

ACEDC celebrates 26 years

By Beth Kanagy Times Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, October 9, 2015 3:02 am

The rolling countryside of western Adams County provided the backdrop for the annual meeting of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation Thursday evening at Beech Springs Farm in Orrtanna.

Eighty-five people gathered in the barn for the business meeting and dinner, which ACEDC President Robin Fitzpatrick noted in her remarks.

"There is often dissonance as it relates to development and preservation. You'll note I said and, not or," Fitzpatrick said. She pointed out that it was "synchronicity and not serendipity that brought everyone together at Beech Springs Farm. Today is the 25th anniversary of the county's Ag Land Preservation (program)."

She noted that at Beech Springs Farm everyone is able to see the "literal relationship between agro-tourism and economic development."

"It is here that we come to consonance. We can come together. Our community can be everything we want our community to be," she said.

As is tradition at the ACEDC annual meeting, the J. Frank Sapp Volunteer of the Year award was given to an ACEDC board member who goes "above and beyond" to further ACEDC's mission. The presentation was made by Judy Alder, a member of the ACEDC executive committee.

Deborah Keyser was the 2015 recipient. Keyser has been on the board since 2002 and has served on several committees. According to Alder, "Deborah was instrumental in changing the structure of ACEDC's membership which has helped increased membership over the past 4 years."

Two outgoing members of the board were also recognized at Thursday's event. Gerry Richardson and Kathy Powley received plaques for their years of service.

Barbara Hartman, chair of the ACEDC board of the directors, noted that Richardson has been an integral part of ACEDC's and the Industrial Development Authority's success over the last 26 years.



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John Armstrong/Gettysburg Times Kathy Powley and Gerry Richardson, outgoing ACEDC board members, were honored at the ACEDC annual meeting held Thursday evening at Beech Springs Farm in Orrtanna. They are pictured with ACEDC President Robin Fitzpatrick.

"I researched back all the way back to the early 90s, where Gerry served as the treasurer for this organization," said Hartman.

Powley was recognized for her service to the board. "Kathy joined our board in 2012. She jumped aboard and took over the treasurer position. Kathy also served on the Loan Review Committee, providing her lending expertise our organization," Hartman said.

Hartman noted that both Powley and Richardson were previously awarded the J. Frank Sapp Volunteer of the Year Award.