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## INSIGHT: Whiting chamber celebrates 84th anniversary

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**BY ADELE MACKANOS**

[adelem@nwtimes.com](mailto:adelem@nwtimes.com)

219-933.3248

The Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 84th anniversary with its annual Installation dinner and silent auction at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond.

More than 300 hundred guests enjoyed the gala, dining on filet mignon and Greek chicken and listening to guest speaker Harry Volkman, a well-known TV meteorologist.

The theme of the evening, "It's a Wonderful Life in Whiting-Robertsdale," was coordinated by the chamber's executive director, Gayle Faulkner Kosalko.

Martin Dybel of Baran Funeral Home served as the emcee, and entertainment was provided by the musical talents of the Marilyn Gaza Trio.

Among guests were Whiting Mayor Joe Stahura and his wife, Diane, artist Mitch Markovitz and his wife, Renee, Chief of Police Steve Miller and wife Elaine, Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber President John Evanic and his wife, Lori, Fire Chief Mike Mantich and wife Deanne, Whiting City Attorney Denise Sejna, Priscilla McCarty Reed and Dave Reed from Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, Dave Ryan of Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Bernadette and Joseph Rodriguez of Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Speaks and Janice Minton-Kutz and Larry Kutz of Calumet City Chamber of Commerce, and Rick Calinski, Hammond Economic Development.

Sworn in for the 2007-08 Board of Directors were Tom Keilman of BP Whiting Business Unit, Joe Skvarek of NIPSCO, Connie Salas of the Whiting Flower Shop, John Sopo of Winey Beach Cafe, Dr. Steven Levin of Levin Eye Care Center, Linda Gajewski of Calumet

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College of St. Joseph, Mark Dominiak of Insight Garden, and Norb Dudzik and Sue Duvall in the Resident-Citizen category.

Officers sworn in for 2007 are President John Evanich of American Trust Investment Services, First Vice President Darlene Beerling of Liberty Savings Bank, Second Vice President Scott Sefton of Arc-BRIDGES and Third Vice President Martin Dybel of Baran Funeral Home.

### **Champagne n' Smores**

The fifth annual Champagne & Smores benefit drew guests to Merrillville's posh Gamba's Ristorante, where a celebration of the 95th year of Scout leadership took place.

Guests enjoyed libations and tables set with delicious hors d'ouerves, a chowder that was served in a china demi-cup and sinfully sweet desserts, including the chef's version of a Girl Scout favorite, smores.

Among attendees were Paul Doherty and Andrew Kyres of First Financial; Becky Sacopolos of Ivy Tech Community College; Marcie Bernacchi of McColly Realty; Joe Baker; Michael Brown; Janis Blythe-Smith; Dorothy Bristansky, Sheri Calhoun, Lisa Calhoun, Nancy Camp, Myrna Chambers, Art Collins of Fifth Third Bank; Marlene Cosby, Drifting Dunes Girl Scouts Council Staff; Tracie Davis, council volunteer, Gary; Denista Dieterle, council staff; Shirley Dunn; Sarah Polman, board member; Sabrina Fesko of Indiana University Northwest; Richard Fiedler, Harris; Jeanine Ficker, board member; Gay and Ed Fraire; Willie and Steiner; Jennifer Fredericks, Chase, and Brian Fredericks; John Goffney, American Trust & Savings Bank, board member; Kristin and Joe Hudson, Sharon Kish, United Way Porter County, and guest Joe Kish; Hyon Kwak, board member, First Midwest; Becky and Terri Lee, council staff; Chad Malinovsky, Reliable Transportation Specialties, Lou Martinez, Lake United Way; Gary and Shar Miller,

Prompt Ambulance Service; Judy Nuest, council staff; Sarah Polman, IN Architects; Diane Price, council staff; Tina Rongers, Fifth Third Bank; Mike Suggs, NIPSCO, and Michelle Gamba of the restaurant.

Sponsors include Northwest Indiana's successful entrepreneur, Dean White and his wife Barbara; Chase Bank, First Midwest Bank, Indiana University Northwest, attorney Connie Postellik, Centier Bank, Community Healthcare System and Strack & Van Til.

### **Promoting arts**

South Shore Arts Chamber of Commerce will host its bimonthly luncheon at noon April 11 at The Patio, 7706 Broadway in Merrillville.

Guests can dine on a chicken Caesar salad, lemon rice soup, coffee and tea. Cost for the afternoon is \$12, which includes tax and tip.

The South Shore Arts Chamber of Commerce luncheons are a social activity for artists, arts organization staff and board members, as well as arts patrons.

The luncheons can provide an opportunity for arts enthusiasts to network and collaborate with one another. Participants can stand up and introduce themselves or their organization. There will not be a program.

Reservations are required. RSVP to Shari Pettis by Monday at South Shore Arts Munster office (219) 836-1839, ext. 100.

A credit card number is necessary to make a reservation. Twelve dollars will be collected at the door. Exact change is appreciated.

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