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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Announces 2018 Award Recipients

Chamber's Outstanding New Member, Business Person of the Year, and Small Business of the Year to be Recognized at June 22nd Awards Luncheon

Lakewood, OH – The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will award the 2018 Outstanding New Member, Business Person of the Year, and Small Business of the Year at the organization's Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, June 22nd at Vosh Lakewood.

Ms. Carol Lynn Barrett has been named the 2018 Chamber's Outstanding New Member. Carol Lynn Barrett, owner and founder of Carol Lynn's Solon Plus, has been part of the Lakewood community for over 30 years. Her salon, located on Madison Ave, has been in business for 11 years now, but she's been doing hair in Lakewood for 31 years! As a longtime resident of Lakewood, she has a passion for the community and prides herself on being involved and knowing her neighbors. Carol joined the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce in 2014 and is currently starting her second term on the Chamber's Board of Directors. Carol's strength in building relationships has led her to serve as the interim President of Uptown Lakewood Business Alliance, a group of retailers working together to revitalize the Madison Avenue area from Hilliard Blvd. to Warren Rd. to make it a destination for shoppers. Carol is also a member of Lakewood/ Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club and a member of the Key Spouse Program in the United States Air Force where she assists family members of deployed Airmen.

Mr. Mike DeStefano, Principal of DMS Management Solutions, is the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2018 Business Person of the Year. Mike is a dedicated business leader and has been an active member of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce since 2009. Mike started DMS in

Lakewood 14 years ago and assists small businesses by providing accounting, tax, and bookkeeping services. Mike has a vested interest in the success of small businesses like those in Lakewood, and has built his business and his reputation on helping them to succeed and thrive. He has many outstanding businesses and nonprofit clients in Lakewood including: Dimit Architects, Shinn Law Firm, Erie Design, Sentry Protection Products, Lanter Legal, Campbell's Sweets Factory, CLE Turnkey Real Estate, Stella and Shay Beauty Bar, Robert Myers Insurance, Puma Yoga, the Lakewood Historical Society, Meridian Condominium, Ches Sumpter & Associates, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. As a Weatherhead 100 award winner for the second consecutive year, DMS Management Solutions has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing companies in Northeast Ohio. Mike is a graduate of Cleveland State University, the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program and the EO (Entrepreneurs' Organization) Accelerator Program. Mike has served on the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for two consecutive terms and has served as the Chamber's Treasurer since 2014.

Lion & Blue has been named the 2018 Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year. Lion & Blue has been in business since February of 1996, shortly after owners Michael and Tina Dolatowski married and also decided to "marry" their talents, resulting in Lion and Blue. Lion and Blue is a retail store in downtown Lakewood that specializes in unusual gifts, clothing and jewelry from around the world, with many being certified Fair Trade. They are known as a great gift shop where your gifts will be wrapped and ready to give. They are experts in Birkenstock fitting and carry one of the largest Birkenstock selections in the area. Michael is a master jeweler, creating custom work and doing jewelry repair. In a tumultuous brick and mortar retail climate, Lion and Blue has managed not only to survive but to thrive and in 2016 expand into a second store front. This is due to Tina and Michael's exemplary customer service and commitment to the community of Lakewood. Lion and Blue is a member of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and Michael is a member of LakewoodAlive. Tina has two community gardens that she plants and tends for KeepLakewoodBeautiful Adopt-A-Spots.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will honor its Past Presidents, long-term members, and the 2018 award recipients at their Annual Awards Luncheon on June 22nd at Vosh Lakewood. Read more about the event and this year's awards recipients at www.lakewoodchamber.org.

About the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Serving the greater Lakewood community for over 100 years, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is the leading membership organization for the advocacy and advancement of business interests. Comprised of more than 325 member businesses and individuals, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has a long history of advocating on behalf of businesses owners by providing group purchasing programs for products and services, advocating for changes in legislation or regulation, offering affordable marketing & promotional opportunities, and providing educational seminars, networking events, and monthly meetings for small businesses to connect with and learn from each other. (www.lakewoodchamber.org)

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