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News

Chamber presents business awards; marks 91 years at annual meeting

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The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce presented its business awards at the 91st annual meeting Feb. 16 at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Some 130 businesses and individuals have received awards since the Chamber began the recognition in 1991. The Chamber has 400 members.

President Nick Pollacia Jr. welcomed the guests and acknowledged that small business is the lifeblood of the country.

Immediate past chairman of the board Richard Gill said he has been on the chamber board for the last six years. He outlined his goals during the past year including being an advocate for both small and big business; recognizing that individual success strengthens the community; holding seminars to give updates on legislative and political developments; writing letters or support and opposition to government initiatives; and getting the chamber and its members to work as a team.

Roger Cunningham moved into the chairman's position. His three goals for the chamber in the coming year are to improve workforce development; help create more jobs; and increase membership.

The winners included:

New Business (1-3 years): Dr. Dr. Manish Dhawan, Northwest Louisiana Cancer Center

Small Business (1-5 employees): Glen Monsour and Monsour Communications

Small Business (6-15 employees): Dwight Epperson and Jiffy Lube

Small Business (15 plus employees): Natchitoches Out Patient Medical Center, Executive Director John Winston

Tourism Advancement Award: Leslie Smith and Natchitoches Main Street Program

Corporate/Industry: ATMOS Energy accepted by Mike Mancil

Golden Plus Anniversary: Boy Scouts of America accepted by Grant Frederick

Entrepreneurial Excellence Award: Roy O. Martin III for his effort to establish Wood Works classes in local high schools to train high students to work in the wood and timber industry

Chairman's Award: Lanie Maggio-Adkins, chamber staff for sales and promotions and office administration

You Made It Happen Award: Tommy Stewart and Stewart Chevrolet for providing vehicles for the Christmas Festival parade.

Other officers include chairman-elect Joe Henry, vice chairman Herman Mayeux, treasurer Russ Danzy and office staff Marilyn Millikin and Lanie Maggio-Adkins.

The board of directors includes Robert Alexander, Dion Boyett, Mark Marley, Brandon McKee, Chris Sharplin, Mike Wolff, Connie Baker, Dustin Cross, Sandra Dickens, Keri Fidelak, Don Ishee, Sue Weaver, Bob Black, George Celles, Mike Mancil and Lee Posey.

Corporate sponsors for the banquet were ATMOS Energy, Bank of Montgomery, City Bank and Trust, City of Natchitoches, CP-TEL, EnCana, Exchange Bank, First Federal Bank of Louisiana, Historic District Business Association, Johnson, Thomas and Cunningham, KNTX TV-17, La Capitol Federal Credit Union, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, NSU, Peoples State Bank, RoyOMartin, Sabine State Bank and United Way of Northwest Louisiana.



The New Business of the Year Award went to the Northwestern Louisiana Cancer Center. Accepting the award are Dr. Manish Dhawan, Kayla Dowden, Shay and Dr. Bill Ball, Dr. Bryan Picou and CEO of Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Mark Marley. Roger Cunningham congratulates them on their accomplishments.

Keri Fidelak of Maison Louisiane catered the banquet.

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