



Con Hunley and Blake Shelton take time for a photo after performing at the grand opening of Ole Red Gatlinburg last week. "Gatlinburg has always been a place where I've had a good time, and it's just awesome for me to get to be a part of this community through Ole Red," said Blake Shelton before the event. "I can't wait to get my band down there to play - it's going to be an amazing night."

**By Lisa DeMarsico**

Knoxville native and country icon Con Hunley and his family performed at the Grand Opening of the Blake Shelton-inspired Ole Red Gatlinburg bar, restaurant and music venue Wednesday night.

Blake said, "Con is one of my all-time favorite artists and he happens to be from this area." Hunley and family went on to perform three songs during the middle of Blake's set.

During the press conference, earlier in the day, Shelton said he had visited Gatlinburg during New Year's and stayed three days. He and his girlfriend, Gwen Stefani, fell in love with the area. Shelton also told the crowd that Ole Red Gatlinburg was



*Pictured left to right are Con Hunley, his brother-in-law Burt Akers, Blake Shelton, sister Ruthie Akers, and brother Kenny Hunley. Shelton called*

## debate at BOE meeting

**By Amy Box Fellhoeelter**

The presence of Knox County Commissioner Evelyn Gill and three Knoxville Boy Scout Troop 258 members endeavoring to fulfill their citizenship badge requirements were recognized to commence the mid-March regular session Board of Education meeting. Next, an announcement declared that several board members will be attending the National School Board Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia from March 30 to April 1, 2019, in hope of meeting with other school board members on a national level regarding educational matters.

Special to the meeting was highlighting

recognition of Teachers of the Year. As they approached Knox County Superintendent Bob Thomas to receive their awards in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, those in attendance applauded loudly. The recipients were: Brickley-McCloud Elementary School teacher Crystal Dougan; Karna Middle School teacher Janet Smith; and Powell High School teacher Alice Carson.

One week prior to the regular session meeting on March 13, board members congregated to review board policies at a work session. A motion carried for every voted board policy with no discussion. They voted