s mission to improve lives and strengthen the community,” Duguay concluded, “is a strong belief that when our local nonprofit organizations are thriving, our community will also thrive. You’ll find UWAC staff around many tables in Addison County, listening, learning, convening, problem solving, finding and leveraging resources, and fighting for change.”

- Adam Rainville, the Chamber’s 2022 Young Professional of the Year, was introduced by Bob Feuerstein, who noted Rainville has not only been active within the company but also has been an active member of the Middlebury Lions Club and is currently serving as its treasurer. Adam has volunteered for the Addison County Sugar Makers at Field Days for the past 15 years, and currently serves on the Chamber Board of Directors as its past chair.

- Lisa Phelps was introduced as the 2022 Buster Brush Citizen of the Year by Megan Mandigo, who noted that Phelps has over the past year, “played a role in supporting young leaders and entrepreneurs through mentorship/coaching opportunities and by being a resource for education and information. Lisa is currently mentoring six college students at Middleton and has three women apprentices at Parlour, a teaching salon. After apprenticing for 10 months, they will receive their license without having to pay a hefty school fee.

“She has also donated over \$15,000 to local charities and events focusing on children in the

community,” Mandigo said, adding that “Lisa is a business leader who hopes that her tireless efforts in building up her town changes the emptiness we have felt for some time.”

- 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees, Sarah Cowan and Sue Hoxie:

Sarah Cowan is Executive Vice President of National Bank of Middlebury and has been with the bank for almost 31 years, currently as the bank’s Head of Loan Strategy. Cowan is a past President and board member of Addison County Economic Development Corporation and past Chair of the Vermont Bankers Association. Other community roles included serving on the boards of Porter Hospital and Porter Medical Center, Better Middlebury Partnership and Vergennes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Cowan has been able to participate on a council of community bankers at the national level, as well as on a board represented by banks of all sizes from across our country. She has presented community banking issues while sitting in the Federal Reserve Board room with (now Chair) Jerome Powell and other Federal Reserve Board members; She has been part of conversations with the Comptroller of the Currency and Chair of the FDIC.

Cowan describes herself as “a country banker with a strong desire to serve my local community,” adding “if because of this I’ve made a positive impact in banking or in improving our local community wellbeing, I’ve done my job.”

Sue Hoxie worked at the Addison County Chamber for more than nine years, first as its director of marketing and then acting president

when her predecessor departed for another state. With guidance from an involved board and supportive, but smaller staff, Hoxie helped the chamber regain solid financial footing and led the chamber through a strategic planning process, which resulted in the current tier-based membership dues structure. In addition, during her tenure, Hoxie led the creation of several community events that continue to bring visitors to Addison County.

Hoxie has lived in New Jersey, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and is a graduate of Boston University and the Katharine Gibbs School. Her early career was spent working for high-tech companies in the Boston area until she and her husband, Dave, relocated to Vermont in 2008 to take the chamber’s marketing position.

In 2019, she started Maple Run Marketing and for the past four years has worked with small businesses supporting their marketing efforts and with nonprofits serving as a part-time executive director or event planner. She has many past and current local business and nonprofit clients that include several Addison County Chamber members and partners.

Hoxie is a long-time volunteer at Homeward Bound and currently serves on its board of directors. She previously served on Porter Hospital’s Auxiliary Board and currently serves on Porter’s community relations committee.

- Lindsay H. Kurrle, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, was the evening’s keynote speaker. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Kurrle led the Governor’s Economic Mitigation and Recovery Leadership team and Task Force responsible for the distribution of more than \$300 million in economic relief funds to Vermont businesses.

