

# Chamber honors Partners, gavel passes

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STAFF WRITER

"This night isn't just about the chamber, it's about the time, talent and dedication given by an outstanding group of community leaders."

With those words Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce President Carlisle Flaherty kicked off the 39th annual meeting and Partners in Progress Business Awards Dinner, held Thursday evening at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.

Honored as the 2002 Good Partner was Keith Wilson, general manager at Bob Sellers Poulinc-CMC. The Good Partnership Award went to Bosch Corp.

The 2002 board chairman Steven Faine of Botsford General also passed the ceremonial gavel to new chairman Andy Halliwell of Halliwell, Siciliano & Mychalowycz, P.C.

## TAKING PRIDE

Faine felt the greatest accomplishment of the year was moving the chamber to its new location in an office building near 10 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills. Offices had formerly been housed in the Farmington Training Center just off Grand River in Farmington.

"It was great fun working with the staff and the board," he said, complimenting their efforts during the year.

(Noting the local chamber is the largest in Oakland County and the sixth largest in southeast Michigan, Halliwell said it won't be lonely at the top. "The chamber is served by many dedicated board members."

"We are in perilous times," he said. "The people in our community are looking to us as leaders."

During his tenure, Halliwell hopes to help foster and ensure continued investment in the community, continue the partnership among residents, businesses and government and concentrate in two areas: real estate (how land is being used, improving quality of life and increasing development) and improving and fos-



Steve Faine (right), 2002 chairman of the board for the Chamber, passes the gavel to incoming chairman Andy Halliwell.

tering diversity, by encouraging women and people of color to get involved with the chamber and in the business community.

Halliwell also stressed the importance of making a commitment to responsible business conduct, in light of recent national corporate scandals.

Accepting the Partnership Award on behalf of Bosch Corp., Vice President Sylvia Vogt said, "We are very happy to be in this community."

She said 20 years ago this month, Bosch opened its facility on Hills Tech Drive, with just 30,000 square feet. Now designated as the corporation's North American headquarters, the building has grown to 400,000 square feet.

"Bosch is committed to remain a good corporate citizen," Vogt said. "We enjoy the good partnership we have in this community."

Wilson had a little less formal response when his award was presented.

"This is cool," he quipped. "It's really something to get an award that's as old as I am. Almost."

He also pulled a prepared speech out of his pocket and began reading, "I'd like to thank the Academy ..."

As the laughter died down, Wilson said while those movie stars were walking down the red carpet to their awards, "We're the real deal. We do what's necessary for our community."

## FAMILY TIES

Wilson thanked his support system, first and foremost his wife, Kathy, and his three daughters, Colleen, Patty and Linda, who were present that night to surprise him.

"They've given me wonderful support to go out and do what I do," he said.

Bob Sellers and Sam Slaughter also earned a word of appreciation for supporting Wilson's efforts in the community.

Both honorees received certificates of recognition from the U.S. Congress, via Steve Betts who represented Congressman Joe Krollenberg, State Rep. Aldo Vignozzi (D-Farmington Hills) and Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods); Oakland County Commissioner Mike Rogers; and Farmington and Farmington Hills Mayors Jim Mitchell and Nancy Bates, respectively.

Taking her cue from Wilson's speech, Bates said, "We like you, we really like you."

Flaherty said what makes the annual dinner such an excellent experience every year is coming together to honor people who do great things in the community.

"It really does take all of us working together to really build the quality of life that makes Farmington and Farmington Hills model communities not only in the state of Michigan, but in the nation," she said.

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Sylvia Vogt, Robert Bosch Corporation vice president for corporate affairs, accepts the 2002 Good Partnership Award.



2002 Good Partner Award winner Keith Wilson is congratulated by his boss, Bob Sellers, relatives and friends.

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