



THE GAVEL PASSES—Joseph K. (Joe) Stanley (left) succeeds Al Laughinghouse as president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.



NEW DIRECTORS taking the oath of office (from left) are Grant Kuhn, Alan Holden, Kemp Causey and Dot Hadley.

Chamber Challenged To Continue Providing Area Leadership

BY SUSAN USHER

While its achievements have been valuable, the work of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce has "virtually just begun," speaker Rhone Sasser told chamber members at their annual meeting Friday night at Jones/Byrd Clubhouse.

Sasser served nearly seven years as officer of the Shallotte branch of Waccamaw Bank & Trust, the predecessor of UCB, before advancing to his current position as president and chief executive officer of United Carolina Bancshares. He has continued to be "more than casually interested" in the area.

As examples of positive change since the late 1960s, he cited improvements in health, school and county government facilities, transportation and utility infrastructures, development of golf courses and the chamber itself.

"A tremendous amount of progress has taken place in just the last two or three decades," he told an audience of nearly 180 men and women, with credit due to the leadership and efforts of "individuals who had the vision and courage to make it happen," often at great personal financial risk.

While some of those individuals gained personal wealth as a result of their investments, others in the community have also benefited from the jobs created and the gains in quality of life because "all ships are lifted by a rising tide," he said.

"Leadership and support" will be required of the chamber's membership, Sasser said, "to make sure your area will achieve the desirable long-term growth that will create benefits for all of the people."

He encouraged continued teamwork and regional cooperation, citing the re-routing of I-73 in North Carolina as one example of its benefits, as well as encouraging continued individual effort.

"I challenge you to remember that one individual can make a difference," he concluded. "Your efforts on behalf of the chamber are very important."

Also at the banquet, the chamber recognized members for their achievements, inducted new directors and 1994 President Joseph K. (Joe) Stanley of Joe & Moe's Auto Services of Shallotte.

In his acceptance speech, Stanley said the chamber presidency had not been among his personal goals, but that he decided he "should try if people believed in me."

"I've watched from the sidelines as three presidents performed, and I supported them in every way I could," he reflected. "We have been through some troubled times, but



PERCY WOODARD accepted the Volunteer of the Year award on behalf of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. and its "stage crew."

"We've hung together and we have got a good board."

While noting that change is a constant if an organization is to grow and prosper, Stanley pledged that the goals of the chamber would not change during his administration. Any changes the directors make in the coming year would be made "in the membership's interest," he said.

In addition to receiving the gavel award, outgoing president Al Laughinghouse of UCB recognized numerous chamber members for their service to the chamber and to the community.

Annette Odom, a past president of the chamber, was honored as the first recipient of the new Distinguished Service Award for her influential role in the chamber and community over the years.

Laughinghouse said Odom is "always striving to improve our way of life."

Her past efforts have included working closely with the state Department of Transportation on the U.S. 17 improvement project, obtaining directional signs to the Brunswick beaches on I-40 and establishing the Southeastern Wel-



ANNETTE ODOM received the chamber's first Distinguished Service Award.

come Center, service on boards and committees including The Brunswick Hospital, Travel Pak, the Southeastern Welcome Center, and as the chamber's governmental liaison. She has also served as chairman of the N.C. Oyster Festival and co-chairman of the King Classic Tournament.

Outgoing chamber director Percy Woodard accepted the Member of the Year award on behalf of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. ATMC has provided leadership, sponsored Business After Hours and the Business Breakfast, donated door prizes and provided the manpower, called "the stage crew," that sets up and breaks down the stage for the N.C. Oyster Festival.

David Sandifer of Holden Beach received the annual President's Award for his assistance to Laughinghouse. Sandifer helped with the budget, dug ditches, pitched tents, weighed fish, sold shirts and "lifted my morale many times," Laughinghouse said. "The word 'no' is not in his vocabulary."

The chamber's Community Service award went to Terry Barbee, chief of the Ocean Isle Beach Volunteer Fire Department for 10 years, town commissioner for eight years, co-chairman of the King Classic, past president of the chamber, and someone who was instrumental in



VI ANDREWS was named the chamber's Outstanding Ambassador for her membership recruitment efforts.

locating the Southeastern Welcome Center in Shallotte. While his own business sustained damage during the March 13, 1993, storm, Laughinghouse noted, Barbee was searching the island for persons in need of assistance.

The chamber also recognized:

■Kathryn Gossett as Volunteer of the Year. Under her leadership as chairperson of Membership Development, chamber volunteers recruited 81 new members. Gossett also volunteered as needed with the N.C. Oyster Festival and King Classic Tournament. She was unable to attend because of a work-related conflict.

■Vi Andrews of United Carolina Bank as the first Outstanding Ambassador Award recipient. She was recognized as the volunteer bringing in the most new members on a point system established by the chamber's Ambassadors.

■Charlie Webster, for his efforts as chairman of the chamber's first golf tournament, which was described as fun and profitable.

■Dave Harrell, a volunteer with the King Classic Tournament, for his behind-the-scenes efforts that helped make the event a success.

■N.C. Oyster Festival co-chairmen Sally Nord and Glenn Humbert for organizing the most profitable festival in the 13 years the event has been held.

■Outgoing board members Don Warren, Terry Barbee, Percy Woodard, Jay Houston and Joe Stanley (who was re-elected) for their service;



CHAIRMAN CHARLIE WEBSTER received the first golf tournament award.

■Incoming board members Grant Huhn, Sea Trail Corp.; Alan Holden, Alan Holden Realty; Dot Hadley, Southern National Bank; and Kemp

Causey, The Village at Calabash; and Stanley; and

■WCCA 106.3 Beach Radio, Brunswick Electric Membership Corp., Wilmington Coca-Cola Bottling, Brierwood Golf Club, MAC Construction Co., Whit-Mart, Inc. and Burger King with certificates for community service.

■Ann Laughinghouse received a gift for her service to the chamber over the past six years and her support of her husband, outgoing president Al Laughinghouse.

Directors continuing on the board include Don Evans, Coastal Insurance & Realty; David Batten, Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.; Tripp Sloane, Sloane Realty; David Sandifer, Holden Beach Properties; Rusty Russ, Allstate Insurance; John M. Craig Jr., Craig Realty; Velva Jenkins, Brunswick Community College; Sheila McLamb, Anderson & McLamb Attorneys at Law; Joe Johnson, Johnston/Renaud Architects; Daphne Yarbrough, The Brunswick Hospital; Debbie Rupp, Gregory P. Rupp, D.D.S.; Al Laughinghouse, UCB; and Don Warren, Brunswick County Farm Bureau.

The chamber has approximately 340 members.

Electrical Contractors May Pursue Change

Local electrical contractors will consider approval at their meeting next Tuesday of a petition seeking a change in the way some electrical permits are issued by the Brunswick County Building Inspections Department.

A draft of the petition will be presented to members at the meeting of the Brunswick County Chapter of the N.C. Association of Electrical Contractors. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at Western Sizzlin' Steak House on N.C. 211 near Southport.

The meeting is open to all electrical contractors, inspectors and other interested persons.

Some members of the organization are interested in having Brunswick County follow the example of New Hanover County for issuing permits to property owners who apply for a permit in their own name and do not have a state electrical contractor's license. New Hanover County requires unlicensed individuals to take a general examination to show that they have the general knowledge and skills to wire a building according to state code.

Requiring an exam is intended in part to prevent a property owner from obtaining a license and then subcontracting to an unlicensed electrician to actually do the wiring.

If members approve a draft of the proposed petition, it will circulate for signatures before being presented to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

For more information, contact Jimmy Evans at 910-457-6193.

7.04%*

Why settle for less from your IRA?

Ask about other rates and IRAs we have available.

KATHRYN GOSSETT
Investment Representative
Call Today
(910)754-3202
Shallotte

*Rate expressed as the lower of yield to maturity or yield to call effective 02/03/94. Subject to availability. Market risk is a consideration on investments sold prior to maturity.

Edward D. Jones & Co.*
Member New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Securities Investor Protection Corporation

TO BE OFFERED IN '95

Grand Strand Hospital Adding Cardiac Surgery

Grand Strand General Hospital will offer cardiac surgery starting in 1995, officials announced at a news conference last week.

Jim Madory, president and chief executive officer of the Myrtle Beach, S.C., hospital, said approval of the program followed extensive discussions with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The state agency recently approved the hospital's application, which was originally submitted in October 1991, after ruling that the hospital complied with the provisions of the state health plan.

"We are extremely pleased with this decision," Madory said at a news conference last Tuesday.

"Credit goes to those who worked tirelessly on this effort, including our medical staff, political and busi-

ness leaders and particularly our patients. I hope they will see the direct benefit of their efforts," Madory said.

Dr. Neil Trask, a cardiologist on the hospital staff, said, "I expect that we will see a tremendous growth in the medical community in the Pee Dee region and on up into North Carolina as a result of this."

Trask said that more than 400 patients are transferred annually to other hospitals that have cardiac surgery capabilities to perform both angioplasties and open heart surgery.

Hospital officials say design plans for the cardiac surgery project are complete and construction will begin immediately. The project should be finished during the first half of 1995.


During construction, a cardiac operating room and surgical intensive

care unit will be added. The laboratory and physical therapy departments will be expanded, according to a hospital news release.

The project will more than double the hospital's emergency department, add a permanent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit to re-


William Temple Allen, CPA, P.A.

Income Tax Preparation/
Representation
(federal and all state returns)
Accounting and Bookkeeping
Services
Computerized Payroll
Tax and Estate Planning
Former IRS Assistant Director
Technical Division, Washington, D.C.
25 Years Tax Experience




**Ragpach Row, Calabash
579-3328**

Why wait for your federal income tax refund?



Available whether we prepare your return or not

IT'S FAST! IT'S EASY!



RESORT PLAZA, SUITE 10 SHALLOTTE
Open 9 AM Until Weekdays, 9-5 Sat., 754-6067
MasterCard, Visa and Discover accepted in most area locations.