## Empower Women's Gala panelists set

### Event to be held on March 25

**BY DENIS HOUSE** DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

The four panelists have been selected for the second annual Empower Women's Gala. which will be held on March

25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Venue 68. Reba Lowery Celsor, Robin Humphress, Autria Calhoun, and Mary Jane Shockency are the panelists, and Christian McRay moderates the event. The event is hosted by the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

#### **REBA LOWERY CELSOR**

Celsor is the Chief Executive Officer of Spring View Hospital, a role she has held since June



Reba Celson

2020. In her 35-year career, Celsor has been a bedside Registered Nurse, Nursing Director, Corporate Clinical Director, Chief Nursing Officer, and then Chief Executive Officer.

Since moving to Marion County Celsor has served on the Marion County Chamber of Commerce board for four vears. two of which were in the role of President, Marion County Economic Development and Industrial Foundation for two years, and Lebanon/Marion County Rotary Club- President 2022-2023. She is a board-certified Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves on the Kentucky ACHE Board, the Kentucky Hospital Association Board, and the American Hospital Association Region 3 Policy

She holds an Associate degree in Nursing, a Bachelor's degree in Management and Human Resources, and an MBA in Healthcare Management.

After working as a registered nurse for over 20 years, Robin Humphress had a vision



Humphress

She began life with a love for theatre and at age 11 talked her moth-

er into driving nearly an hour each way so she could take classes at a professional theatre in Fort Worth, Texas. Moving to Kentucky three years later, she jumped into community theatre and went on to study nearly as much theatre as nursing in college. When her oldest son became interested in theatre, Humphress was immersed back into that world and became dedicated to increasing arts opportunities at home for her own and other area children. In 2015, with city, county, and tourism support, she established Kentucky Classic Arts at Centre Square as a 501c3 with an inspired 9-member board of directors to provide arts education, family entertainment, performance opportunities for all ages, and community meeting space for the people of Marion and surrounding counties. Over the years, KCA has produced more than 70 plays pouring joy and confidence into hundreds of local children and adults.

#### **MARY JANE SHOCKENCY**

Mary Jane Shockency has dedicated her life to faith, family, and community service. She began her professional journey



**Mary Ann** 

in 1953 at Mary Immaculate Hospital, where she was the first layperson hired. She worked in the Medical Records Department and later received training

department. She continued in this role until the birth of her second child. Her commitment to service extended beyond her career into her lifelong involvement with the Daughters of Isabella, an international organization of Catholic women focused on charitable, educational, religious, and social initiatives. For her dedication to the organization and community, she was honored in 1977 with the Kentucky Colonel Award.

Shockency and her husband, Ted, also built a successful family business, Shockency Catering, which has served Kentucky and Indiana for over 50 years, including major events such as those at Maker's Mark.

Her impact on the community has been recognized with multiple honors including the Distinguished Citizen Award — Louisville (March 1999), Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Multicultural Ministry — 1999 African American Catholic Leadership Award, Marion County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year,

and Duchess of Paducah Award. Beyond her professional and civic contributions, she has been an active volunteer in numerous capacities. She volunteered in all Marion County schools while raising her children, assisted with Knights of Columbus events, served on the Marion County Water Board, taught CCD (religious education) for high school students (three years), served as a 4-H Leader, acted as a Boy Scout Den Mother, and volunteered for Vacation Bible School.

#### **AUTRIA CALHOUN**

Autria Calhoun is the owner of Clay Slay x Autria and recently celebrated her fifth year as a small business owner in Marion County. Calhoun is also a manager and instructor at Lebanon Health and Fitness. Lebanon Health and Fitness was voted the best fitness gym in Marion County in 2024. For nearly 12 years as an instructor, she has made a difference in her community through health and wellto manage the ness. Over the years, Calhoun



**Autria** Calhoun

importance of an active lifestyle, and self-love.

Calhoun has always been active in her community. She has served on the Lebanon Tour-

ism Board since 2018 and was also part of the graduating class of Leadership Lebanon in 2023. She served as co-chair the following year. Calhoun was nominated for Woman of The Year at the 2024 Women's Empowerment event in Lebanon.

#### **CHRISTINA MCRAY**

The moderator this year will be Christina McRay, the principal at the Marion County Area Technology Center. McRay is a career educator and has spent more than 23 years in education, 15 of those educating and leading the youth of Lebanon and Marion County. She is a school principal at the Marion County Area Technology Center, where she leads a team of industry-based teach-



**Christina McRay** 

sionate about developing our young people, especially in the

role of workforce development and youth leadership. She is dedicated to creating opportunities for her students that will continue to help them learn, grow, and thrive in both our local community and the global workforce. nursing and improving patient McRay holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, a master's degree in Business Education, and a master's degree in Educational Leadership.

Born and raised in Marion County, Christina takes great pride in living, working, and raising her family in our beloved small town. Her passions include countykychamber.com

has stressed the community service and leadership through her various roles women's health, in community and civic organizations, including current roles on the Marion County Industrial Foundation, current Board Chair for the Spring View Hospital Board of Trustees, and vice president of the Lebanon Water Works Board of Directors. She has served in the past on the Chamber Board of Directors, including a year as the chamber board president.

This year's guest speaker will be life coach Pat Priddy Farrell. She is a Christian Life Coach, author, and national speaker specializing in employee motivation, personal rejuvenation, and women's coaching. A Lay Minister for



Pat **Priddy Farrell** 

odist Church, she is passionate about helping others discover their purpose. With 35 years in healthcare, Farrell has served as a hospital, office, and industrial nurse, Lamaze

the Global Meth-

childbirth educator, lactation consultant, and Women's Health Director in hospital marketing. Her honors include Employee of the Year, the "Search for Excellence" award from the North Carolina Nurses' Association, and was selected for the state's "Institute for Nursing Excellence." She is also a past president of North Carolina's Top 100 Nurses.

Understanding workplace burnout and resilience, she works to provide individual and team coaching. She leads keynotes, retreats, Bible studies, and workshops, speaking from the heart to inspire change. Committed to ending lateral violence in care, Farrell believes transformation starts from within.

The 2025 Woman of the Year, Young Woman of the Year, and Golden Heart Award will also be presented.

To purchase your tickets, contact the Chamber office at 270-692-9594 or info@marion-

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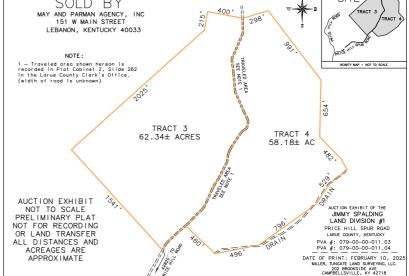
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