Three ‘Remarkable’ women in business to be honored

Three Orange County women will be honored today for their work as business owners and entrepreneurs. Around 600 are expected to attend the 19th annual 2014 Remarkable Women Awards, sponsored by the National Association of Women Business Owners Orange County.

“Not only are they accomplished business women who have each founded and grown successful companies, they are committed to giving back through community and philanthropic involvement, in every aspect of their lives, these women are indeed remarkable,” Dee Elliott, incoming president of NAWBO Orange County, said.

Jeanne Lawrence of Newport Beach will receive the organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Lawrence is the founder and president of Rancho Las Lomas, a 32-acre private resort in Silverado that hosts more than 150 events every year.

“Not only has Rancho Las Lomas blessed my life but also my children’s lives, as well as they will one day carry on with the legacy that I love,” Lawrence said.

Mahyaar Ghassanee, a real estate entrepreneur, is being honored as the Entrepreneur of the Year. She is the founder and CEO of Ghassanee Law Group APC, a boutique law firm that focuses on construction, business and personal injury law.

Linda Kang of Anaheim is being honored as the Business Owner of the Year. Her company, Korel Design Tiles, creates tiles.

“This award and recognition gives me tremendous momentum, energy and confidence that I must be headed in the right direction,” Kang said.

From left are Penny Fox, Remarkable Women Gala chairwoman; honorees Jeanne Lawrence, Linda Kang and Mahyaar Ghassanee; and Dee Elliott, NAWBO Orange County president.

For information about last-minute registration to the event, call the NAWBO Orange County office at 714-630-2983.

- Hannah Medans

NEW VENTURES

Orange Label Art + Advertising in Newport Beach has acquired new clients on the Big Island in Hawaii. The company will work as an agency of record for Hawaii Forest & Trail, a popular adventure and excursion group.

Swift Real Estate Partners, a real estate investment company in San Francisco, has expanded to Southern California with the addition of an office in Irvine. Malcolm O’Donnell will lead the Southern California region for SREP. He previously served as vice president of acquisitions for Beacon Properties in Rancho Cucamonga.

ON THE MOVE

Bob McKnight will retire Oct. 31, as senior vice president of Quiksilver. McKnight, the co-founder of the Huntington Beach-based surf brand, stepped down as CEO last year. Although he will have no day-to-day role in the company, McKnight will remain on the board of directors. Quiksilver’s CEO Andy Mooney has been elected as chairman, and Pierre Agnes, president of Quiksilver Europe, has been promoted to president. Both have been with the company for a decade.

SunWest Bank in Irvine has expanded its board of directors with the addition of Steve Reenders. Reenders is president of The Reenders Co., a consulting and investment company in San Clemente. Before joining SunWest, he served on other banking industry boards, including American Security Bank, Harbor National Bank and Empire Bank N.A.

GOOD WORKS

Electron Beam Engineering, a welding company in Anaheim, made a donation of $10,000 to Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a nonprofit that provides residential care for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. The money in turn will benefit the House of St. Mary, a supportive living home in Mission Viejo. Funds will help with structural alterations for internal and external flooring, as well as wheelchair accessibility.

MILESTONE

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian received the 2014 Women’s Choice Award as one of the nation’s Best Hospitals for Patient Experience by women. The hospital also was recognized as one of America’s Best Hospitals in Heart Care as well as Best Hospitals for Obstetrics.