



The Delta Council Review

Vol. 14, Issue No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

June 2019

DELTA NATIVE TO HEADLINE 84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF DELTA COUNCIL ON JUNE 7

Delta Council President, **Woods Eastland** of Indianola, is pleased to announce the 84th Annual Meeting of Delta Council to be held this Friday at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Keynoting the business session of the meeting will be United Parcel Service Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, **David Abney**.

"Delta Council is pleased that our keynote speaker is a native son of the Mississippi Delta who has climbed the heights of business and commerce," said Delta Council President, **Woods Eastland**. "**David Abney's** story is one of hard work, dedication, and inspiration, especially to those of us who live in the Mississippi Delta. All of us are proud to see one of us reach such heights of business achievement."

Abney was born in Cleveland, lived in Clarksdale, Leland, and Oxford before his family settled in Greenwood when he was 11 years old. He graduated from Pillow Academy and became the first in his family to attend college.

As a 19-year-old Delta State University student, **Abney** started working night shift for UPS, loading packages onto vans. After graduating from DSU in 1976, he decided to go full-time with his low-level UPS job, and quickly became fascinated with how the business worked. Over the next 40 years, he continued to move up through UPS until in 2014 he was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Chairman in 2016.

He regularly returns to Delta State, where he is a member of the board of directors for the university's foundation and sponsors an annual business conference at the college. **David Abney** is married to his college sweetheart, **Sherry Sharp**, and they reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2019 Delta Council Day will commence with the 16th annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates

Event at 9:15 a.m., held outside of the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the lawn.

The top Delta Honor Graduate will be recognized on stage at the Delta Council Annual Meeting during the Business Session.

At 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the BPAC, after the inaugural presentation of the colors, and God and Country, the Business Session will proceed into the recognition of the 2019 Good Midding Community Service Award and the tradition of the Wear Cotton contest, followed by a special message from Keynote Speaker **David Abney** and an introduction of him by **Governor Phil Bryant**.

The tradition of a fried catfish luncheon and Achievement Awards Ceremony will wrap-up Delta Council Day on the grounds of the Quadrangle on the Delta State University campus. Delta Council invites and encourages all of you to attend and participate in this 84-year-old Delta "red-letter" day.

Sponsors for the meeting are BankPlus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton Inc., Delta State University, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Land Bank, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, Sanders, and Southern Ag Credit.



David Abney, Chairman and CEO of UPS

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

**BOLOGNA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI**

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**2019 SALUTE TO
DELTA HONOR GRADUATES
Hal Parker, Jr.**

*President of the Institutions of
Higher Learning Board
of Trustees*

Co-host

Dr. Cass Pennington

Delta Education Leader

**Location: "Under the Tent"
on the lawn of the Bologna
Performing Arts Center**

10:30 a.m.

**OPENING REMARKS
Woods Eastland**

Delta Council President

WELCOME

Dr. William LaForge

*Delta State University
President*

INVOCATION

Rev. Jim Woods

*Dorsett Drive Christian Church
Indianola*

**PRESENTATION OF
COLORS**

*Boy Scout Troop 200
Greenwood*

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

Bruce Levingston

BUSINESS SESSION

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Good Midding Community Service Award Recipient
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Recognition of Honor Graduates & Scholarship Recipient
- Introduction of New Officers

**INTRODUCTION OF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Governor Phil Bryant**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
David Abney**

*Chairman and CEO of
United Parcel Service*

**12:00 NOON
CATFISH LUNCHEON**

**Location: Delta State
University
Quadrangle Lawn**

**RECOGNITION OF
2019 ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS**

Woods Eastland

Delta Council President

**MAKE WEEDS BEG FOR MERCY.
FOR UP TO 8 WEEKS.**



FIERCE
HERBICIDE



DELTA COUNCIL

2018–2019 Delta Council Officers

President: WOODS EASTLAND, Indianola
Vice-President: STANLEY AYRES, Leland
Vice-President: JOHN RODGERS BRASHIER, Indianola
Vice-President: PETE HUNTER, Clarksdale
Vice-President: B. JONES, Tchula
Vice-President: FLOYD MELTON III, Greenwood
Vice-President: RANSOM MYERS, Dundee
Treasurer: ANDY ANDERSON, Rolling Fork

POSTMASTER:

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY WOODS EASTLAND



Eastland

I want to thank all the members and friends of Delta Council for making this year a special one for Lynn and me. The events of the past year have even strengthened my faith in the Delta's ability to tackle its challenges and produce positive outcomes working through the organization of Delta Council.

I hope that those I have crossed paths with and worked alongside during this year will join us for our 84th Annual Meeting this Friday, June 7, in Cleveland, along with other members and guests.

We are excited that David Abney, the

CEO and Chairman of the Board of UPS (United Parcel Service), will be our featured speaker. That in itself would make for a good keynote address, but when you add his accomplishments to the fact that David grew up in the Delta, graduated high school in Greenwood, and began working for UPS as a college student at Delta State University, we can look forward to an impressive message.

His story is a remarkable one which we need to hold up to our younger citizens about the value of hard work and determination. Also, there are plenty of opportunities right here in the Delta for those willing to put in the effort.

It is amazing that both of the CEO's and Chairmen of the world's largest two distribution businesses are both Delta natives – Fred Smith was also born in the Delta, in the town of Marks where his family had farming interests.

We are also pleased that Hal Parker,

Jr., the President of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and our own Dr. Cass Pennington will address over 100 Delta Honor Graduates about the importance of obtaining a good education and, hopefully, coming back to the Delta to help us build a better future. With the help of IHL, MS Valley State University, and Delta State University, Delta Council worked to name these top scholars – based on leadership, community service, and educational achievements – in November of 2018. We made that change in order to be able to write our universities and let them know who the high achievers in our region are so that they might get more recruitment (and scholarship) attention from those schools.

We hope to see many of you this Friday and appreciate your friendship with Delta Council.

GUEST COLUMN

MARY CATHERINE BROOKS

Extension Associate II
MSU Delta Research & Extension Center
Delta Council



Brooks

A product of the Mississippi hill-country, standing water was something I saw only in a pond on my parent's farm or crossing the creek on "the place". Beyond the occasional thrill of Grenada Lake spillway opening, flooding was a distant story on the Sunday evening news. But for the last 11 weeks, the 2019 South Delta backwater flooding has consumed both my professional and personal life.

I landed in the Delta in the summer of 2014 and quickly put down roots. Just days into starting my new job as an MSU Extension Associate for Delta Council, I was challenged with locating inundation and plumping maps, powerpoint slides, photographs and documents related to the Yazoo Backwater Project – which was as foreign to me as flood control. Over the last several years I've seen hundreds of devastating flood photos and more powerpoints from the Mississippi Levee Board and Corps of Engineers than I can recall, but all from behind a computer screen.

In early March, I was offered a unique

opportunity to show up to work the following Monday with hip-waders and a full camera battery, to be on the ground non-stop documenting what I never anticipated to be a record-breaking flood. My first day on assignment, I went to the local hangout in Valley Park (the grain elevator) in search of those affected by the backwater. As soon as I stepped through the door, I was handed a cup of coffee by one of the many ag-based workers discussing sandbagging, ring levees and pumps, as they spent a rainy, cold and flooded morning not in the field. Within two-cups-of-coffee-time, the locals had an impressive and comprehensive list of people and places for me to visit. That was the first day I scratched the surface of an under-told story of homes and roads marinating in filthy stagnant water, rotting animal carcasses by the hundreds, and so many stories of children and adults left displaced, and even homeless.

Within the first week of documenting, Delta Council/Delta Wildlife established the "Forgotten Backwater Flood" Facebook and Instagram page to show the unpublicized reality of the backwater area. The first four days we averaged 1,000 followers a day. Immediately, residents began reaching out on social media sending snapshots, telling their story, and inviting me to come document their experiences.

I spent my days exploring flooded roads I could barely access via truck while dodging a sickening amount of roadkill, bouncing around in a high-water truck through heavier flooded areas, and even had the

opportunity to fly over the area and document aerially, but none of that could prepare me for what I witnessed next.

A legal official took me on a boat tour of areas that are non-accessible by road. We boated down gravel roads for miles upon miles and saw rural neighborhoods inundated with 3-6 feet of water. Backwater had been standing in the homes for so long the walls were bowed out and porches had floated away. Water covered the tops of vehicles and campers left behind, and the wake had beaten through the siding of many homes, exposing insulation and the frame. A giant floating tank was leaking diesel, contaminating the water. Sickly wildlife was stranded on spoil banks, deceased bloated opossums, deer and raccoons were floating through yards, and snakes were hanging in trees. We even spotted an alligator swimming in the front yard of an evacuated home. Just when I thought I had witnessed the worst of it, I zoomed in my camera lens to capture a detailed shot of a home that water had not yet reached. While looking through my lens, a little head lifted slowly over the grass, and I saw a tail flop about three times. The emaciated dog looked like skin draped over a skeleton, and so weak she couldn't get up when she saw us. I believe that day was the tipping point for me, and this project became more than a job.

As I was spending ten or more hours daily traveling the backwater area and

GUEST continued on page 3

DOCIA ENGLAND TO BE RECOGNIZED AS GOOD MIDDLING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AT DELTA COUNCIL DAY

Docia England of Greenville has been named the Good Middling Community Service Award Recipient for 2019. **Docia** will be recognized Friday at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) in Cleveland, MS.

Coined after the term "good middling", the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Community Service Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

"**Docia** exemplifies the meaning behind community service. Her dedication and enthusiasm for the betterment, growth and prosperity of the Delta and its people is evident through the decades," said Delta Council Arrangements Chairwoman **Irene Long** of Indianola. "The work **Docia** has lead through her various positions has impacted hundreds of lives throughout the Delta, and we are fortunate the Delta has women such as her leading our communities."

Docia is currently serving her 12th year as a board member for Delta Cotton Belles, of which 6 were

served as Chairman. In addition, she founded the Wrapped in Pink Program as part of Delta Cotton Belles' mission, which provides services for women with breast cancer. **Docia** serves as a board member for Mission Mississippi Delta, Community Counseling Center, Bologna Performing Arts Center, and is Allocations Chairman, board member and past-president for King's Daughters and Sons Circle Number Two.

Docia has also served as President for the United Way of Washington County, Hodding Carter YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, and Greenville Arts Council. She has served as a board member for the Red Cross, Delta Center Stage, Greenville Garden Club, Greenville Junior Auxiliary, and Greenville Woman's Club.

Docia and her husband **Perry** are members of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville where **Docia** serves as an Elder, Moderator of the Mission Council, and a children's teacher. In the past she has served as Deacon, Moderator of Presbyterian Women, and on the Congregational Care Committee.

The **Englands** enjoy spending all



England

of their spare time with their three children and six grandchildren. In addition, **Docia** enjoys playing tennis and bridge, watching Mississippi State University athletics, gardening, and Bible study.

BRUCE LEVINGSTON TO PERFORM PATRIOTIC MUSIC AT ANNUAL MEETING



Delta native **Bruce Levingston** is set to perform the National Anthem at the business session of the 84th Annual Meeting of Delta Council. **Levingston** is an American concert pianist and a leading figure in contemporary classical music. He has performed in many of the world's most prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

He was awarded the Mississippi

Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2006 and, in 2017, named to the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame. In 2018, the Governor of Mississippi named May 9th **Bruce Levingston** Day in recognition of **Levingston's** longtime support of the arts and civil rights. **Levingston** is the Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence and Holder of the Lester Glenn Fant Chair at the University of Mississippi. He resides in Oxford, MS and New York City.

GUEST from page 2

blindly introducing myself to anyone who stood still longer than two seconds or made eye contact with me, I quickly became known as the "forgotten backwater flood woman". Trying to earn the trust of people who are angry, vulnerable, physically and mentally spent, on their way to losing nearly everything is not an easy feat. Eventually the people of these communities began to see positive outcomes of telling their stories through our platform and speaking loudly enough for the rest of Mississippi and beyond to hear. By publishing their stories daily and letting social media organically increase momentum, the backwater pump project has gained a substantial amount of attention from other citizens, lawmakers, the media, and even some anti-pump organizations and individuals. We have reached over 25 countries, several hundred thousand Facebook users, and over 30 news, weather and documentary outlets.

Before starting this journey, I never thought about the Eagle Lake child who has to boat to the road then ride a school bus 3 hours a day; the person who has to choose each day between going to work and risk losing their

home, or stay home to protect their property and risk losing their job; the elderly lady who can't drive her car through the flooded roads and cannot have her medical supplies delivered; the business owner who is a single mother and had to close her store because trucks would not deliver goods to her store; the multiple people who have been sent to the hospital because the contaminated backwater caused them to have severe reactions; the emergency response teams that have been relocated to these stranded areas; the family that has to boat their pets to dry ground multiple times a day; the family that finally purchased their dream home six months ago, and will have to demolish it; the man whose grandfather sacrificed his family's land 80 years ago for the levee and channel system that was never completed and has been fighting backwater his entire life. This backwater flooding event is more than a couple of farmers who can't plant this year. It's more than a few roads underwater causing some inconvenience.

Now that I am three months in, I cannot recall a week I have not shed a tear, and a few times wept, due to the misery and suffering our fellow Mississippians and Deltans are suffering. For decades, many of these families have fought (and some lost) a long hard battle



Home of Mr. John Dent in Issaquena County that has been flooded since early March.

against the backwater on the broken promise of the pumping plant. No photo, video or interview can fully illustrate the absolute ruin of the area, and the fear, anger and spark of determination in the eyes of the thousands of hard

working, worn down, steadfast Mississippians.

To end on a high note, Delta Wildlife staff rescued the dog, Sophie, and my parents are fostering her until she has recovered well enough to be adopted.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING



Outstanding Rice Producer:
Gibson Steele
Steele Farms
Hollandale



Outstanding Cotton Ginner:
Haywood Wilson
Cowart Gin Co., Inc.
Charleston



Outstanding Soybean Producer:
Leah and David Carr
Mascot Planting Co.
Clarksdale



Conservation Farmer:
Terry Maxwell
Hoposo Farms
Inverness



Researcher of the Year:
Dr. Les Torrans
United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Stoneville



Outstanding Contributions to Aquaculture:
Archie Tucker
United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Stoneville



Outstanding Contributions to Hardwood Forestry:
Lamar C. Dorris, Jr.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge
Yazoo City



Pace-Setter Award:
Charles Walker
Co-Membership Chairman
Marks



Pace-Setter Award:
Butch Scipper
Co-Membership Chairman
Marks

2019 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



Sanders, a Pinnacle Agriculture company strives for superior performance in all that we do. We are the leader in the farm supply distribution business, serving 27 states with a legacy spanning more than six decades through our collective brands. Farmers turn to us for all their farm input and supply needs, the latest precision agriculture technologies and deep agronomic expertise."



Bill Allen
BankPlus
President, Belzoni Branch



BankPlus began as a community-focused bank in 1909 in Belzoni, Mississippi. After more than a hundred years of serving communities throughout the state of Mississippi, BankPlus has grown to operate 58 locations in 34 communities. The bank also employs more than 700 people throughout the state and has donated millions of dollars to local charities as part of its core mission.



Joe Hayman
Southern AgCredit,
Chief Executive
Officer

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity.



Abbott Myers
MS Land Bank
Board Chairman



William LaForge
Delta State University
President



Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose more than 3,500 students come from most U.S. states and more than 50 countries. The university offers numerous unique programs, including the Delta Music Institute entertainment industry program, and is the only university in Mississippi to offer undergraduate and graduate aviation programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, which is recognized as the birthplace of American music, Delta State has become the center of music and culture for the state and the region. The university is also the academic center for the blues, offering an online blues studies curriculum that leads to a certificate for advanced study of blues music. In addition, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, and education, among other areas.



Lawrence Long
Cotton Inc. State Support
Committee Chairman
Indianola



Curtis Berry
Rice Board Chairman
Robinsonville



Turner Massey
Corn Board Chairman
Clarksdale



Andy Jones
Catfish Board Chairman
Moorhead



Bill Ryan Tabb
Soybean Board Chairman
Cleveland

Coley Bailey III, Grenada
Kendall Garraway, Bolton
Tripp Hayes, Clarksdale
B. Jones, Tchula
Bernie Jordan, Yazoo City

Ronnie Aguzzi, Cleveland
James Allison, Sarah
Nolen Canon, Tunica
Gip Carter, Rolling Fork
Marvin Cochran, Avon
Larry Davis, Shaw
Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
Donald Gant, Merigold
Randy Howarth, Boyle
Carter Murrell, Avon
Gibb Steele, Hollandale

Preston Arrington, Inverness
Jake Dornbusch, Louise
Phillip Good, Macon
Jan Hill, Meridian
Mike Graves, Ripley
Larry Killebrew, Lexington
George King, Chatham
Will Long, Indianola
Danny Murphy, Canton
Jack Phillips, Yazoo City
Todd Williams, Olive Branch

Chris McGlawn, President, Swiftown
Will Nobile, Vice President, Moorhead
Andy Prosser, Sec/Treas, Yazoo City
Houston Battle, Tunica
Bobby Jones, Glen Allan
Shorty Jones, Leland
Joe Oglesby, Indianola
Ben Pentecost, Doddsville
Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
Louie Thompson, Tchula

Tim Clements, Greenville
Jan DeRegt, Hollandale
Paul Dees, Leland
Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
Louis Guedon, Natchez
Keith Morton, Falkner
Reese Pillow, Greenwood
Bubba Simmons, Hollandale
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
David Wansley, Valley Park

BOLIVAR

Jervais Bean, Ray Brooks
Cross Crowe, Bayou Academy
Patrick Davis, Jr., Cleveland Central High
Kennedy King, Ray Brooks
Janesia Landown, Shaw High
Tracy Syron Loyd, Jr., Northside High
Bailey Runnels, Bayou Academy
Daydemeka Scott, Northside High
William Swartzfager, Cleveland Central High
Grosby Thomas, Jr., Shaw High
Nagle Nicole Towers, West Bolivar High
Ladoria Tomese Walker, West Bolivar High

CARROLL

Logan Aaron Hodges, Carroll Academy
Jakayla Phillips, J.Z. George High
Michael Shute, J.Z. George High
Cassandra Rhea Tackett, Carroll Academy

COAHOMA

Rutledge Agostinelli, Lee Academy
Shakya Beasley, Clarksdale High
Nautica Brown, Coahoma Co. High
Allyson Holmes, Clarksdale High
Halesha Jackson, Coahoma Co. High
Aniya Johnson, Coahoma Early College High
McKindrea Pitts, Coahoma Early College High
Madeline Riddick, Lee Academy

DESOTO

Brett Baltz, Desoto Central High
Kaiya Banks, Horn Lake High
Caden Burse, Olive Branch High
Kyana Conway, Olive Branch High
Kaylee Hargis, Hernando High
Jacqueline Madrid, Horn Lake High
Vivesh Patel, Desoto Central High
Gianna Richardson, Northpoint Christian School
Logan Smith, Northpoint Christian School
Rachel Stoner, Hernando High

Ember Suh, Southaven High
Reo Weaver, Southaven High
Dallas Williams, Lake Cormorant High
Jessica Wilson, Lake Cormorant High

HOLMES

Samantha Deering, Holmes Co. Central High School
Brantley Holder, Central Holmes Christian School
Peyton Killebrew, Central Holmes Christian School
Rabria Moore, Holmes Co. Central High School

HUMPHREYS

Illeanna Grayson, Humphreys Co. High
Tyranesha Jones, Humphreys Co. High
Tori Still, Humphreys Academy
Gracie Turner, Humphreys Academy

LEFLORE

Charles Brooks II, Greenwood High
Sunjay Chawla, Pillow Academy
Kurtina Coates, Greenwood High
Kurt Franklin, North New Summit School
Mariah Gatlin, Amanda Elzy High
Perion Jones, Amanda Elzy High
Willie McCline, Leflore Co. High
Jasmine Swims, Leflore Co. High
John Hollis Tackett, Pillow Academy

PANOLA

Ali Cummins, South Panola High
Mario Fenner, North Panola High
Ainsley Gordon, North Delta School
Nila Lamar, North Panola High
Calandra Morgan, South Panola High
Skylar Nix, North Delta School

QUITMAN

Allana Parsons, Delta Academy
Mary Grace Patterson, Delta Academy
Kamien Wells, Madison S. Palmer High
Reginald Wilbourn, Jr., Madison S. Palmer High

SHARKEY/ISSAQUENA

Hannah Bryant, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Keijuan Moore, South Delta High
T'Myriah Pinkins, South Delta High
Tania Rodriguez, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy

SUNFLOWER

Steven Abney, North Sunflower Academy
Knox Arnold, North Sunflower Academy
Chari Barr, Ruleville Central High
Rufus Bush, III, Gentry High
Tavares Fairley, Ruleville Central High
Presley Scott Jackson, Indianola Academy
Clint Jones, Indianola Academy
Keyjuan Meek, Gentry High

TALLAHATCHIE

Trinity Hazzard, West Tallahatchie High
Jacoby McCaskill, Charleston High
Anyjah Nash, Charleston High
Travers Stovall, Jr., West Tallahatchie High

TATE

Sadie Alexander, Magnolia Heights School
Devontre Burdette, Senatobia High
Zikrystia Coleman, Coldwater High School
Jaymee Downs, Independence High
Madahlyn Hall, Strayhorn High
Alliyah Hardy, Strayhorn High
Marvin McLeod, Coldwater High School
Sandria Nolen, Independence High
Casey Rhone, Senatobia High
Alexandra Taylor, Magnolia Heights School

TUNICA

Eugentavious Blue, Rosa Fort High
Claudia Gonzalez, Tunica Academy
Jamelia Mason, Rosa Fort High
Amelia Middleton, Tunica Academy

WARREN

Keanna Abraham, Vicksburg High
Skyler Anderson, Warren Central High
Jacob Arias, Porter's Chapel Academy
Hannah Ashley, Porter's Chapel Academy
Asia Brown, Warren Central High
Antonnea Cooper, Vicksburg High
Mattie Derivaux, St. Aloysius High School
Claire Jamison, St. Aloysius High School

WASHINGTON

Xavier Bell, O'Bannon High
Ahdis Beruk, Greenville High
Courtnei Bowman, Greenville Christian School
SenTareyus Bush, Simmons High
Grace Ann Copell, Washington School
Raven Davis, Simmons High
Mikayla Dotson, St. Joseph Catholic School
Zaria Ford, Riverside High
Keynigejuan Hamilton, Leland High
Terry Jones, Jr., Unity Christian Academy
Cade Lackey, Deer Creek School
Michael Mansour, St. Joseph Catholic School
Bailey Nell Nichols, Deer Creek School
Maddie Parkerson, Washington School
Nyra Thomas, Leland High
Jhacolby Williams, Greenville High
Randa Cecil Williams, Riverside High
Keistal Wright, O'Bannon High

YAZOO

Erryonna Cooper, Yazoo City High
Avery Eldridge, Benton Academy
Marinee Humphries, Yazoo Co. High
Kalyn Jefferson, Yazoo Co. High
Catie Merrell, Benton Academy
Mason Adonis Myers, Manchester Academy
Cree Williams, Yazoo City High
Emma Ingram Woods, Manchester Academy

16TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH DELTA COUNCIL DAY

HAL PARKER, JR. TO SERVE AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Parker



Pennington

Delta Council will hold its 16th Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates Event during the 84th Annual Meeting of the regional organization at Delta State University. The Honor Graduate event is slated for 9:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. **Hal Parker, Jr.** will be the keynote speaker for the event. **Dr. Cass Pennington** will serve as Co-Host for the event and introduce **Mr. Parker**.

Mr. Hal Parker, a Pike County native, was

appointed to the Board by **Governor Phil Bryant** in May 2012 to represent the First (Central) Supreme Court District for a term to expire May 7, 2021. On May 8, 2019, Parker was appointed the president of the Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees.

He is an alumnus of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business.

He is actively involved in his community and has built several successful distribution companies.

In 1982, **Parker** founded Sunbelt Wholesale Supply Co., a regional distributor of fiberglass insulation and residential roofing products. The company became an integral part of Service Partners, LLC, which is the largest distributor of fiberglass insulation in the United States.

Parker is dedicated to serving his community and is a second-term member of the Hinds Community College Foundation Board. He also served four terms on the Mis-

issippi State Development Foundation Board.

He has additionally served on the boards of directors for the Rankin Health Foundation, Rankin First and Bank Plus. He served two terms as president of the Bulldog Club and is a member of the board of trustees at Memorial United Methodist Church in Bolton.

Hal and his wife **Linda** live in Bolton and are very active with the Jackson and Mississippi State chapters of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The Parkers have two children and two grandchildren.

Co-hosting the event will be **Dr. Cass Pennington**, a retired educator. He is a former superintendent of the Indianola School District, superintendent of the West Tallahatchie School District, Indianola Junior High School principal, teacher and coach. **Dr. Pennington** served as Executive Director of Delta Health Alliance from 2004 to 2008. He is a former member of the Mississippi Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Instructional Man-

agement Task Force, and the South Sunflower County Hospital. He is a former president of the Delta Council and currently serves as the Chairman of Delta Council's Committee on Education and Health Policy. **Dr. Pennington** and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Indianola.

The Honor Graduate Event is designed to bestow special honor upon two exemplary students from each of the high schools throughout the Mississippi Delta Region, including public, parochial and private schools. Students are selected by school administrators based on leadership, extra-curricular, scholastic, and community service.

In addition, a \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to the top Delta Honor Graduate as selected by higher education officials in the Delta, to help defray tuition and expenses as the student's college of choice sees fit. The top Delta Honor Graduate will be recognized from the stage of the Annual Meeting during the Business Session, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

PHOTOS



Mrs. Harry Flowers modeling her cotton attire for the Wear Cotton Fashion Show



Hungry guests line up for the 1947 Annual Meeting luncheon



May 8, 1956 at the 21st Annual Meeting of Delta Council, three out of thirty Cotton Fashion contestants (L to R) **Mrs. Oscar C. Carr, Jr.** of Clarksdale, **Mrs. Henry Crosby** of Greenville, and **Mrs. Ed Kossman** of Cleveland show off the latest ladies' trends.



Students listen to the 1957 Delta Council Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker **Harvey Firestone, Jr.**, Chairman and Executive Officer of The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.



1946 Annual Meeting (L to R) **W. T. Wynn**; Secretary of Agriculture **Clinton P. Anderson**; the Honorable **W. M. Whittington**, emcee.



B. F. Smith shows cotton exhibit at 1955 Delta Council Annual Meeting



1997 Annual Meeting Business Session at Delta State University's BPAC



1983 Annual Meeting; Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce prepares the Mississippi farm raised fried catfish lunch on the DSU Quadrangle



1999 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker **Robert Novack**, Co-Host of CNN Cross Fire, greets children during the catfish luncheon on the DSU quadrangle

Delta Council

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Stoneville, MS 38776

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OUTGOING 2018-2019 DELTA COUNCIL OFFICERS



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President
Indianola



Stanley Ayres
Vice-President
Leland



**John Rodgers
Brashier**
Vice-President
Indianola



Pete Hunter
Vice-President
Clarksdale



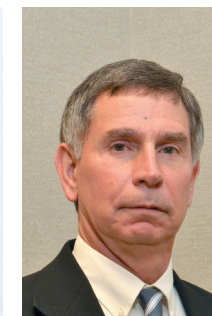
B. Jones
Vice-President
Tchula



Floyd Melton III
Vice-President
Greenwood



Ransom Myers
Vice-President
Dundee



Andy Anderson
Treasurer
Anguilla

INCOMING 2019-2020 DELTA COUNCIL OFFICERS



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President
Indianola



Hugh Arant, Jr.
Vice-President
Ruleville



Ted Connell
Vice-President
Clarksdale



Clint Dunn
Vice-President
Itta Bena



Jeffry Mitchell
Vice-President
Cary



Errick Simmons
Vice-President
Greenville



Gibson Steele
Vice-President
Greenville



Keith Mitchell
Treasurer
Grenada

**MAKE WEEDS BEG FOR MERCY.
FOR UP TO 8 WEEKS.**



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HERBICIDE