

MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEKLY REPORT

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201

www.monroe.org • communications@monroe.org

Register Now for 2012 NELA Career Fair

Area employers are searching for good employees and they hope to find them at the 2012 Northeast Louisiana Career Fair. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Monroe Civic Center. Admission to the event is free and open to area jobseekers.

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Atmos Energy, CHASE, Gardner Denver Thomas, Brookshire's Distribution, The News-Star, the City of Monroe, Opus and the Louisiana Workforce Commission are hosting the Career Fair to help connect local businesses with people looking for jobs.

In the past, this type of Career Fair has proven to be an excellent opportunity for applicants to connect with several employers at a single location. It can be a win, win situation for both job applicants and employers.

Staff members with the local Workforce Boards and the Louisiana Workforce Commission will be available to help job applicants register with the Workforce Commission's job bank for work search assistance. Several area training providers will also be on hand to provide information for people who want to upgrade their skills and training.

The event is free for anyone looking for a job. The fee for employers who would like to have a booth is \$75, which includes a skirted table and lunch for two exhibitors. For more information or to register, please call Sue Nicholson at 318-807-4015.

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Victoria's Secret Cinema 10
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Tuesday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m.**-Monroe City Council will meet at City Hall Council Chambers.
- **Tuesday, January 3 at 12 noon**-Ambassador's Club will meet at the Atrium. Cost to attend is \$12. Rodney Ray with R-Squared will speak.
- **Tuesday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m.** - Ribbon Cutting for H&R Block. The business is located at 1619 Louisville Avenue.
- **Wednesday, January 11 at 12 Noon**-The Greater Ouachita Parish Port Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber office.
- **Thursday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m.**-NELA Manufacturer's Council will meet at the Monroe Chamber office. For information, call 807-4015.
- **Thursday, January 19 at 8:00 a.m.** - Dr. Joe May, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), will speak to the Northeast Louisiana business community regarding the LCTCS vision and initiatives for 2012 and beyond. The meeting will be held at Louisiana Delta Community College.
- **Thursday, January 19 at 5:00 p.m.**- Grand Opening for PPM Consultants new headquarters. The business is located at 1600 Lamy Lane.
- **Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m.**-SAVE THE DATE! Monroe Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet. Key note speaker is Gary Hockstra, VP of Manufacturing and Engineering and EH & S for Dow Advanced Materials Division. Tickets are \$37.50 per person and \$300 for a reserved table of 8. For tickets or more information, call Ruthie Wheatley at 807-4004.
- **Tuesday, February 7-Friday, February 10**-Monroe Chamber and City of Monroe annual visit to Washington D.C.




91st Annual Meeting & Banquet

Featuring
Gary Hockstra



Vice President,
Manufacturing, Engineering and EH&S
Dow Advanced Materials Division

Tuesday, January 31
Reception - 5:30 Dinner - 6:30
Monroe Civic Center
Conference Hall

- 
- Sponsors:
- ANGUS Chemical**
 - Associated Business Printing**
 - Atmos Energy**
 - CenturyLink**
 - Chase**
 - City of Monroe**
 - Delta Style Magazine**
 - Entergy**
 - FunRadio 92.7fm**
 - Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale, & Soignier**
 - The News Star**
 - OPUS Broadcasting**
 - Patty Stewart Photography**
 - Pecanland Mall**
 - Progressive Bank**
 - P & S Surgical Hospital**
 - St Francis Medical Center**
 - The Radio People**
 - Vantage Health Plan**

Registration Deadline: January 15

For more information, Contact Monroe Chamber at 318-323-3461 or rwheatley@monroe.org

Advance payment required. No-shows are responsible for the cost of reservation(s).

Please return this form to: Monroe Chamber of Commerce
212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201
Call 323-3461 or Fax to 812-7594 or
Email: rwheatley@monroe.org

MEMBERS
\$37.50 per person or \$300 per table
NON-MEMBERS
\$45 per person or \$360 per table

Yes, I'll be attending the 2011 Annual Meeting and Banquet .

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ person (s), or \$ _____ for _____ tables.

Company Name _____ Contact Person _____
Persons attending _____

Phone _____ Address _____
Credit Card # _____ Expiration _____ Signature _____

APPLY NOW FOR 2012 LEADERSHIP OUACHITA

The Monroe Chamber is currently taking applications for the 2012 Leadership Ouachita class. Nominations are encouraged from all segments of the community. Individuals may apply or nominate those they feel best exemplify the philosophy of Leadership Ouachita. The application deadline for the 2012 class is Friday, December 30, 2011. Applications may be picked up at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce or interested parties may call Chamber Events Director, Daphne McClish at 807-4018 or dmcclish@monroe.org for more information.

The purpose of Leadership Ouachita is to develop and empower the emerging leaders of northeast Louisiana and help them gain the skills they need to transform the region into the best place to live and do business. Class members engage in a series of sessions focused on education, health care, workforce development, infrastructure and government.

The program also provides insight on public decision making, practical and in-depth discussions on public issues pertinent to Ouachita Parish, an expanded knowledge and understanding of the community in which we live, and the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with growing and established leaders in a neutral environment.

Dr. Joe May to address Business Community

Dr. Joe May, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), will speak to the Northeast Louisiana business community on January 19 regarding the LCTCS vision and initiatives for 2012 and beyond. The meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. at the main building of Louisiana Delta Community College. The meeting will be hosted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the other chambers in the region. Business leaders are encouraged to attend. Business leaders are encouraged to attend.

Chamber Releases 2012 High Growth/High Demand Publication

On December 27, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce will release the 2012 Workforce Solutions Publication featuring the top high growth - high demand careers in Northeast Louisiana. The magazine includes information on area colleges and universities and the programs they provide to train for the featured careers. In addition, the publication outlines the steps required to apply for financial aid and reviews various programs available at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana Delta Community College and the Northeast Louisiana Technical College. The publication is a great planning tool for high school juniors and seniors, as well as adult job seekers who want to find a living wage job with benefits.

The publication will be provided to high school juniors in Ouachita Parish and additional copies will be available at the Monroe Chamber office and at the Louisiana Works office on Louisville Ave.

The publication is sponsored by CHASE, ANGUS Chemical, and the Scott Foundation. Additional support is provided by Entergy, Strauss Interests, and the City of Monroe. In addition, the following people served on the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Workforce Solution Task Force and provided the editorial content for the publication: Stephanie Smith Rivers, VP Workforce Development Division for the Monroe Chamber; Lisa Miller, Dr. Eric Pani, Dr. Ron Berry and Dr. Paula Thornhill with the University of Louisiana at Monroe; Dave Merchant with Louisiana Tech University, Margie Mixon with the Northeast Louisiana Technical College; Dr. Luke Robins, Darian Atkins and Bob Hammack with Louisiana Delta Community College; Doretha Bennett with Ouachita Parish Workforce Investment Board; Beadie Lewis and Ruth Jones with Louisiana Works; Paul West and Juanita Woods with NOVA; Angie White with the Northeast Louisiana Economic Partnership, Jeff Lynn with Louisiana Economic Development and Paul Hutcheson and Sue Nicholson with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce.

MONROE CHAMBER ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 RAMBIN-SILVERSTEIN AWARD

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2011 Rabin-Silverstein Award, which is presented annually to a resident of Ouachita Parish who has displayed outstanding leadership and service to the community. The nominee does not have to be a member of the chamber.

Any resident of Ouachita Parish who has demonstrated achievement, leadership and service for the benefit of the greater community is eligible for nomination.

The final selection is based on the person's contributions to the community over many years of service, evidence of their leadership ability, and evidence of their personal, professional and business integrity. The candidate must have a record of exceptional volunteerism and have demonstrated unselfish dedication to the betterment of Ouachita Parish.

Past recipients of this prestigious award include: George Moses, J. C. Loftin, W.L. Howard, Governor James A. Noe, Garland Shell, T. Arthur Grant, H.M. James, George Phillips, Jim Williams, R. Lee Vanderpool, Jr., Clifford Strauss, John T. Luffey, T.H. Scott, Grayson Guthrie, Paul Fink, Ed Whetstone, George T. Walker, Pat Regan, Baily Grant, George Rorex, George Riser, Saul A. Mintz, June Sherrouse Holmes, Dr. August Danti, Nelson Abell, Jr., Kitty Degree, Clarke M. Williams, James A. Altick, William D. Sanders, Harvey Hales, Hugh McDonald, Lawson Swearingen, Jr., James W. Moore, Jr., Tom Nicholson, Melvin Rabin, B.D. Robinson, George Cummings, III, George Mouk, Guy Barr, Melinda Mintz, Van Pardue, Roy Johns, Joe and Linda Holyfield, Sharon Taylor, Malcolm Maddox and Morris Mintz.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office at 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100 or by calling 323-3461. All nominations must be received no later than Friday, December 30, 2011.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2011 KITTY DEGREE FOUNDATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN BUSINESS

In 2003, through her involvement in and dedication to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Kitty DeGree of The Kitty DeGree Foundation, envisioned an opportunity for the Monroe Chamber to recognize people in the community who exemplify excellence in business. As a result, she established the Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in Business. It is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievements as a business leader throughout their career.

The Monroe Chamber is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in Business. The award will be presented at the 92nd Monroe Chamber Banquet scheduled for January, 2012.

To qualify, nominees must meet the following criteria: 1) Owned and/or was in a major administrative level position at a business(s) in Ouachita Parish over a span of at least 20 years (currently active or recently retired). 2) Assisted in expansions, acquisitions, and/or growth of the business(s) resulting in new products or services, increased profitability and/or additional employment. 3) Showed exceptional vision and ingenuity in responding to and overcoming adversities, while exhibiting outstanding professionalism in business.

Past recipients of this prestigious award include: Glen Post, Sam Ruben, Sister Anne Marie Twohig, Sol Rosenberg, Clyde Webb, Don Beach, Jim Bershen and Dr. Terry King.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office at 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100 or by calling 323-3461. All nominations must be received no later than December 30, 2011. The nominee does not have to be a member of the chamber.

Find Great Jobs and Great Places to Work!

2012 NELA Louisiana Career Fair

Visit with Employers On-Site!

- Learn about job training opportunities
- Bring several copies of your resume
- Professional dress recommended
- Bring a Valid ID
- Bring your social security number and past employer information
- Be prepared for Employer Interviews



Wednesday, February 22, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Monroe Civic Center Conference Hall

The Northeast Louisiana Career Fair is proudly hosted by:

Brookshire's
 food & pharmacy



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Commerce
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communications@monroe.org

Website
www.monroe.org

The Monroe Chamber's mission
is to lead in the creation
of an environment in which
our businesses thrive.

Monroe-West Monroe Business and Professional Women

January 10, 2012 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Guest Speaker
Hollis Conway**

Topic: Raising the Bar -The Importance of Mentoring

Did you know that January is National Mentoring Month? Do you have a mentor? Are you a mentor? Mentors can help you navigate the corporate terrain or advise you in one or more particular career development areas. Come hear Hollis Conway of Overcoming Obstacles, Inc., speak on the importance of mentoring and how it can benefit your career!

Hollis Conway of Overcoming Obstacles, Inc. is rapidly becoming one of America's leading motivational and inspirational speakers. With over 10 years experience as one of the world's most dominant athletes, Hollis has fashioned his expertise into world-class programs that are able to help you get the results you desire!

The public is invited to attend. The luncheon is held at the Atrium, 2001 Louisville Avenue, Monroe, LA is \$12.00. RSVP by noon on January 9 by calling Peggy Wells @ [318-665-5516](tel:318-665-5516) or email peggywells1508@comcast.net or Janis Guyton, President at [318-342-9800](tel:318-342-9800) (after 7pm) or email janisguyton@att.net.