



www.heraldindependent.com  
Winnsboro, SC 29180 • (803) 635-4016

Vol. 26 No. 50  
6 Pages • 1 Section • 50 Cents

Tuesday, June 23, 2009



Chamber chairman Will Howard and Mrs. Anne McMaster present Dan Dennis of the Dennis Corporation with the Fitz-Hugh Creighton McMaster Business/Industry Award for 2009. Photo by Brian Garner

## Chamber presents Dennis Corp. with McMaster Business Award

**BRIAN GARNER**  
Editor

The Dennis Corporation was this year's recipient of the Fitz-John Creighton McMaster Business/Industry of the Year. The company was given the award at this year's Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Annual banquet.

Out-going Chamber Chairman Will Howard explained that the McMaster Award is given to a business in Fairfield County "that embodies service above self. Creighton McMaster made a tremendous impact in Fairfield County, and this award goes to a company that looks to be carrying on that legacy."

Dan Dennis accepted the award for his company.



Out-going Fairfield Chamber of Commerce chair Will Howard and Chamber president Terry Vickers pass the gavel to new chairman Eric Gill at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Banquet.

"We are honored to accept this award."

Dennis thanked several people for the company's success, beginning with his wife, Esther, who put up with him being away from home many nights

while the corporation was getting off the ground.

"I want to thank Fairfield County council chairman David Brown. When we first started Dennis Corp.,

See CHAMBER Page 3



Out-going Fairfield Chamber of Commerce chairman Will Howard and President Terry Vickers with outgoing board members John Hillis and Amanda Wells. The out-going board members were recognized at the Chamber's annual banquet.

Continued from Page 1

I went and saw David...he said we needed to get some roads paved in Fairfield County.

"I want to thank David Ferguson. I showed up at his house one day and said 'You don't know who I am, but we are an engineering firm, and we want to work for Fairfield County. We want to make Fairfield County a better place.'

"We sat down in his living room and talked about it, and he listened and I appreciated that."

Dennis also thanked State Sen. Creighton Coleman and State Rep. Boyd Brown (who has been working with the Dennis Corporation).

"I think Boyd is a tremendous asset to Fairfield County...he has advised our company at the local and state level as well, and I think we're fortunate to have him."

Dennis also expressed appreciation to the representatives from the Shaw Group, who were willing to work with the Dennis Corporation when they said they wanted to bid some work at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

"I promise you, our firm will do our best to build the first nuclear power plant in the United States in about 25 years," Dennis said.

And then Dennis

thanked the people of Fairfield County.

"Our firm is committed to Fairfield County. This county gave us our first big break--we're a small business, only four years old, but we've been growing successfully-- and this county gave us our first break, and we're never going to forget that. Whatever we can do for this county, we're going to do it. So far we've hired 14 residents of this county, and we're continue to hire more and more residents of Fairfield County. Even in this recession, we've been able to hire folks.

"We partner with the Fairfield County School District in their job-shadowing program, and we're going to continue to do that."

"We make as many donations as we can to the county and different programs, and we're going to continue to do that," he said.

"We're going to continue to give money back to the community, because it's the right thing to do."

Looking to streamline expenses this year, the Chamber combined another of their annual functions by inviting the local and federal level legislator to provide a legislative update, similar to the update they provide at the Chamber's annual Legislative Luncheon.

U.S. Congressman John Spratt and U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint sent their regrets and then local legislators S.C. Senator Creighton Coleman and S.C. Rep. Boyd Brown gave their respective updates. Also, Herb Rentz, the delegate to the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature, provided an update as well.

(See story on these updates in an upcoming issue of The Herald Independent)

Outgoing Fairfield Chamber Board members Joe Wilkes, Dr. Robert Keroson, Frank Parks, Amanda Wells and John Hillis were also recognized for their service as board members for 2008-2009. John Hills was also going back on as a board member for the 2009-1010 chamber year.

Fairfield Chamber board members for the 2009-2010 chamber year are Hillis, William Stidham, Shirley Greene, Rob Gist, Robert Justice, John Fantry, E.C. Harrellson, Susan Taylor, Mitchell Latham and Tom Hall.

Out-going Chamber board chair Will Howard passed the gavel to new chairman Eric Gill, who thanked everyone for the opportunity to be chairman of the board this coming year.

Gill also thanked Terry Vickers and the Chamber of Commerce staff for their help.

"We hope that this upcoming year will be the same as last year, as the Chamber board continues to serve Fairfield County and helps it and the community prosper. Thank you."

**CAPTAIN S GALLEY** 1418 US HWY 321 S  
Winnsboro  
**NOW OPEN 815-7777 • Carryout**

**Tuesday is Crab Legs (3pm-8pm),  
Senior Citizens & Kids night!**

Open 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.