

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2016 Annual General Meeting

## RNC members elect two new directors and six incumbants



*RNC Treasurer Randy Puff hands out awards during Thursday's Annual Meeting for Recycling for Newaygo County. At left, Secretary David White announces the winners. Seated at center is guest speaker Katie Venechuk, DEQ Recycling and Waste Minimization Specialist, who spoke about the state of recycling in Michigan. The meeting kicked off with a reception hosted by Board Members including homemade cookies and punch.*

Newaygo, MI—Nov. 18, 2016

The Recycling for Newaygo County membership Thursday elected two new trustees and six incumbants to its Board of Directors at the nonprofit company's annual general meeting.

Retired Gerber accountant Bonnie Erber and True North Outreach and Communications Specialist Brenda Kota were named to the board to serve alongside six incumbent trustees.

Returning are David White, who joined the board in 2007, Jean Teets, serving since 2013, Mary Ann Cirigliano, 2015, and Joyce Dykstra, Randy Puff, and Jason DeKuiper, who came on earlier this year.

Terms are one year, concluding in December, 2017. Biographical information about all directors can be found on RNC's website, [www.recyclingfornewaygocounty.org](http://www.recyclingfornewaygocounty.org).

The meeting, held at 6:30 pm at Brooks Township Hall in Newaygo, also featured awards presentations to RNC volunteers past and present and top RNC supporters, and a talk about The State of Recycling in Michigan by DEQ Recycling and Waste Minimization Specialist Katie Venechuk.

The meeting was led by Treasurer Randy Puff as acting president. Puff spoke about plans in the coming year while Executive Director Linda Ritz White reviewed highlights of the past year.

Dan Murray, owner of Murray Lumber in Grant, received RNC's 2016 Super Citizen Award. Murray has been a strong supporter of the nonprofit recycling company since 2005. In addition to generous annual contributions, he has helped with various projects over the years including trailer platforms, and this year, the

construction of a paper bin located at the Newaygo collection site, and a picnic table constructed by his crew for RNC's Raffle Dazzle during the 2016 Recycling Festival.



*2016 Green Team Service Award recipients on hand to accept are from left Kathleen Morrison and Ailene Pugno, both retired directors for Recycling for Newaygo County.*

Green Team Service Award recipients included Linda Blais, Marcia Dougan, Maryann Tazelaar, Kathleen Morrison, Ailene Pugno, Amy Yule, Carolyn Humble, Scott Wakerley, and Jo-Ella Mullins, former RNC directors who served in the past two years. Morrison and Pugno continue to serve as volunteers.

The organization also recognizes financial contributors attaining specified lifetime giving amounts, Bronze at \$1,000, Silver at \$2,000, Pearl at \$5,000, Ruby at \$10,000, and Gold at \$25,000.

Silver awards went to Cronk Ace Hardware, Danielle Merrill, Morrison Orchards, and Robert and Marcia Pinder.

Bronze awards went to Jack and Mary Butterick, Randall and Kimberly Cammenga, Jason and Stephanie DeKuiper, Marcia and Jerry Dougan, Family of God Church, Raymond and Judith Frank, James and Sandra Hilbrand, Jimmy's Roadhouse, Jones Distributing, Sally and Mark Kane, Christopher and Jean Matthews, Newaygo County People for Peace, Joan Obits, Mark and Elizabeth Pitzer, Alexander and Jane Reath, Roger and Becky Tuuk, and Gerald VanWieren, MD.



*On hand to accept RNC 2016 Shining Star Awards are from left Kathleen Morrison of Morrison Orchards in Fremont, Silver Level; and Ailene Pugno, Dae Painter on behalf of Church of God and Newaygo County People for Peace, Sally Kane, and Jason DeKuiper.*

Ritz White told members and guests RNC has diverted in the past year more than two million pounds of household recyclables, including cardboard and paper collected by the company through its pickup service, and drop-offs of the materials at the company's base location and plant in Newaygo. The company has also recycled 30,000 pounds of electronic waste, 2,000 pounds of household batteries, more than 1,000 fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescents, 36,000 pounds of glass, and more than 20,000 pounds of polystyrene.

"When you think how light a piece of Styrofoam is, 20,000 pounds is a lot of it," she told attendees. "We send it by the semi-truckload. Recycling companies don't take it as a rule and we are very fortunate that Dart Container, who use it to make plastic cups and cutlery, added us to their pickup route.

"We are a society of consummate consumers and packaging is a big part of the waste problem. Imagine all that foam in the landfills if we were not collecting it."

As a nonprofit, the company relies on the support of users and municipal governments on behalf of their residents, she said. In 2015-16, RNC member contributions were \$46,861. Municipal governments contributed \$25,350. Grants consisted of \$50,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, \$5,000 from the Nicholson Foundation, and \$850 from the Gerber Foundation.

The nonprofit has been developing a cardboard and paper pickup service, which netted about \$2,400.

Puff told the crowd the company is working on the same strategies for financing the operation this year, including expanding the membership base, municipal support, grants, and business enterprises.

Ritz White noted that the company's mission, equal to the diversion of recyclables, is teaching residents about the importance of recycling. Visits to local classrooms, presentations at summer camps, community booths at events, and RNC's annual Recycling Festival are some of the platforms used in education.

On a fun note, the company raffled \$50 in gift certificates to Spanky's Pizza in Fremont, among attending members. The winner was Dale Painter.

The annual report, featuring more details about the year in review, along with the company's 990 (tax return for non-profits) will be available on the company website by the end of the year.

### **Recycling for Newaygo County**

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