

# Poggemeyer named county Corporate Citizen of Year



Shane Hughes/Sentinel-Tribune

(From left) Linda Amos, Jack Jones, and Paul Tecpanecatl of the Poggemeyer Design Group socialize after receiving the Corporate Citizen of the Year award during the Wood County Economic Development Commission annual meeting.

By **ALEX ASPACHER**  
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**PERRYSBURG** — Emcee Jerry Anderson was quick with the quips, and Poggemeyer Design Group was named Corporate Citizen of the Year at Wednesday's annual dinner meeting of the Wood County Economic Development Commission.

WCEDC Executive Director Wade Gottschalk said Poggemeyer has done much for local communities and has been an excellent corporate citizen long before it was chosen for the award this year. The company has also greatly expanded its reach, now with offices in 11 states and a western headquarters in Las Vegas.

Founded in 1968 by Lester Poggemeyer in downtown

Bowling Green, the company has been a leader in not just designing construction and road projects, but pursuing grants and other funding for such projects. Lester Poggemeyer sold his company to four top employees in 1987 and the company named as its chairman Jack Jones, who accepted the Wood County award Wednesday.

"This is where we live and where we work," Jones said of Poggemeyer's desire to have a role in shaping Wood County.

"We enjoy doing projects in our community," he said after showing a map of Ohio outlining recent projects across the state.

Poggemeyer's presence in the region is nearly immeasur-

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able — the company has worked on everything from intersection redesigns to multi-million dollar buildings, including the Wood County Justice Center, Bowling Green Municipal Court, Bowling Green Community Center and the Huntington Center in Toledo.

"That small, one-man engineering and surveying office evolved into a building with 90 employees offering a multitude of services in engineering, architecture and community planning," said Jim Carter, president of the Wood County Board of

Commissioners, in announcing Poggemeyer for the award.

Commissioner Doris Herringshaw thanked two outgoing members of the WCEDC executive committee, Tim Pedro and Jerry Miller, for their roles in forming public-private partnerships in support of economic development.

In board organization Wednesday, two new members were named in Jack Jones of Poggemeyer, and Doug Miller, who replaces Pedro as vice president. The board president will be Lane Williamson, a former at-large member who replaces Rex Huffman.

Huffman, who has

served on the economic development commission for seven years, including four as president, was also honored Wednesday. Describing Huffman as a man who wears many hats, Gottschalk gave him caps with the logos of some of the projects he helped bring to Wood County, including FedEx, CSX, Owens-Illinois and Bass Pro Shops.

"The board wanted to do something special for Rex knowing that he's really gone above and beyond on a lot of these projects," Gottschalk said.

Anderson, a Wood County native, completed his 20th year as master of

ceremonies, taking friendly jabs at officials including Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins and Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, whom he chided about Level 3 snow emergencies.

"I learned in this brutal winter that Sheriff Wasylyshyn relies, from what I can see, more on temperature than actual snow totals to declare emergencies," Anderson said. "Here's why I said that. One day I asked him: 'Sheriff, how do you do it?' He said: 'Simple — it's a cold day in hell before I issue a Level 3.' That's temperature based."