



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”

A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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CLUB 20 Spring Meeting
Honors Members for Their Dedication and Service

Grand Junction – On Friday, March 22, 2013 CLUB 20 honored seven longtime members for their service to the organization and Western Colorado during the annual CLUB 20 Awards & Recognition Banquet at Colorado Mesa University. The banquet was attended by Western Slope community leaders, appointed and elected officials, friends and family of the recipients and attendees of the CLUB 20 Spring Meeting.

“We are so proud of the individuals who make up this organization,” said CLUB 20 Executive Director Bonnie Petersen. “These award recipients are as diverse as the CLUB 20 general membership. Their areas of service are reflective of their interests, professional expertise and personal dedication to ensuring CLUB 20 remains strong as the “voice of the Western Slope”.

The awards and their respective recipients are as follows:

The John D. Vanderhoof Award: presented to T. Wright Dickinson of Maybell CO., in honor of outstanding service and dedication to Western Colorado.

T. Wright Dickinson, a native Coloradan and rancher in Northwestern Colorado where he runs his family’s “Vermillion Ranch.” He has served several roles in Club 20 including numerous task forces, and he is a past Chairman of the Agriculture and Public Lands & Natural Resource committees, not to mention serving the six year commitment as Club 20 Chair Elect, Chairman, and immediate past Chair. He had the vision to form the CLUB 20 Health Care Committee, as well as the Johnson Theos Bridge Builder Award, demonstrating his commitment that dialogue between diverse interests can bring a common understanding working toward collaborative solutions to complex issues. He was a Moffat County Commissioner until term limited out in 2003.

The Preston Walker Award: presented to Tom Kleinschnitz of Grand Junction CO., for his service and dedication to CLUB 20.

Tom recently finished his 4th term as Chairman of the Colorado River Outfitters Association and has served on three occasions as the President of the Utah Guides and Outfitters Association. Tom has served on many other public and private initiative committees. Tom has always felt that it is very important to give hours of community service to his industry and to the public in general. Tom currently serves CLUB 20 as the Tourism Committee Chair.

The Lyman Thomas Award: presented to Dave Ubell of Olathe CO., in recognition of his length of service as a member of CLUB 20.

Dave has served on the Public Lands & Natural Resources Committee for a number of years and has represented CLUB 20 and Western Colorado interests on the Colorado Roadless Rule Task Force as well as The Colorado Aeronautical Board. Dave served his community as a County Commissioner for 8-years and has played a leading role in the Montrose Economic Development Council, Southwest Resource Advisory Council, and Montrose County Fair Board to name only a few.

The Dan Noble Award: presented to Garfield County Commissioner John Martin as an elected official who has shown outstanding public service to western Colorado.

Serving in his fifth term as Garfield County Commissioner, John Martin is not only a seasoned, knowledgeable leader serving the county, region and state, he is also represents western Colorado's interests nationally. The National Association of Counties Western Interstate Region (WIR) long ago identified John as an exceptional leader. This May, John becomes the national president of WIR, representing the concerns of all western states to the federal government. John has also been an active member of CLUB 20 for more than 16 years.

The Johnson-Theos Bridge Builder Award: presented to Tom Harned of Gypsum CO. and Rachel Richards of Aspen CO., in honor of their commitment collaborative problem solving.

The Theos-Johnson Bridgebuilder award epitomizes what Club 20 is all about; working through different perspectives and approaching often complex situations, putting personal agendas aside and working for the best solutions for Western Colorado.

Tom has been a member of CLUB 20 for many years now and has been very passionate about the mission of making sure Western Colorado's voice is heard. He has served as the Chairman of the CLUB 20 Board and has been an Executive Committee member for a number of years. He has also been a continuing driving force in recruiting members to CLUB 20.

Rachel is serving her second term as Pitkin County Commissioner. She has lived in the Roaring Fork Valley since 1978, and has served previously as Mayor of the City of Aspen and former Aspen City Council member. She is currently serves on the Colorado Counties, Inc., Colorado River Basin 1177 Round Table, and represents Pitkin County at National Association of Counties. She is also the Vice-Chair of the Northwest Council of Governments Water Quality and Quantity Committee.

The CLUB 20 Chairman's Award: presented to Phil Vaughn of Rulison CO.

Phil has been a member of CLUB20 for 25 years and has represented his county on the Board for 22. He's served on the By-Laws committee for over 15 years and has been a Committee Chairman for 9 years. He has served as the Western Slope representative for the Center for Colorado's Economic Future Advisory Panel, DU's Strategic Issues Panel and most recently he was appointed by Gov. John Hickenlooper to the Property Tax Administrator Advisory Committee.

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