

January 29, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOREDC Annual Meeting Focuses on Opportunities and Local Recognition

The annual meeting of the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) was held Thursday, January 25th at the Lodge of Four Seasons. The informative program reviewed project updates from the past year and presented initiatives in the coming year for economic development including housing, workforce and business development. Keynote Speaker, Rob Dixon, Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development presented the statewide priorities along with growth opportunities for the region.

A slate of candidates for three (3) board positions was presented that included Roger Corbin, Sunrise Beach; Trish Creach, Camdenton Chamber of Commerce and Joyce Ryerson, Morgan County R-II School District. The slate was approved, and the incoming directors will serve a three-year term expiring at the end of 2020. The outgoing board members were recognized for their service and included Brent Depee, School of the Osage and Debbie Feedback, City of Eldon.

The 2018 Board of Directors and Officers are Jeana Woods, President (City of Osage Beach); Roger Corbin, Vice-President (City of Sunrise Beach); K.C. Cloke, Secretary (Lake Area Chamber of Commerce); Paul Hooper, Treasurer (Lake West Chamber of Commerce); Lori Hoelscher (Ameren Missouri); Tim Jacobsen (Lake of the Ozarks CVB); Jeff Hancock (City of Camdenton); Trish Creach (Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce); and Joyce Ryerson (Morgan County R-II School District).

Special recognition was made to outgoing LOREDC President, Tim Jacobsen for his leadership since 2015.

Business awards were presented for Small Business Partner of the Year (50 employees or less), Large Business Partner of the Year (More than 50 employees or more), Business Person of the Year and Employee of the Year. To be eligible nominees must have been in business for a minimum of six months and a registered business in Camden, Miller or Morgan County.

LOREDC Award Recipients were:

The Small Business Partner of the Year was presented to Mark and Brian Barrett, Owners of Dog Days Bar and Grill for taking their farming work ethic to the lakefront. Since 1993, they have developed their business as a destination, but they have also helped to develop the Lake community by hosting numerous fund raisers and special events that raised thousands of dollars for the causes. In 2017, Dogs Days Bar and Grill made a 1.2 million dollar property investment which elevated their business to a premier entertainment complex while providing jobs for numerous full-time and seasonal employees.

The Large Business Partner of the Year was awarded to Iguana Corporation for keeping the nostalgia alive through the redevelopment efforts of the Bagnell Dam Strip. Thousands watched as one of the Lake's most popular landmarks known as Injun Joe was fully restored – thanks to this business. Cultivating the tourist experience and creating jobs while preserving the Lake's history is the foundation for Iguana Corporation.

The Business Person of the Year is Brent Simpson, LakeEXPO.com for being a true advocate for the region through his collaborative spirit which resulted in thousands of fundraising dollars for local charities. Through his media efforts, Brent is an ambassador for the Lake of the Ozarks by presenting and sharing accurate, timely information.

The Employee of the Year was presented to Andy Fisher, Director of Food Service at Windermere who stands out for his drive and passion to fulfill his duties on the job with exceptional customer service, professionalism and for being a true team player. He has inspired others around him to strive for the "above and beyond" attitude. While transforming the image of his department with quality food and a positive guest experience, Andy has also positively transformed his entire work community.

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