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Board of Elections Honors Election Trainers with Inaugural Ceremony

(Columbus) It takes thousands of poll workers to staff an election in Franklin County and dedicated trainers to teach them the job. The board of elections honored 41 trainers tonight with an inaugural Legacy of Trainers Dinner. Award winners were cited in the following categories for outstanding performance in poll worker training and lasting achievements to the voters of Franklin County.

Don Washburn Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is named in honor of a former Director of the Franklin County Board of Elections and veteran trainer. Washburn has 67 years of service including 12 as board of elections director from 1972-1984. Washburn and two others, trainers James Ray Thornwell of Blacklick and Bonnie Frenzel of Columbus, are inaugural winners of this award.

Clarence A. Rahman Award

This award, named for a dedicated trainer who passed away in 2011, honors an Outstanding Trainer of the Election Cycle beginning with the 2015 general election. The inaugural recipient is James Ray Thornwell of Blacklick, also a winner of the Washburn Lifetime Achievement Award noted above.

Legacy of Trainers Chairman Award

This award is established in recognition of James A. Reinmann, a trainer with more than 10 years of service to the Franklin County Board of Elections and the inaugural chairman of the Legacy of Trainers Committee. This honor will be awarded annually to recognize the rotating chairman of the committee.

Tonight's honorees and 37 other trainers were awarded service pins recognizing their years of service to the board of elections.

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