

The KANE REPUBLICAN

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Kane Chamber holds Award Banquet

Connie Grenz, general manager at Kane Hardwood, accepted the Chamber award Saturday.

She praised the Kane Hardwood, employees. "Every single person is a key to our success," Grenz said. Kane Hardwood, a division of the Collins Companies, has 120 employees and is considered the largest manufacturing employer in the Kane area. Kane Hardwood also has 60 "contractors" who "work in the wood," Grenz said.

The contractors handle the logging operations in the company-owned forests. Collins is the largest private landowner in Pennsylvania, Grenz said. She pointed out that the timber operations closely follow sustainable forestry techniques.

"We want to provide jobs for our children and grandchildren," she said.

Grenz said Kane Hardwood spends \$12 million annually for payroll, supplies and equipment. She said more capital investments are planned at the Kane plant off Route 6 just west of the borough. Grenz, who has been at the helm at Kane Hardwood for six years, said Collins is a respected "leader" in the wood products industry and is known throughout the world. She said "to be honored at home is the very best" tribute for the company.

Nadeen Steffey, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, presented plaques to both Airgood and Grenz.

The award-winners also received special citations from state Rep. Kathy Rapp (R-Warren), state Sen. Joe Scarnati (R-Brockway) and Kane Mayor Doug Caldwell.

Rapp, who attended the fete, said she is "proud to have Kane Hardwood in her legislative district. Rapp pointed out that she is a member of a state legislative Timber Caucus. She said the honor for Kane Hardwood is "richly deserved."

In presenting a citation to Airgood, Rapp said "it's people in the community who make our country great."

Jill Thompson, Kane legislative aide for Rapp, presented the citations for Scarnati, who was unable to attend.

Howard Brush of Sheffield also attended the the banquet. He is the director of the Northwest Regional Office for Gov. Ed Rendell.

In addition to serving as Mayor of Kane, Caldwell is the new president of the Chamber of Commerce. He praised both Airgood and Kane Hardwood as he presented them with borough citations.



From left to right: Howard Brush-Governor's Rep, Kathy Rupp-State Rep, Connie Grenz-Kane general manager, Nadeen Steffey-Chamber of Commerce Exec. Dir, Doug Caldwell-President of Chamber of Commerce.