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[R-CCEDC elects 3 board members](#)

Friday, August 27, 2010

The mood was upbeat at the “first annual dinner” of the Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corp, held at Anderson Museum on Thursday.

Bill Owen, the corporation’s president, noted the purpose of the annual membership meeting was to vote in three new board members to the 25-member board and to thank the outgoing members.

Bob Donnell, executive director, explained the purpose and accomplishments of the 501(c)3 organization. “We are involved in recruiting what we call value-added industry to Roswell and in the retention and expansion of existing business.”

The organization is particularly interested in businesses that add to the quality of life. “We worked with the Roswell city government and with Chaves County to begin the American Eagle Flight Program. We opened dialogue with American Airlines to start scheduled flights here,” said Donnell.

Owen said the emphasis was on manufacturing and on employment. “One company came here and started with seven employees, they now employ 120 people.”

One of the recent accomplishments was attracting Star Energy Resources to Roswell, and one of their goals is to attract more renewable energy companies in the future.

The new board members were voted in unanimously. The incoming board is Amy Munson, president of First American Bank; Duane Green, president of The Machine Shop; and Danny Fulkerson, president of Fulkerson Services.

The head of the nominating committee, Marlin Wells, said that each member brought special skills to the board, “Amy, with her experience in banking and finance; Duane Fulkerson, with his insight into the community; and Green with his knowledge of manufacturing.”

The group also honored outgoing board members and other members of the community. Senate President Pro-Tem Tim Jennings, D-Roswell, was given special thanks for his help with financing the American Eagle Flight Program.

Larry Fry, finance director for the city of Roswell, received a plaque for his dedication and contribution to the project.

Gene Simmons, Town and Country Entertainment Center, received a special award of appreciation, a knapsack which included golf balls. Simmons, who retired recently, quipped, “I’ve learned retirement is redirection.”

Owen said of outgoing board member Kenneth Berry, “We are losing a lot of banking expertise. We can’t thank him enough.”

Kenneth Berry replied that it had been exciting to be a part of this community.

Bill Brainerd received recognition for his decades of service to the committee. Brainerd spoke of the vision in the late 1990s that became the Economic Development Corporation.

Jon Hitchcock, outgoing president, worked closely with Brainerd, and Owen described the two as being almost inseparable. "Jon and Bill will be remembered for decades to come."

Hitchcock said, "It's been a wonderful term and an outstanding organization. Working with Bill was a pleasure."

The final outgoing board member, Ron Miller, was described as being "smack dab in the middle of everything."

The staff was also commended for its work. Donnell summed up the attitude of the group. "I love this job. I love the people. I love the opportunity."

Even general members had nothing but praise for the organization as a whole. Fred Moran, Richfield Products, said, "If this organization had been in place 18 years ago when I first arrived, it would have been a lot easier for me."

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