

**Calendar  
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**Developments:**

*The Newsletter of  
The Simpson County  
Development Foundation*

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Website

**Brian Barnard**

President

**Skip Russell**

President-Elect

**Pat Brown**

Secretary-Treasurer

**Todd Booth**

**Jimmy Clyde**

**Greg Paes**

Vice-Presidents

Government Relations

**Malory Yelverton**

Vice-President

Community Development

**Stan Bulger**

Vice-President

Economic Development

**Jacob Blakeney**

Vice-President

Stakeholder Development

**Donnie Caughman**

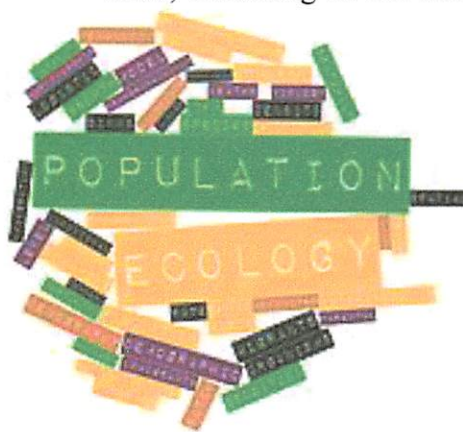
Executive Director

**From the Executive Director**

The June 2016 issue of *Mississippi's Business*, a publication of the University Research Center, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, in an article on Mississippi's population trends, noted the following: "Mississippi's population has increased at a considerably lower rate than that of the U.S. and surrounding states. . . . In terms of cause-and -effect, the lack of population growth likely stems from the historical lack of economic growth in the state; over time the state's economy has grown at lower rates than the region or nation. Other factors—not entirely unrelated—likely contribute to the slow population growth as well, such as the absence of a relatively large urban center or centers in Mississippi. Thus, while population growth may not necessarily represent an economic goal in itself, it can serve as a sign of achieving other desirable outcomes. Perhaps a good recommendation comes from economist Alan Randall, writing about the challenges of rural areas: "Given that remoteness is exogenous in the short- to medium run, **the most promising strategies seek to generate a regional advantage in performance of high-value work, and involve long term, sustained focus on education, infrastructure, quality of life, and favorable economic and fiscal policies.**" [Emphasis added.]

Also, according to the *Mississippi's Business*, "Mississippi's population increased 5.1 percent between 2000 and 2015". However, the populations of our border states have more than doubled our percentage increase.

As we look at Simpson County and what its population trends look like from 2000 to 2015, we can determine that our county's population is trending down from 27,639 to 27,279, a loss of 0.05 percent. Our county seat, Mendenhall, has experienced a negative 0.35 percent population loss since 2000 going from 2,593 to 2,473. The City of



Magee shows a much better development with an increase from 4,295 in 2000 to 4,379 in 2015, an increase of 0.26 percent. However, after the 2010 census, the City of Magee had a population of 4,408. (*Information from Central Mississippi Planning and Development District*)

While the *Mississippi's Business* article recognizes the correlation between economic growth and population growth, there have been many economic positives occurring in our county. While many downtowns are dotted with empty buildings and look like a shell of their former self, Mendenhall and Magee have managed to continue their vibrant downtown area thanks in part to their local leadership and Chambers of Commerce. In 1990 there were 385 business establishments in Simpson County. Today, there are 875.

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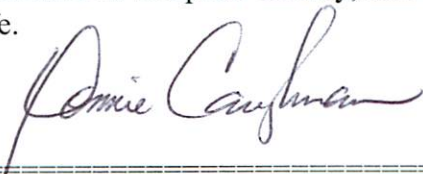
## Report—Continued from Page 1

We live in a region that has world class health care professionals and facilities, information technologies, productive farmland and beautiful natural resources, yet we lose more than our share of talented young adults to more urban areas, and we cannot get affordable, realizable broadband service to our rural people.

As the leader of Simpson County's economic and community development organization, we take ownership of the responsibility to help grow and prosper our county, but we need your help. We all must revive our civic energy, get involved with institutions and organizations, speak your mind, have ideas, make a difference.

We need to look internally and help find ways to make existing businesses and commerce stronger and unlock the innovative entrepreneurial spirit that exists among adults and young people in our communities. We also must recruit industries, businesses and retail that are a good fit for our county.

To end this on a positive note, Simpson County has many positive attributes which make it attractive to home owners and business, our location is ideal, four lane Highway 49 right through the heart of the county, three major Interstate highways within thirty miles, two major airports within a forty-five minute drive, a strong workforce, attractive business climate, quality universities as close as thirty minutes, the best community college in the nation is located here in Simpson County, and a superb quality of life.



## MEMBERSHIP

**During FY 2016 (July 2015 – June 2016), the Foundation welcomed seven new Business Sponsor Level members:**

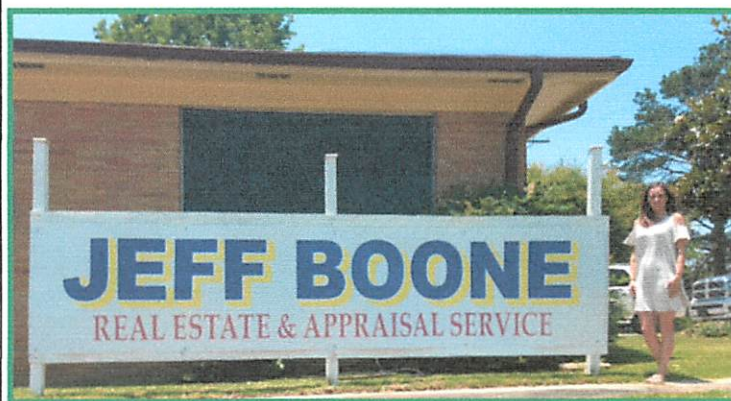
- Mendenhall Farm Bureau LLC
- J Grant Menswear LLC

- Booth Discount Tire
- Jeff Boone Real Estate & Appraisal Service LLC
- Palmer Insurance Agency
- The Magee Agency LLC
- Cattail Creek Furniture & Interiors



*Pictured above is Nona Cook, owner/operator of Cattail Creek Furniture & Interiors.*

*Pictured below is Maura Boone Anderson of Jeff Boone Real Estate & Appraisal Service.*



## CALENDAR

- Monday, 07/11 – COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS.  
7:30 a.m., Zip's Restaurant, Magee.
- Tuesday, 07/12 – SIMPSON CO. ECONOMIC DEV.  
DISTRICT. 11:30 a.m., Berry's Restaurant, Magee.
- Thursday, 07/21 – SCDF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS.  
10:00 a.m., Location TBA.





**Congressman Gregg Harper will be the guest speaker at the July Council of Governments meeting.**

**The meeting is set as follows:**

**Date: Monday, July 11, 2016**

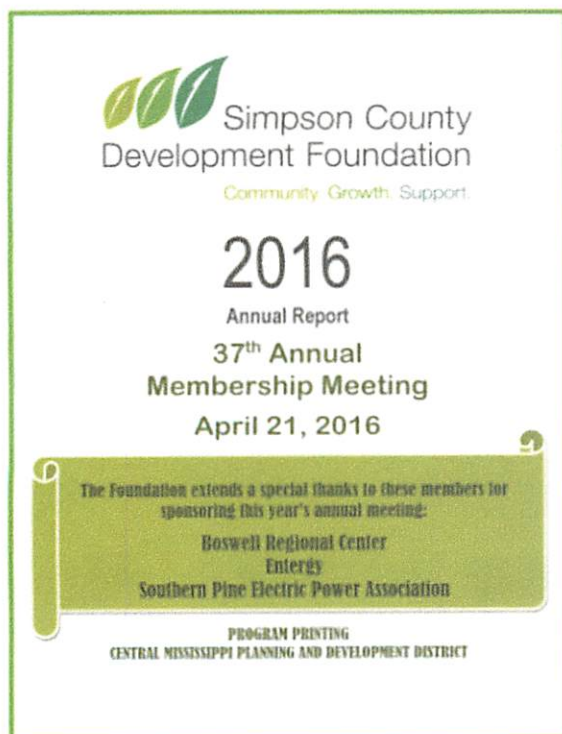
**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

**Place: Zip's Restaurant, Magee**

The Foundation is providing breakfast, and we are looking forward to a well-attended meeting of our elected officials as we welcome Congressman Harper to Mississippi.

## REMINDER

Members unable to attend the FY 2016 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.



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**We are now accepting nominations/applications for Simpson Leaders FY2017 (Simpson County Leadership Development).**

While exact dates are not yet set the four sessions will each be on a Thursday and Friday of one week in each of the following months:

Session 1 -- August

Session 2 -- September

Session 3 -- April

Session 4 -- May

For further information, please contact Richard Rankin by phone at 601.847.2375 or by email at [scdf@att.net](mailto:scdf@att.net).

*Attached is the combined nomination/application form. Please reply by July 1, 2016.*

### FY 2017 SCDF—Officers/Directors:

#### Executive Committee

President.....	Brian Barnard
President-elect.....	Skip Russell
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Pat Brown
Vice- President-Government Relations.....	Todd Booth,
	Jimmy Clyde and Gregg Paes
Vice-President- Community Development.....	Mallory Yelverton
Vice-President-Economic Development.....	Stan Bulger
Vice-President-Stakeholder Development.....	Jacob Blakeney

#### Board of Directors

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

#### Staff

Donnie Caughman, Executive Director  
Richard Rankin, Office Manager

**SIMPSON COUNTY LEADERS – FY 2017**  
**Employer Nomination and Participant Application**  
*All nominations and applications are held in confidence.*

<b>DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:</b> <b>JULY 1, 2016</b> <b>By Mail:</b> SCDF, P O Box 127, Mendenhall, MS 39114 <b>By Fax:</b> 601-847-2380
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**Employer Nomination and Commitment**

*This section is REQUIRED unless the Applicant is SELF-EMPLOYED.*

**NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

This application has the full approval of this organization and the applicant has our full support. This includes the time required to participate in the program and payment of **\$200 tuition** as follows:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Please check here if <b>employer</b> will pay the tuition.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Please check here if <b>employee</b> will pay the tuition.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Please check here if <b>SELF-EMPLOYED</b> and complete application section. |

**Nominated by:**

Name: _____	Title: _____
Organization: _____	Telephone: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____

**Participant Application**

*This section is REQUIRED of ALL Applicants.*

**PERSONAL DATA**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: ☐ Same as above

Or, if preferred > ☐ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Please enter all, and check the one we may use to reach you during the day.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Home Phone:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cell Phone:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Phone:	_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION** (Please show highest level of academic or vocational education completed.)

<b>School</b> _____	<b>City/State</b> _____	<b>Major</b> _____	<b>Degree</b> _____
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**Specific Employer-Provided Professional/Vocational Courses:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT EMPLOYMENT** *If this is SELF-EMPLOYMENT, please check here [    ].*

Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years with present employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** Briefly describe your current community activities, including organizations, offices, and special honors or awards:

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How many hours per month do you spend on civic, community, professional and other activities? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you held Elected Public Office: [    ] No [    ] Yes—Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

List three (3) opportunities Simpson County has to offer.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List three (3) significant problems facing Simpson County today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**APPLICANT COMMITMENT** Will travel or other issues compete with your full involvement in this program? [    ] No

[    ] Yes – Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature

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Date