

## Highlights of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting

On Thursday, April 28, 2022, the Forty-third Annual Membership Meeting of the Simpson County Development Foundation convened at 11:30 a.m. at the Simpson County Country Club, Magee, Mississippi. Luncheon was catered by Chris Williams.

President Christian Carrico extended a welcome to the annual meeting, and the Rev. Darnell Moffett prayed the invocation. In his welcome, President Carrico recognized meeting sponsors Southern Pine (contributor) and Simpson County Country Club (host), as well CMPDD (program printing) and Chris Williams (caterer). In addition, he recognized the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials who were present.

### Featured Speaker

Representative Price Wallace introduced the Featured Speaker, Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives Philip Gunn. Mr. Gunn provided an interesting and informative presentation on the accomplishments of the recent legislative session, including details on income tax vs. sales tax as means of revenue for the State.



The Hon. Philip Gunn,  
Speaker of the  
Mississippi House of  
Representatives

### Business of the Year

Eric Adkins, Vice President for Economic Development, announced and presented the business of the year award to **AirSouth Cooling and Heating**.



Owner James Sinclair accepted the award.

AirSouth was recognized for strong commitment to economic and community development in Simpson County through job creation and community investment.

**AirSouth – Business of the Year**

### Community Partners of the Year

Dylan Sanford, Vice President for Community Development, announced and presented the community partner of the year awards to **Magee General Hospital and Simpson General Hospital**.

Representatives of each hospital accepted their respective awards (photos on page 2).

The hospitals were recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect our community throughout the COVID crisis.

Continued at "Highlights" on page 2.

## Developments

### The Newsletter of The Simpson County Development Foundation

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### 2022-2023 Officers

**Josh Pierce**

President

**Lacye Evans**

President-Elect

**Carley Hansbrough**

Secretary-Treasurer

**Christian Carrico**

Past President

**Pat Brown**

Vice-President

Community Development

**Eric Adkins**

Vice-President

Economic Development

**Mayor Dale Berry**

**Mayor Todd Booth**

Vice-Presidents

Government Relations

**Allison Shivers**

Vice-President

Stakeholder Development

### Staff

**Donnie Caughman**

Executive Director

**Richard Rankin**

Office Manager



## Highlights of the Annual Membership Meeting [continued from page 1]



**Magee General  
Hospital  
Community  
Partner  
of the Year**



**Simpson General  
Hospital  
Community  
Partner  
of the Year**

## Executive Director's Report 2021-2022 Highlights

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Continued to be ACT Work Ready Certified Community
- Worked with and supported Keep Simpson County Beautiful
- Coordinated sale of surplus Simpson County Commerce Park off Highway 43
- Requested Board of Supervisors to consider a Land Use Plan and Construction Building Codes for county
- Actively involved with High School consolidation plan
- Worked with local hospital Administrator to resolve issues affecting the medical industry
- Member of Simpson General Hospital Focus Group

### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attended meeting with Mayor Dale Berry of Magee and Copiah County Airport officials concerning possible regional concept
- Reviewed and researched several potential sites for commercial and industrial property

- Toured property with MDA, Cooperative Energy, Entergy, CN Railroad
- Completed economic development review for county with Entergy
- Visited existing businesses on occasion
- Visited with and submitted Requests for Information for several timber product manufacturers, agricultural producer, farming operator, BIO Fuel plant, and cold storage company
- Attended meetings with Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Economic Development Council, Central Mississippi Planning and Development Authority, and the Simpson County Economic Development District
- Assisted small business start-up with information

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Quarterly meeting of the Council of Governments(all elected officials representing some segment of Simpson County)
- Attended MEC's Legislative session
- Occasion meetings with Simpson County Board of Supervisors, Mayors of Mendenhall, Magee, and D'Lo
- Attended several Simpson County Public School Board meetings



**Donnie Caughman  
Executive Director**

### Election

The report of the nominating committee was presented by President Carrico, and, there being no nominations from the floor, was accepted by acclamation [see next page].

**The SCDF Mission Statement**  
**The Simpson County Development Foundation stimulates economic growth through the resources of its members and partners leading to an improved economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of Simpson County.**



## Passing of the Gavel



President Chris Carrico made remarks as out-going president and passed the gavel to President Josh Pierce, who made closing remarks.

Pierce presented a plaque to Carrico for his service as President, recognizing his leadership and commitment to the development of Simpson County.

Photos for "Highlights" courtesy of Pat Brown & Cemper Scott.

## Officers & Directors FY 2023 [July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023]

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| President           | Josh Pierce       |
| President-Elect     | Lacye Evans       |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Carley Hansbrough |
| VP Government Rel.  | Dale Berry        |
| VP Government Rel.  | Todd Booth        |
| VP Economic Dev.    | Eric Adkins       |
| VP Community Dev.   | Pat Brown         |
| VP Stakeholder Dev. | Allison Shivers   |
| Past President      | Christian Carrico |

### Board of Directors

| Class 2023      | Class 2024      | Class of 2025  |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Josh Allen      | Faith Kennedy   | Tristan Peavey |
| Jake Brown      | Tiffany Kinslow | Darrell Temple |
| Amarylis Carter | Missy Orders    | Dylan Sanford  |
| Chris Craft     | Chris Williams  | Pam Wallace    |

### Non-Elected Board Members

*The Bylaws provide for one Board Member each from the following groups to be appointed by their respective governing bodies or institutions.*

- Each Benefactor Member
- Each President's Circle Member
- Simpson County Board of Supervisors
- Each of the Municipalities of Braxton, D'Lo, Magee, and Mendenhall
- Magee Chamber of Commerce and Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce
- Chairman of the Simpson County Economic Development District Board of Trustees
- The University of Southern Mississippi
- Copiah-Lincoln Community College

**A Special Thanks to President's Circle Member SOUTHERN PINE ELECTRIC, who for the past several years has been a generous sponsor of our Annual Meetings.**

## Appointments made to Board of Trustees of the Simpson County Economic Development District

The Supervisors have appointed Trustees to the Board of SCEDD, filling vacancies due to terms ending in 2022. The current membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows:

| Name             | District | Term Expires  |
|------------------|----------|---------------|
| Fountaine McNair | 1        | February 2024 |
| Keilah Berry     | 1        | February 2026 |
| Stacey Warren    | 2        | February 2024 |
| David Dunn       | 2        | February 2026 |
| Malory Yelverton | 3        | February 2024 |
| Dennis Ammann    | 3        | February 2026 |
| Bennett Hubbard  | 4        | February 2024 |
| Robbie Barnes    | 4        | February 2026 |
| Steven Ammann    | 5        | February 2024 |
| Kenneth Lewis    | 5        | February 2026 |
| James Smith      | At Large | February 2026 |

## Changes in SCDF office staff to be effective July 1, 2022

With the beginning of FY 2023 (July 1, 2022), Mrs. Alisha Walker will assume the duties of Office Manager in the SCDF Office at Mendenhall, as Richard Rankin retires.

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 12; 10:00 a.m. – Trustees of the Simpson County Economic Development District will meet.**

**Thursday, July 21, 10:00 a.m. – Officers & Directors of SCDF will meet.**

Every member of the Simpson County Development Foundation is essential to attaining successfully our goals for the continued betterment and advancement of our community—Simpson County. Our goals are primarily economic; however we are concerned with every element in the quality of life of our community. You, our members, have a vital role in the success of each of the Foundation's projects and programs.



## Simpson County Lake on schedule to reopen

Simpson County Lake is on schedule to resume its place as the "jewel in the crown" of fine fishing and outdoor recreational sites in our county. Also known to many of us locals as "Legion Lake," the lake currently remains closed for renovations and is under the care of Lake Manager Gregory Perry, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP).



According to MDWFP Director of Fisheries Jerry Brown: "The dam repair project is complete and fish have been stocked. We anticipate reopening Simpson County Lake in 2023. This gives fish time to grow and the opportunity to reproduce before being caught."

Mr. Brown also advises that MDWFP is in the process of making other improvements to the facility while it is closed, and he states, "I believe our customers

will be pleased." MDWFP will publish an article in *Mississippi Outdoors* magazine prior to opening, highlighting the improvements.



These views of the lake prior to closure for renovation are courtesy of Sue Honea, MageeNews.

## 2022 Mississippi Scholars and Tech Masters scholarships awarded to Simpson County scholars

The Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Reception was held on April 28, 2022, at the First Baptist Church of Magee Family Life Center.

*Wesley Boyd, Jaylen Hicks, and William Kindrex each received a scholarship from Copiah Lincoln Community College. The following graduates each received a \$500 scholarship to the school of their choice from Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County: Jakob Lambert, Magee High School; Logan McGuire, Mendenhall High School; Anna*



Scholarship Recipients

Program Graduates

*Grace Shivers, Simpson County Academy; and Precious Womack, Simpson County.*

SCDF supports Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County and funds one of the four scholarships awarded annually.

The Mississippi Scholars initiative and the Mississippi Scholar's Tech Master initiative are education programs managed by the Public Education Forum of Mississippi of the Mississippi Economic Council. In order to achieve recognition in these programs, students must commit to meeting standards in curriculum, performance and citizenship, including community service and disciplinary requirements for graduation. Beyond the personal fulfillment, a student who successfully completes the program receives a special designation on his/her transcript and diploma, a designation taken notice of by potential colleges and employers. In our county, the Mississippi Scholars and Tech Masters scholarships are provided through Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County, a Mississippi non-profit corporation having 501(c)(3) certification with the IRS. They are funded solely by contributions, and contributions are tax deductible.

Photos courtesy of Patrice Boykin.