

Fauquier Times named 2013 Large Business of the Year



Monday, Nov. 25 | By Julie Taylor

"If you're doing business in Fauquier County and not in the Fauquier Chamber, you're at a disadvantage," Rich Benedeto, chairman of the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, told his audience at the 2013 chamber awards ceremony. The chamber voted on its outstanding members and businesses.

The Not for Profit Award went to Fauquier Habitat for Humanity, "Volunteers gain from working with this organization," said the presenter.

The Small Business Award went to the Law Office of Marie Washington, PLC. Washington grew up in Fauquier County and attended Liberty High School.

The award for Business Person of the Year went to the President of Fauquier's Habitat for Humanity Brenda Rich, fighting back tears, said, "I don't know who nominated me but I don't think I deserved it."

Fauquier Times won the "Large Business Award." Ray Knot described Fauquier Times as having "Garnered thousands of journalism awards," and being a philanthropic presence in the community.

Peter Arundel, president and CEO of Times Community Media, humbly thanked the chamber.

"I'd like to start by apologizing to the Democrats," he joked in regard to the recent name change.

Peggy Arundel, wife of the late owner, and mother of the current one, made her way to the podium to voice her opinion about her first born.

"I'm so proud of my son and I love him," she said.

"Mr. [Nick] Arundel would be so proud," said Pam Symington, advertising manager at Fauquier Times, to Mrs. Arundel as she took her seat.

Mrs. Arundel replied, "He would be so proud of the group of you."

The auctioneer then began with a local side of beef and a trip to Saint Maarten's. The next



Times Community Media CEO Peter Arundel and his mother Peggy Arundel accept the award of '2013 Large Business of the Year' at the Fauquier Chamber awards ceremony. - Photos by Doug Stroud



Brenda Rich, president of Fauquier Habitat For Humanity, earned the distinction of Business Person of the Year.

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item was a print from P. Buckley Moss titled "Virginia is for Lovers."

Moss gave the room a little background into her art by saying, "If I drew a cat as big as my pinky, it's worth \$200." She also said that the chamber, "Is a wonderful family of people."

Lynn Cox, currently chairwoman-elect, takes office in January.

"I can't tell you how honored I am to be standing with this group," said Cox.

The Fauquier Chamber of Commerce has 462 members and is led by President Joe Martin.

"Our luncheons and women's business council have been a huge success," said Benedetto in addressing the role of the chamber in the community. "If we are not meeting your expectations, let aboard member know. If we are, let a non-member know."

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