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Keeping Catawba History Alive

The Historical Association of Catawba County recognized its 2016 volunteers during the organization's annual membership meeting Sunday August 28 in the original 1924 courtroom of the Catawba County Courthouse on The Square in Newton.

"More than just dates and names, history is about *life led*," said guest speaker Trustee Wes W. Barkley, "each moment in history is unique to the person who experienced it." Barkley discussed how his love of history inspired his historical fiction trilogy *The Anderson Chronicles*.

During the annual membership meeting, the Board of Trustees swore in two new members: Gina Sigmon of Newton and Scott Ramsey of Claremont. The Historical Association staff then presented its annual volunteer awards.

"Like all independent not-for-profits, we depend on the time and skills of volunteers to fulfill our educational mission," said Executive Director Dr. Amber Clawson, "in fact - it is their work that keeps Catawban history alive."

Volunteer of the Year Awards

- Murray's Mill Historic District, Mr. Jimmy Lutz of Maiden
- Harper House/Hickory History Center, Ms. Alison Knisley of Hickory
- Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, Mr. Eric Sigmon of Claremont
- Mrs. Rebecca Hart Preservation Award, Catawba County Planning Dept.

Hart presented the 2016 Preservation Award to the Catawba County Planning Department for their ongoing cooperation and partnership in making Bunker Hill Covered Bridge a more accessible park and attractive destination. Catawba County Planning Director Jacky Eubanks, Senior Planners Chris Timberlake and Sue Balbach accepted the award.

The Historical Association annually presents the Rebecca Hart Preservation Award in recognition of Mrs. Hart's decades of exemplary service to the Historical Association, Catawba Valley Pottery & Antiques Festival, and, of course, Hart Square. As the first female Board President for the Historical Association, she is a role model for young women who care about local heritage.

University and high school students who worked as interns over the summer were also recognized for their service to the Historical Association and wider community.