

Four Big Sandy Employees Honored

Austin Bank recently honored four Big Sandy employees at its 2008 Service Award Luncheon. Melody Payne and Shamel Shipman were recognized for 20 years of service; and Tiffany Green and Jeremy Neill were honored for five years of service.

They were among 36 bank employees feted for outstanding service and longevity on the job at a luncheon held December 4 at Cascades Club in Tyler. The annual luncheon recognized Austin Bank employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service in 2008.

"We are proud of all these employees because they work as a team to provide financial services to our friends, neighbors and the businesses within East Texas," said Austin Bank Vice Chairman Jeff Austin, III. "These valuable employees serve our bank customers on a daily basis through their excellent service."

"At Austin Bank our employees are the difference. We proudly recognize the commitment and dedication each of these individuals has made to the Bank and its customers," said John P. Williams, President and CEO.

The Big Sandy honorees that each completed 20 years of service in 2008 are:

Melody H. Payne is the Teller Supervisor in Big Sandy who has 27 years banking experience. She is a graduate of Big Sandy High School and Kilgore Junior College. Payne is Treasurer of the Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce and a member of the First Baptist Church of Big Sandy. She and her husband, Buzz, have three children: Holly, Heather and Eric.

Shamel M. Shipman is a Loan Assistant with 20 years banking experience who started at Austin Bank as a Teller. Shipman is a graduate of Big Sandy High School, Kilgore College and the University of Texas at Tyler where she earned a BBA. She also completed Community Bankers Lending School. A lifelong resident of Big Sandy, Shipman and her husband, Daniel, have three children: Sabrah, Jacob and Joshua.

Five year Service Award recipients are:

Tiffany C. Green is a Certified Customer Service Representative and Teller with eight years banking experience. She is a graduate of Hawkins High School and attended Tyler Junior College. Green completed the AIB Program ICB certification in March 2007. A resident of Big Sandy, Green and her husband, B.J., have three daughters: Rylan, Zoe and Trinity

Jeremy R. Neill is the Location President at Big Sandy. He began his banking career at Austin Bank as a Teller, and then was promoted to Credit Analyst and Community Lender. Neill is a graduate of Cushing High School and the University of Texas at Tyler with a BBA in Finance. Neill is involved with United Way, Habitat for Humanity and Keep Longview Beautiful. He is a member of Rotary International and Ducks Unlimited. Neill and his wife, Brittany, are residents of Gilmer.

Austin Bank is a community bank with \$1 billion in assets. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas, Austin Bank serves the needs of East Texas families and businesses through 28 locations in nine counties.

More information about Austin Bank can be found on the bank's website at www.austinbank.com.