



Lake of the Ozarks
Regional Economic Development Council
Quality Life. Quality Business.

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Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development (LOREDC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOREDC Annual Meeting held January 18th showcasing current and future projects as well as honoring Impact Award nominees and recipients

The annual meeting of the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) was held on Thursday, January 18th, 2024, at The Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks/Encore Conference facility. The informative program reviewed the organization's updates from the past year, presented 7 Impact Awards, elected new Board Members and addressed some minor business before closing. Committee chairs of the organization shared key efforts that took place during the 2023 year such as the Annual Workforce Roundtable Summit, the continued gathering of regional data analytics and commercial recruitment through the partnership with Next Site, the hospitality feasibility study produced by Growth Services Group, and lastly the continued progress of fundraising for the upcoming feasibility study, which has been set as a priority project to move the Strategic Plan forward transitioning the organization from a full volunteer operation to having paid staff persons.

For 19 years LOREDC has been recognizing outstanding businesses and community leaders in our tri-county region at their annual meeting. To date, LOREDC has had the opportunity to award 73 deserving businesses and persons as well as recognize many additional commendable nominees. The Impact Awards honor individuals and organizations doing work vital to the ongoing growth and expansion occurring throughout the Lake of the Ozarks region.

Nominations for leadership, projects that occurred in 2023, and longstanding accomplishments were received during our nominations period last fall and LOREDC is proud to recognize those nominees who have made significant investments or decisions leading to the creation and retention of jobs and improving the quality of life in the area.

The 2023 LOREDC Impact Award Recipients were presented to the following:

The Impact Award for Infrastructure Investment was presented to Co-Mo Connect. Co-Mo Connect's nomination recognized their continued investment in infrastructure and how their efforts make some of the region's under-developed areas become marketable, buildable, and more viable locations for new growth in residential and commercial sectors. They were also noted for creating direct pathways for commerce to exist in a rural area and to make the lake a more desirable location for workforce relocation.

The Impact Award for Quality of Life was presented to the Magic Dragon Trails. Magic Dragon Trail's nomination included kudos for the developed concept and executed plan, all completed through a volunteer base, in constructing a "skills bike trail" and for their ambitions to research funding through grants and local investor support to continue to grow the trails and help increase the quality of life for lake area residents and visitors alike.

The Impact Award for Housing Development was presented to the Tegethoff Development Group and the City of Osage Beach This year's Impact Award for Housing Development was jointly given to the Tegethoff Development Group for their economic impact in housing development for the development of The Preserve at Sycamore Creek, and to the City of Osage Beach for their commitment to programs and policies supporting housing growth in the lake region.

The Impact Award for Retention and Expansion was presented to Mathany Family Vinyards - As a new business in 2023 that has been in the works for several years, Mathany Family Vinyards was recognized for opening the doorway for expanded agritourism in the lake area, complimenting existing venues and destinations with a near-365 day draw to the area.

The Impact Award for Workforce Development was presented to the School of the Osage. Through the 2023 calendar year, as part of their organization's strategic plan, the School of the Osage has made a concentrated effort to help students connect with local employers in a variety of industries, and to connect area employers with school district leadership to more closely align their graduate profile with the area's workforce needs.

The Impact Award for Community Champion was presented to Jeff Vernetti. The Community Champion Award was created to recognize those who are known for spearheading improvement efforts in the community. Many of Jeff's efforts were acknowledged during this award presentation including turning 200 raw acres in Camden County into one of the premier attractions in Missouri, Ballparks National. Two other efforts of his were identified, the LOZ Sports Training facility in Osage Beach as well as his newly established Vernetti's Italian Grocer on the square in Camdenton.

Other business presented at the meeting included the approval of the slate of candidates to fulfill the open Board positions which consisted of LOREDC members Harrison Fry (elected for another term), Mike Koenigsman (elected for another term), and Matt Kostelnik (newly elected, replaced outgoing Board Member Steve Dust). The Board of Directors also met immediately following the annual meeting to establish the new officer positions.

The 2024 Board of Directors and Officers are Harrison Fry, President (City of Lake Ozark); Heather Brown, Vice-President (Lake of the Ozarks CVB); Jeana Woods, Treasurer (City of Osage Beach), Mike Koenigsman,

Secretary (Lake West Chamber of Commerce); K.C. Cloke (Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce); Jeff Verneti (Ballparks National), Tabitha Thompson (State Fair Community College), and Matt Kostelnik (Eldon Chamber of Commerce).

To learn more about the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) and how to get involved, visit LOREDC.com. The council meets quarterly at 1pm at the Lake of the Ozarks CVB Conference Room. The dates for 2024 are as follows: April 18th, July 18th, October 17th. Subscribe to their mailing list at LOREDC.com to receive future meeting notices and other updates from the organization.

Photos Provided