

Chamber of Commerce holds its annual awards banquet

by Eric L. Jones

The Greater Clinton Chamber of Commerce presented awards and elected new board members during its annual dinner at L & L Castle in Clinton Wednesday evening.

Chamber Board President John Lang welcomed roughly 40 people in attendance and introduced the board members who were present, which included Vice President Thom Frantz, Treasurer Jessi Purcell, Secretary Theresa Neises and board members Jill Stott, Karen Walker and T.J. Warren.

Entertainment during dinner was "Simply Sinatra" — a musical performance by Rob Verostko.

After dinner, Chamber Vice President Frantz presented the Chamber's three annual awards — Member of the Year, Board Member of the Year and Business of the Year.

The Board Member of the Year award was presented to Treasurer Jessi Purcell. Frantz called Purcell "one of those people who does a lot of stuff behind the scenes" and said that she devotes time "almost every working day to working for the benefit of the Chamber and puts in a lot of extra time on our behalf."

Clinton Mayor Art Lindsay, Jr. received the Member of the Year award. Frantz said that Lindsay has lived most of his life in Clinton, and attends most Chamber meetings and activities. "more than anyone who is not on the board." He added that Lindsay is always will-

ing to provide good input to board members, and is active in the community through organizations such as the V.F.W. and Clinton Lions Club. "It's not surprising that people who volunteer for one thing tend to volunteer for a lot of things," Frantz said. He added that Lindsay is the type of person who "does everything in a casual way, and doesn't get upset about anything."

The Business of the Year award was presented to Vermillion-Parke Community Health Center. Frantz said that, when he first came to the Clinton area, the Health Center was one of the first businesses that

he, personally, got to know a lot about, and pointed out that the center has only been in operation for three years. He said the Health Center is a "much-needed business" in the Clinton area that "helps people who sometimes cannot help themselves. The staff is very dedicated. There's nothing negative that I've ever heard about them. People enjoy working there, which makes it an even better place. Everything they do benefits the community in so many ways and they serve a lot of underprivileged people."

After receiving the award, Health Center Director Elizabeth Burrows

gave a few brief remarks about the Health Center.

Elections were also held for new board members for 2011. Lang explained that there are two board members — himself and Karen Walker — whose terms expire this year. Three candidates had been nominated to serve on the board, which will increase the number of board members by one. Lang was re-elected to the board for another 3-year term, and Diane Scott and Joanie Kanizer were also elected to the board for 3-year terms.



Chamber award winners

Award recipients at the Greater Clinton Chamber of Commerce annual dinner Wednesday evening were, from left, Laurie Valera, Paula Market, Elizabeth Burrows and T.J. Warren, all representing Vermillion-Parke Community Health Center as Business of the Year; Member of the Year Mayor Art Lindsay, Jr.; Chamber Vice President Thom Frantz, who presented the awards; and Board Member of the Year Jessi Purcell. See story. (Digital photo by Eric L. Jones)