

Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development (LOREDC)

Contact:

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January 20, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOREDC Annual Meeting Focuses on Business Retention and Recruitment

The annual meeting of the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) was held Thursday, January 17th at The Lodge of Port Arrowhead. The informative program reviewed project updates from the past year and presented areas of concentration in the coming year for economic development including housing, workforce, and business development. Keynote Speaker, Steve Johnson, CEO Missouri Partnership shared the role of the public-private partnership and how important it is for communities support existing businesses and to share "their story" for business recruitment.

A slate of candidates for three (3) board positions was presented that included Rodney Bax, Providence Bank; Dane Henry, Lake Regional Health System and Jeana Woods, City of Osage Beach. The slate was approved and the incoming directors will serve a three year term expiring at the end of 2021. The outgoing board members were recognized for their service; Tim Jacobsen, Lake of the Ozarks CVB and Lori Hoelscher, Ameren Missouri.

The 2019 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); Rodney Bax, Providence Bank; Jeff Hancock (City of Camdenton); Trish Creach (Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce); Dane Henry, Lake Regional Health System and Joyce Ryerson (Morgan County R-II School District).

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, Emerging Venture 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 Miner Mike's Indoor Family Fun Center. Miner Mike's opened in 1994 and has provided quality family entertainment since that time. In 2018, this business took the next step to expansion with the construction of an indoor go cart track which at the time of completion in June was the largest elevated electric go cart track in the United States. With this two million dollar expansion, this business made every effort to hire local construction contractors.

Margaritaville Lake Resort was honored as the Large Business Partner of the Year. This 494 room retreat features newly renovated guestrooms, exterior refresh, several new dining options and a complete name change. The first lakeside retreat of its kind for the parent company, Margaritaville Lake Resort has made an one of the largest renovation investments at the Lake of the Ozarks. Final touches will continue into 2019 with the name change from Tan-Tar-A to Margaritaville Lake Resort officially in May.

The Emerging Venture of the Year was presented to Black and White Roofing. Black and White Owner, Joe Devitt, a lake entrepreneur is committed to hiring veterans by providing stable job opportunities and currently employs seven veteran employees representing US Navy, US Marine Corp, US Air Force and US Army. Living by the business philosophy of "Satisfying Customers One Single At A Time," this company stands behind this mission on the job.

Mark Maasen, Poly Lift was recognized as the Business Person of the Year. As second generation owners, Mark person lives by the foundation built by his father, always putting the customer first and work hard. Mark has taken the steps to not only hire local workers but to create a mentoring job site for students and those wanting to learn the manufacturing trade. As a mentor, Mark believes in giving people a chance – whether through job placement or community support.

Keith Lucas, MSW Interactive Designs honored as the Employee of the Year. Keith's commitment to family and work is notable but it is his commitment to community that truly stands out. While serving in the armed forces as a combat medic, this individual learned the struggles facing our military. He educates others in suicide awareness and PTSD for service men and women. This veteran maintains a full time job, is raising a family, an active lifetime member of VFW where performs marketing and special event coordination, helps to guide fellow veterans through the Veterans Administration – all this plus sits on various community boards and serves many local organizations. Keith created a veteran focused organization called "Lake Vets The Give a Ruck" helping veteran causes and connecting veterans with each other.

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