

Chairman's Message



CHAD HEBERT

2019 Chairman of the Board
Safeworx Safety Solutions, LLC

As we start a new school year, I would like to report on our education committee, chaired by Dr. Kristine Strickland Chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College. This committee has been proactive in leading an engage relationship between the local school system and the Chamber. With last year elections, the Terrebonne Parish School Board received a major facelift having six of the nine members

new to the school board. With this change, Dr. Strickland hosted 'meet and greet' socials in February and July between the Chamber Board of Directors and Terrebonne Parish School Board. The socials were well received by all members and continued to move both entities in a positive direction.

In April, Dr. Strickland and I presented to Terrebonne Parish School Board's Education Committee on the Chamber's 13 points on Education. See below.

1. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce recognizes that for learning to take place, the safety and security of our students must be a primary concern. The Chamber supports the efficient and effective development and deployment of security and safety measures.

2. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports greater access in schools to resources in support of mental health issues and troubled youth programs.

3. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports opportunities for the dedication of resources that recognize and reward excellence in teaching.

4. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports the development of a well-defined long-term master plan with a clear vision, mission, and goals that provide a framework for decision making.

5. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports career pathways to train and prepare students for the workforce including internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning opportunities.

6. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports opportunities for all educational institutions, pre-K to 12, and post-secondary, to collaborate to best utilize the resources of each organization.

7. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports Universal Pre-K and agrees with research that shows that students who are given the advantage of attending a pre-K program develop much needed emotional, academic, and social skills they may otherwise lack when entering kindergarten.

8. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of LUMCON and advocates for the continued development of LUMCON in support of its mission and contributions to the local community.

9. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce recognizes the need for greater support from business and industry partners and seeks specific support from these organizations for underper-

forming schools.

10. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports the development and implementation of strategies that provide support for new learning methodologies and specifically for additional exposure in schools and teacher training for technological advancements in providing education.

11. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports the remediation of students who are not college-ready in math, English, and reading during high school. The Chamber further supports the collaboration of the technical college, the region's university and secondary schools in this process.

12. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce recognizes that all children learn differently and that vibrant communities need a variety of educational settings where children can learn, and families can feel confident and comfortable with school options that align with their core beliefs.

13. Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce recognizes the variety of agencies within the community that is focused on supporting students and their families. The Chamber believes that the coordination of the work of the agencies and the work of the schools will enhance the educational opportunities for all students in the Parish.

The Terrebonne Parish School Board was receptive to the Chamber's 13 points on Education. Many of the school board members stated positive comments and was encouraged by building a stronger relationship with the Chamber. I'm optimistic and foresee cohesive relationship between the Chamber and Terrebonne Parish School Board.

To update you on our government activities, the Chamber is hosting three forums this month at Fletcher Technical Community College in Schriever. The forums will focus on Senate District 20, Terrebonne Parish President and Sheriff seats. This issue will feature each candidate and their political platform. I encourage you to attend the forums and educate yourself before voting this October. The Chamber does not endorse any one candidate and features no favoritism. I encourage our Chamber members and the community to get involved with the forums and submit questions to nicol@houmachamber.com or call Nicol Blanchard at 985-876-5600.

We are working hard for our members and the community. The information we provide will hopefully help you make informed decisions. The Chamber mission is "Uniting Community and Building A Stronger Terrebonne!"

Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce to Host Public Forums for Upcoming Elections

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce will host a series of public forums featuring the candidates for Terrebonne Parish President, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff, and Senate District 20. The forums will take place as the following:

- Terrebonne Parish President: Monday, August 19th
- Terrebonne Parish Senate District 20: Tuesday, August 20th
- Terrebonne Parish Sheriff: Monday, August 26th

All forums will take place in the Fletcher Technical Community College Atrium on 1407 Highway 311 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce is passionate about supporting community issues and remains unbiased in candidate choices. The Chamber will provide forums that are open to the public and all media outlets. They will be live streamed on the Houma Chamber Facebook page. Due to time constraints, only the panelist will be able to ask candidates questions, however, the public has the opportunity to submit questions to nicol@houmachamber.com prior to the forums by August 12th.

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce will maintain the absolute confidentiality and fairness to all candidates. All questions will be secured by the Chamber executive vice chair of the government activities committee. No member, board member or any other individual will have access or knowledge of the questions prior to the forums.

For any questions concerning the candidate forums, please contact the Chamber office at (985) 876-5600 or email info@houmachamber.com.



Raylan J. Alleman, CPA

Houma - Thibodaux

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