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WILS honors retiring executives, welcomes new Executive Director

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WILS staff and members of the Board of Directors joined program participants and representatives of community organizations at the Best Western State Fair Inn in Sedalia on January 11 to honor Jerry Seeley and George Fleming as they retire from West-Central Independent Living Solutions and to welcome incoming Executive Director, Kathy Kay.

Seeley has served as Executive Director since 2008, improving WILS' financial footprint, adding satellite offices in Lexington and Warsaw, and restructuring staff to provide the best service to WILS program participants.

Fleming – IL Specialist Supervisor – began working at WILS in 2004. He worked closely with both program participants and community organizations to bring a better quality of life to people with disabilities. Fleming will continue to serve WILS as a newly elected Board Member.

Starting the presentation ceremony, President of the WILS Board of Directors, James Piatt welcomed those present and introduced former Board President, David DeFrain, for remarks about WILS and the contributions made by Seeley and Fleming.

Sharon Adkins, ILS Supervisor in the Warsaw office, presented an honorary plaque to Fleming, along with remarks on her experience working with him.

Following remarks on his experience working with WILS, thanking staff for their help, Fleming presented a plaque to Seeley, noting his respect and admiration for Seeley's accomplishments.

Seeley spoke briefly, thanking everyone for their support and encouragement then led the group in welcoming incoming Executive Director, Kathy Kay, formerly of Johnson County Board of Services, with a presentation of a gift basket that included WILS branded items.

Following Kay's remarks, additional gift presentations were made by Cindy Elmlinger, Independent Living Specialist, and Kathy Wyatt, Director of Administrative Services, on behalf of WILS staff.

Following the presentation ceremony, the WILS cake was served as those attending gathered to express good wishes and appreciation to Seeley, Fleming and Kay.

David Storlie, Director of Program Services, stated, "We're both saddened and excited about these events. Jerry and George have both contributed greatly to WILS' mission and we hate to see them leave. At the same time, we're eager to see what the future has in store for us."

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