

## WCEGP Holds Annual Meeting

Written by Administrator

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The Washington County Economic Growth Partnership (WCEGP) held its annual membership meeting on Friday, June 5, 2009 at the Salem Senior Citizens Center. Approximately 45 members and elected officials met for lunch with the election of at-large directors following in a business meeting.

Jess Helsel, President of WCEGP welcomed attendees and recognized special guests and sponsors. Introduced was special guest, Harold Gutzwiller of Hoosier Energy and local sponsors of the annual meeting, First Harrison Bank, Community First Bank, Cottongim Enterprises, Saegesser Engineering, Inc., Robert Strange of Salem True Value and Jackson County REMC. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. John Fultz, County Councilman. Lunch was catered by Country Cookin, Inc. of Salem.

WCEGP Executive Director, Gerald Rose reported the activities of the Partnership and programs in which the Partnership is involved. Rose introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Donna Riley. Ms. Riley is the Executive Director of Leadership Southern Indiana. Riley spoke on the topic "Leadership in the Community: Having a Vision for Economic Growth." She emphasized the importance of the leaders in Washington County looking to the future of the county and the importance of economic growth to the future of the citizens of the county.

After the speaker, Mr. Helsel led a general business meeting of the members of the Partnership. He introduced Tom Fihe, WCEGP Vice President and chairman of the nomination committee who reported a slate of nominees for at-large board members. Nominated as a representative of industry was Jess Helsel for a term of one year; nominated as a representative of financial institutions was Steve Hunt for a term of two years; and nominated as a utility representative was Jed Wheatley for a term of three years. Nominations were requested from the floor. With no floor nominations, the nominees were elected by the members.

There was no other business and the business meeting was closed. Mr. Helsel made some closing remarks and the Annual Meeting was adjourned.