

League honors cities, officials for dedication and service

HOT SPRINGS—The Municipal League honored municipalities and city and state leaders for their commitment to municipal issues at the opening banquet and awards luncheon at the League’s 74th Convention, June 18-20, in Hot Springs.

The League named Gov. Mike Beebe its Person of the Year. A longtime friend to cities and towns, Beebe received the League’s Person of the Year award in 1991 as a state senator. This year the League honored him for his continued support of the increase in state



Paragould Mayor and Outgoing League President Mike Gaskill, right, presents Gov. Mike Beebe, left, with the League’s Person of the Year Award.

turnback to municipalities, his focus on economic development across the state, and his role in increasing the state’s severance tax on natural gas. The League came out in support of a severance tax increase at its 2007 Convention.

Outgoing League President Mike Gaskill, mayor of Paragould, presented Beebe with the award.

“I think our governor has the potential,” said Gaskill, pausing to wink at Beebe, “to be our state’s greatest governor.”

The League named retired City Clerk of West Fork its John Woodruff City Above Self Award winner. The



Winner of the John Woodruff City Above Self Award Paula Caudle, left, retired City Clerk of West Fork, receives her award from John’s widow, Dianne Woodruff.

award, unveiled at the 73rd Convention, is named for Woodruff, the League’s former communications director and editor of *City & Town*. Before his death in 2007, Woodruff worked tirelessly for Arkansas’s cities and towns. His widow, Diane Woodruff, presented the award.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association named Stuttgart Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill its Municipal Clerk of the Year Award for her



New ACCRTA President Donna Jones, city clerk of DeQueen, left, presents Stuttgart Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill with the Association’s Clerk of the Year Award.

contributions to the profession and dedication to her community.

The Arkansas City Attorneys Association awarded Sheffield Nelson the Glenn G. Zimmerman Award for outstanding contributions to municipal law. Nelson played a large role in increasing the state’s severance tax on natural gas, a battle he started fighting as far back as 1983. Nelson praised Gov. Beebe for “standing in the breach” and getting the job done. Zimmerman was director of the League from 1942 until his death in 1974 and a former city attorney. He was the



Helena-West Helena City Attorney André Valley, left, presents Sheffield Nelson with the Glenn G. Zimmerman Award.

father of Don Zimmerman, who succeeded his father and is now the longest-serving state municipal league executive director in the country.

Seven city officials this year received the Adrian L.

White Municipal Leadership Award. The award is presented to city officials who have served with distinction and dedication to their cities and the League's boards, councils and committees for six years. The recipients are Cedarville Mayor Danny Armstrong, Jacksonville Alderman Bill Howard, Lakeview Alderman Joe Gies, Marion Mayor Frank Fogleman, Prairie Grove Mayor Sonny Hudson, Stuttgart Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill and Winchester Mayor Merle Jackson.

The Marvin L. Vinson Commitment to Excellence Award, named for the Clarksville mayor who served from 1983 until his death in 2001 and was League president in 1992-1993, went this year to four municipal officials who have served their cities and the

League for 12 years. The recipients are Clarksville Mayor Billy Helms, Magnolia Mayor Lane Jean, Siloam Springs Mayor M.L. Van Poucke Jr. and Stuttgart Finance Officer Jane Jackson.

Forty-four city officials this year received the Jack R. Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award for their 25 years of service to their communities. The award is named after the Lake Village mayor who served 33 years and was League president in 1981. The recipients are Arkadelphia Customer Service Representative William Harris, Arkadelphia Water Superintendent David Thomason, Bassett Mayor Mark Gayman Jr., Bassett Alderman Elrod Hobson Jr., Bassett

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The League awards Certificates of Appreciation to those who have served on various boards or commissions in the past year. Recipients were recognized at the opening night banquet of the 74th Convention.

Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville, Executive Committee
 Clerk/Treasurer Carol Crump-Westergren, Beebe, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Tracy Lightfoot, Beebe, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Chris Sooter, Bentonville, Advisory Council
 Mayor Kenneth Jones, Brookland, Advisory Council
 Mayor Barry Riley, Caraway, Advisory Council
 Mayor Lloyd Hefley, Cherokee Village, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Candace Jeffress, Crossett, Advisory Council
 Mayor Marion Gill, Dumas, Advisory Council
 Mayor Danny Maynard Sr., England, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Arthur Deller, Fairfield Bay, Advisory Council
 Mayor Ernie Penn, Farmington, Advisory Council
 Mayor Kenneth Edwards, Greenwood, Advisory Council
 Mayor Gordon McCoy, Forrest City, Municipal Health Benefit Fund Board of Trustees
 Mayor Laura Hamilton, Garfield, Advisory Council
 Recorder/Treasurer Janice Hanson, Garland, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Jeff Braim, Gassville, Advisory Council
 Mayor Ed C. Hardin III, Grady, Advisory Council
 Mayor Lionel Johnson, Hampton, Advisory Council
 Mayor Pat Moles, Harrison, Advisory Council
 Mayor Jackie McPherson, Heber Springs, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Trece Shepherd-Williams, Helena-West Helena, Advisory Council
 Mayor Randall Holmsley, Higginson, Advisory Council
 Mayor Jerome Norwood, Higland, Advisory Council
 Human Resources Director Charlotte Bradley, Hope Water & Light, Advisory Council

Finance Director Dorethea Yates, Hot Springs, Cash-Pension Management-Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Board of Trustees
 Mayor Donald Roberts, Hoxie, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Kevin McCleary, Jacksonville, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Bob Stroud, Jacksonville, Advisory Council
 Mayor Doug Formon, Jonesboro, Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust Board of Trustees
 Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, Lake City, Advisory Council
 Clerk/Treasurer Janette Lasater, Lowell, Advisory Council
 Mayor Dixon Chandler, Marked Tree, Advisory Council
 Mayor Michael Watson, Maumelle, Advisory Council
 City Clerk Joshua Clausen, Maumelle, Advisory Council
 Mayor Randy Holland, Mayflower, Advisory Council
 Mayor Marion Hoosier, McCaskill, Advisory Council
 Mayor Robert Sullivan, McRae, Advisory Council
 Mayor Mike Cone, Melbourne, Advisory Council
 Mayor Jim Reeves, Norfolk, Advisory Council
 Mayor Bill Elsken, Paris, Advisory Council
 Planning Commissioner Dan Long, Rockport, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Randal Crouch, Advisory Council
 Mayor Bobby Neal, Smackover, Advisory Council
 Mayor Ian Ouei, Stamps, Advisory Council
 Mayor Charles Miller, Tollette, Advisory Council
 Councilmember Hazel McGhee, Tollette, Advisory Council
 Mayor Bob Freeman, Van Buren, Advisory Council
 Mayor Rodney Williams, Waldo, Advisory Council
 Mayor Michelle Rogers, Walnut Ridge, Advisory Council
 City Clerk John Barclay, Ward, Advisory Council
 Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville, Advisory Council