

NEWS RELEASE
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PENNY FREEMAN PRESENTED WITH SHINING STAR AWARD

Penny Freeman of Preferred Companies received the River Region Chamber of Commerce Shining Star Award at its annual banquet held on January 27 at San Francisco Plantation. This was the first time this award was presented.

In the future, the award will be presented annually to the a member company or an individual member who most exemplifies the following criteria:

- . Demonstrates exemplary support in assuring that Chamber goals are achieved.**
- . Provides valuable service to the chamber through participation on standing or special events committees for the previous fiscal year.**
- . Exhibits initiative and creativity in capitalizing on opportunities created by the Chamber to enhance the individual or company's business.**
- . Serves as an example of excellence in business or professional activities.**
- Financially supports the Chamber.**

In making the presentation to Mrs. Freeman, Conley Dutreix, Founding Chairman offered the following remarks:

“When our recipient left corporate America to start her own business she imagined a different work life. Living close to her office she imagined less structure and more personal freedoms than corporate life had demanded of her.

She quickly settled in and began to build her staff. As competition was very stiff in the industry she chose, she decided early on that her company would offer something different. Therefore, her company offers their clients more services than just their primary product; it is built upon outstanding customer service. They are truly the “Caring Mortgage Professionals.”

Our recipient also quickly realized that being a business owner comes with responsibility to the staff, clients and to the community that supports her endeavor. So, the hours are actually longer than before and vacations are less frequent. But, the rewards are so much more fulfilling.

This year's winner is a member of St. Timothy's Church and serves on The Saints Board of Realtors, St. John Parish Economic Development Board, LaPlace Rotary Club, and BNI. She is also extremely active within the community in many other ways.

She enjoys writing and hopes to publish at least one book of children's stories. In addition, she is an avid amateur photographer.

As Chair of our Business Development Committee she has successfully guided the development and implementation of several successful small business seminars and has developed an even more exciting slate of events for 2006 designed to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive information to make our small businesses more knowledgeable and more successful. She is always available to assist other committees and task forces and to participate with any program or project.

Her efforts and accomplishments were recently acknowledged by her election as a member of our 2006 Board of Directors.

I am extremely pleased to present this year's Shining Star Award to Penny Freeman of Preferred Companies."

For more information on the River Region Chamber, call the Chamber at 985-359-9777, email to: info@riverregionchamber; or visit www.riverregionchamber.org. Location: 425 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. D, LaPlace, LA 70068