|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Greater ZEPHYRHILLS  CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | 38550 Fifth Ave.  Zephyrhills, FL. 38550  Phone (813) 782-1913  Fax (813) 183-6060 |

Press Release

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact: Melonie Monson  Phone: (813) 782-1913  Email: [director@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:director@zephyrhillschamber.org) | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  August 23, 2019  2:30 pm |

Zephyrhills chamber recognizes excellence, installs new board

**Zephyrhills, FL (August 23, 2019)** –

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce presented the 2019 Business and Community Awards Thursday evening during the chamber’s Annual Member Appreciation and Awards Banquet held at the St. Joseph’s Parish Center, 38750 5th Ave. in Zephyrhills. The “Down Home Z’Hills” affair drew a crowd of over 220 business and community leaders.

This year’s theme focused on what makes Zephyrhills great. We were honored to have our very own Director of Florida Veterans’ Affairs Danny Burgess MC the event for the fourth year in a row. His “Down Home” charm and humor brought laughter to the evening and put smiles on faces. Highlights of the evening included musical talent from Weston Ward who entertained the crowd as everyone gathered and during dinner. special awards presentation. The awards nominees were introduced by Kevin Sullivan of Pipas Law Group and Chamber Board member, assisted by Travis Evans of the local band “Rebel Soul” and lead sales agent for Direct Auto & Life Insurance who performed a musical jingle announcing the winners. Applause erupted as each of the winners were sung their special ditty. The evening also included two line dances taught by Ralph and Sally Heistand who teach at Hatfield’s County Music Hall. Throughout the evening “Down Home” chatter could be heard as the Zephyrhills community was honored.

The evening was filled with reminders of how Zephyrhills Community began and where it is going. Dr. Randy Stovall, outgoing Chamber President, thanked Danny Burgess for his continued support to the Zephyrhills community and acknowledged him as an example of the type of success which is possible in our community. He also presented our Retired City Manager, Steve Spina, a special gift of appreciation from the board of directors for his tireless commitment to Zephyrhills.

The evening ended in reverence as Councilman Lance Smith talked about his uncle, Brantley Smith, who was awarded the Alice Hall award posthumously for his lifetime commitment to Zephyrhills. The crowd gave a standing ovation as his daughter Mindy accepted this award on behalf his behalf.

Awards were given for exemplary contribution toward the betterment of the greater Zephyrhills community. Nominees were announced for the various categories and winners announced as follows:

**2019 Categories and Award winners:**

Innovative Business of the Year – The Academy of Spectrum Diversity, for innovative product or service, entrepreneurial spirit, and corporate citizenship.

Small Business of the Year – PuroClean of Zephyrhills, for exemplary reputation, product or service, growth, leadership and corporate citizenship of a business with less than 25 employees.

Large Business of the Year – Sonny’s BBQ of Zephyrhills, for exemplary reputation, product or service, growth, leadership and corporate citizenship of a business with 25 or more employees.

Zephyrhills Economic Development Champion – Sam Turgeon, Zephyrhills Executive Office Suites, for exemplary contribution furthering economic development of the community.

Leadership in Youth Involvement – West Zephyrhills Elementary, for exemplary contribution to youth in the community.

The Diamond Award – Elks Lodge BPOE 2731, for exemplary contribution by a non-profit organization to the betterment of the community.

Community Service Award – Anne Stutzriem, Main Street Zephyrhills, for exemplary volunteer service to the community.

Citizen of the Year –Donna Moyer, for exemplary contribution to the betterment of the community over the past year.

Leadership in Government Affairs – Zephyrhills City Council & Steve Spina, for exemplary contribution and public service at the city, county, state or federal government level.

Chamber Member of the Year – Suncoast Credit Union, for exemplary contribution and service to the Chamber over the past year.

Chamber Ambassador of the Year – Tim & Pam Proctor, Sisel International, for exemplary service, leadership and representation by a Chamber Ambassador in the community.

Alice Hall Award – Brantley Smith, for exemplary lifetime contribution toward the betterment of the greater Zephyrhills community.

The new 2019-2020 Board of Directors were installed during the banquet as well. The new board members and officers are:

**2019-2020 Officers:**

Vicky Jones (Palm Tree Acres MHC), President

Dr. Randy Stovall (PHSC, Provost Emeritus), Vice President

John Scott (Gulf Coast Financial Strategies), Treasurer

Jasmine Wilkins (San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union), Secretary

**2019-2020 Directors:**

Sam Abrahani, (Zephyrhills Moose Lodge 2276

Kathy Britton, (Berkshire Hathaway Home Services)

Amy Chappell, (CenterState Bank)

Dr. Edwin Goolsby, (PHSC, East Campus, Provost)

Carolyn Hodges, (Faithful Friends Pet Creation)

Alex Hulbert, (Dewberry)

Randy Light, (PuroClean)

Amanda Maggard, (CEO of AdventHealth Zephyrhills / Dade City)

Mark Murphy, (Culver’s Zephyrhills)

Sam Turgeon, (Sunlight Realty & Zephyrhills Executive Offices)

Dean Smith, (Health Markets)

Kevin Sullivan, (Pipas Law Group)

David West, (Make a Difference)

For more information, contact the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce. Executive Director Melonie Monson at (813) 782-1913 or email: [director@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:director@zephyrhillschamber.org).

-30-

**Note:** Complete lists of award nominees, award winner contact information and board contact information are available on request, photos of the banquet also available on request. Call (813) 782-1913 or email: [director@zephyrhillschamber.org](mailto:director@zephyrhillschamber.org)

*The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce advances economic growth and prosperity for our community.*

The Chamber of Commerce is incorporated in the State of Florida as a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization. Our membership is comprised of businesses, government agencies, public-private corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals with a shared interest in preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Zephyrhills.

*We promote a vibrant and active business climate supporting economic growth through leadership and active involvement by our membership.*