

### **Business Leader of the Year**

I am proud to nominate my boss for this award. They have grown their business from a handful of employees to over twenty. They have expanded to have two locations and regularly work in a seven-county area in Northwest Ohio. We have a staff meeting every Monday morning at 7:00 am and they make a point to greet EVERY employee with a "good morning". If they are in the office when we leave, they always say, "good night" and normally add a "thank you". This individual recognizes us not just as employees, but as people. They ask questions about our family and show interest in our lives outside of work.

They kept the doors open during the pandemic and kept their employees working AND safe. They are not quick to make changes but prefer to ponder them for a while to make sure that they are a sound business decision. I admire their ability to not get angry when presented with a bad situation but remain collected and begin to ask questions to get to the bottom of the issue. I admire the fact that they are not part of the "what's in it for me" bandwagon but rather wonder what they can do to help someone else. We installed a furnace for a customer in the middle of the winter and did not bill them for it because this person knew they had no money to pay. They were more concerned that this customer would be comfortable in their home.

They are also a member, and past President, of the Paulding Entrepreneur Network. They are always willing to volunteer at the Paulding County Fair and with FFA activities. I believe that they deserve this recognition because of all these things and the many more great qualities that I haven't included.

The 2023 Business Leader of the Year recipient is Doug Schlatter. Congratulations!