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Contact: Tracy Dishman, Director of Marketing
Phone: (765) 282-6400, Ext. 113
Email: tdishman@asgcorp.org



Rhonda Duning, GRI, SFR
Lingle Real Estate
Realtor

Wayne County Realtor of the Year Named New Workforce Investment Board Chair

RICHMOND, Indiana – The 4th Floor Blues Club in the Historic Depot district in Richmond, IN served as the location of the October 20th Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Economic Growth Region 6 Workforce Investment Board. Rhonda Duning, Chair of the newly certified Workforce Board, spoke to 125 East Central Indiana business and community leaders, local elected officials, WorkOne partnership organizations and staff. Duning hailed the location as significant in that the Historic Depot district is an entrepreneur’s dream which is rapidly growing with other business locations enhancing the economy of Richmond and Wayne County. The Annual Meeting event focused on the region’s economic climate, the partnership between workforce development and the employer community in meeting demands for a skilled and educated workforce.

Wayne County Commissioner, Denny Burns, served as the Master of Ceremonies and keynote speaker. Mr. Burns introduced Richmond Mayor Sarah “Sally” Hutton to welcome guests and launch the evening’s program. Burns commented, “If you visit Mayor Hutton’s web site, she writes, *We can only reach our destination...by working together. And by working together we can reach our destination.* “

Jim Riggle, outgoing chair of the Regional Workforce Board, along with Joseph Evans, immediate past Chair of Alliance for Strategic Growth, were recognized for their leadership and commitment to building a strong foundation and corporate underpinning put into place for the newly appointed Board.

“Rhonda is a proven leader in her community with a wealth of community contacts that she draws upon for her various roles within her community and Region 6 of Indiana. She is committed to sharing her knowledge of community and professional experience to set the bar high for excellent services,” said Barbara Street, President and CEO of Alliance for Strategic Growth, Inc. With gavel in hand, Duning said “It is my privilege, as my first action, to call to order this Business Meeting of Alliance for Strategic Growth, Inc., providing WorkOne leadership for Eastern Indiana, and here forward shall be our name.”

Along with this recent prestigious appointment and leadership role, Duning was also selected by the Richmond Association of Realtors as Realtor of the Year in 2010.

In addition to the keynote speech outlining the economic climate within Region 6, Commissioner Burns introduced a video presentation showcasing three premier employers within the Region; Omega Mold, Winchester, Indiana, Grede Foundry, New Castle, Indiana, and DOT Foods, Cambridge City, Indiana.

Mr. Tim Loyd, General Manager of DOT Foods, summarized the video spotlight from an employer's perspective and thanked the WorkOne staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing the workforce for employers in the region.

Barbara Street, President & CEO of Alliance for Strategic Growth, reiterated Loyd's praise of WorkOne staff as she talked about the 1665 individuals who had been placed into jobs during the past year as a result of the training and placement efforts of staff.

Corporate Directors

- Stuart Armstrong, Pacesetter Bank, Hartford City
- Gary Barrett, Country Mark Co-Op, Liberty
- Ron Best, Communications Electronics, Inc., Connersville
- Wayne Blevins, Sertech/Solartech, Portland
- Cindy Brown, Vocational Rehabilitation, Muncie
- Terry Brumley, Whittinger & Company, Muncie
- E. Roy Budd, Energize-ECI, Muncie/Delaware County
- John Carl, TRANE, Rushville
- Gail Chesterfield, Ivy Tech Community College, Muncie
- Fred Davis, U.A.W. C.A.P. Council, Winchester
- Dorothy Douglass, MutualBank, Muncie
- Rhonda Duning, Lingle Real Estate, Richmond and Board Chair
- Joseph Evans, Youth Opportunity Center, Muncie
- Mark Goldman, Pennville Custom Cabinetry, Portland
- Tony Hart, Lifetouch, Inc., Muncie
- Robert Hobbs, New Castle Area Career Programs, New Castle
- Dr. Rob Jeffs, Innovation Connector, Muncie
- Emily Jerman-Brown, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie
- Tim Loyd, Dot Foods, Inc., Cambridge City
- Milo M. Miller, Jr., Local Elected Officials Executive Council, Portland
- Faron Parr, Advanced Seal Technology, Portland
- Sonya Paul, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indianapolis
- Kevin Polivick, Interlocal CAP, Inc., New Castle
- Jim Riggle, Indiana Michigan Power, Muncie
- Tim Rogers, Wayne County EDC, Richmond
- Jerry Sprouse, JD Byrider, Indianapolis
- Vicki Tague, Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Portland
- Rick Taylor, Delaware Dynamics, Muncie
- Mike Toschlog, Carpenter's Local #1016, Muncie
- Brad Wilson, Wilson Lawson Myers, Connersville and Board Vice Chair
- Dennis Wimer, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indianapolis

The 4th Floor Blues Club, located in the Historic District of Richmond, IN provided an elegant venue for the event. The five-piece blues band, Governor Davis and The Blue Ambassadors, enhanced the evening's Rhythm & Blues theme with their entertaining performance woven with recognition of Board members and staff.

Guests arriving at the 4th Floor Blues Club were greeted by Connersville High School's Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) students dressed in costume as the well known Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi "Blues Brothers". Guests entering the Blues Club were welcomed to a dimly lit Hall highlighted in twinkling white lights. Classic Blues music played

overhead to begin the evening with a casual time of networking and hors d'oeuvres. Tables were set with Rhythm and Blues themed centerpieces with colorful papers filling hurricane-style vases, all sitting atop mirrored panels. Maria Mitriones' Italian Market provided a delicious variety of foods to all of those who were in attendance. Ghyslain Chocolatier set an impressive dessert bar presentation of gourmet, hand painted chocolates and exquisite pastries at the end of the evening.

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The Economic Growth Region 6 Workforce Investment Board (EGR 6 WIB) is an Indiana 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation responsible to provide strategic leadership and oversee workforce services in Eastern Indiana Economic Growth Region 6. Customer services are provided through eight WorkOne Centers throughout the region which consists of Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, and Wayne counties. These customer services are provided by various partnership agencies which make up the WorkOne system. This Economic Growth Region has been formed by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development who is the cognizant state agency for the WorkOne system in the State of Indiana and has provided the funding for these initiatives. The cost of the Annual Meeting was underwritten by event supporters.

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