



**NORTHBRIDGE**  
PROFESSIONAL TECHNOLOGIES



**MARION**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

*97th Annual*

*Awards Banquet*  
& AUCTION



*Beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

**THE PAVILION**  
1602 SIOUX DRIVE, MARION, IL 62959



**Welcome** ..... *Jon Wofford*

**Chamber Year-in-Review** ..... *Dalus Ben Avi*

**Invocation** ..... *Monsignor Ken Schaefer  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church*

**Pledge**..... *Jon Wofford*

*Dinner Service (Silent Auction bidding ends when dinner service concludes.)*

**Introduction of Guests** .....*Jon Wofford*

**In Memoriam**

**Reflections of Outgoing Chairman** .....*Kenya Garner*

**Recognition of Board of Directors** .....*Kenya Garner*

**Presentation of the Chairman’s Plaque** ..... *Janet Jensen*

**Acceptance by New Chairman**..... *Janet Jensen*

**Award Presentations** ..... *Jon Wofford*

- Award of Excellence
- Mayor’s Remarks ..... *Mayor Robert Butler*
- Mayor’s Service Award
- Business/Industry of the Year Award
- Young Professional Leadership Award
- Distinguished Chamber Member Award
- Citizen of the Year Award
- Distinguished Business Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

**Closing Remarks** ..... *Janet Jensen*

**Thank You**

- Marion Title Professionals
- McDonalds
- McKendree
- Pepsi MidAmerica
- Photography by Lori
- Rural King
- Servpro
- SI Bowl
- Silkworm
- Silver Collections
- Small’s
- Smoothie King
- Southern Illinois Mercantile
- Southern Illinois Miners
- Specialized Equine Services
- Susan Willis Photography
- Taco Johns
- The HUB
- The Southern Illinoisan
- VisitSI
- Walmart
- Walt’s Pizza
- Watermark Auto Group
- Whimsy
- WSIU
- Shawnee Services for sound, lights & videography
- Wine Pull donors**
- AES Solar
- Amber Ciochetto

- Ashlee Church
- Ashley Gott
- Bill Nielsen
- Black Diamond Harley Davidson
- Brian Ziegler
- Dalus Ben Avi
- Dr. Keith Oates
- Feather Hills
- First Southern Bank
- Hospice of Southern Illinois
- Janet Jensen
- Jerry M. Barrass Construction
- Jessica Force
- Jim Parker
- John Brown’s on the Square
- Kenya Garner
- Marion Chamber of Commerce
- Martini Joe’s
- Matt Lee
- Michelle Hamilton
- Mindy Reid
- Monica McGinley
- Priority Staffing Group
- Ray Altmix
- Rick Richert
- Russell Williams
- Ted Gutierrez
- visitSI
- Westmore Liquor Mart



# Thank you

Artstarts for entertainment and volunteering  
Brock Bertling for entertainment  
Deanna Hudgens for coordinating the FBLA volunteers  
Diamond Designs for the Diamond Drop  
Dreams Do Come True for décor  
Etcetera for the Chair's spouse gift  
Great Boars of Fire for catering  
Graphics Galore for awards and plaques  
Hill Printing for invitations and Save-the-Date postcards  
Jared Garrison and staff with The Pavilion  
Jon Wofford for Emceeing  
Marion High School FBLA vols:  
Noah Cash  
Hezekiah Goodman  
Bradley Marks  
Abby Mausey  
Natalie Mausey  
Victoria Shore  
Abbelyn Thompson  
Marquez Lilly  
Bea Mwansa  
Zoe Boatright  
Faith Enrietto  
Jacob Janz  
Jacob Rice  
Martini Joe's for Social Hour service  
Melise's Boutique for tuxedos  
My Michelle's Photography for Event Photography and Photo Stage Photography

**Silent Auction donors**  
AES Solar  
AMC  
ArtStarts  
Banterra Bank  
Barcom Security  
Black Diamond Harley Davidson

Blue Sky Vineyard  
Bronze Bodz  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Cameron's Auto Detailing  
Cape Air  
Casey's  
Changing Seasons  
Clearwave  
Crab Orchard Golf Club  
Curves  
CUSD #2  
DelouFleur Decor and Designs  
Doggie Stylez  
Egyptian Board of Realtors  
Extreme Kids  
Farmers State Bank  
Fazoli's  
Fusion Boot Camp  
Genesis Salon  
Golden Eagle Distributing  
Great Boars of Fire  
H&R Block  
Holiday Inn Express and Suite  
Home Depot  
Hospice  
House 2 Home - Monica McGinley  
Ike Family Dealerships  
JALC  
K&K Storage Barns LLC  
Kokopelli Golf Club  
Krispy Kreme  
Legence Bank  
Little Egypt Veterinary Clinic  
Magpie Market House  
Majestic Enterprize Inc.  
Marion Chamber Foundation  
Marion Park District  
Marion Republican  
Marion Star

# Silent Auction Packages

**Silent Auction benefits the Marion Chamber Foundation. Bidding ends after dinner.**

**Package #1**

Gale Sayers autographed Chicago Bears mini helmet donated by Marion Chamber Foundation

**Package #2**

Two Courtesy Passes for 2018-2019 sports season, 3 t-shirts, 10 plastic cups, 2 small footballs donated by CUSD #2

**Package #3**

1 control panel, 1 keypad, 3 door contacts, 1 motion detector, 1 siren, virtual keypad donated by Barcom Security

**Package #4**

Faux Fur Coat donated by Hospice of Southern Illinois

**Package #5**

2 tickets to Hospice Gala + Drink Tickets + After Party + wine and 2 glasses (Date night) donated by Hospice of Southern Illinois

**Package #6**

Free Birthday Party + Free 3-Month Membership + HUB Gift basket donated by The HUB

**Package #7**

All Around Williamson County basket donated by VisitSI

**Package #8**

\$100 off portrait session and 8x12 metal desk print donated by Susan Willis Photography

**Package #9**

Overnight stay in Tuscany Romance Suite donated by Blue Sky Vineyard

**Package #10**

Gift basket with Beebop wireless headphones, tshirt, cup, blanket and more donated by Silk-worm

**Package #11**

Genuine Harley-Davidson metal storage locker donated by Black Diamond Harley Davidson

**Package #12**

30 minute helicopter ride around Southern Illinois donated by Black Diamond Harley Davidson

**Package #13**

Certificate for 2 St. Louis Blues tickets, all-inclusive, donated by Farmers State Bank

**Package #14**

Basket of goodies donated by The Southern Illinoisan

**Package #15**

4 Cardinals Tickets for Monday, May 7 at 7:15 p.m., Sec. 145, Row 20 donated by Ike Family Dealerships

**Package #16**

1 nightly suite for the 2018 Miners regular season donated by Southern Illinois Miners

**Package #17**

2 Girls just want to have fun Baskets donated by H&R Block

# Silent Auction Packages

## Package #18 - For the Office

- Shredder donated by Egyptian Board of Realtors
- Samsung Galaxy Tab E Lite donated by Clearwave
- 2 year subscription to Marion Star donated by Marion Star
- One year supply of original glazed donuts (1 dozen per month for 12 months) donated by Krispy Kreme

## Package #19 - For the Kids

- 10 bounce passes donated by Extreme Kids
- 30 tickets to Marion pool donated by Marion Park District
- 2 hour bowling party for up to 6 people donated by SI Bowl
- 4 Passes for 3D or 2D donated by AMC
- 13 Happy Meal coupons donated by McDonalds
- \$15 gift certificate donated by Whimsy
- Two tickets to Disney's Mulan Jr. donated by ArtStarts

## Package #20 - Taste of Marion

- 10 certificates for build your own pasta bowls donated by Fazoli's
- \$50 gift card to BWW and a crate of sauce donated by Buffalo Wild Wings
- Gift basket with coffee mug, coffee, specialty soda, gift cert donated by Southern Illinois Mercantile
- 4 \$25 Dollars Gift Cards for Logans Road House donated by Servpro
- 2 Free Thin Crust Pizzas donated by Walt's Pizza
- 9 Free Crispy Taco Tokens donated by Taco Johns

## Package #21 - Workout

- 1 free month of Group Personal Training and Full Nutrition Program for Women donated by Fusion Boot Camp
- 2 Personal Training Sessions for Women donated by Fusion Boot Camp
- One Level 2 month unlimited donated by Bronze Bodz
- \$50 gift certificate donated by Silver Collections

## Package #22 - Treat Yourself

- 3 free smoothies with enhancers donated by Smoothie King
- 1 month fitness membership for winner plus 1 month for a friend donated by Curves
- \$50 gift certificate donated by Genesis Salon
- Regular session plus a 16x20 wall portrait donated by Photography by Lori
- 2 year subscription to Marion Star donated by Marion Star

## Package #23 - Treat Your Ride

- 2 \$15 gift certificates donated by Cameron's Auto Detailing
- Casey's Gift Cards donated by Casey's
- Automatic Car Wash card donated by Watermark Auto Group

## Package #24 - For the Home

- \$80 toward a monogram donated by Magpie Market House
- 2 year subscription to Marion Star donated by Marion Star
- 1 3x5 thin blue line flag donated by Majestic Enterprize Inc.
- One year subscription to the Marion Re-



A Sterling silver Garnet pendant – Value: \$415.00



A Pair of 14k white and rose gold circle drop earrings – Value: \$295.00



One of 7 Elle brand sterling silver pendants with sparkling CZ – Value: \$79 each



One of 11 Trollbeads brand pendants – Value: \$45-\$85 each



One of 25 loose colored gemstones – Value: \$25-\$120

The proceeds from the Diamond Drop at the Marion Chamber's annual dinner go to the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children.

"100% of the money collected goes to help children in need through The Poshard Foundation for Abused Children," said Liz McNeill. "There are 50 prizes in 100 cubes so that's a 50/50 chance of winning a prize! After all cubes have sold, we will have raised \$1,000 for the Foundation. How awesome is that?"

The mission of the Poshard Foundation is to help abused, neglected, and abandoned children in Southern Illinois.

"The Poshard Foundation is an all-volunteer charitable organization that receives no state or federal grants. We are very grateful to the individuals and businesses that choose to support our mission of helping abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Southern Illinois," said Jo Poshard, foundation co-founder. "The McNeill's at Diamond Designs have been wonderful friends to abused children for many years.

"Funds raised at the Diamond Drop at the Marion Chamber dinner will be used to purchase beds for children who are sleeping on floors, futons, and patio cushions. Although it is difficult to imagine, this is the reality for hundreds of children in our area. Funds will also be utilized for specialized counseling for traumatized children in order to help them heal their seen, and unseen, wounds," said Poshard. "Thank you for the generosity of both The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Diamond Designs as well as those who choose to participate in the Diamond Drop!"

For more information, visit:

- Diamond Designs - <http://diamonddesign.us/>
- Poshard Foundation - [www.poshardfoundation.org](http://www.poshardfoundation.org)
- 97th annual Marion Chamber of Commerce Auction & Awards Banquet – [www.marion-illinois.com](http://www.marion-illinois.com)

## Diamond Drop to benefit Poshard Foundation

The 97th annual Marion Chamber of Commerce Auction & Awards Banquet included a Diamond Drop, which is a fun event where participants can win thousands of dollars worth of jewelry.

For \$10, a participant at the annual dinner will receive an ice cube that may contain one of the following prizes:



Grand Prize: A 14k white gold Aquamarine and 1/4 ct diamond ring – Value: \$1695.00



A Gent's White Ceramic Citizen Eco Drive Watch – Value: \$650.00



A 14k White gold Amethyst Briolette Pendant – Value: \$495.00

Ladies Yellow tone Citizen Eco Drive Watch – Value: \$475.00



A Sterling silver blue topaz pendant – Value: \$429.00

## Silent Auction Packages

publican newspaper donated by Marion Republican

### Package #25 - Honey Do List

- 2 year subscription to Marion Star donated by Marion Star
- 1 lemon tree donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 lemon tree donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 orchid donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 orchid donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 orchid donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 Ficus Fiddle Leaf donated by Changing Seasons
- 1 Ficus Fiddle Leaf donated by Changing Seasons
- \$100 gift card donated by Walmart
- \$50 Gift card donated by Rural King
- 1 3x5 thin blue line flag donated by Majestic Enterprize Inc.

### Package #26 - For the Golfer

- 1 round of golf donated by Kokopelli Golf Club
- 1 Spring or Fall golf class at John A. Logan College donated by John A. Logan College
- Golf for 4 players including cart fees donated by Crab Orchard Golf Club

### Package #27 - Will Travel

- 2 roundtrip tickets on Cape Air donated by Cape Air
- 1 gift basket with tshirt, popsocket, charger, cup and more donated by Silkworm
- Free room at Holiday Inn Express and Suites donated by Holiday Inn Express and Suite

### Package #28 - Hangout

- Pizza and Beer Gift Basket donated by Banterra Bank
- Pepsi cooler full of Pepsi items, clock donated by Pepsi MidAmerica
- 2 eclipse t-shirts donated by Marion Chamber Foundation

### Package #29 - Tailgate

- Tailgate package donated by McKendree
- Cooler and lounge chair donated by Golden Eagle Distributing
- Case of Bud Light donated by State Farm - Kenya Garner

### Package #30 - Hit the Trail

- Wine basket donated by Legence Bank
- Two one hour trail ride tickets for Giant City Stables donated by Specialized Equine Services

### Package #31 - For the Dogs

- Annual exam and basic vaccinations for 1 dog or cat donated by Little Egypt Veterinary Clinic
- Month of free daycare donated by Doggie Stylez
- Medium dog house donated by K&K Storage Barns LLC

### Package #32 - For the Grill

- Grill bundle Small's
- Traeger Junior Elite 20 wood fired grill Home Depot

### Package #33 - Around the World

- Caribbean Cuban tastiness gift basket do-

Continued on Page 24

## 2017 Business/Industry of the Year

The Marion Chamber of Commerce has announced that the 2017 Business/Industry of the Year is Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois.

“Being recognized by your peers is a humbling experience. But it also makes us proud to be a part of the miracle that is Marion,” said Airport Authority Board Chairman Bernard Paul. “Growth is all around us, and we are excited to be a part of it. Thanks to the Chamber for everything it has done, and continues to do, to keep the spirit of expansion alive and thriving.”

Doug Kimmel, director of Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois, said that the award is a “wonderful testament to the hard work and commitments that are put forth on a daily basis in providing the airport facilities and services that accommodate the public and measurably add to the economy of our region.”

“This includes the work of airport employees, airline staff, TSA personnel, rental car operations, FBO personnel, flight training operations, CAP squadron, ATC and FAA staff, Fire Protection District personnel, Sherriff’s Department, and numerous businesses located throughout the Airport Business Park,” he said. “Together our activity accounts for over \$22 million in annual economic impact to the region, and most importantly provides a transportation portal to the world economy. It was once said that to measure the heart-beat of a community take its pulse at the airport.

Thanks to our work now, and to so many that have come before us, our pulse continues to beat strong for all of southern Illinois.”

The Marion Area Chamber of Commerce will present the award to Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois at the 97th annual Awards Banquet & Auction on Friday, Jan. 19 at The Pavilion.

“More than 400 people are expected to attend the event, which will feature a social hour, silent auction, wine/spirit pull, Diamond Drop, great food and networking, all centered around honoring our award winners, especially the Business/Industry of the Year winner – Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois,” said Dalus Ben Avi, executive director of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. “I look forward to honoring Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois not only because of the wonderful support they give to the Chamber, but also to the region as a whole. Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois is the perfect example of business and professional people working together to build a healthy economy and to improve the quality of life in our community, which is the Marion Chamber’s mission. It is our honor to celebrate Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois, their accomplishments, their future and all they bring to our area.”

“Essential.” That’s the term best used to describe Veterans Airport. With its 8000-foot runway and sophisticated electronic landing systems, today’s Veterans Airport certainly lives up to its federal

## Annual Dinner Committee

### Auto Credit of Southern Illinois

Jensen, Janet

### Bank of Herrin

Gott, Ashley

### Banterra Bank

Cobb, Misty (Chair)

### Banterra Bank

Reid, Mindy (Chair)

### BNI Mid America

McHugh, Brian

### Changing Seasons Landscape Center Co

Mohlenbrock, Beth

### Crisp Container Co.

Ciochetto, Amber

### Dreams Do Come True

Byassee, Linda

### First Southern Bank

McCurdy, Mary Jo

### Flanders Electric

Nielsen, Bill

### Flanders Electric

Richert, Rick

### Marion Chamber of Commerce

Ben Avi, Dalus

### Marion Chamber of Commerce

Beutel, Kristin

### Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc.

Hogg, Deborah

### Legence Bank

Powell, Jason

### Marion Ford-Lincoln-Mercury

Wofford, Jon

### The Pavilion - City of Marion

Garrison, Jared

### State Farm Insurance

Garner, Kenya

### U.S. Bank

Gibbons, Cindy

### VisitSI

Johnson, Shannon

### Williamson County Government

Force, Jessica (Vice-Chair)



**VETERANS AIRPORT**  
of SOUTHERN ILLINOIS



**First Southern Bank**

**Package #69**

NORTH GEORGIA BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN LOG CABIN 4 - NIGHT STAY - Sleeps 6, w HOT TUB, Pool Table, Flat Screen TV'S, WiFi, Movies, Fully furnished Kitchen, Fire Pit & more (\*Renter to pay \$80 cleaning fee at time of stay) 1 YEAR TO USE. HOLIDAY AND BLACK-OUTS APPLY!

**Package #70**

PANAMA CITY BEACH LUXURY 2BR/2BA HIGH-RISE CONDO Directly on the BEACH overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Mexico - 6 NIGHT STAY - Sleeps 6 with full pullout couch in living room. Two Pools, exercise room, walk right out to the beach and within minutes of

EVERYTHING! WiFi & Free Movie Rental. Fully furnished with Flat screen TV and Tv's in each bedroom. King bed in Master and Queen in 2nd bedroom. Holiday & High Summer Season (no rentals from Memorial Day thru Labor Day) rental Blackouts apply. One year to use. (\*Renter pays \$125 cleaning fee at time of stay)

**Package #71**

Sellers marketing package with \$300 value including professional pictures and digital floor plan, or a Buyers Inspection package \$300 value including Home and Termite Inspection, and a \$200 Visa gift card. Donated by House 2 Home - Monica McGinley

designation as an "Essential Air Service" airport. It is the largest Illinois airport serving air carriers south of Springfield. More than 235,000 people live and work within 35 miles of the airport and can depend upon it for their transportation connections to St. Louis and the world. The airport's growth has been a long story of hard work and dedication by a handful of far-sighted leaders.

Back in 1926, when stunt pilot and barnstormer Charles "Slim" Lindbergh flew his biplane out of a grassy field over by Carterville, airports were unknown. Any level spot where an aviator could set his craft down was about the best he could hope for. But in 1930, Marion's aviation pioneer, Fred Valentin, opened his 100-acre landing field east of Marion. Marion Airport, as it was known, had three cinder-surfaced runways arranged in a triangular pattern. The hanger and airport office were located in a former bus garage along old Route 13 East, where Fabick Machinery Co. now stands. Valentin trained an estimated 1500 pilots during his years in the business. Many of those aviators went into the military at the start of World War II, including Capt. Robert Duncan, holder of the Navy Cross, and a Hellcat ace of the South Pacific. The airline terminal at today's Airport is named in honor of Captain Duncan.

After the war, returning veterans used their G.I. Bill entitlements to get their pilot licenses. Pilots who had been trained to fly in the military kept up their aviation skills, too, and both groups bought Pipers and Cessnas in record numbers. Fred Valentin had the foresight to take his flying service to a larger field west of Marion and south of Energy. He named the new runway "Macarin Field," using the combined names of Marion, Carterville and Herrin. The wisdom of this move was made manifest a few years later when a modern four-lane Route 13 was relocated along the south end of the airport, and Interstate 57 was constructed just east of the field. Nothing could have made the airport



more centralized and convenient for residents of Williamson County and Southern Illinois.

"When I started hanging around this patch of grass back in the 1950s, our terminal was just the wooden office room attached to the side of the big barn-like wooden hangar where Fred Valentine operated the Macarin Airport," Paul said. "There were two perpendicular paved runways, with a third, longer sod runway connecting the far ends of the two hard surfaces. It was from that grass strip that I took my first airplane ride in 1954. That flight inspired me to follow a career in the U.S. Air Force which took me all over the world."

In 1948, Mr. Valentin sold his Macarin airport to the Veterans Airport Authority. A referendum had voted for the establishment of the Authority, passing unanimously in all townships of Williamson County except Stonefort. The Airport Board today consists of six members appointed by the leaders of the cities over 5000 population and by the County Board of Commissioners.

With the support of the people of Williamson County, the Airport's growth has been constant and spectacular. The Veterans Airport now covers more than 1300 acres. Many improvements have taken place. Additional runways have been added, then lengthened and widened, then heavily re-paved. In 1953 Ozark Airlines began passenger service from Marion to St. Louis and other major



# IKE FAMILY DEALERSHIPS



Volkswagen of Marion

hub airports. After Ozark, other airlines, including Britt Airways, Air Midwest, Northwest AirlinK, Trans World Express, American Connection, Mesa Airlines, and Geat Lakes Airline, have provided continuous scheduled airline service for our area. The current airline that serves our area is Cape Air with daily flights to and from St. Louis.

“In a few years, with the coming of Ozark Airlines, we were able to erect a small tan brick terminal building for passengers on those DC-3s. The east half of the big open room was a sandwich shop where that made great hamburgers for passengers and for families when they brought the kids out to watch the airplanes. The other half of the building was the ticket counter and waiting area for Ozark Airline and for Hertz car rentals,” Paul said. “Ozark employees would help the boarding passengers haul their suitcases out to the waiting aircraft, and then take away the ladder when the door was ready to close. No fences, no searches, no x-ray machines. No TSA. But we were becoming world travelers.”

An F.A.A.-approved Air Traffic Control tower and a new terminal building were built, and an industrial park and a National Guard Armory were located adjacent to the Airport. A new corporate hanger and additional T-hangers have been constructed. Ample taxiways and ramps augment the two hard-surfaced all-weather runways. Today, with the arrival of distribution Aisin’s auto parts plant and the tertiary care Heartland Medical Center, all located within a stone’s throw of the Airport, new business and professional construction



is evident all around the field. Land in the Airport’s business center, and in tracts adjoining it, is leasing at premium prices. Aeroflite, the old fixed base operator at the Airport, provided flight instruction, aviation maintenance, charter service and fuels for almost 50 years. Charles C. Stoker ran Aeroflite and also served as Airport Manager from 1957 until his retirement in 1998. In 2004, more than 290,000 gallons of aviation fuel were pumped into thirsty airplanes at the Airport. Air express company planes regularly depart the Airport, carrying packages and overnight correspondence to every part of the country. In 2004 one air express company alone off-loaded more than a million pounds of air freight at the airport, and sent out yet another half-a-million pounds from here. Midwest Aviation currently serves as the airport’s fixed base operator providing the same services.

Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and both Bushes have visited the Airport, as well as many State and National officers and candidates for public office. The heaviest concentration of aircraft was during one period of Presi-

**Package #50**

TOM PETTY SIGNED ACOUSTIC GUITAR

**Package #51**

AARON RODGERS GREEN BAY PACKERS MVP QB SIGNED HAT

**Package #52**

ADAM WAINWRIGHT St. Louis CARDINALS SIGNED BASEBALL in DELUXE CASE

**Package #53**

ARNOLD PALMER 4x MASTERS CHAMPION SIGNED GOLF BALL in DELUXE CASE

**Package #54**

DALE EARNHARDT JR #88 NASCAR SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO in 11X14

**Package #55**

DEREK JETER NY YANKEES LEGEND SIGNED Full-sized BATTING HELMET

**Package #56**

JAKE ARRIETA, KRIS BRYANT & ANTHONY RIZZO CHICAGO CUBS 2016 WORLD SERIES CHAMPS SIGNED HAT in DELUXE CASE

**Package #57**

JERRY RICE SAN FRANCISCO 49ers LEGENDARY WR SIGNED FOOTBALL in DELUXE CASE

**Package #58**

JONATHAN TOEWS CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS 3x STANLEY CUP CHAMP SIGNED HOCKEY PUCK in DELUXE CASE

**Package #59**

JORDAN SPIETH 2017 BRITISH OPEN CHAMP SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO in 11X14

**Package #60**

LARRY BIRD BOSTON CELTICS Hall of Fame LEGEND SIGNED JERSEY

**Package #61**

MICHAEL JORDAN CHICAGO BULLS LEGEND SIGNED RED SCRIPT ROOKIE JERSEY

**Package #62**

PATRICK KANE CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS 3x STANLEY CUP CHAMP SIGNED JERSEY

**Package #63**

PEYTON MANNING DENVER BRONCOS Super Bowl 50 QB SIGNED FOOTBALL in DELUXE CASE

**Package #64**

RYNE SANDBERG CHICAGO CUBS Hall of Fame LEGEND SIGNED THROWBACK JERSEY

**Package #65**

SCOTTIE PIPPEN CHICAGO BULLS LEGEND SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO COLLAGE in 16X20

**Package #66**

TOM BRADY NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 5x SUPER BOWL CHAMP QB SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO COLLAGE In 16x20

**Package #67**

WAYNE GRETZKY Former St. Louis BLUES LEGEND SIGNED HOCKEY PUCK in DELUXE CASE

**Package #68**

YADIER MOLENA St. Louis CARDINALS SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO in 11X14



## Silent Auction Packages continued

nated by AES Solar

- Mirrored World Map donated by Delou-Fleur Decor and Designs
- Victoria & Albert: A Royal Love Affair book and Victoria & British flags donated by WSIU

### Package #34 - Great Date

- Moscow Mule Gift Basket Banterra Bank
- 1 night Stay in Boars B&B and 2 \$25 Gift Cards donated by Great Boars of Fire
- Wine gift basket donated by Marion Title Professionals

### Package #35

AL PACINO "Scarface" SIGNED PHOTO SHADOWBOX FRAMED w CIGARS & BULLETS in 16X20

### Package #36

CARRIE FISHER "STAR WARS" SIGNED PHOTO SHADOWBOX FRAMED w MINI ACTION FIGURE in 16X20

### Package #37

CHARLIE DANIELS SIGNED FIDDLE W/ CASE & BOW

### Package #38

ERIC CLAPTON SIGNED ELECTRIC GUITAR

### Package #39

GARTH BROOKS SIGNED COWBOY HAT

### Package #40

JAMES TAYLOR SIGNED ACOUSTIC GUITAR

### Package #41

GREGG ALLMAN SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO/CD in 11X14

### Package #42

HARRISON FORD "Indiana Jones" SIGNED PHOTO SHADOWBOX FRAMED w MINI ACTION FIGURE In 16x20

### Package #43

JAMES EARL JONES "STAR WARS - Darth Vader" SIGNED PHOTO SHADOWBOX FRAMED w MINI ACTION FIGURE In 16x20

### Package #44

METALLICA GROUP SIGNED ELECTRIC GUITAR

### Package #45

JON BON JOVI SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO/CD in 11X14

### Package #46

MARK HAMMIL & ANTHONY DANIELS "STAR WARS - Luke Skywalker & C-3PO" SIGNED PHOTO SHADOWBOX FRAMED w MINI ACTION FIGURES in 16X20

### Package #47

ROBERT PLANT & JIMMY PAGE - Led Zepelin SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO COLLAGE in 16X20

### Package #48

SYLVESTER STALLONE "Rocky" SIGNED SHADOWBOX FRAMED PHOTO w MINI BOXING GLOVE in 16X20 All Star Enterprises

### Package #49

TAYLOR SWIFT SIGNED FRAMED PHOTO/CD/LYRICS in 16X20

dent Ford's visit when "Air Force One," three C-141 cargo jets and 42 visiting corporate and civilian aircraft were all on the field. The Airport terminal is a favored spot for "whistle-stop" political speeches and public announcements by incumbents. Numerous entertainers and sports teams on their way to venues around Southern Illinois first fly in to Williamson County because of our long runways.

"In the following years, the Airport Authority was able to build the larger red brick terminal, which stood for so many years. It served us well, but is now just a memory. We have lengthened our runways, and erected a modern control tower. Our electronic nav aids are first quality," Paul said. "Cape Air provides regular, safe and convenient air service to St. Louis daily. And now we have a magnificent terminal to cap off the development of this, a Regional airport for all of Southern Illinois. The whole world awaits us and our children and our children's children. We have a superb airport. We have a date with the future."

The Business/Industry of the Year Award winner was selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

The first Business/Industry of the Year Award was given in 1963 to GTE. Last year's recipient was Hospice of Southern Illinois. Past winners of the Business/Industry of the Year Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).



The Business/Industry of the Year Award is sponsored by Clark Transportation.



## Distinguished Chamber Business Finalists

Three area businesses have been selected as finalists for the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Business Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

- Clearwave Communications
- Heartland Regional Medical Center
- House 2 Home Realty

Members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce were asked to submit nominations in October for the Distinguished Business Award. Nominations were sought for Chamber member businesses that have made significant contributions to the community. The Distinguished Business Award finalists and winner were selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.



### Clearwave Communications:

Clearwave Communications has been an established business in southern Illinois since May of 1995 and operates as a facilities based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) offering voice and data services.

Clearwave is the region's leading full service Internet Service Provider (ISP) with over 2,100 route and 150,000 strand miles of fiber over our 24 county service area.

We are very strong in providing fiber service for cellular backhaul, education, healthcare, banking, and a wide variety of industries, serving over 1,800 enterprise fiber data accounts and 200 lit tower backhaul circuits with the Big 4 carriers.

Clearwave's network construction is performed with in-house crews which yields significant

network quality, cost benefits, and short service intervals.

Clearwave Communication's fiber optic network was custom designed and purpose built to provide superior performance metrics for our customers.

Our wavelength services will allow Clearwave's Ethernet solutions to achieve the highest economies of scale and reliability.

Meeting the growing bandwidth needs of businesses and service providers while focusing on our core services and strengths within our region is a natural fit for us.



### Heartland Regional Medical Center:

Marion Memorial Hospital opened in 1947. Heartland Regional Medical Center opened its doors on December 22, 2002 making it the first new hospital built in Southern Illinois in more than 40 years.

Today Heartland Regional employs more than 600 dedicated staff members throughout Williamson County.

In addition to more than a dozen cutting edge service lines, the health network includes the SIM-CA Family Medicine clinics, River to River Heart Group, the Heartland Family Birthing Center, the Center for Breast Health, the Joint and Spine Center, Southern Illinois Urology, the Diagnostic Imaging Center of Carterville and more.

### House 2 Home Realty:

House 2 Home has been in business since 2008. We have 3 locations. The Lake of Egypt, Marion and the Carterville Office. Along with the real estate portion that has 23 agents, we have a rental

## Past Additional Award Winners

### Star Award

2010 – Millenium Project

In recognition of efforts and forward thinking of the developer, business community and public officials

### Award of Excellence

1994 – Leo Dingrando

Award of Excellence in Service to Youth

1996 – Gene Lang

Award of Excellence in Service to Youth and Community

1997 – Dorothy Brush

Award of Excellence for Outstanding Service to The Marion Chamber of Commerce and Community

2000 – Judy Broemmell and Harlean Kay Miller

Award of Excellence in Service to Health Care

2002 – Ron Seal

Award of Excellence in Service to the Regional Medical Community

2004 – Yolonde Peterson

2007 – Seiichi "Steve" Takahashi

Award of Excellence in Service to the Industrial/Manufacturing Community. For a most significant and unselfish contribution to the betterment of our community

2014 Doug Peebles & Dr. James Parker

Award of Excellence in Service to MHS Grad Spree

2015 the late Steve McNeill

Award of Excellence in Philanthropy

2016 Jesse Barge

Award of Excellence in Golf



tee internally with over 80 staff members at HireLevel.

In her free time, Erin loves to frequent local Southern Illinois eateries, wineries, participate in a 5k or two, boating at the Lake of Egypt and enjoying the Southern Illinois outdoors.

Grateful for the amazing opportunities that she has had growing up and living in Southern Illinois, Erin's mission is to improve the lives of individuals she can touch through her professional and personal accomplishments.

The first Young Professional Leader Award was



given in 2010 to Meredith Ashe. Last year's winner was Toni Perkins and Erica Pancoast. Past winners of the Young Professional Leader Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).

The sponsor of the Young Professional Leader Award is Doggie Stylez.



**Doggie Stylez**

department. House 2 Rent.

This is the first year the Distinguished Business Award is being presented. Past winners of all Marion Chamber of Commerce awards can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).



The Distinguished Chamber Business Award is sponsored by Southern Illinois University.


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Marion, IL. 62959  
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**MARION**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Lifetime Achievement Award Finalists

Two area leaders have been selected as finalists for the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

- Admiral Nancy Brown
- Fred Monroe

Members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce were asked to submit nominations in October for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominations were sought for individuals who have demonstrated dedication and achievement in a professional capacity for 30 years or more. The Lifetime Achievement Award finalists and winner were selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.

### **Admiral Nancy Brown:**

VADM Nancy Brown retired from the United States Navy October 2009 after more than 35 years of service. At the time of her retirement she was the Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, The Joint Staff. Since her retirement she has served on the Advisory Board of Kingfisher Systems, Inc and Enlightened, Inc. She was the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the United States Naval Institute from 2010 to 2016, was a member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Executive Council, a member of Mission Readiness, active member of the VFW/American Legion Honor Guard and is currently the Vice Chair of



Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois.

Highlights of her career included Command of the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Cutler, Maine and Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic, Norfolk. She served on the NSC staff at the White House and was Deputy Director, White House Military Office. In 2004 she deployed to Iraq becoming the first Multi-National Force-Iraq C6. Returning in April 2005 she was assigned as the J6 for both North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command.

### **Fred Monroe:**

Blending the seemingly arcane art of dry-cleaning with expert customer service, Monroe Cleaners has been cleaning and removing stains since the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, said Fred Monroe. Monroe Cleaners was started in September 1916 by Fred Monroe's grandparents, Charles R. and Ethel Monroe.

Fred's path to purchasing Monroe Cleaners took quite a few interesting turns. After Fred obtained a bachelor of science degree with a major in plant and soil science and a minor in botany in 1967 from SIUC, he was hired as a horticulturist at Callaway Gardens Pine Mountain in Georgia. Fred then attended Louisiana State University's landscape architecture program from 1968-1969. He was then hired by the Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. From 1968-1969, Fred worked at Hart's Landscape Company in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he designed and installed residential plant-



coursework completed in the dealership. One of only two females in a class of forty students, she was voted to represent NADA Class #315 as their Class President and delivered the commencement speech at the graduation ceremony in April of 2017. (I guess I never read how this was written – this sounds horrible like I was chosen by the guys because I was one of the only females! LOL! I could care less if you mention being female!)

Ashlee has worked in fundraising efforts for multiple charitable organizations and causes throughout the region, helping to raise well over \$150,000 for local causes. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, she was recognized by the SIU College of Business with the Emerging Saluki Leader Award.

Ashlee enjoys the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of her Grandfather Ike Eigenrauch and her mother Lori Sisulak. In her spare time, Ashlee enjoys traveling and spending time with her family which consists of her husband Nate, four dogs, and a cat.

### **Heather Goins-Evans:**

Heather Goines- Evans is a Partner and COO for Priority Group whose focus is pairing individuals and employers in their quest for strategic partnerships for long term success. Heather started her career in Human Resources 15 years ago, continuing her passion for leadership and development she completed an Operation Bootstrap Program at SIU and achieved an Entrepreneurial Achievement Certificate in 2009.

In 2010, along side her two partners founded and opened Priority Group which today, 7 years later, now has 3 locations, two in Illinois and



another in Tennessee. Heather was appointed to the Illinois Department of Labor Advisory board in 2013- Heather is a member of the Middle Tennessee SHRM Chapter, the 6th largest SHRM chapter in the US as well as multiple Chamber of Commerce organizations in Southern Illinois and Tennessee. Heather is an avid sports fan, coaching youth sports programs with Marion Youth Baseball and Softball and now competitive travel Softball.

### **Erin Kopec:**

Erin Kopec is a marketing leader at HireLevel, a workforce management company, specializing in employment services, payroll and overall human capital management. Erin leads the company as the Marketing Director, heading up all marketing activities, including digital, PR, communications, recruitment marketing and brand development across eight locations in the Midwest and South.

Erin studied marketing at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and proceeded to work in the world of banking, helping the customer experience at a local bank in Marion, IL. After graduating from SIU in 2008, Erin had the opportunity to work alongside one of her favorite professors and mentors at John A. Logan College as a Marketing Lecturer for one semester. Passionate about the world of digital marketing, what makes a consumer tick and the ever-evolving world of branding, the move to HireLevel in 2011 was a natural fit.

Aside from her passion growing in the B2B marketing world, Erin is also an advocate for giving back and volunteering. Erin currently serves as the club Secretary for the Williamson County Heartland Rotary, and has served two terms as President since joining the club in 2012. Erin also serves on the Public Relations Committee for the American Staffing Association where she can provide strategic counsel regarding the annual ASA PR strategic plan and association initiatives, and inform ASA staff of industry issues and trends. Erin also leads the employee engagement commit-

## Young Professional Leadership Award Finalists

Three area young professionals have been selected as finalists for the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Leader Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

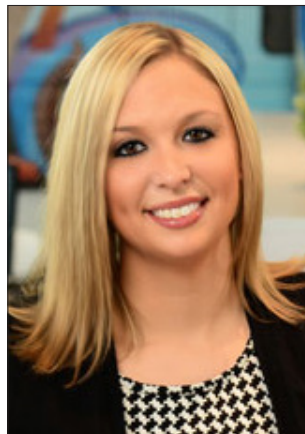
- Ashlee Church with Volkswagen of Marion
- Heather Goines-Evans with Priority Staffing Group Ltd.
- Erin Kopec with HireLevel powered by Extra Help

Members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce were asked to submit nominations in October for the Young Professional Leader Award. Nominations were sought for individuals who demonstrate excellence and initiative in their business or profession and are under the age of 40. The Young Professional Leader Award finalists and winner were selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.

### Ashlee Church:

Ashlee Church grew up and was educated in southern Illinois. She attended Carterville High School, John A. Logan College, and eventually Southern Illinois University. From a young age, she worked at Ike Auto Park in Carbondale and later moved to Ike Honda in Marion IN 2006 when their new facility opened. She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Management in May 2009. She went on to complete her M.B.A. at SIUC and was awarded a Graduate Assistantship working in the Dean's office as a member of the Foundation's Fundraising and Development Team. After completing her Master's degree



in Business Administration in 2010, she left the automotive industry and began working for Extra Help (now HireLevel) at their corporate office in Marion.

In 2012, Ashlee returned to work at Ike Honda. At that time, she also began teaching marketing, management, and speech classes at McKendree University. Over the next few years, Ashlee worked to convince Volkswagen executives that Marion was a viable market for a Volkswagen dealership. It took quite a bit of convincing!

In 2013, the Eigenrauch "Ike" Family was notified that Marion has been selected as an open point. They were invited to present to corporate executives in a competitive process for the franchise. Ashlee built a very strong case and, together with her family, was able to convince Volkswagen that the Ike Family would be the best fit to represent the brand in southern Illinois. Planning began immediately, and Volkswagen of Marion opened in a temporary location at the Williamson County Airport (now Veterans' Airport) in February 2014. Construction on their White Frame facility began soon after and was completed in March of 2015.

Since opening, Volkswagen of Marion has been recognized for their exceptional customer service and finished 6th in the country for customer satisfaction their first year in business. Since opening, Ashlee has continued a culture of customer satisfaction as demonstrated by her after sale team's #1 ranking of all St. Louis – Central & Southern Illinois – Southern Illinois Volkswagen dealerships in 7 of the last 8 quarters.

In 2016, Ashlee enrolled in the General Dealership Management Program at the National Automobile Dealer Association (NADA) Academy in McLean, Virginia. Ashlee traveled to Virginia multiple times over the 10 month program consisting of intensive week-long classroom courses and

ing and helped staff their retail store and garden center. While studying architecture at Northern Virginia Community College in 1970, Fred worked as a U.S. Army Construction Draftsman, stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. From 1972-1973, while studying landscape architecture from University of Illinois, where he went on to receive a bachelor of science degree, Fred worked for the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologic technician in the water resources division. Fred joined his parents in a partnership at the cleaners from 1976 to 1985, when he purchased the business.

The first Lifetime Achievement Awards was given in 1985 to August L. Fowler. Last year's recipients were Ray Altmix and Bill Nielsen. Past winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).

The Lifetime Achievement Award is sponsored by Banterra Bank.



## Sponsors

**Social Hour** - Northbridge Professional Technologies

**Wine & Spirit Pull** - Mayer Networks

**Silent Auction** - Heartland Regional Medical Center

**Registration** - Futiva

**Dessert** - South Porte Bank

**Hors D'oeuvres** - First Southern Bank

**Photo Stage** - Ike Family Dealerships

**Photography** - Golden Eagle

**Hospitality** - VisitSI

**Signature Drink 1** - Joyner Therapy Services

**Signature Drink 2** - Black Diamond Harley Davidson

**Venue** - The Pavilion

**Entertainment** - Clearwave Communications

**FBLA Volunteers** - Clearwave Communications

**Videography** - SIU Credit Union

**Coat Check** - Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois

**Program** - Commercial Janitorial Services

**Coffee** - Krispy Kreme

**Young Prof Leadership** - Doggie Stylez Inc.

**Distinguished Member** - Clearwave Communications

**Distinguished Business** - Southern Illinois University

**Citizen of the Year** - Watermark Auto Group

**Lifetime Achievement** - Banterra Bank

**B/I of the Year** - Clark Transportation Services

## Distinguished Chamber Member Finalists

Three area leaders have been selected as finalists for the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Member Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

- Ashley Gott with Bank of Herrin
- Mindy Reid with Banterra Bank
- Celia Robertson with House 2 Home Realty

Members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce were asked to submit nominations in October for the Distinguished Member Award. Nominations were sought for a Chamber member who has made significant contributions to the community through the Marion Chamber of Commerce and who demonstrates personal and professional leadership in the community. The Distinguished Member Award finalists and winner were selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.

### **Ashley Gott:**

Ashley was born in Harrisburg on February 9, 1975 to Mike and Cindy Gott.

He attended school in Harrisburg where he played on a two-time State runner-up baseball team, participated in the all-tournament team at State in 1992 during his junior year, graduated third in his senior class and received a baseball scholarship to Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Ashley graduated from SIUC with a bachelor's degree in finance in 1997.

The following year, Ashley married Amanda Byassee. They now have three sons: Jamie, 16; Alex, 14; and Jeremy, 12.



### **Mindy Reid:**

I was born in Central IL and spent the majority of my childhood in my hometown of LeRoy. My father's career moved our family to Southern IL when I was in Jr. High and we ended up in Goreville which is where I stayed until graduation. At that point, I wanted to see what else was out there. Going, doing, and experiencing became my passion for many years. I have traveled all over the country from Seattle to New York and when opportunity arose, I picked up my life and moved myself to Panama City Beach, FL. I eventually made my way to New Orleans, LA where I remained for a few years. Ultimately, the love of family and friends brought me back home to Southern IL. I have built a life here now and couldn't imagine being anywhere else. In the words of a very important childhood friend, Miss Dorothy Gale of Kansas, "If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own back yard. Because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with!"

### **Celia Robertson:**

I have an associates degree in Accounting from John A. Logan College and a Bachelor's degree in Workforce Education and Development from SIU Carbondale. I have worked in higher education for 23 years along with ran a Vending Company. I have set on several boards and



During 2010, the Miners set a new Frontier League benchmark when they put together a 20-game winning streak. In 2012, Pinto managed the Miners to their first ever Frontier League Championship and was named the 2012 Minor League Manager of the Year by the Pitch and Hit Club of Chicago. From 2014-16, Pinto guided the Miners to three straight division championships (the second time in league history that had been accomplished) and three straight 60-win seasons (which no team in league history had ever achieved).

In his eleven years in Southern Illinois entering the 2017 campaign, 50 Miners players have signed affiliated contracts, including seven in 2014 to represent the highest number of players to sign in a single year in franchise history. In addition, three former coaches have also had the opportunity to join a MLB organization, while two have moved on to manage other independent league teams. Three former Miners (Clay Zavada, Tanner Roark and Brandon Cunniff) have reached the major leagues.

Since he took on the added role of Chief Operating Officer, Mike has been on a mission to reinvent the experience for fans at Rent One Park. In that short time the Miners have introduced the popular Winter Wonderland ice skating experience, and the Links at Rent One Park Stadium Golf Experience. The Miners have also added a new 10-hole miniature golf course to the stadium.

Mike is a Director on the Frontier League Board of Directors.

His focus on the business side of the Miners is to guide the organization to creating a "Disney-like" fan experience, extraordinary customer service and rewarding partnerships with area companies.

The first Mayor's Service Award was given in 1996 to Elfora Aikman. Last year's winner was Clarence Bagby Jr. Past winners of the Mayor's Service Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).

*The Pavilion*  
~City of Marion~  
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## Mayor's Service Award Finalists

Three area leaders have been selected as finalists for the Mayor's Service Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

- Gail Barger with Priority Staffing Group Ltd.
- Bill Nielsen with Flanders Electric
- Mike Pinto with the Southern Illinois Miners

The Mayor's Service Award finalists and winner are selected by the Mayor of the City of Marion Robert Butler and the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.

### Gail Barger:

Born in Southern Illinois and raised in Golconda Illinois, Gail went to school at Pope County and Graduated from Pope County High School in 1978. Gail attended college at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. Completing general studies and the real estate broker courses and became a real estate broker in 1982. Gail worked mostly in sales and service throughout her life, some required lots of travel, which allowed her to see many locations in the United States, that in itself was an education. Ending up in Marion Illinois in 1997 and worked in the payroll and staffing business until 2006. In 2010 Gail was one of three partners that opened of Priority Staffing Group, Ltd. In 2012 they opened Priority Payroll Co., and in 2015 added Priority Professional Group Ltd. to the portfolio.



### Bill Nielsen:

Bill was born in Chicago and raised in Wheaton. He came to Southern Illinois in 1965 to attend

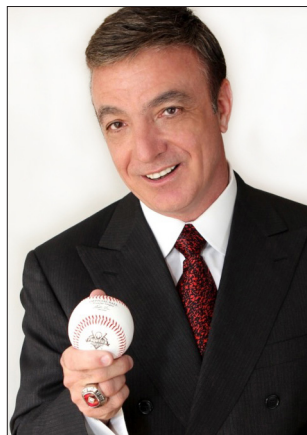
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's of science in management.

Bill served as an engineer for Norge/Fedders Corp. from 1970-1972 and then in sales for Giles Armature from 1972-1984 and Toshiba Corp from 1984-1986. Bill served as regional director for Flanders Electric Marion Group from 1986-2016. Bill is now retired.

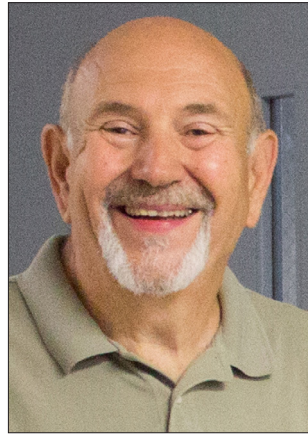
### Mike Pinto:

Mike Pinto begins his twelveth season as Miners manager in 2018, and his third in a dual role of manager and Chief Operating Officer. Mike is the only manager in the Miners team historians has built a model for successful independent baseball organizations.

He joined the team for the inaugural 2007 season and has led the Miners to a 615-439 record over nine seasons, with the Miners' .583 winning percentage standing as the best mark in the history of the Frontier League for teams that have lasted more than one season. Pinto is also the league's winningest manager since 2007, and enters the



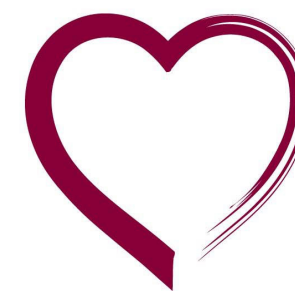
2018 campaign eleven wins away from passing Frontier League Hall-of-Famer Fran Riordan's record as the winningest manager in Frontier League history. He has also guided the team to seven playoff appearances (2008, 2010-12, 2014-16) and four division titles (2010, 2014-16).



committees and was involved in numerous fundraising activities with Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Herrin. I have been a realtor for 10 years and owned House 2 Home Realty for the past 8 years. Four sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

The first Distinguished Member Award was given in 1959 to Dr. James Felts. Last year's winner was Amber Ciochetto. Past winners of the Distinguished Member Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).

The Distinguished Chamber Member Award is sponsored by Clearwave Communications.



## HEARTLAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

## Citizen of the Year Finalists

Three area leaders have been selected as finalists for the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award. The finalists are (in alphabetic order):

- Beau Detrick with the Illinois Army National Guard
- Deborah Frey with FreyWorks & Associates Consulting, LLC and BNI Mid America
- John Markley with Centerstone

Members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce were asked to submit nominations in October for the Citizen of the year Award. Nominations were sought for individuals who have shown significant contribution to our community and who have excelled in a field outside of the Chamber. The Citizen of the Year Award finalists and winner were selected by the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee.

Below are the biographies submitted by the finalists.

### Beau Detrick:

I was raised in a small town called Bluffs Illinois and moved to Southern Illinois to pursue an education. While living in Southern Illinois I made the decision to serve my Country in the Illinois Army National Guard. I have been in the Military for a little over 12 years now and it has been one of the most rewarding decisions I could have ever made. I enlisted as a wheeled vehicle mechanic and have since changed my career field to recruiting. In 2012 I was nominated to compete for the Best Warrior Competition. I won the State Noncommissioned Officer of the Year (Best Warrior) twice and went on to win the



regional competition and ultimately placed 4th in the Nation out of 350,000 Soldiers. In 2015 I was selected to lead a team of Cadets with the ROTC Command to Poland on a cultural enrichment mission. Since that, I have continued my role as a recruiter and continue to invest my time in the community. In October of 2017 I was named as the Director's 54 which is the number one recruiter in the State. After that I went on to the regional level and competed against 6 others for the regional title and I also won that. I will be competing in January of 2018 for the National Director's 54 title. I have been married for 10 years and I have 2 boys.

### Deborah Frey:

Leadership development specialist and veteran management educator, Dr. Deborah Frey's career began at a local real estate abstract company. Deborah relocated for a few years as she began her family in South Carolina. During the Vietnam War era, she lived abroad with her husband and son in Thailand before returning to southern Illinois. Deborah worked at a local bank, then moved on to work at financial affairs at Southern Illinois University where she could continue her education.

Deborah found success in her ability to solve problems in many roles moving from cash operations to business management, program development, and academic advisement at the College of Engineering, the College of Education, and the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. After achieving her master's degree in education, her skills helped her to become a versatile teaching faculty.



Passionate about technology and workforce dynamics, Dr. Frey taught a broad array of courses in information technology, management and supervision, and career professional development in several colleges, including John A. Logan College and the College of Applied Sciences and Arts.

In 2005, Deborah earned her doctorate in management with a specialization in organizational leadership. She is committed to learning and development. Inspired by her success with educational programs across the United States at industrial training sites and military locations, she launched her consultancy practice with a focus on entrepreneurs, business owners, industrial and technical managers. Deborah now designs programs to stimulate creative thinking for business development and to provide coaching solutions that inspire collaborative teamwork to improve workplace communication.

Dr. Frey is a Leadership Development Consultant and Executive Coach, and the primary for FreyWorks and Associates Consulting LLC. May 2017, she became a member of the corporate executive coaching team for the Darmill Group, LLC, Chesterfield, Missouri, developing coaching programs to support successful ascension to leadership roles for women in business and industry. Deborah currently serves business owners for growth opportunities with referral networking in southern Illinois on the Route 13 Corridor as Director/Consultant for Business Network International

(BNI) MidAmerica.

### John Markley:

I have been a resident of Marion for over 33 years. I received my BS in Criminal Justice and Accounting from Murray State University and MBA from Century University in New Mexico. I have been married to my wife Tracey for 34 years and we have four children. I serve on several National and Statewide Boards and am currently a member of several State and National Associations.

The first Citizen of the Year Award was given in 1970 to Clara Boatright. Last year's winner was Dave Clark. Past winners of the Citizen of the Year Award can be viewed at [www.marionillinois.com/award-winners](http://www.marionillinois.com/award-winners).

The Citizen of the Year Award is sponsored by Watermark Auto Group.

