

2018 Ladies' Night Recap and Thank-You

After a seemingly relentless winter, the last week's weather lulled us into thinking that the 78th annual AWS – Detroit Section Ladies' Night gala on April 14th would be a warm spring day. Alas, old man winter growled one final time. Despite his fearsome threats, we all retreated to the MotorCity Casio Hotel for fellowship, camaraderie, celebration, indulgence, and dancing.

While we gathered, guests were treated to "red carpet" portraits by Gugel Photography and enjoyed cocktails & hors d'overs in the MotorCity Sound Board. (Don't forget to log on to www.gugelphotography.com/2018AWS to download your free portraits.)

Once gathered we transitioned to the MotorCity Ballroom for awards, dinner, and the raffle. Donald F. Maatz, Jr. was our Master of Ceremonies. We started with introductions to representatives from AWS National. Dale Flood (AWS President) was on hand to present Raymond Roberts with the WEMCO Excellence in Welding Award and Glen Knight with the National Meritorious Award. Phil Temple presented a district director certificate award to Svetlana Flood (Wife of Dale Flood) in appreciation of her support of AWS. Immediately thereafter Wesley Doneth (AWS-Detroit Chairman) presented Monica Pharr (Executive Director of the AWS Foundation) a check for \$150,000 for the AWS National Workforce Grant Program (to be matched by the AWS Foundation). Also on hand were Matt Miller (AWS CEO), Phillip Temple (AWS District 11 Director), and Amos (and Marilyn) Winsand – Former AWS Treasurer and Past Detroit Section Chairman (1978-79) – Father of the AWS Scholarship Program.



Following these formalities we all settled down to a masterfully prepared duet of Salmon in Vernors BBQ sauce and Short Ribs together with Dauphinoise Potatoes and followed by Flourless Chocolate Torte and Espresso Tiramisu. Once we had all had our fill, Svetlana Flood started off the door prize raffle. In total, thirty-four door prizes with a retail value of more than \$9,500 were given out to many very lucky ladies.

After dinner and the raffle, we retired again to the MotorCity Sound Board where we were entertained by the 8-piece band *Persuasion*. Guests danced and partied into the night.

I extend my heart-felt thanks to our section patrons and the twenty-two table hosts who hosted 503 guests and made this night possible. Moreover, I am grateful to the support from the Ladies' Night Committee (especially my wife Kristi) for helping put together this gala.

