

CHAMBER
OF THE
YEAR!

- Chamber Membership reached over 415 in 2012.
- Largest Business Organization in Livingston Parish
- Over 125 events held in the past year!
- Over 5000! In attendance at events!
- Sponsorship opportunities launched.

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Member Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2011 / 2012

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce

Installation Banquet

2012 began with an impressive, first of its kind to the Livingston Parish Chamber Installation Banquet.

Parish President Layton Ricks addressed the membership and Judge Morrison offered the oaths to the Board and Officers. Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Explorer Post presented the colors at the event and over 175 were in attendance. The Cham-

ber's plan for 2012 was presented including a Business Expo, Leadership Livingston program, increased member services and growth goals.

Regina Scott, Assistant Vice President of Diagnostic Services, North Oaks Health System, was sworn in as the 2012 Chairman of the Board. Regina brings a wealth of leadership experience and the support of her business, including volunteers, involvement

and sponsorships. Regina stays informed of current issues and truly represents the entire membership.



Regina Scott
2012 Chairman of the Board
North Oaks Health System

Louisiana State Chamber of the Year!

On August 23, 2012, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was presented the prestigious award of Louisiana Small Chamber of the Year at the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executive's Fall Conference. An out-of-state panel of judges scored chambers based on organiza-

tional development, community development and professional development. Criteria included programs that make the chamber a stronger organization, key roles in community participation and distinguishing professional and community leadership through excellence in chamber management. More inside!

Historic honors for the Livingston Parish Chamber and its membership!



Business & Community Expo



Business & Community Expo / Job Fair! SUCCESS!!

IN MAY of 2012, the Chamber brought back the Business & Community Expo. 82 vendors presented to a packed house of attendees. With the opening of Walmart in Watson, Sam's Club in Denham Springs and following soon, Our Lady of the Lake in Walker, many jobs were available and a job fair was included in the event.

A health fair was combined

as well offering attendees free screening through major providers. Master Plan Representatives were presenters at the Expo allowing them to gather responses from hundreds of attendees. The Chamber was able to connect the public with the valuable input for the committee.

Restaurants, businesses and non profits offered a well rounded and diverse event. The event was broadcast live on Kajun 107.1 and Action

News 17 as well as the Livingston Parish News and Livingston Business Journal were on hand to record the event.

The event drew an large, energetic crowd and the vendors were friendly and inviting, a perfect combination for success.

Chairman: Josh Prejean, First Guaranty Bank & Ivy Graham, The Law Office of Ivy Graham

The Chamber awards \$23,000 in Scholarships to Livingston Parish High School Seniors. .

Education Committee

The Education Committee is one of the core committees of the Chamber. Currently, the activity of the committee involves offering our membership the opportunity to sponsor the committee through our scholarship program.

All of the funds collected for education are earmarked to be budgeted for education. The Chamber, and its membership

bear the full administrative cost of the committee.

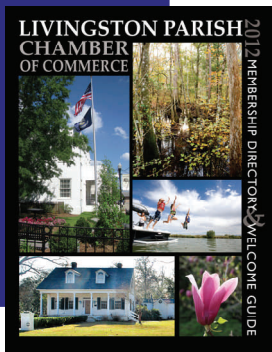
In 2012, \$23,000 in scholarships was awarded to Livingston Parish High School Seniors. An additional \$2,200 was paid to eleven teachers, principals and support personnel in honoring the "Best of the Best in LPPS".

The Education Committee plans for review include pro-

jects that benefit students in the classroom with programs that allow business owners to reach out to local students and inspire. Funds were also used to pay for the lunches of the honorees and a guest in each of the 34 awards presented this year.

Chairman: Shannon Bernard, Primerica & Sue Evarts, Bancorp South

The Parish's premier Welcome Guide and Directory is courtesy of the Chamber's Membership.



Member Benefits Added

Through the Office Depot Affinity Program, members have saved thousands on their office supplies and printing costs. Exclusive to Chamber members, this program can be customized to your account

and provide additional discounts to items you use the most. In store, online ordering and other accounts are eligible for the discount. In addition, Chamber members receive a dis-

count on their Sam's Club membership including renewals. It pays, and saves, to be a member of the Chamber!



Annual Golf Tournament & Gala!



Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament Oct. 15th to fundraise allowing the Chamber to continue to implement essential and valuable programs to business and community. Volunteers are part of a collective effort to improve both the business climate and the community at large.

Chambers of Commerce, as a whole, rely heavily on fundraising efforts to support their operating budgets. 25% of the Livingston Parish Chamber's operating budget is derived through volunteer efforts

Fundraisers and events of the chamber include the annual Golf Tournament, Gala, Denham Springs Christmas Parade, & Business Expo.

The Gala for 2012 was held with a great turn out of the premier fun event. Businesses of the Year were announced.

For 2013, the GALA Committee is shaking things up and plans to offer a RED CARPET THEME with the event with a date moving to February 2013. Be on the lookout and get your "Hollywood" on. Plan to dress like your favorite star at this Red Carpet Event!

Chairs: Jackie Dykes / GMFS & Sherry Mely/Iberia Bank

Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce named the Louisiana STATE Small CHAMBER of the YEAR!

State Chamber of the Year!



We grew from 220 to 415 members in one year! (53% Growth!) 50 new members in the first 3 months of 2012 alone! 80% increase in membership communications. Triple the number of contacts in our communications! Launched a new website, new bylaws in line with accreditation and best practices, stewardship of the members' finances, from 1 to 6 premier spon-

sors! Added an Installation Banquet, Business Expo, added relevant policies and board agreements, plus we are in a accreditation process which will raise our standards even more!

For the Community, we promoted and connected the Master Plan Committee, a job fair, Homeland Security, a non profit fair, scholarships, political forum, meet and

greet, promotion of community events and attention to your concerns! We were awarded a scholarship for the Centers for Chamber of Commerce Excellence for our leadership training.

We are extremely proud to bring this award to Livingston Parish!
April Wehrs, President/CEO



Speakers, Ribbon Cuttings, Networking

Over 125 events with just under 5000! in attendance were held including luncheons, ribbon cuttings, breakfasts, committee meetings, board meetings, planning meetings, business trainings, orientations and other gatherings.

General Membership Meetings included Livingston Parish President, Small Business Development

Center, Livingston Parish Council, Livingston Parish School Superintendent, Livingston Louisiana State Delegation and a breakfast featuring Mayors from across the parish.

Meeting sponsorships were a new opportunity this year and Skids Marks Tires and Auto Service owner, Miles Holley was our first sponsor. Followed by Our Lady of

the Lake, CEO, Scott Wester and Jacob Fakouri of E. Jacob Fakouri Construction.

Leads for Lunch is going strong averaging 55-60 per luncheon. All chamber events, ribbon cuttings, etc. are open to the membership!



First Guaranty Bank in Watson Ribbon Cutting

Businesses & Volunteers of the Year!



At the January Gala, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the Small, Medium and Large Business of the year.

Small Business of the Year:

Boyer, Hebert, Abels & Angelle, LLC

Medium Business of the Year:

Pelican State Credit Union

Large Business of the Year:

Hancock Bank

At the Installation Banquet, the Member of the Year, Board Member of the Year and Chairman's Award were presented.

Member of the Year:

Josh Prejean/ First Guaranty Bank

Board Member of the Year:

Sherry Mely/ Whitney Bank

Chairman's Award:

Executive Committee

Congratulations to all winners and please display your awards proudly!

Installation Banquet for 2013 will be even better!

Successful businesses make joining their local chamber of commerce part of their business plan.

The Chamber's public policy committee plays an important role in the parish!



Ambassador & Membership Committee

Welcoming new members and extending an opportunity to join the Livingston Parish Chamber is a role that we hope each member feels comfortable.

The Ambassador committee reaches out even further in welcoming new members by introducing them to other members and inviting them to sit with them at chamber func-

tions.

With this year's renewal process beginning in December, the Chamber will make sure each of our members knows the full benefits of their chamber membership and has the correct information to use their login and password for website access.

Soon a regular series of Chamber 101's will be held at the

Chamber office, to meet with other members and review the benefits and further their understanding of the functions of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce. If you feel your talents lie with offering others the opportunity to engage in the chamber, please consider joining this committee by contacting the Chamber Business Office.

Legislative & Governmental Affairs

One of the most important roles of a chamber of commerce is the formation of an active Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee.

The Livingston Parish Chamber has just that and continues to build on the past successes. The Chamber was an active participant in bringing Bass Pro

Shops to Denham Springs and supported the effort through signage expenditures, phones banks supporting the effort and the Chamber's Executive Committee met with officials and Bass Pro Shops. The Chamber also was an active supporter of the widening of I-12 and continues to support

the process to widen I2 plus other road and transportation projects.

A legislative agenda was approved this year and shared with our membership. We encourage you to sign up for this committee and bring your thoughts on issues which effect your business.

Thank you for a great year!



Premier Sponsors upgrade their membership and are included on select chamber correspondence, emails, the website and other great exposure opportunities. More available in 2013!

Board of Directors

2012

Board of Directors



Upcoming Roundtable Sessions

We know we have experts in our Chamber Membership and soon we will be asking you to meet with us to tap into your talents for a stronger business community.

We are also dedicated to providing business resources and offer free business counseling through the Small Business Development Cen-

ter at the Chamber Business Office the 4th Thursday of each month. Call to make an appointment and take advantage of this service to the business community. Start ups and current businesses are encouraged to participate.

If you have a topic for our roundtable discussion, please contact the Chamber.

Just one of the successes of Chamber grassroots efforts to bring Bass Pro to Livingston Parish.



Small print reads Paid for by the Chamber of Commerce.



Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce

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Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in Livingston Parish!



FIRST GUARANTY BANK



Premier

Sponsors!



Board of Directors/STATE CHAMBER of the YEAR!!

Officers

Regina Scott, *Chair of the Board*
North Oaks Health System

Shannon Bernard, *Incoming Chair*
Primerica

Margot May, *Outgoing Chair*
Arceneaux Communications

Sue Evarts, *Treasurer / Secretary*
Bancorp South

Kim Sanders, *Director at Large*
LA Champagne

Jackie Dykes, *Director at Large*,
GMFS Mortgage

April Wehrs, *President/CEO*
Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

Brian Abels,
Boyer, Abels, Hebert & Angelle, LLC

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Forrest Grove Plantation

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Tiger Electric

Ron Menville
Greystone Country Club

Susan Olivier
American Gateway Bank

Jolene Ott
Whitney Bank

Joshua Prejean
First Guaranty Bank

Earl Price
Richard Price Contracting

Jill Wyble
Our Lady of the Lake