

The Delta Council Review

Vol. 9, Issue No. 3

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2014

Delta Honor Graduates Event Scheduled for May 30 Justice King and Commissioner Bounds to Preside at Delta Council Event

More than 140 high school seniors, who were chosen by their High School Administrators, will be honored by Mississippi Supreme Court Justice **Leslie King** and Institutions of Higher Learning Commissioner **Hank Bounds** at the 79th Delta Council Annual Meeting on the Delta State University campus on May 30.



King

the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties select two honor graduates based on their leadership skills, civic involvement, and promise for the future. The honor graduates will be presented with a certificate from Justice **King** and Commissioner **Bounds** acknowledging their achievements - not only in the classroom, but also



Bounds

their civic and school leadership activities. Justice **King** and Commissioner **Bounds** will extend the certificates to each individual young Delta leader and share in a photo opportunity.

At the business session of the Annual Meeting of Delta Council, one of the honor graduates will be named "The 2014 Delta Honor Graduate" and be present-

MEETING *continued on page 7*

Rothenberg to address members of Delta 1000

Stu Rothenberg, a widely recognized political analyst, will address Delta 1000 members at the May 30 Delta Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland among a crowd before the beginning of the Business Session in the Bologna Center at Delta State.

"**Stu Rothenberg** has become a staple at Delta Council meetings because his many friends and admirers in the region want to continue receiving his insights and knowl-



Rothenberg

edge," stated **Gibb Steele**, President of Delta Council. "He is not only on target in his election predictions, but he also has a keen grasp of the factors that influence the way those elections come out."

Steele also announced that Rothenberg will do an additional five minutes of Audience Response during the 10:30 a.m. Business Session about the upcoming midterm elections.

Rothenberg, one of the most respected voices in political com-

mentary in the Nation, has addressed Delta Council numerous times during the past fifteen years. He is the editor of the **Rothenberg** Political Report, a nonpartisan, non-ideological political newsletter covering U.S. House, Senate and gubernatorial campaigns. He is also a twice-a-week columnist for Roll Call. A frequent soundbite, **Stu** has appeared on Meet the Press, This Week, Face the Nation, the NewsHour, Nightline and many other television programs. He is often quoted in the nation's major

ROTHENBERG *continued on page 3*

2014 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 31, 2014

9:00-10:00 a.m.

DELTA 1000 EVENT

"The 2014 Midterm Election Analysis"
Featuring **Stu Rothenberg**, *Political Analyst*
Location: McPherson Hall

9:00-10:15 a.m.

2014 SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

Dr. Hank Bounds, *Commissioner*, Institutions of Higher Learning, Master of Ceremonies
The Honorable Leslie King, *Justice*, Supreme Court of Mississippi, Keynote
Location: Beneath tent on east side of Bologna Center

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Gibb Steele, *President*

INVOCATION

Reverend **Tony McDonald**, Avon United Methodist Church

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Boy Scout Troop 200, Greenwood

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

B.B. King Museum AllStars, Directed by **Cheryl Weiss**

BUSINESS SESSION

Recognition of Special Guests
Good Middling Recipient Presentation
Achievement Awards
Wear Cotton Recognition
Recognition of Honor Graduate, Scholarship Recipient
Introduction of New Officers

ELECTION ANALYSIS AND AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Stu Rothenberg, *Political Analyst*

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable **Phil Bryant**, *Governor*, State of Mississippi

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Krysta Harden, *Deputy Secretary*, United States Department of Agriculture12:00 Noon
CATFISH LUNCHEON

Location: Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn



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DELTA COUNCIL

2013-14 Delta Council Officers

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Vice-President: MICHAEL AGUZZI, Cleveland
Vice-President: RICHY BIBB, Tunica
Vice-President: THOMAS EDWARDS, Ruleville
Vice-President: PAUL HOLLIS, Anguilla
Vice-President: IRENE LONG, Indianola
Vice-President: CHARLES MCCLINTOCK, Holly Bluff
Treasurer: JOHN PITTMAN, Greenwood

POSTMASTER:

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Outlook

President Message

As the Annual Meeting of Delta Council comes within days of this message, I am excited about the next year, serving as Chairman with a new President who promises to be among the best we have ever had serve us.



Steele

The Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, **Krysta Harden**, is the key person in charge of farm bill implementation and what she says goes, quite simply, goes. The Delta Honor Graduate event has a record turnout scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and with the Tuesday, June 3, Primary Election being held only four days after our May 30 meet-

ing, there will be significant excitement surrounding **Stu Rothenberg's** message at the Delta 1000 event.

Property taxes on Delta cropland, Mississippi Attorney General **Jim Hood's** leadership on the multi-state enforcement policies of copper theft, Congressional and Administrative action on the farm bill, the implementation of catfish inspection, movement on I-69 in the 2014 federal highway legislation, the arrival of Dr. **Jeff Johnson** as the Stoneville Administrator of Mississippi State University, the resurgence of our Stoneville Research and Extension Program, and responsible actions by Delta farm leaders to address groundwater resource concerns have marked some

of the highlights of the past year. **Bill Litton**, the Immediate Past President and current Chairman of Delta Council, has been a steadying influence on all of these fronts, and for that, I am appreciative.

The challenges of working as a region are formidable in all issues which Delta Council confronts, but the opportunities for having an impact on national, State, and regional policies that affect our area expand at a much greater rate than the challenges, due to the sacrifice we might make to work together, rather than one county, one city, or one individual.

Prior to becoming President of

PRESIDENT *continued on page 6*

GUEST COLUMN

Delta Council Day

By John Black

John Black of Greenville is a retired banker who also is an author and historian. Delta Council appreciates John's friendship and leadership in telling the history of the Delta, including Delta Council

Why has Delta Council been so successful for 79 years? What is the glue that holds the organization together? This is a question which might come to the mind of a stranger who was never exposed to the phenomenon known as the Annual Delta Council Day meeting.



Black

Delta Council has been the advocate for Delta farmers and the Delta as a whole since its founding in 1935. While its day-to-day business is to be an advocate for more and better agricultural policies and practices, it also is active in improving drainage conditions peculiar to the Delta. In fact, of the 18 counties covered by Delta Council, the predominant flood control work has occurred precisely in many of those same counties. The four principal flood control dams in Mississippi directly affect every Delta county.

The glue which seems to hold together

er this diverse, yet close-knit community of those who relish pursuing the agrarian life style, are particularly drawn to the family of fellow travelers, as it were. Anywhere from 2,500 to nearly 4,000 people from all over the Delta, surrounding counties in Mississippi, and even some who are from more far flung areas of the country, come to the little town of Cleveland, Mississippi, and the campus of Delta State University (formerly Delta State Teachers College) to enjoy fellowship, barbeque chicken and now fried catfish. Such proficiency in crowd control has been to serve 2,500 people hot catfish in about 20 minutes.

Another draw which influences Deltans and others to make Delta Council Day is the number of luminary speakers who are invited to speak at every meeting. These have ranged from President **Harry Truman** to Rear Admiral **Alan Shepherd**, the Mercury astronaut; Dr. **Wernher Von Braun**, the man who is responsible for the technology which put **Shepard** in his orbit, and has further developed space technology beyond that of any other country. In anticipation of **Truman's** visit to Cleveland, a delegation from Delta Council presented him with a birthday gift – a sterling silver replica of the steamboat Natchez, made to scale

and all by hand. Unfortunately, **Truman** was not able to make his May 8, 1947, date and instead sent Under Secretary of State, **Dean Acheson** to report on the Marshall Plan recently authorized by Congress to help European countries recover from the devastation of World War II.

One of the seemingly most unlikely speakers was **William Faulkner** who addressed the crowd in 1952. Speaking rather self-effacingly about his farming and even his writing abilities, **Faulkner** touched on a theme with which the nation is still grappling – personal responsibility. When focusing on individual responsibility **Faulkner** stated, that every man has the right and duty to be responsible "if he wishes to remain free."

Faulkner's statements in 1952 now label him much more omniscient than we might have otherwise thought him to be. As a nation we find ourselves sinking ever deeper into the murky depths of an increasing lack of responsibility. However, Delta Council members are the exception to this development. By their very nature, Delta farmers are willing to face the problems that arise and who recognize their own frailties, which led to the cre-

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Davis Named 2014 Good Middling Recipient

Bolivar County native, **Candy Davis**, who was born in Cleveland and now resides in Shaw, was recently selected as the 2014 Good Middling Recipient. **Candy** is a self-employed home-maker and community worker. She received her degree in Agriculture from Mississippi State University.

The former **Candy Fullen** is married to **Larry Davis**. She has four children and seven grandchildren. She is, also, a member of the Bolivar Church of Christ.

Candy has worked as a farmer and home-maker, as well as volunteered her time and talents to the children of this community. She was just recently presented as Queen of the 2013 Junior Auxiliary Children's Benefit Ball in Cleveland. Other attributes of her dedication to the community is 10 years of service as a Coach

for soccer, softball, and baseball in the Park Commission; Cub Scout Den Leader for 18 years: Cub Master for Pack 23 for 10 years; and Activity Chairman for Tallaha District, Boy Scouts of America.

She has served in many leadership roles including: Bolivar Medical Center Board of Directors and Chairman; Member of the Bolivar Medical Center Foundation Board; Member of Bayou Academy Board of Directors and Bayou Academy Foundation Board; Member of the Executive Board of Chickasaw Council, Boy Scouts of America; Chairman of Delta Rice Promotions; Past President of Bayou Academy Patrons League; and Past Women's Chairman and Board Member of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau.

Candy has received several other awards and

honors for her outstanding community service and leadership; Silver Beaver Award from Boy Scouts of America; Bolivar Commercial Volunteer Award; and the Cleveland Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Award.

"As long as most of us can recall, **Candy** has been an organizer, a person who does the job no one else tackles and a tireless worker for Delta agriculture, especially those of us who farm rice," stated **Travis Satterfield**, Chair-



man of the Rice Committee of Delta Council.

Candy will be recognized at the 79th Annual Delta Council Meeting on Friday, May 30, 2014 at Delta State University Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, MS as the Good Middling Recipient of the Year. Coined after the term "good middling," the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

DELTA
COUNCIL
MEMBER
FOCUS

FLOYD
MELTON, III



Business or Occupation

Floyd is an attorney with Melton Law Firm, PLLC in Greenwood, MS. The firm is a family firm made up of his father **Floyd M. Melton, Jr.**, his brother Moss B. Melton, and himself. They handle all types of law practice but especially Estate Planning, Trusts, Real Estate, and business planning. They also own and manage rental property in Leflore County and in Oxford, MS.

Hometown

Floyd is a Greenwood (Leflore County) native. Presently, he and his wife **Lisa Trotter Melton** reside in Greenwood with their two children: 13 year old son **Floyd M. Melton IV** and 11 year old daughter **Anne Craig Melton**. He is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church where he serves as a Church Elder, Sunday School Teacher, past Kindergarten

Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and past Witness Committee Chairman.

Affiliations

Floyd has several affiliations on local, regional and state levels. He is a member of the Leflore County Bar Association and the Mississippi Bar Association. He served on various committees within the Mississippi Bar Association, including the Executive Committee. **Floyd's** other affiliations are comprised of Delta Council 2011 Board of Directors and member of Farm Policy Committee; Flood Control Committee; Highway Improvement and Transportation Committee; and, Soil and Water Resources Committee. Within the Greenwood/Leflore Chamber of Commerce, he has operated as President, President-elect, Vice-president, Executive Board member, Board of Directors, President of Leadership Tomorrow,

and member of several committees.

Floyd also has had associations with the following: Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau, Main Street Greenwood, Boy Scout Chickasaw Council, Boy Scout Troop 200, Cub Scout Pack 200, Greenwood Rotary Club International, University of Mississippi Alumni Association, Pillow Academy Alumni Association, Pillow Academy Booster Club, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Wildlife, Greenwood Youth Soccer Organization, Greenwood Pee Wee Football, Greenwood Exchange Club Youth Baseball, and the Bridge Steering Committee.

What people say

"**Floyd's** involvement with the Boy Scouts is just one example of his work in this community and across the Delta. He lends his time and talents to a number of worthwhile endeavors," says **Bill Litton**, Delta Council Past President.

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media, and his op-eds have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal and other newspapers.

Stu served during the 2008, 2010, and 2012 election cycles as an analyst for the NewsHour on PBS. During the 2006 cycle, he was a political analyst for CBS News. Prior to that, he was a political analyst for CNN for over a decade,

including election nights from 1992 through 2004.

Delta 1000 is a program begun by Delta Council over 30 years ago to ask all of the members of Delta Council to pay \$100 above

and beyond their regular membership dues. This support through the "Delta 1000" Program has helped Delta Council maintain one of the most effective area-wide economic development programs in the entire nation.

GUEST from page 2

ation of Delta Council in the first place. It was the desire to accept the responsibility for the condition of the land, the improvements in farm technology and better marketing tools which

brought some of the best minds in the Delta together to form such a unique organization. There is no other Delta Council or similar organization with such widespread support among its members.

Delta Council Day, a day of fun, fellowship, feasting and friendly greetings to all, keeps mem-

bers coming back year after year. Diversity of programs also adds to the fun and excitement of the day. A yearly hit among visitors, is the best dressed man and woman in all-cotton attire. All of these activities, plus others too numerous to mention, maintain the interest of the attendees from year to year as these good-natured compe-

titions play out over the course of the meeting.

All who miss the 2014 Delta Council Day, or maybe have missed several in recent years, need to make plans for the next meeting. You will not be disappointed, but will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of sheer enjoyment as well as a wealth of knowledge to be gained.





ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING



Outstanding Rice Producer:
Marvin Cochran
Ravin Planting Co.
Avon, MS



Outstanding Soybean Producer:
Hunter Moorhead, Sr.
Tri-Delta Farms, Inc.
Arcola, MS



Outstanding Cotton Ginner:
Alan Byrd
Mill Creek Gin
Clarksdale, MS



Outstanding Conservation Farmer:
Buddy Allen
Cypress Break Planting Company
Tunica, MS



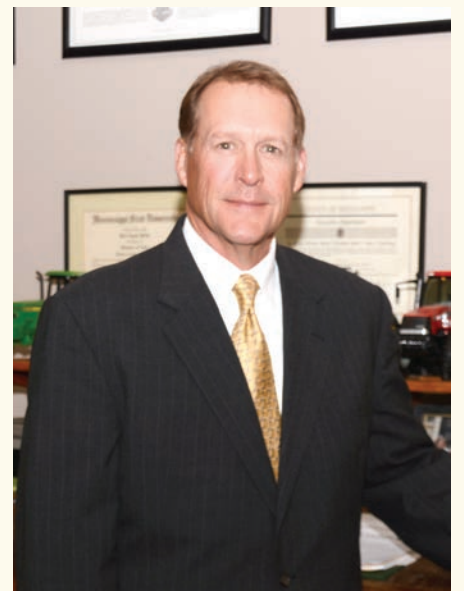
Outstanding Contributions to Hardwood Forestry:
Dr. Paul Hamel
U.S. Forest Service, Southern Hardwoods Laboratory
Stoneville, MS



Outstanding Contributions to Aquaculture:
Senator Thad Cochran
United States Senator (MS)



Outstanding Contributions to Research:
Elmer Burchfield
Delta Research & Extension Center
Stoneville, MS



Delta Membership Chairman of 2014:
Paul Hollis
Hollis Farms
Rolling Fork, MS





The Delta... working together.



1947 Annual Meeting lunch on the grounds



2004 Annual Meeting: Governor Barbour addresses Delta Council audience.



U.S. Senators Stabenow, Cochran and Wicker, along with Delta Council Past President Bill Litton at the 2013 Annual Meeting



1956 Annual Meeting, seated left to right David Rockefeller, Chase Manhattan, NY Standing with hat Mrs WT Wynn and Walter Sillers



Howard Sanders, Hollandale, right, and Governor Musgrove, left, at Annual Meeting 2002



Left Incoming DC president F.H. Nance (1963-64) presents; right Past President Aven Whittington (1962-63) a plague



Barbecue chicken luncheon during the Delta Council 1955 Annual Meeting



Chairman Charlie Capps, left, and Sen. Trent Lott, right, at 2006 Delta Council Annual Meeting



1962 Wear Cotton Contest Winners Mrs. J.E. Bobo, right, presents the Wear Cotton award to Mr. and Mrs. George K. Wade of Greenwood



1958 BBQ on the Delta State quadrangle



MISSISSIPPI DELTA 2014 HONOR GRADUATES

Bolivar

Lerandel Allen-Shaw High
Molly Bassie-Bayou Academy
Beth Baugh-Cleveland High
Quenita Drummer-West Bolivar High
Shakedria Dye-John F Kennedy High
Brittany Earls-Bayou Academy
Billy Joe Hall, II-Broad Street High
Keyana King-Ray Brooks
Mary Clay Kline-Cleveland High
Jarvis Malone-John F Kennedy High
Martavius Miller-West Bolivar High
Charliesa Orange-Broad Street High
Destiny Thomas-Ray Brooks
Markiviana Tucker-East Side High
Terry Winston-East Side High
Cadesiah Woods-Shaw High

Carroll

Brianna Lee Corley-Carroll Academy
Laura Ellett-J.Z. George High
Raven Meeks-J.Z. George High
Ryan Wiltshire-Carroll Academy

Coahoma

Jakeria Bailey-Coahoma County High
Ashley Craig-Coahoma Co. Agricultural High
Khadijah Fisher-Clarksdale High
LaTerrance Henderson-Coahoma Co. Agricultural High
Sara Catherine Hood-Lee Academy
Melissa Camille Rybolt-Lee Academy
Shila Smith-Clarksdale High
Jastini Thomas-Coahoma County High

Desoto

Madison Bryant-Hernando High
Sarah Catherine Case-Lewisburg High
Hudson Chenault-Northpoint Christian School
Anna-Alicia Estes-Lewisburg High
Desmond Ferrell-Southaven High
Jacob S. Fine-Center Hill High
Lori Ann Jarman-Hernando High
Anna Jenkins-Desoto Central High
Maris Martin-Desoto Central High
Collin Moore-Lake Cormorant High
William Nowell-Northpoint Christian School
Jocelyn Olguin-Horn Lake High
Aaron Priester-Olive Branch High
Mariana Santana Ponce-Horn Lake High
Alexis Schwartz-Southaven High
Crystal Sizemore-Lake Cormorant High
Gabriella L. Stafford-Desoto County Academy
Jade Steele-Desoto County Academy
Jasmine Steen-Olive Branch High
Brock Tschume-Center Hill High

Holmes

Gerrica Adams-J. J. McClain High
Taylor Adcock-Central Holmes Christian School

Alesha Caesar-S. V. Marshall High
Shamekia Dotson-J. J. McClain High
Fronica Frizell-Durant High
Bobby Henry-S. V. Marshall High
Lindsey Horton-Williams Sullivan High
Ilexis Lindsey-Durant High
Shameshia Martin-Williams Sullivan High
Terrell Wynne-Central Holmes Christian School

Humphreys

Laura Brantley Childress-Humphreys Academy
Symone Daniels-Humphreys Co. High
Sharika Hodges-Humphreys Co. High
Rachel Lloyd-Humphreys Academy

Leflore

Ali Evans-Pillow Academy
Zakaria Gary-Greenwood High
Alyncea Hawkins-Leflore County High
Kamberlin King-Leflore County High
Shelby Malouf-Pillow Academy
Chloe Ricks-Amanda Elzy High
Cyneiceya Wallace-Amanda Elzy High
Kelnisha Westbrook-Greenwood High

Panola

Carla Brown-South Panola High
Barrett Climer-North Delta School
Cathryn Grace Guntharp-South Panola High
Devin Harns-North Panola High
Neil Patel-North Delta School
Shunderla Wilson-North Panola High

Quitman

Emily Grossi-Delta Academy
Desiree Orange-M. S. Palmer High
Caleb Robinson-M. S. Palmer High
Claiborne White-Delta Academy

Sharkey/Issaquena

Howard Johnson, Jr.-South Delta High
Matthew H. Bridges-Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Aygun Brown-Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
La'Quita Minor-South Delta High

Sunflower

Darius Edwards-Ruleville Central High
Amery Hocutt-North Sunflower Academy
Martha Marquez-Ruleville Central High
Colton Moon-North Sunflower Academy
Asya Moton-Gentry High
Tyler Murry-Indianola Academy
Elizabeth "Lizzy" Pitts-Indianola Academy
Jordan Whitfield-Gentry High

Tallahatchie

John C Brooks-Strider Academy
Laura Davis-Strider Academy
Olandrick Moore-West Tallahatchie High

Sara Paris-Charleston High
Maxwell "Cole" Price, II-Charleston High
Damiqa Spright-West Tallahatchie High

Tate

James Brandon Beavers-Senatobia High
Raquel Becton-Coldwater High
Hailey Butts-Magnolia Heights School
Tony Jones, Jr.-Coldwater High
Charlie Kemp-Strayhorn High
Melody Lyon-Independence High
Paige McClure-Senatobia High
Martin "Blake" Pugh-Independence High
Rachel Suits-Strayhorn High
Taylor Young-Magnolia Heights School

Tunica

Jeremiah Berry-Rosa Fort High
Antonio Calvert, II-Rosa Fort High
Clara Cupples-Tunica Academy
Hayley Holmes-Tunica Academy

Warren

Anne Elizabeth Buys-Porter's Chapel Academy
Michael Foley-St Aloysius High School
Lara Lamanilao-St Aloysius High School
Alexis Murrell-Warren Central High
Rachel Rogers-Porter's Chapel Academy
Austin Tello-Warren Central High
Isla Thomas-Vicksburg High
Ada M. White-Vicksburg High

Washington

Amira Abbas-Washington School
Tia T. Brown-Greenville Christian School
Lauren Gales-Greenville Weston High
Reya Hayek-St Joseph High School
Blade C Hodges-Riverside High
Robert Lee Hurt, III-Leland High
Cathryn Lynn Kilgore-Riverside High
Vernon Kyler Lee-Greenville Weston High
Caroline Mansour-St Joseph High School
Scott Miller, Jr.-O'Bannon High
Casey Park-Washington School
Courtney Lee Powers-Greenville Christian School
Aubrey Smyly-Deer Creek School
Maggie Turner-Simmons Jr/Sr High
Breneeasha Washington-O'Bannon High
David White-Leland High
Terrence Wilson-Simmons Jr/Sr High
Kenneth Austin Winter-Deer Creek School

Yazoo

Brianna Dent-Yazoo County High
Norman Lewis-Yazoo County High
Kent Manor-Benton Academy
DeMarcus McGee-Yazoo City High
Mary Morgan Mohamed-Manchester Academy
William Peaster-Manchester Academy
Rusch Ragland-Benton Academy
Tybreisha Trotter-Yazoo City High

PRESIDENT *from page 2*

Delta Council, I had an experience which proved to me that the Delta, whether you are a businessman or a farmer, fares far better when we look beyond the boundaries of our

own hometown and seek regional consensus toward a goal for the greater good. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to be a part of a wide range of issues where the doctrine of working together has produced positive results. In my view, the challenge for all of

us is not about Washington, Jackson, or even our local situations; rather, it is about us striving to maintain the legacy which we have been given by our forbearers in the Delta to keep working together until the job is done. Then, move on to the next job, because we are

the Delta.

I hope to see each of you on May 30, and I extend a special invitation to you to bring your sons and daughters, --- I wish I had started attending Delta Council meetings much earlier in my younger years.

Sponsors

The Delta Council
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For over 100 years, BankPlus has served the people and businesses of Mississippi. BankPlus has over 60 banking offices in 33 Mississippi communities. As a bank that started in the Delta and maintains strong community values, BankPlus is proud to sponsor Delta Council.

BankPlus offers cutting-edge services and products coupled with the best in customer service and customer care. For additional information on BankPlus, please visit www.BankPlus.net.



Sanders, established in 1953 and acquired in 2012 by Pinnacle Agriculture Holdings, LLC, is a major part of Pinnacle's best-in-class agricultural retail distribution business. The Sanders brand is one of the largest agricultural input supply and distribution businesses in the United States and, along with Pinnacle's other brands, serves growers across 18 states. Sanders is multifaceted in its operations, which include seed production and sales, agricultural chemical distribution, bulk handling of fertilizer, precision agriculture services and general merchandise for the farming, livestock and wildlife industries.



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Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity. From a few acres to a few thousand acres, these Farm Credit Association lenders have been working with growers and rural land owners in Mississippi for over 95 years. They offer flexible loan programs, knowledge of the territory, expertise in land values and agricultural operation needs. As co-operatives, the borrowers are the owners of these banks and, as such, share in the profits through a patronage refund at the end of each successful year. Mississippi Land Bank has ten locations across north Mississippi. Southern Ag Credit also has eleven offices located throughout south Mississippi and North Louisiana. Both of these financial institutions are proud to support Delta Council and welcome the opportunity to discuss a financing solution designed to help you grow.

Visit them online at www.MississippiLandBanks.com.



- Catfish Farmers of Mississippi
- Cotton Incorporated
- Mississippi Corn Promotion Board
- Mississippi Rice Promotion Board
- Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board

"Voices of Mississippi Agriculture" represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. Combined, these industries account for the economic chassis that the economy of the region rides upon, producing over 31,000 jobs and accounting for more than \$580 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues to support basic services, from school teachers to garbage pick-up. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State's economy.



Rob Coker, Yazoo City
Phillip Good, Macon
Jan Hill, Meridian
Larry Killebrew, Lexington
Bobby Mashburn, Bolton
Turner Massey, Rich
Mike Pannell, New Albany, President
Charlie Pilkinton, Columbus
Pepper Roberts, Belzoni
Ben Robertson, Indianola
Walker Sturdivant, Glendora
Todd Williams, Olive Branch

Ronald Aguzzi, Cleveland
James Allison, Sarah
Curtis Berry, Robinsonville
Nolen Canon, Tunica
Gip Carter, Rolling Fork
Marvin Cochran, Avon
Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
Donald Gant, Merigold
Tom Hollingsworth, Hollandale
Randy Howarth, Cleveland
Doug Simmons, Hollandale
Gibb Steele, President, Hollandale

Morgan Beckham, Leland
Tim Clements, Greenville
Paul Dees, Leland
Jan DeRegt, Hollandale, President
Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
Mike Guedon, Natchez
Keith Morton, Falkner
C.D. "Bubba" Simmons, Hollandale
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
Billy Tabb, Cleveland
David Wansley, Valley Park

Buddy Allen, Tunica
Coley Bailey, Grenada
Kendall Garraway, Bolton
Bernard A. "Bernie" Jordan, Jr., Yazoo City
Norman D. "Davis" Owen, Robinsonville
Lawrence Long, Indianola

Bill Battle, Tunica
Larry Brown, Indianola
Brian Crawford, Carrollton, President
Andy Jones, Moorhead
Shorty Jones, Glen Allan
Mark Koehn, Macon
Joe Oglesby, Indianola
Ben Pentecost, Doddsville
Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
Louis Thompson, Tchula, Chairman
Chris McGlawn, Swiftown

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ed with a \$2500 scholarship to the school which they are attending. The selection committee for the top honor graduate of the Delta is composed of higher education leaders from the region.

Families of the honor graduates and school administrators are invited to join honor graduates at the 9:00 a.m. event

under a tent on the parking lot outside the east side of the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

"Delta Council is grateful for Justice King and Commissioner Bounds in helping us recognize these special young men and women throughout the Delta," said Cass Pennington of Indianola, chairman of Delta Council's Educational Policy Committee. "Their message to these young people is the same as ours — continue your high achievements in education and

leadership by going to college, but please come home to Mississippi and the Delta to help us continue to make our communities better."

Special thanks is given to the Delta Area Association for Improvement of Schools (DAAIS). The DAAIS staff was instrumental in helping to secure names of students with school officials and organizing higher education leaders to select the Top Honor Graduate.

Delta Council

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P.O. Box 257
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DELTAN ON THE MOVE: *Ronnie Lee*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ronnie, a Mississippi native, was born on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and soon moved to Starkville, where he spent the summer cutting/hauling pulpwood and working on his grandfather's 100 acre farm – raising corn, cotton, watermelons, and sugar cane. During his young childhood, they moved to Greenville (Washington County).

While attending high school in Washington County, he obtained a head injury leaving him over 60% deaf with total hearing loss in one ear, and conceding of his life-long dream of being a Marine. Being an overcomer early in life, he continued his studies at Mississippi Delta Community College where he studied Radiology.

He and his wife of 38 years **Jan** have two wonderful children, Erin and Scott. They are members of Open Door Baptist Church in Greenville. He has been a member for over 12



ational time, **Ronnie** enjoys hunting, fishing, photography and shooting sport

CURRENT JOB TITLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ronnie started his career in the automotive industry. In 1995, he returned to the Ag industry when he began to work at Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC), a division of Mississippi State University. He now co-manages the Engineering Department at DREC, along with **Ray Manning**. Over the 19 years of service at DREC, he and his colleagues have been instrumental in designing and building ideas for about fourteen scientists for the Agricultural industry. They build implements for the Cotton, Soybean, Corn, Catfish, etc. areas of study.

He has served on the Staff Advisory Council at DREC, serving as President for four years. There, he heads up a group of about 45 wonderful volunteers

that serve as a "Catfish Cooking Team". The Catfish Cooking Team has cooked at the Delta Council Annual Meeting for twelve years, serving approximately 2300 people, cooking 1500 pounds of catfish. The Team also cooks twice a year for the Crop Days at DREC.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Ronnie says, "I sincerely enjoy meeting new people and have had the privilege to meet some great people associated with the Ag industry. But, I think my greatest pleasure is seeing a project that we've spent weeks and months on, go from idea state to actually working in the field."

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY ABOUT RONNIE?

"There is no individual who is more accommodating, more positive about his workplace or who has a stronger 'can-do' attitude than **Ronnie**---and he is a friend to everyone on the Stoneville Campus," stated **Chip Morgan**, the Staffperson from Delta Council which is co-located at the Delta Research and Extension Center.



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