

Dec 6, 2012

First Z-B Leadership Academy Class graduates

The first Zion-Benton Leadership Academy class graduation ceremony was held at the beautiful Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club. The Coalition for Healthy Communities hosted breakfast to honor the graduating class.

Before certificates were presented, Keynote speaker Ann Meisner, CEO of Cancer Treatment Centers gave an inspirational speech about her journey to leadership. Many leaders in the Zion-Benton community contributed to the success of the academy.

Nann Blaine Hilyard, director of the Zion-Benton Public Library, Lake County Clerk Willard Helander, Carl "Spark" Ball of Love INC., Sheri Miller and Gene Salvedelena of the Chamm'd Foundation, Angel Jackson of CREW/ CHC, Roger Kieffer of Goalign Resources, and Zion Township Supervisor Cheri Neal, assisted in their areas of expertise.

Mentors were honored for working hand-in-hand with participants by



PHOTO BY GIBBIE BUCHHOLTZ FOR THE ZION-BENTON NEWS

Judge George Bridges (right) swears in the Zion-Benton Leadership Academy Class of 2012.

meeting regularly, offering feedback and providing encouragement. Each graduate gave a short speech outlining their experience and plans to give back to the community.

The group collectively worked on many projects. Most notably, Cathy Vaughn and classmates created a brochure to share community

resources and announce the launch of zbguide.com, a Web site all residents of Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor and Zion can use. Look for these helpful brochures at businesses throughout the community.

At the summation of the event, state Rep. Joanne Osmond, Anne Meisner and Sheri Miller distributed

Certificates and Robert's Rule books to graduates.

Zion Benton Leadership Academy is a product of the Coalition for Healthy Communities. Applications for 2013 will be accepted March 1 through July 1. Interested participants can learn more at zbchc.com.

By Angel Jackson