



United Way
of St. Clair County
1723 Military Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
810.985.8169

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way Honors Exceptional Volunteers and Draws Winners for Freighter Trip during Annual Meeting

United Way of St. Clair County (UWSCC) held their annual meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 in Port Huron Township. Board Vice President, Danny Negin, presided over the meeting with the purpose of conducting the annual business of the organization, announcing the 2019 Campaign Chair, recognizing outstanding volunteers and Leadership Organizations, and drawing the winners of the 2019 Freighter Trip Raffle.

The meeting began with presentations by 2018 Campaign Chair Dan Damman, Treasurer Steve Warsinke, and Citizens Review Committee (CRC) Chair Cindy Rourke. Mr. Damman recognized the Leadership Organizations who exemplify the commitment and dedication necessary to address the human services needs in our community on a consistent basis. Leadership Organizations are an integral part of the success of the annual United Way Campaign; each contributing over \$15,000 through employee work-site campaigns and corporate giving. Leadership Organizations recognized included:

- Cargill
- County of St. Clair
- Dana Corporation
- DTE Energy
- Domtar Industries
- Fiat Chrysler
- Lake Huron Medical Center
- Meijer, Inc.
- Mueller Industries
- McLaren Port Huron
- P.J. Wallbank Springs, Inc.
- SEMCO Energy Gas Company
- St. Clair County RESA
- Wirtz Manufacturing

Lake Huron Medical Center was recognized for the highest giving increase among the Leadership Organizations. Mr. Damman and Brent Gillette, Campaign Director, presented the ceremonial giant check for \$1,234,585 to Mr. Negin to represent the funds raised during the 2018 Campaign. Next, Mr. Warsinske provided the Treasurer's Report and Mrs. Rourke gave the CRC Report.

The business meeting continued with the Executive Director's Report, Board Development Report, and President's Report. Executive Director Douglas A. Dolph presented Mychal Fearncombe, Executive Director of Community Enterprises of St. Clair County, with the Thomas D. Melms Award for her remarkable community involvement, human service advocacy and collaboration, and enduring support of United Way of St. Clair County. Additional business of the evening included welcoming new Board Members and reelecting current Board Members to the positions described below:

First Term:

Stacey Cutler, NorthStar Bank
Jennifer Grace-Tramski, Cargill

Second Term:

Danny Negin, Farm Bureau Insurance

Stephanie Yenna, Trillium Facility Solutions

Dr. Michael Tawney, McLaren Port Huron

Sandy Staffne, Fifth Third Bank

President: Danny Negin, Farm Bureau Ins.

Vice President: Thelma Castillo, Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce

Secretary: Bill Fealko, Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Francis, P.C.

Treasurer: Patti Manley, McBride - Manley & Company, P.C.

Dr. Annette Mercatante, past President, and Mr. Warsinske, past Treasurer, were recognized for their service as officers. Mr. Warsinske joins a narrow list of Board Members having served 18 years of service throughout his career and retirement.

Mr. Negin, Acting President, had the honor of announcing that the 2019 Campaign Chair is Michelle Shepley, Community President for Chemical Bank of Port Huron. Mrs. Shepley is excited and honored to lead this year's community fund drive.

This announcement led to even more anticipation as Mr. Negin and Mr. Damman drew the two winners of UWSCC's 2019 Freighter Trip Raffle. The lucky winners were Ken Lewis from Sarnia, ON Canada and Jane Eide from Custer, SD. The freighter trip raffle, made possible by DTE Energy and Interlake Steamship Company, raised \$23,880.

Rounding out the evening were two more prestigious awards: Campaign Champion and Volunteer of the Year. The 2018 Campaign Champion was awarded to DJ Hill, St. Clair County Road Commission, for her many years of putting her heart and enthusiasm into making their campaign a year round educational experience and encouraging everyone to participate. Dr. Annette Mercatante received the Volunteer of the Year Award for her compassion for others and her leadership and collaboration endeavors that are building a stronger community.

To view UWSCC's 2019 Annual Report, visit www.uwstclair.org.

For inquiries, please contact:

Douglas A. Dolph - Executive Director

ddolph@uwstclair.org

810-985-8169 ext.127

About United Way of St. Clair County

United Way of St. Clair County was founded in 1924. Its mission is to mobilize the community of St. Clair County to raise funds and resources to meet identified human service needs with the highest level of accountability and community involvement. For more information, visit www.uwstclair.org.

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