

**Calendar of Events**  
**See page 3.**

**Developments:**  
*The Newsletter of  
The Simpson County  
Development Foundation*

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**John Rankin**  
President

**Brian Barnard**  
President-Elect

**Skip Russell**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Jimmy Clyde**  
**Greg Paes**  
Vice-Presidents  
Government Relations

**Richard Rankin**  
Vice-President  
Community Development

**Todd Booth**  
Vice-President  
Economic Development

**Ashley Jones**  
Vice-President  
Stakeholder Development

**Donnie Caughman**  
Executive Director

## SPECIAL EDITION – Annual Membership Meeting Report

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the Thirty-seventh Annual Membership Meeting of the Simpson County Development Foundation convened at 6:30 p.m. in the historic Sanatorium dining hall on the campus of Boswell Regional Center. Our special thanks go out to the **Boswell Regional Center** for hosting this event for the Foundation. Director Steve Allen and his excellent staff, including Jennifer Chennault, Shannon Austin, Kathy Pittman, Beth Luper, Lee Middleton, Boswell Regional Center Maintenance Staff, and the Boswell Regional Center Friends and Family Association prepared an exceptional atmosphere and a delicious meal.



Also, we certainly thank our two event sponsors, **Southern Pine Electric Power Association** and **Entergy Mississippi** for their significant contribution toward this important meeting.

**Keynote Speaker Mike Monk**, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, gave an informative and moving address. Mike has served in various capacities at CMPDD for twenty-five years, and was serving as Director of Community and Economic Development at the time of his appointment as CEO. CMPDD has been promoting regional excellence since 1968, and their purpose is to assist with creative regional solutions to relevant and emerging issues for participating governments which Simpson County is a partner along with Hinds, Rankin, Madison, Copiah, Warren and Yazoo Counties. Mike was accompanied by his wife, the former Becky Shows of Mendenhall, and by his parents Benny Howard and Ann Monk also of Mendenhall. Mike and Becky now make their home in Florence, MS.



CMPDD CEO Mike Monk presents NADO 2015 Award to SCDF President John Rankin at SCDF's 2016 Annual Meeting. Photo Courtesy Magee Courier/Simpson County News

As reported earlier this year, in recognition of the Simpson County Health Care Zone Master Plan, The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has presented the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and the Simpson County Economic Development District its 2015 Innovation Award, which is given

for innovative approaches to regional economic and community development.

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**A Word from the Executive Director: The Foundation needs your support, your ideas, and willingness to serve in order to move Simpson County forward and improve our economic well-being and quality of life.**

*Donnie*

**"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events;  
small minds discuss people."**



**Report**—Continued from Page 1

Richard Rankin introduced this year's participants in the **Simpson County Leadership Development Institute (Simpson Leaders)** and presented them with their certificates of completion. This year's Simpson Leaders are pictured below.



Photo courtesy Magee Courier/Simpson County News

**Front Row, L to R: Faith Wallace, Angie Berry, Kim Newsome, and Stacy Warren; Back Row, L to R: Bo Huffman, Marney Walker, and Will Beeson.**

**Polk's Meat Products, Inc.**, received the **2016 Business of the Year Award**. Polk's Meat Products is a growing and vital member of our economy and a long-standing President's Circle member of the Foundation.



Michael Hand receives Business of the Year Award on behalf of Polk's Meat Products, presented by Todd Booth, VP for Economic Development, SCDF.

Photo courtesy Magee Courier/Simpson County News

The Polk family located their business in Magee in May of 2000. Since then, they have grown to be largest family-owned company of their kind in Mississippi, and they currently employ some 100 individuals. In commenting on a major refrigeration system upgrade undertaken this year, CEO Julie Polk Breazeale recently stated: "Thanks to the City of Magee, Simpson County, Southern Pine and the USDA the \$3.4 million project will be complete in a few months. We have engineered the new system in order to accommodate for future growth of our facility. We are looking forward to what the next 15 years will bring us."

**Southern Pine Electric Power Association** was named **Ally of the Year** for contributions to the economic development of Simpson County through consistent and generous support of and participation in the Simpson County Development Foundation. Actively supportive of and involved in the Foundation's purposes and goals, including the securing of several generous grants, Southern Pine EPA has been of tremendous support to our businesses and our communities in the county. Chartered in May 1938 to serve 481 home and farms, today they are one of the largest electric cooperatives in the country, and their 11-county service area encompasses 14.3% of the total land mass of Mississippi. Larry Robinson, Manager of Engineering Support Services, SPEPA, invited Mr. Charlie Robinson to join him as he received the award, presented by Ashley Jones, VP for Stakeholder Development. [Continued on Page 3 – Report]



Southern Pine EPA receives Ally of the Year Award  
Left to right: Charlie Robinson, Larry Robinson, Ashley Jones

Photo courtesy Magee Courier/Simpson County News

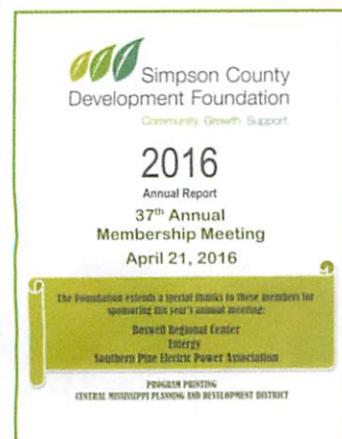


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The **Simpson County Economic Development District Directors/Trustees** were recognized in the Annual Program/Report. The working relationship enjoyed by the SCEDD and SCDF is essential to the economic development of our Simpson County community, and the SCDF honored and remembered with appreciation those who have served as Directors/Trustees of the SCEDD: Tom Bruckner, Brian Calder, James Davis, Phillip Davis, John Edwards, Tommy Everett, Junior Hankins, Don Harris, Wayne Hill, Dan Johnston, Tom McAlpin, Joe McGuffee, Eligah McIntosh, George Mangum, David Massey, Jack Moody, Bill Welch Sr., and Brad White [In Memory].

The current Directors/Trustees are James Smith, Chairman, At Large Trustee; Fountaine McNair and Billy Craft, District 1; Chris Bowen and Robert Maddox, District 2; Brian Daniels and Dennis Ammann, District 3; Danny Moseley and Gerald Brown, District 4, and Steven Ammann and Evelyn Copeland, District 5.

**Our county's top employers** were also recognized in the Annual Program/Report: *500 or More Employees:* Boswell Regional Center, Millcreek Behavioral Health Services, Simpson County School District; *300 or More Employees:* Walmart Stores; *200 or More Employees:* Magee General Hospital, Simpson General Hospital, Pioneer Health Services, Simpson County; *100 or More Employees:* Hillcrest Health Center, Polk's Meat Products; *50 or More Employees:* Howard Industries, PriorityOne Bank, Peoples Bank, Tyson Foods, Bedford Care Center.



Members unable to attend the Annual Meeting and wanting a copy of the Annual Report may call (601-847-2375) or email ([scdf@bellsouth.net](mailto:scdf@bellsouth.net)) for a copy.

Hard copy and electronic versions are available.

## Election Results

### Simpson County Development Foundation

#### Executive Committee 2017

President.....	Brian Barnard
President-elect.....	Skip Russell
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Pat Brown
VP-Government Relations.....	Todd Booth
VP-Government Relations.....	Jimmy Clyde
VP-Government Relations.....	Greg Paes
VP-Community Development.....	Mallory Yelverton
VP-Economic Development.....	Stan Bulger
VP-Stakeholder Development.....	Jacob Bakenev
Past President.....	John Rankin

#### Board of Directors

<i>Class of 2017</i>	<i>Class of 2018</i>	<i>Class of 2019</i>
Brien Hubbard	Josh Duckworth	Whitney Baker
Kelly Jones	Brandon Hubbard	Julie Breazeale
Cyndi McIntyre	Mike Jolly	Cynthia Bynum
Marney Walker	Faith Kennedy	Price Wallace

#### Membership Updates

Every member of the Simpson County Development Foundation is essential to attaining successfully our goals for the continued betterment and advance of our community and our economy. To all our members: your officers and directors offer you our sincere thanks for your past—and continuing—support. **Members joining since our last annual meeting include:** INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS – W. E. “Billy” Berry, Pat Brown, Stan Bulger, Donnie Caughman, LaRue Cook, Danny Craft, Bo Huffman, Haven Ilgenfritz, W. K. “Bill” Jerrolds, David Massey, John Rankin, Matt Sullivan, K. H. “Skip” Wilson; BUSINESS SPONSOR MEMBERS – Booth Discount Tire, Farm Bureau LLC (Mendenhall); Jeff Boone Real Estate and Appraisal Service, J Grant Menswear LLC; Magee Family Foot Care; Palmer Insurance LLC; Dr. Steven Reed; The Magee Agency.

#### Up-coming Events

Thursday, May 19:	SCDF Officers & Directors Meeting 10:00 a.m., Trustmark Bank, Magee
Saturday, May 21:	Mendenhall in May More Information: 601.847.2525