

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

It was another successful event for the Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. The evening, which took place at the Grande Hall at the Hofmann Ranch, was enjoyed by over 200 Castroville and area locals. A get-acquainted mixer started off the evening complete with drinks provided by Bippert's Bottle Shop and appetizers donated by the Old Alsatian Steakhouse. Dinner immediately followed, catered by the Castroville Café. The tables were gorgeous and the food was a delicious French inspired meal. The turnout was great and it was very rewarding to see so many people support the Chamber of Commerce and the local individuals being recognized. Chris Schuchart was our Master of Ceremonies and did an excellent job. Awards were given for the Jr. Boy and Girl Citizen of the Year to Ian O'Donnell and Kristyn Kempf, who each wrote an essay on what their community means to them. Polly Edlund and Marvin Dziuk with Medina County ESD #1 were on hand to recognize the Medina County EMS and Fire Chiefs for the hard work they have done over the past year serving the city of Castroville and surrounding area.

This year, an honorary award was given to Wilburn and Willie Jean Schott who have been very involved in the Chamber and the Red Vest Committee for more than 25 years. This year's President's Award, chosen by Chamber President Sallie Harborth, was given to Arnie Dollase for his efforts in helping to get the Castroville Area Economic Development Council off the ground. After receiving his award, Arnie gave a brief discussion on what the Council has been doing and what their plans are for the future. Our newest award, the Business of the Year, was given to Castroville Pottery and owners Tim & Gloria Kelley. The Kelleys have gotten involved in several aspects of Castroville and the committee felt they truly deserved the award. Our final award of the evening was the Citizen of the Year presented to Kyle McVay for all her hard work within the Castroville community. She is very active in numerous community projects, services and organizations and is always someone you can count on to help out. She thought she was at the banquet just to serve wine and was definitely surprised to hear her name called.

Outgoing directors Bette Hamby, Chuck Kierce and Gregory Zinsmeyer were recognized for the hard work they have done as Chamber directors. Incoming directors Justin Haby, Justin Johnson, Hazel Russel and Stephanie Zinsmeyer were also introduced. We also welcomed our new Chamber Officers, Gary Carter as President, Teri Barrow as Vice-President and Janet Bednarz as Secretary/Treasurer. And last but not least, we recognized Sallie Harborth for the hard work she did this year as the Chamber President.

The raffle prizes were back this year, with 36 prizes given and a grand prize basket of local business gift certificates and goodies which had a combined value of over \$1,000! A huge thank you to our raffle donors: Albros Casa Y Garden, Alsace Hair Nails and Tanning, Alsatian Golf Club, The Alsatian Restaurant, Bippert's Bottle Shop, Bourquin Automotive, Broadway National Bank, Castro Garden Club, Community National Bank, Castroville Computers, Cataplana, Dr. Frank & Carmen Danna, Dickerson Machinery, Fantastic Flowers, Farmer's Insurance, Friends of Castroville Regional Park, First Klass Cleaners, Haby's Alsatian Bakery, Hardt Realty, Hotel Alsace & Spa Resort, Iron Haus Fitness, Janice Hymer, LaCoste National Bank, Landmark Inn, Lundquist Automotive, Medina Valley Café, Medina Valley Greenhouse, Old Alsatian Steakhouse, Royce Groff Oil Company, Sammy's, Shirts N Stuff, State Farm-Hazel Russell, Station Creek Windows and Doors, Stephanie's on the Plaza Salon & Spa, Stewart Title, Super S Pharmacy, and Christiane Wood.

And of course we thank our Banquet sponsors again: Tot & Ward Albro of Albros Casa Y Garden, the Law Office of Anna Whorton & The Rushing Law Firm, Monte & Stacy Bippert of Bippert's Bottle Shop, Robert & Myra Schneider of Bourquin Automotive, Gary Carter of Castroville Café, The Castroville News Bulletin, Castroville State Bank, Dr. Frank and Carmen Danna, Sallie Harborth of Farmers Insurance, Hans and Charlotte Hofmann, Joseph & Jana Winkler of the Hotel Alsace & Spa, Joan Tinar of JT Advertising and Graphics, Justin Haby of J.H. Storey Construction, Medina Regional Hospital, Kenneth & Arlene Smith of Old Alsatian Steakhouse, Hazel Russell of State Farm Insurance, Chad & Nichole Martin of Station Creek Windows & Doors and Glennis Stein of Stein Insurance

Thank you to the staff and everyone who worked to make this event a huge success. We hope to see you at our next event, which will be the 4th Annual Wine Fest on April 9, 2010 at the Hotel Alsace. More details will be coming soon. Have a great week!