

First National Bank Named One of the Best Banks to Work For

First National Bank of Middle Tennessee has been named one of the Best Banks to Work For in 2015 by American Banker Magazine which will feature the bank along with other winners in its September issue.

The honor is the first ever for a McMinnville local bank.

The program, which was initiated in 2013 to identify, recognize and honor the best banks to work for in the nation, is a project of American Banker and Best Companies Group. In all, 50 banks achieved "Best Bank" status in this third year for the program.

Recognition for the honor was based largely, 75 percent, on employee surveys "aimed at assessing the experiences and attitudes of individual employees with respect to their workplace." Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process and also analyzed the data and used their expertise to determine the final ranking.

"I was honored and humbled to learn that First National Bank of Middle Tennessee was selected as one of the top 50 banks to work for in the U.S.," Levoy Knowles, First National board chairman, said. "This is an impressive distinction created by the work environment of each and every one of our employees. They care about one another and make it feel like an extended family. I am honored to be associated with such a fine group of people."

Pieter van Vuuren is president and CEO of First National, overseeing a work force of 82 in Warren County and a total workforce of 117 with five locations here and nine total.

"Our goal is to create an environment at the bank where our employees enjoy to work and feel that they make a difference. We work hard at this goal and it is a team effort day in and day out. I am extremely proud of this recognition and our employees, and I am honored to be part of such a terrific team," van Vuuren said.

Visitors to First National's main office on Main Street will often be greeted by Queita Roberts' smiling face. She has been with the bank for 45 years, serving in the main office, at two branches, as branch manager at the Smithville Highway branch and now again at the Main Street office.

"I have worked in numerous positions, starting out doing work manually and now to this new age of computers. I have enjoyed all the people that I work with and consider them family. They are always there when needed," she said. "The customers are delightful and you look forward to seeing them. Our bank gives so much back to the community and so many of the employees participate and put so much enjoyment in activities. I consider it a privilege to work and be a part at such a fine financial institution."

Cindy J. Swann began working at First National as a very young woman and advanced through the rank to her current roles as executive vice president, senior branch administrator and corporate secretary.

“I remember the call from Mr. Luther Curtis asking me if I wanted to work for First National Bank, 43 years ago this November,” Swann said. “I never expected to go from bookkeeping to one day being Executive Vice President. Working here has given me the opportunity to serve in many different positions and work with great employees, many who have 20 to 30 years’ experience here.”

Swann credited the bank’s “strength, leadership, service to our customers and community, and overall working environment are some of the reasons employees enjoy working here. It’s been a good experience for me.”

Determining the Best Banks to Work For involved a two-step process. The first step consisted of evaluating each participating bank’s workplace policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 25 percent of the total evaluation.

The second part consisted of employee surveys aimed at assessing the experiences and attitudes of individual employees with respect to their workplace. This part of the process was worth approximately 75 percent of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top banks and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process and also analyzed the data and used their expertise to determine the final ranking.

About First National Bank of Middle Tennessee

The third oldest bank in Tennessee, First National Bank of Middle Tennessee offers a full range of banking services. First National Bank of McMinnville is a member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender.