

Chairman's MESSAGE



CHAD HEBERT

2019 Chairman of the Board
Safeworx Safety Solutions, LLC

Entering our 2nd month of the year, the committees and board are poised and ready to continue our path of achieving our short-term goals mentioned in the last article. We've tied our short-term goals to the long-term goals voted on by our board from input from

our members. To achieve these goals, we have identified specific measurable tasks that we will work towards accomplishing this year. These tasks by committee are:

Chamber Development – LaDonna Cruse, Division Chair

- Implement the mentor program for members businesses "Ask the Pro."
- Expand on the Business 2 Business event
- Increase partnership activities with other chambers and business organizations.

- Evaluate ways we can work with membership during difficult economic times.
- Evaluate and establish better ways to reach out to non-members and members.
- Evaluate our current events and possible new events. (Golf Tournament, Business After Hours, Cornhole Tournament, Lunch with a Pro, Chamber Cares, etc.)
- Review and improve the Diplomat program.

Community Development – Dr. Kristine Strickland, Division Chair

- **Health Committee –**
- Research and provide information to businesses to assist in improving the workplace setting.
- Create a resource database for wellness resources in the parish that can be used to refer employers/employees for various needs.
- Workforce Wellness Expo – continue to evaluate and improve effectiveness of this event.
- Monitor health insurance reform and report any changes to membership.

Education Committee –

- Work with TPSD and postsecondary institutions to assist in developing clearer pathways for the Jump Start Program.
- Partner with LUMCON to find ways we can assist with the new Industrial Maritime Education Complex.
- Develop a formalized process to facilitate Chamber businesses using internships from Nicholls and Fletcher
- Enhance relationships with business and industry for apprenticeships.

Economic Development / Infrastructure – Mitch Marmande, Division Chair

- Research the prospect of becoming our own DOTD District, educate our membership on this issue, and take action when appropriate.
- Partner with Fletcher, TEDA, and Airport Commission to assist in expanding the drone industry at the Houma-Terrebonne Airport
- Monitor the possible projects that LASAFE will spend \$6M on and a take action as needed.
- Continue to work toward possible funding solutions for completing Bayou Country Sports Park including how we can improve the current tax base.

Government Activities – Bill Eroche, Division Chair

- Coordinates-all political efforts of the Chamber.
- Monitor parish council and school board agendas and attend when needed.
- Evaluate list of state boards and determine what boards we will monitor.
- Establish regular meetings with parish president and legislative delegation.
- Monitor PAR, LABI, and CABL opinions and positions and address those that affect our region.
- Keep up with upcoming elections and assess possibilities of forums and/or debates.

If you are interested in participating in any of these initiatives, contact the Chamber at (985) 876-5600.

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