

MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEKLY REPORT

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201

www.monroe.org • communications@monroe.org

91st ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce's 91st Annual Meeting and Banquet was held Tuesday, January 31st at the Monroe Civic Center Conference Hall. The evening began with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 6:30 p.m. Emcee for the evening was Harvey Hales, with Shelter Insurance and a former chairman of the Monroe Chamber. Keynote speaker was Gary Hockstra, Vice President for Manufacturing, Engineering and EH & S for Dow Advanced Materials Division.

"We were honored to have Gary join us for our banquet," said Paul Hutcheson 2011 Monroe Chamber Chairman and Northeast Louisiana Market President for IberiaBank. We recognize that Dow has a huge investment in our community at the ANGUS plant in Sterlington. We are very proud of their continued success," he added.

At the event, Hutcheson provided a recap of 2011 that included the Chamber's opposition to the 2011 OCC tax, the organization's advocacy for keeping a north south 5th congressional district and fighting to ensure Monroe kept strong legislative districts as the state addressed redistricting. In addition, the chamber continued to work to secure funds for major infrastructure projects throughout the community.

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8. February Ambassador's Club to Meet at the Clairon Inn & Suites

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Monday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m.**-Ouachita Parish Police Jury will meet at the Parish Courthouse.
- **Tuesday, February 7 at 12 p.m.**-State of the City Address will be held at the Monroe Civic Center arena.
- **Tuesday, February 7 at 5:30 p.m.**-NELA Film Association will meet at the Monroe Chamber Board Room.
- **Tuesday, February 7-Friday, February 10**-Monroe Chamber and City of Monroe annual visit to Washington D.C.
- **Wednesday, February 8 at 12 Noon**-The Monroe Chamber Ambassador's will meet at Clarion Inn and Suites for a Mayoral Forum. Cost to attend is \$12 per person and includes lunch.
- **Saturday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m.**-Krewe of Janus Mardi Gras Parade
- **Tuesday, February 14 at 12:00 p.m.**-LABI Lunch will be held at the Monroe Civic Center. Cost to attend is \$25. To RSVP, please call Daphne McClish at 807-4018.
- **Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m.**-Monroe City Council will meet in City Hall Council Chambers
- **Wednesday, February 15 at 12:00 p.m.**-The Greater Ouachita Port Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber office.
- **Thursday, February 16**-The 2012 Class of Leadership Ouachita will be announced and will begin their opening retreat.
- **Thursday, February 16 at 1:00 p.m.**-The NELA Film Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber Office.
- **Friday, February 17 at 3:00 p.m.**-The Monroe Chamber Governmental Committee will meet with Sheriff Elect Jay Russell and Craig Rambin. The meeting will be held at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Office.
- **Wednesday, February 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**-The Northeast Louisiana Career Fair will be held at the Monroe Civic Center. Cost for a booth is \$75 and includes lunch. For more information, please call 807-4015.

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LED Hosts Tax Incentive Workshop

Louisiana Economic Development is scheduled to host a free Business Incentives Services Seminar and Clinic in Monroe at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, LA. Both seminars and clinics are open to small business owners, certified public accountants, bankers and potential business owners interested in learning how to take advantage of the state's financial incentives provided through LED.

Seminar participants will find out about program rules and application processes for: Enterprise Zone, Industrial Tax Exemption, Restoration Tax Abatement, Quality Jobs and Small Business Loan Guaranty.

Clinics are new to the program and will allow opportunities for participants to learn about the certification processes for: Enterprise Zone Program Employee Certification Report (ECR) or the Quality Jobs Program Annual Certification Report (ACR). Participants are encouraged to bring any items needed to complete the particular certification and work with program administrators on site. View the requirements for the [ECR](#), [ACR \(Pre-Act 387\)](#), or [ACR \(Post-Act 387\)](#).

View the 2012 Business Incentives Seminars and Clinics Schedule [here](#).

Certified Public Accountants can also earn Continuing Professional Education credits for attending the seminars.

For more information, contact Marylyn Friedkin, 225.342.9228 or Marylyn.Friedkin@la.gov.

SHRM Monthly Meeting Notice

*****Thursday, February 9, 2012 11:30AM - 1:00PM*****

Our meeting this month is being held at Delta Community College – 7500 Millhaven Road, Monroe LA

Our topic this month is Workplace Violence

Christine Oliveaux, our speaker, is a survivor of domestic violence who is now gainfully employed by the Ouachita Parish Family Justice Center as a client services advocate. Her job is more than just a routine 9 to 5 for her, it is a mission. She has played a major role in the fight against domestic violence in Ouachita Parish by actively lobbying at the State Capital in Baton Rouge for Code 14:35:3 which is the domestic abuse battery law.

Christine suffered every form of abuse and yet still stands. She will be joined by Lynn Brown Client / Survivor and Michelle Anderson, Assistant District Attorney State of LA.

The cost for NELA-SHRM members will be \$13 which covers the cost of the meal. The cost for non-members is \$20 per person. Please RSVP as soon as possible either directly back to me, or on our web site at www.nelashrm.org so we can provide the center with an accurate headcount.

Downtown Economic Development District Board of Commissioners to host luncheon

The Downtown Economic Development District Board of Commissioners will host a luncheon Monday, **February 27, 2012 at 11:30 am**. The luncheon will be held at the Warehouse No. 1 Restaurant in downtown Monroe.

The DEDD Board of Commissioners will report on their accomplishments and goals for the future. There will also be a time for questions and comments as well.

All guest interested in attending must make reservations and a \$15 payment by February 17, 2012 at noon. For more information on the luncheon or a reservation form contact Myra Gatling-Akers at 329-4947 or myra.gatling@ci.monroe.la.us

All payments can be mailed to:

DEDD
Attn: Myra Gatling-Akers
401 Lea Joyner Expressway
Monroe, LA 71201



Louisiana Association of Business & Industry

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE
NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

With Featured Speakers:



Dan Juneau
President



Jim Patterson
Vice President
Governmental Relations

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

MONROE CIVIC CENTER BAYOU ROOM



Registration Deadline - Friday, February 10

All late reservations will be assessed an additional \$5 per person

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, Monroe, LA 71201
Call 323-3461 or Fax to 812-7594 or
Email: dmcclish@monroe.org

\$25 per person
\$200 per table
Additional \$5 per person / \$40 per table
after deadline

Yes, I'll be attending the 2012 LABI Legislative Issues Conference.

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

Company Name _____ Contact Person _____
Persons attending _____

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

Delegation From Ouachita Parish Travels to Washington D.C.

Officials with the City of Monroe and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce will travel to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, February 7 to meet with members of the Louisiana congressional delegation and other federal government representatives. The trip is one of two that the Monroe Chamber makes every year to discuss long term community projects with elected officials and members of their Washington based staff.

The delegation includes Jay Marx, Chairman of the Monroe City Council, Cindy Rogers, Chairman of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Doug Salter with ANGUS Chemical and vice president of the chamber's governmental division, Otis Jones with the Southside Economic Development District, Sue Nicholson, President and CEO for the Monroe Chamber and Lori Reneau, chamber Executive Vice President.

The group will meet with the congressional delegates and their staffs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, the assembly from Monroe will also meet with Rodney Slater, former Secretary of Transportation and member of Patton Boggs Law Firm, which serves as the chamber's Washington D.C. lobbying firm. Norma Krayem and Pamela Welsh with Patton Boggs will meet with the Monroe group to review and advise on

several area projects. In addition, the group will meet with officials at the US Chamber for an update on several federal issues.

"This visit and the one we make in June are important to keep the entire Louisiana Congressional delegation updated and informed about projects in Ouachita Parish," said Rogers. "We have to work in concert with the elected officials and their staffs in order to see progress. The discussions we have with the Congressional delegation will be about finding long term solutions for the development of our community," she continued.

The group will return to Monroe on Friday following an Economic Development lunch, which is hosted by the Louisiana Metro Chambers of Commerce and Louisiana Economic Development.

Call for Volunteers

The Workforce Development Division of the Monroe Chamber is calling for Volunteers to assist the Career Coaches who are going in to every high school in the region and counseling with students about their career decisions. The coaches, under the direction of Ellen Hill at the NELA Technical College, would like to have a pool of volunteers on which to call to discuss their career field. Volunteers will speak to high school students about their field and answer questions students may have about that field of work. Volunteers will only be called upon about 6 or 7 times.

In addition, the chamber is seeking volunteers who are willing to assist with mentoring students who are trying to fill out the FASFA, which is the gateway for any financial assistance for college. The goal of the program is to help all students who want to go to college, whether it be technical, community or university, achieve their dream.

We commend Ellen for her work to pool the resources of the NELA Technical College, LA Delta Community College and area school systems to provide this important service to our high school students.

2012 State of the City of Monroe Address February 7

Mayor Jamie Mayo and the Monroe City Council are pleased to invite the public to attend the *Annual City of Monroe State of the City Address* Tuesday, February 7, 2012, in the Monroe Civic Center Arena. The reception begins at 11:30 am, and the address will start at approximately 12:00 pm.

The theme for this year's address is **"2012: Building For the Future!"** Mayor Mayo will discuss highlights & challenges from 2011, and city goals & challenges for 2012.

There will also be multiple informational displays, equipment and personnel from our city departments ready to share with you some of the projects and initiatives they have completed or will soon be working on. They will also be on hand to try to answer questions you may have about various things that are of concern or interest to the public.

Northeast Louisiana Career Fair 2012



Wednesday, February 22, 2012 • 10am-2pm
 Monroe Civic Center Convention Center

Booth only \$75
 includes skirted table and lunch for two exhibitors

GOLD

includes Booth 30 Day
 careerbuilder.com posting
 2x4 Sunday ad in *The News-Star*

\$225

\$959⁰⁰ Value

SILVER

includes Booth 30 Day
 careerbuildeccom posting

\$175

\$300⁰⁰ Value

BRONZE

includes Booth 2x4 Sunday ad
 in *The News-Star*

\$125

\$734⁰⁰ Value

Exhibitor Package Includes:
Career Fair Promotion

reaching potential employees
 across northeast Louisiana and
 southern Arkansas

**Hundreds of Active Job
 Seekers Prescreening** by the

Louisiana Department of
 Labor will be available
 Internet Access available

For information contact:
 318-807-4015 or snicholson@monroe.org or jgreene@gannett.com

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 the Louisiana Workforce Commission*

Meet Face to Face with Job Candidates and Recruit for:

- Customer Service Representatives • Financial Services
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Please return completed form and check to the
 Monroe Chamber of Commerce at
 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100,
 Monroe, LA 71201



91st Annual Banquet

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Hutcheson also recognized Cindy Rogers, Chairman for the St. Francis Medical Center Foundation, who will serve as chamber Chairman for 2012. Rogers outlined the chamber's plans for the coming year and noted that success also brings challenges. "We have seen good things happen in our community over the years because we have built a good foundation— through efforts led by dedicated volunteer and staff leaders who have worked hard, sometimes in the face of adversity." Rogers added "We will continue to develop a strong workforce, to build functional and connected infrastructure, and to create an environment that fosters business growth and development."

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Rambin-Silverstein Memorial Civic Award to Clyde White, President and CEO of Ouachita Independent Bank. White has spent almost 40 years in banking, and is a recognized and respected community leader - serving as chairman for several area non-profits, including the Monroe Chamber, United Way of Northeast Louisiana, the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, and serves or served on the following boards: ULM Foundation Board of Trustees, the Ouachita Economic Development Corporation, the Louisiana Delta Community College Foundation and the Glenwood Regional Medical Center Board. In addition, White is a pilot and volunteers his time to fly for Pilots for Patients. He serves as a church Elder for the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe and on the Texas Presbyterian Foundation Board of Trustees and is the incoming chair for Family Promise of Ouachita. He and his wife Pat have been married 42 years and have two sons-Slade and Reed and a granddaughter named Hanna.

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Kitty DeGree of the Kitty DeGree Foundation recognized William "Bucky" McElroy of James Machine Works as the recipient of the 2011 Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement in Business Award. McElroy was credited with taking James Machine Works from a small successful business to one that employees over 200 people in high paying jobs. Under his leadership he expanded the facility to include a new 120,000 square foot fabrication plant, in house quality control department, an in house safety department and an in house engineering and design department, as well as adding mobile cranes and equipment and ten field crews. The business is also a strong supporter of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, the Salvation Army, JS Clark Magnet School, the Monroe Chamber and numerous youth athletic teams.

Other special recognition awards presented during the program include the 2011 Bernard Heflin Ambassador of the Year Award that went to Janie Russ of Comfort Inn Suites who served as the 2010 and 2011 Chairperson of the chamber's Ambassador Club. The Chamber also recognized Ashley West with Progressive Bank who served as Chairperson of the 2011 Holiday Gala and Auction.

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



2011 Chamber Chairman Paul Hutcheson presents the gavel to 2012 Chairman Cindy Rogers.



Clyde White, 2011 Rambin Silverstein Award Recipient and His Wife Pat



Bucky McElroy, the 2011 Kitty DeGree Lifetime Achievement in Business Recipient



Susan McElroy Weaver and Paul McElroy accept the Kitty DeGree Award on behalf of their father Bucky McElroy



Janie Russ, Comfort Inn Suites receives the 2011 Bernard Heflin Ambassador of the Year Award.

Parent Power

“Empowering Parents As Teachers, Too!”
 PARENT + HOME = YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

Week of: February 5-11, 2012

Inspirational Thought:

“Kids spell love T-I-M-E.”

John Crudele, writer and founder of Partnership for Youth

Parent Tip:

2011-2012 State Testing Schedule

Phase 1 Testing: Grades 4,8,10 and 11 will be March 20, 2012

LEAP: English Language Arts (ELA) Writing and Math Constructed Response (written) items

GEE: Writing and Math/SC/SS (criterion referenced items)

Phase 2 Testing: Grades 3-11 will be April 12-13, 16-17, 2012

iLEAP: Complete Test

LEAP and GEE: (remaining test items)

For more information and practice: www.doe.state.la.us

www.louisianapass.org



Louisiana Department of Education

Home Activity:

Sounds Good!

Use these activities to help your youngster understand the science behind the sounds he hears:

1. Ask your child to touch the front of his/her neck while humming a tune. He'll feel the vocal cords vibrating (moving back and forth). Explain that vibrations make sounds. Suggest that he/she say their name softly, loudly, high, and low. How do the vibrations change?
2. Let your youngster stretch plastic wrap tightly over a glass or plastic bowl and sprinkle salt on top. Then, have him/her stand nearby and tap a cookie sheet with a ruler or plastic spoon. She/he will see the salt bounce around. Explain that vibrations travel from the cookie sheet to the bowl - the way sounds travel to reach his ears.

Source: Math + Science Connection



Monroe Chamber of
Commerce
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Phone: (318) 323-3461
Fax: (318) 812-7594

E-Mail:
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.



You are Invited to Attend the Monroe Chamber of Commerce
Ambassador's Club Meeting

on

Wednesday, February 8 at 12 noon
At The Clarion Inn & Suites on U.S. Highway 165

City of Monroe Mayoral Candidates Forum

Dr. Ray Armstrong

James E. Mayo

Johnny Riley

"Clint" Thomas

Cost for the event is \$12.00 per person, which includes lunch.
For more information, please call Sarita Daniel at 323-3461.