



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Awards Regional Citizens for Contributions to East Texas

Five East Texans to be Honored at Board of Directors Meeting

Palestine, TX, March 13, 2012: ETCOG will honor regional citizens who exemplify excellence in performance, innovation, and contributions to the community at its 84th Semi-Annual Board of Director's Meeting on Thursday, March 22, at the Ben E. Keith Distribution Center in Palestine, TX from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm. Award criteria and recipient information is as follows:

REGIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – DWAYNE GARNER, RETIRED FROM AIR FORCE, RESIDES IN BROWNSBORO, TX

This award is designed to honor a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region.

REGIONAL CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR- WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year award honors a corporate partner in East Texas that has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region.

REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD – MAYOR BARBARA BASS, CITY OF TYLER

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AWARD – ED BRANDO, HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR, EAST TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

The Regional Committee Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities.

ETCOG EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD – ELIZABETH JONES AND SAVANNAH PACOBIT

The ETCOG Employee of the Year is nominated and voted on by ETCOG Staff and the top three candidates are presented to the ETCOG Selection Committee for consideration. Elizabeth Jones and Savannah Pacobit were selected as this year's co-recipients. Elizabeth Jones has been with ETCOG since 2000 as the Budget Manager. Savannah Pacobit has been employed with ETCOG since 2011 and serves as the Housing Manager.

For more information, contact ETCOG's Executive Director, David Cleveland, at (903) 984-8641 x221.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.