

NSACI bids former president goodbye at anniversary gala

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It was a bittersweet evening for former Rolling Meadows Mayor Tom Menzel and his fiancée, Fran Smith.

At Saturday's 30th anniversary dinner honoring the Northwest Suburban Alliance for Commerce and Industry, Menzel was honored for his work as immediate past president, helping to reinforce the regional focus of the suburban chamber of commerce.

Menzel recently stepped down as NSACI president to accept a job as executive director of the National Cherry Festival in his native Traverse City, Mich.

Later in the evening, however, it seemed as if that decision was sealed when Smith won the grand raffle of a pair of round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines to anywhere the carrier flies.

It was a night filled with awards and sentimental memories, as members reflected on the organization's growth and impact on the Northwest subur-



PHOTOS BY DANIEL WITTE/DAILY HERALD
Peggy Morrow of Insight Consulting in Hoffman Estates certainly has a lot to smile about. Recently appointed board president of the Northwest Suburban Alliance for Commerce and Industry, Morrow was also the recipient of the organization's Member of the Year award at its 30th anniversary celebration Saturday.

ban business community.

What had started in 1976 with an office in Hoffman Estates serving 80 businesses, now serves nearly 450 members out of its new Rolling Meadows headquarters.

More than 100 members and their guests gathered in the Metropolitan Ballroom in Arlington Heights for the black-tie-optional bash.



Former Rolling Meadows mayor Tom Menzel talks with Fran Smith, left, and Joanne McLeod, right, at the 30th anniversary celebration of the Northwest Suburban Alliance for Commerce and Industry. Menzel was being honored for his work as immediate past president of the association.

U.S. Rep. Melissa Bean led the list of dignitaries, who attended the dinner. She did more than put in an appearance. Bean took over emcee duties from board member Roger Widmer of Argosy University in Schaumburg, who opened the evening by naming the group's members of distinction.

After dinner, Bean took the podium to award the group's

outstanding members. Included were Barb Tomczak of Metropolitan Financial Solutions in Schaumburg, who was named Go-Getter of the Year, and Mark Stevens of Innovative Health Concepts of Schaumburg, who was named Ambassador of the Year.

Chris Klein, business banking officer with Amcore Bank in Crystal Lake was honored as

past chairperson, while officials from Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights accepted the Chairperson's Award for their commitment to the chamber and support of its networking events throughout the year.

Peggy Morrow of Insight Consulting in Hoffman Estates walked up to the podium twice, once to receive her award as

Member of the Year and again to address the crowd as the new board president.

"Tonight is a celebration of success," Morrow said. "We have evolved into a regional business association serving more than 60 communities, providing over 100 events a year and delivering many different opportunities to help businesses thrive."