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2023
Annual Report

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LIVINGSTON PARISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Report 2023

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The Annual Report is an official publication of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce.

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CHAMBER STAFF



**APRIL WEHR'S, IOM
PRESIDENT CEO
2011-PRESENT**



**CHRISTINE PATRICK
VP OF OPERATIONS
2018-PRESENT**



**LAUREN BARNES
MEMBER SPECIALIST
2020-PRESENT**

2023 Board

James Moak
Gulf South Technology

Angela Alessi
Holmes Building Materials

Chad Bacas
Forte & Tablada, Inc.

Shannon Bernard
Primerica

John Blount
Blount General Contractors

Todd Caruso
Todd Caruso, Attorney

Sybil Cotten
Our Lady of the Lake

Kevin Foster
First Guaranty Bank

David Hofstetter
Restoration 1

Ross Kinchen
The Kinchen Group

Steve McLin
McLin Construction, LLC

Deric Murphy
Quality Engineering

Brandy Robertson
Brandy Robertson State Farm

Trey Sanders
Hannis T. Bourgeois

Regina Scott
North Oaks Health System

Kacie Stewart
Kalon Clinic

April Wehrs
Chamber President

2023 BUSINESS IS UP

In 2023, business was on the move. Almost every number we track at the chamber was up. Business engagement, new members, renewed members, all of it. The numbers and growth through our online performance and representation of chamber members is impressive and are highlighted in this report. Our online directory had over **742,000 hits**, bringing recognition to the local businesses of the parish.

While a short document could never cover the reality of the chamber's culture and ability to convene business in our parish, this annual report is a glimpse of the year.

To help tell the story, we've included links throughout to dive a little deeper into the year. We hope you are as proud of being part of this comprehensive offering to business and a better Livingston Parish as we are to have you.

For 2024, we plan to focus even more on what is important to you. Let's continue to make business and Lp better!

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



2023 BOARD CHAIR
JAMES MOAK
GULF SOUTH TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



1,834,394

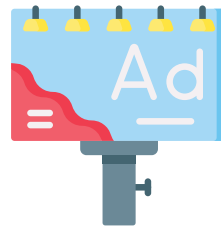
ONLINE REACH 2023

Chamber Members benefitted from the online member directory reach of **742,631** searches coupled with social media reaches to round out a whopping **1,834,394** online reach.



1,151,623

Website Reach with
742,631 Member
Directory Searches



623,002

Member Directory
Searches Plus **323,023**
Banner Ad Impressions



802,400

Social Media Reach
inc. **84,135** Followers



39,761

Email Read
Correspondence

JOBS LISTINGS FOR MEMBERS

617,488

Views in Jobs Group

22,736

Web Job Hits

12,600

Group Members



How members use
the jobs feature to
fill open positions

ONLINE PRESENCE MATTERS

- Press - News Releases Feature
- Livingston Parish Business Blog
- Livingston Parish Jobs Board
- We manage 18 Facebook groups

Annual Meeting Highlights

THEME: LEVEL UP LP

Attendees: 275

Keynote: Woody Overton, host of Real Life Real Crime heard in 130 countries.

No stuffy meeting here as the Pre-Event Mixer featured music by local recording artist, **Thomas Cain**.



Left to Right: Michael O'Shelleo - Cox Business (Sponsor), James Moak - Chamber Board Chair, Thomas Cain - Local Recording Artist, Woody Overton - Award Winning Podcaster and April Wehrs - Chamber President/CEO.

LP Chamber Members Love LP & Community



2023 - Livingston Chamber Foundation

In 2023, \$30,785.00 dedicated funds were collected for local projects benefitting Livingston Parish. Since the Foundation was founded in 2017, over \$242,800.00 has been raised for local projects.



2023 - The Chamber spearheaded (and founded in 2022) the Adopt-A-Senior/Grandparent program, where 250 local seniors were adopted and given gifts from all 4 COA sites in the parish.



185 / 5,152
EVENTS / ATTENDEES

CONNECTIONS IN 2023



**Smaller Events 50 or
Less Attendees**
77 / Events
1674 / Registrations



**Leadership Development
Opportunities**
93 / Events
1531 / Registrations



**Signature Events with
200 or More Attendees**
5 / Events
1250 / Registrations



**Business Briefings
and Governmental**
10 / Events
734 / Registrations

INCLUDING

- 99 New Members
- 25,945 Employees / Jobs
- 36 Ribbon Cuttings
- 42 Ops to Intro your Business
- 73 Committee Meetings
- 3 Leadership Project Reveals
- 2 Candidate Forums
- 75 plus - Industry Updates

2023 - LP Women's Conference



Women's Leadership Special Event

In 2023, we all did it again. **Keynote Speaker - Lauren Haydel**, Fleurty Girl founder and owner shared her inspiring story and the controversy of who owns "Who Dat" that put her on the map. She took us through her struggles as a business owner, which started right here in Denham Springs, to her success and multiple locations.

Aimee' Gowland of ALG Style inspired the group with her talk on first impressions, how to create your own style, her take on skinny jeans and refining your closet.

Over 300 Registered 17 Expo Booths



Governmental Affairs Business Priorities

Business Briefings were held throughout the year along with the candidate forums. 6–8 times per year, an update on industry items that will impact our local business community are held. Each is preceded with a quick update on industries making headlines. The information is vital to members.

BUSINESS BRIEFING TOPICS

- Moratorium
- Zoning
- Housing Inventory
- Range Ave., Construction Update
- Broadband Expansion - chamber appointed seat on Link Up Livingston
- Master Plan Committee Updates
- ERTC - availability
- Flood Insurance 2.0 Premiums
- Education and 3rd Grade Reading Scores
- Carbon Capture Bills
- .45 Tax to Sunset in 2025



Chuck Spicer - OLOL New CEO
On why he chose Louisiana,
the future of health care



Chad Bacas - Forte & Tablada
Transportation updates on Cook
Road, Range and I-10



Matt Adams - AT&T
On fiber expansions in LP



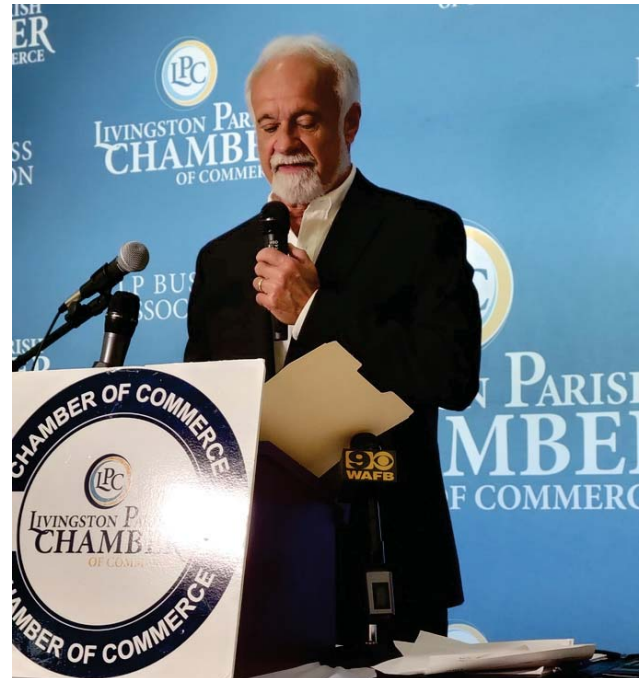
Trey Sanders - Hannis T. Bourgeois
Governmental Affairs Chair



2023 UPDATE DETAILS -
See all the updates linked
[here](#)

Governmental Affairs Representation

Forums were on the chamber calendar in 2023 as elections took center stage as parish and state seats made the headlines. Layton Ricks announcing he would not seek an additional term after serving 3 terms / 12 years. The parish’s population growth and residential development were hot topics in the election. Moratoriums and land use were common platforms through the election, with those opposing development winning a majority of the seats. Livingston Parish gained attention with hotly contested legislative seats.



Parish President Layton Ricks delivers his final official “State of the Parish” address where he lined out his administration’s accomplishments during his 12 years.

ELECTION NOTES

- Randy Delatte elected new Parish President with 71% of vote.
- 7 of 9 Council seats have new members.
- Hodges wins the Senate seat with 65%.
- 4 of the State Reps seats are new - 3 of the Senate seats are new.
- Sales tax to fund pay increases at LPPS is defeated.
- Library tax narrowly passes.
- Ard remains Sheriff by a close margin.

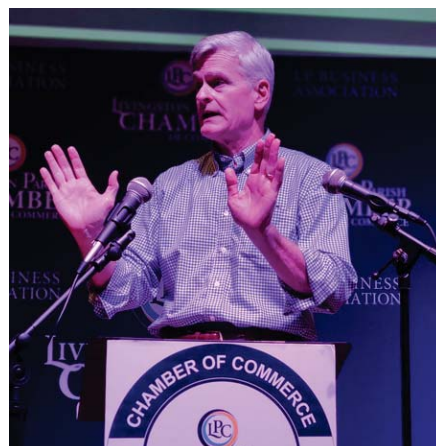


Parish President Elect - Randy Delatte with opponent Jeff Ard at the October Forum. Parish Council and Sheriff candidates also participated.

2023 UPDATE DETAILS - See all the updates linked here



Mayor “Jimmy” Watson
State of Walker



Senator Cassidy
Update from DC



LPPS Supt. Joe Murphy
On the proposed school tax



Leadership Class of 2023

Left to right: Front: Nathan Sanders, Jeffrey Jones, Allison James, David Addison, Michelle Parrish, Shelley Simmons, Rhonda Colar, Mallory Forbes, Zachary Gibbons, Destiny Voth, Lynda Gardiner, Glenn Lemoine, Tracy Bryson, Yolande Besse. Back Row: Joey Amadeo, Tab Lobell, Emily Chustz, Traci Miley, Kenny Bayhi, Jeff Ard, Seth Mosby, Paul Brignac, Terrance Collins, Erika Washington.

LIVE2LEAD

LIVE2LEAD

One in-person and 2 private showings of Live2Lead in 2023.

The Chamber holds the exclusive on this program in our area.

Leading Through Committees

73 Committee Meetings in 2023 offer collaboration and leadership. 2023 Committee Chairs:

Governmental Affairs Trey Sanders	Ambassador Shawn Brady	Chamber Foundation John Blount	LBN Joey Amadeo	Golf Chad Bacas
Education Committee Brandy Robertson	Women's Angela Alessi	LYP Caitlyn Fontenot	Alumni Chasity Chauvin	Gala Kacie Stewart

Education - Student Career Conference



Holden High, Albany High

Students participated in the full day conference where they learned how to work in teams, pitch a business idea, ethics and career opportunities. Chamber Education - Workforce Initiatives

French Settlement High

The Chamber set up at the French Settlement High School Career-Job Expo. We invited members of our Young Professionals program to attend and talk with students on their career plans, plus offer them career tracks on various employment options.



LIVINGSTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Ages 21 - 40
Members - 70
Events & Meetings - 12

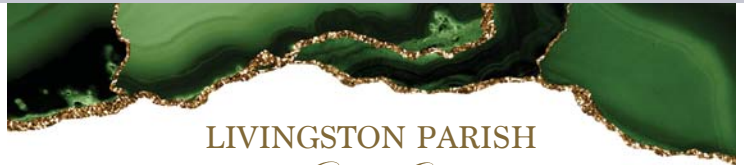
Followers
1137 - Facebook
465 - Instagram



GALA

Theme: An Evening in Dublin
Registered: 275
Date: March 17, 2023

Proceeds benefit the community initiatives of the Chamber including Leadership projects, Foundation, Adopt-A-Senior and more.



LIVINGSTON PARISH

Gala

*an Evening
in Dublin*



GOLF OUTING 28TH ANNUAL

2023 Golf Outing Hole Sponsors showed up. Always a sell-out with the best sponsors, players and committee.

Theme: “Monster Mash”

Attendees: 320 plus

Teams: 38

Hole set-ups: 35, a record, hole sponsors set on the course

[See all the fun photos here.](#)



Hannis T. Bourgeois wins Best Hole Set Up with “Mali-Boo” Barbie



Forte & Tablada - 3rd Place
Frankenstein & Mad Scientists

Winning teams - [See all the team photos here.](#)

- 1st place,
 - Blount General Contractors
- 2nd place,
 - Madden Home Design
- 3rd place,
 - McLin Construction



Presented by REV Business



First Guaranty Bank
2nd Place
Dodgeball



TWRU - 4th Place Zombie Mania



North Oaks - Longest Sponsor



Council on Aging - “Outdoor Oasis”



Project Reveal Date - October 5, 2023

This project provided a wide sidewalk that leads to a large outdoor seating area which includes accessible picnic tables and benches. The project also provides elevated planter boxes so that the seniors can enjoy gardening, while providing herbs to the kitchen. This project is a collaboration of the Chamber's Leadership Livingston Program, Livingston Chamber Foundation, the Livingston Council on Aging and the City of Denham Springs.



Project Impact

Funds Raised - **\$19,500**

Sponsors - **11**

Volunteer Hours - **200+**

Impacted - **26,000 seniors**



See all the sponsors and more project details here



City of Denham Springs Mayor Landry with Chamber officials, Council on Aging officials and seniors at the project reveal.



Project group members: L to R: Leslie McKinney, Kayla Coots, Kim Galloway, Kim Decelle, Kathleen Abels, Travis Tharp and LeAnn Stelly - Not pictured: Bradley Ward

First Responders Monument



Project Reveal Date - March 8, 2023

The First Responders Monument is a public place of recognition to show appreciation to first responders - those who are dedicated to serve and protect our communities. It is located in Sidney Hutchinson Park and is a collaboration with the Chamber's Leadership Livingston Program, the City of Walker and the Livingston Chamber Foundation.

Project Impact

Value - \$120,000 plus

Sponsors - 70

Volunteer Hours - 400+

Impacted - 40,000



Visit the project



City of Walker Mayor "Jimmy" Watson delivers remarks at the Project Reveal. The project started as a small tribute and expanded to a larger tribute.



Project group members: Ross Kinchen, Nancy Kimble, Roslyn Gutierrez, Bobbi Jo Guerin, Andrea White, Kelsie Moak, Sayra Velazco



Small Business Award
Paiges Pantry La



Medium Business Award & Mainstreet Award - La Carreta | Denham



Legacy Business Award - Parish Ready Mix



Women's Leadership Awards
Kathy Maust, Sherry Mely, Angela Alessi, Holly Rogers - not pictured Nancy Tomasich



Large Business - Pipe & Steel Industrial



Livingston Future 5 Awards
Mike Juneau, Jessie Stewart, Nathan Sanders, Katelyn Cockerham and Ray Bergeron



New Business
The Beauty Bar Spa



Community Impact
Livingston Parish SADD

Pupil Appraisal Center - PAC Can Play



Project Reveal Date - June 14, 2023

The Pupil Appraisal Center (PAC) houses Child Search, a department that assures all children (age 3-21) who have a disability and need special education and/or special services are identified, located, and evaluated. This project created a safe outdoor space, complete with a covered awning, break area, artificial turf, evaluation equipment, and privacy fencing for employees to conduct the evaluations. In collaboration with the Livingston Parish Public Schools, Livingston Parish Chamber's Leadership Program and the Livingston Chamber Foundation.



Project before and after photos shows the transformation of the site.

Project Impact

Value - \$ 40,000.00

Sponsors - 19

Volunteer Hours - 250 +

Impacted - 470 students



See all the sponsors and more project details here



Project group members: L-R Front Row: David Addison, Michelle Parrish, Allison James, Back: Emily Chustz, Nathan Sanders, Jeff Ard, Joey Amadeo, Shelley Simmons

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

LIVINGSTON PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Source: U.S. Census, www.census.gov

Population, April 1, 2020 unless otherwise noted

Livingston Parish (*Est. July 1, 2022)	148,425	Livingston	1,877
Albany	1,235	Port Vincent	646
Denham Springs (*Est July 1, 2022)	9,356	Springfield	427
French Settlement	1,073	Walker (*Est July 1, 2022)	6,388
Killian	1,177		

Age		Sex	
Age 65+	14.10%	Females	50.60%
Age 18-64	54.40%	Males	49.40%
Age Under 18 years	25.20%		
Age Under 5 years	6.30%		

Education Level		Income	
High School or higher, age 25+, 2018-2022	88.70%	Median Household Income	\$ 77,978
Bachelor's Degree or higher, age 25+, 2018-2022	21.70%	Per Capita Income (Last 12 mos)	\$ 34,237

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Source: Livingston Parish Public Schools

Number of Schools Reporting	44
Total Number of Students	27,105
Females	48.60%
Males	51.40%
Economically Disadvantaged	70.90%

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS

Source: Livingston Parish Public Schools

Total Collections, Fiscal Year End Jun 2023	\$ 154,123,230
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ASSESSMENTS

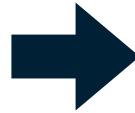
Source: Livingston Parish Assessor's Office

Assessed Value (Total for Parish)	\$ 958,619,397	Assessed/Taxable Value (Personal Property)	\$ 97,553,200
Taxable Value* (Total for Parish)	\$ 686,635,612	Assessed/Taxable Value (Public Service)	\$ 50,013,450
Assessed Value (Real Property - Residential/Commercial)	\$ 811,052,747		
Taxable Value* (Real Property - Residential/Commercial)	\$ 539,068,962		

*Taxable Value After Homestead Exemption

Chamber Members

Find Chamber Members
with our
**ONLINE MEMBER
DIRECTORY**
livingstonparishchamber.org



SEARCH BY:

- Business Name
- Business Category
- Location
- Women Owned Business
- Veteran Owned Business

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation links: Member Login, BUSINESS DIRECTORY (circled in red), and JOIN THE CHAMBER. Below the header is a secondary navigation menu with links: ABOUT US, MEMBER SERVICES, EVENTS, Business Resource, GET INVOLVED, LEADERSHIP, Livingston Parish, and BUSINESS LISTING (circled in red). The main content area is titled "Livingston Parish Business Directory" and features a search bar with fields for "Keyword", "All Categories...", and "All Locations...", along with a "Q go" button. Below the search bar is a navigation bar with letters A-Z and a "0-9" button. The directory lists several categories: Accounting & Financial Services, Albany Business, Arts & Entertainment, Automotive Services, Award Winning Businesses, and Banks & Credit Unions & Mortgage.



**CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP
ON YOUR PHONE WITH
MEMBERPLUS APP**



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Access

TOP INVESTORS FOR 2023

