

Online Voting Open for the 2026 Choice Awards

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Announces 35 Finalists Across Seven Categories

Palmer, MA, February 18, 2026 – Online voting has opened to vote for the 2026 Choice Awards on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce website, qhma.com. Each year, the Quaboag Hills Chamber recognizes individuals and businesses that enrich the region.

Members of the public are encouraged to cast their votes between now and March 15 for the finalists who are being celebrated this year.

“The annual Choice Awards continues to be one of the most beloved traditions we operate. Last year, we tallied more than 22,000 votes for the deserving people and businesses nominated”, stated James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The 2026 Choice Award categories and finalists are:

Community Hero of the Year finalists, Ann Davidson of the Wales Community Food Pantry, Karen Jacobs Davis of the Monson Together Community Cupboard, Brenda McCarthy at the Bondsville Post Office, Amy Scribner from River East School to Career, and Chris Smith of Light Up Palmer.

Educator of the Year finalists, Pam Ellis from Granite Valley School, Jacqueline Fernandez from North Brookfield Elementary School, Marcie Fusco from Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School, Beky O'Brien from Old Mill Pond Elementary, and Marion Reilly from Wales Elementary School.

The “We Keep You Running” HVAC Business of the Year finalists, C.W. Angell of Ware, Noonan Energy of Palmer, Pioneer Valley Environmental of Ware, River-Air HVAC of Brimfield, and Squier & Co of Monson.

The “We Build It” Manufacturer of the Year finalists, Palmer Foundry, Palmer Paving, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co of Ware, Quirk Wire Co of West Brookfield, and Sanderson MacLeod of Palmer.

The “We Do Good” Non-Profit of the Year finalists, the Behavioral Health Network, Hitchcock Free Academy, the Palmer Historical & Cultural Center, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, and Workshop13.

The Chamber Champion of the Year finalists, Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C., Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, Pathfinder Tech, SERVPRO Team Fall, and Superior Plus Energy.

The Chamber Legacy Award finalists, Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, Country Bank, Monson Savings, Moulton Insurance Agency, and North Brookfield Savings Bank.

The winners will be announced and all finalists will be honored at the QHMA Choice Awards dinner on Wednesday, May 6 at The Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer. Tickets to the event are on sale now at qhma.com.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, MA, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the fifteen towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Links:

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