

## Ozaukee Economic Development Business of the Year - Economic Forecast

OED held its seventh annual Business of the Year/Economic Forecast on Thursday September 19th at the Ozaukee Pavilion. Approximately 250 business and government leaders joined us. The morning started with networking and a delicious breakfast catered by Ferrante's of Mequon.

Dean Rennie, President of OED welcomed all guests. He highlighted OED's new marketing efforts and our new logo—created by Tim Vertz of Vertz Marketing.

Kate Ansay, Director of Ansay International presented the Small Business of the Year Award to Messina Restaurant in Saukville. Messina opened in 2006 at its Saukville location and has continued to grow and prosper. They have added an outdoor seating area and have become a significant catering operation since opening. Carmelo Raffaele, owner accepted the award. He thanked his family and staff and noted that many of the attendees were customers of the restaurant and he hopes to continue to see them there.

Neil Willenson of KAPCO presented the Mid-Size Business of the Year Award to Spectrum Investments. Spectrum Investments has been in business for 24 years and in 2011, they made one of the first investments in the Mequon Town Centre corridor, developing their new building. The growth of their business had them expanding their building in 2017. James Marshall, Founder/Chairman of Spectrum, accepted the award. Jim reminded us of all the opportunities our country provides, allowing businesses to grow.

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K. Ansay, C & L Raffaele  
D. Rennie



N. Willenson, J. Marshall  
D. Rennie



J. Tokraz, Jeff Plaster  
D. Rennie



R. Kirgues, D. Rennie

## Presenting Sponsors

## Business of the Year/Economic Forecast cont:

John Tokarz of Reinhart presented the Large Business of the Year Award to Wilo, LLC. Wilo USA is a Subsidiary of Wilo SE and manufactures pumps and systems for HVAC, water supply, sewage disposal and drainage. Wilo currently operates three divisions within Cedarburg, Weil Pump, Scot Pump and Wilo Machine Company. Wilo has expanded its current operations 31,000 square feet at its Weil Pump facility and has added over 25 new jobs. Jeff Plaster, CEO/Managing Director at Weil Pump, accepted the award for Wilo. He thanked his company for its commitment to the community and the staff at all three divisions.

Dean Rennicke thanked all of the award winners and our sponsors, Ansay, KAPCO and Reinhart Van Deuren and Boerner, s.c. He then announced that OED would be presenting a new award this year. The award would go to someone who had led the direction of Ozaukee Economic Development and had been a key player in development in the County. He announced that the award for Ozaukee County Development Leadership would be presented to Roger Kirgues of We Energies. Roger is Past President of the Board and lead efforts to re-vitalize the organization in 2007. A surprised Roger thanked the OED Board for this recognition.

The program then turned to the Economic Forecast. Dr. David Borst, Executive Director and COO of the Family Business Legacy Institute moderated the program. Paul Westphal of RBC Wealth Management and Betty Wellhoefer-Hill of Crescendo Wealth Management served as our experts. The panel discussed the current economy, affects of the Chinese tariff negotiations, concerns about the current deficit and the effect of the DNC National Convention in Milwaukee in 2020.

## Business of the Year photos

