

Chamber E-Newslink for February 2016

By Bridget Huckabee

Alexander and James win Accolades at Chamber Annual Meeting

The Stanly County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at the CHS-Stanly Regional Medical Center. Presentations were made to Troy Alexander as the 2015 Citizen of the Year and to Tommy James as the 2015 Ambassador of the Year.

Attendees at the meeting were updated by Board Chair Ed Shimpock, Seven Oaks Doors and Hardware, Inc., and Kathy Almond, Chamber President and CEO, on the Chamber's mission to promote economic growth in Stanly County. Plans include new strategies to be carried out to further that goal. The program also included the introduction and election of the 2016 Leadership Board.

Troy Alexander, recipient of the 2015 Citizen of the Year award sponsored by Duke Energy, was introduced by Pat Bramlett, recipient of the 2014 award. Bramlett cited the lengthy history of Alexander's dedication to the service of his country and his community. His career in the textile industry followed his service in the US Marine Corps. From 1987 until 2015 he was elected to the Albemarle City Council where he served as council member and mayor pro tem. Many civic groups within the community have benefited from his dedicated service, including the Stanly County Family YMCA where he has been on the board of directors for more than 60 years.

The 2015 Ambassador of the Year award sponsored by Electricities of North Carolina went to Tommy James. James grew up in Richmond County and received his education at North Carolina State University. He is a graduate of Leadership Stanly. An avid water skier, he is a designer of Tommy Guns Ski Suits and is an account manager with Vision Office Systems. The Chamber Ambassador Program is the "goodwill" arm of the Chamber providing liaison between the Chamber staff, the Board of Directors and the membership. Ambassadors are volunteers from the business community. James' outgoing personality has proved a perfect fit for this important Chamber service.

The four committee chairs of the 2016 Leadership Board announced their plans for the coming year including the strategies and initiatives that were developed during the annual board planning retreat. The committees are Membership, Programming, Legislative, and Leadership/Education. These four focus areas have well defined goals for carrying out the Chamber's mission.

"Without the dedication of our volunteer board and our many Chamber Ambassadors it would not be possible to carry out the mission of the Chamber," says Kathy Almond. "Each of them is genuinely appreciated."

Other Annual Meeting sponsors included Carolinas Healthcare System, Stanly Community College and Uwharrie Bank. The meeting was followed by a reception.