



# THE NAVIGATOR

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## Forty for Forty in Four

By Margie Buentello, President & CEO



In January, the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce will celebrate their 40th Anniversary. To start the celebration off, we aim to bring in 40 new members in four weeks. We plan to kick-off the drive on September 27 and end October 21. October 17 –21 is Texas Chamber of Commerce Week.

Dr. Charles Grant has graciously volunteered to chair the drive. In his twenty plus years as a volunteer, he has received two life memberships. A life membership is given to an individual when he/

she brings in \$2,500 in memberships in a twelve-month period. Grant knows the value of Chamber membership and believes, "If you live, work, do business, or want to do business in the North Channel Area, you should be a member."

Aaron Cox, CEO for the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives said "Shapiro Group, an Atlanta based research firm surveyed 2,000 Americans and found that chamber membership causes consumers to see a business in a more positive light and increases the likelihood that they will shop or purchase services from chamber member businesses. Although these figures vary slightly amongst size of organization and industry sector, the fact remains

that businesses that are members of their local chamber garner greater consumer credibility, trust, and loyalty than those that are not affiliated with the local chamber of commerce.

Taking this notion a step further, the study found that the greater the level of involvement of the company in the local chamber (i.e. serving on the board, sponsoring events, etc.) the greater the benefits. A company that is highly involved with its local chamber sees that consumers are 10 percent more likely to think that its products stack up better against its competition and 19 percent are more likely to think favorably of the company in general.

Businesses large and small are always on the

watch to ensure they are investing wisely and engaging in organizations and activities that are both productive and yield a good return. In short, membership in the chamber is not a luxury item; it is an absolute necessity for all businesses seeking to navigate highly competitive marketplace and sometimes difficult economic waters. Chamber membership gives business a competitive edge in their daily work."

You can help us reach our goal by referring a new member. Help us grow a bigger and better Chamber!

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**The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce's mission is to promote economic development and provide real solutions for business and community prosperity.**

## 2016 Board of Directors

**Lucia Bates—Chairman**

*LB Marketing Solutions*

**Adam Lund— Chairman-Elect**

*Capital Bank*

**Shalonda Dawkins— 1st Vice Chairman**

*United Community Credit Union*

**John Moore— Treasurer**

*Galena Park ISD*

**Christie Gates— Secretary**

*Sheldon ISD*

**Kimberly Gonzalez – Immediate Past Chair,**

*Platinum Copier Solutions*

Alice Adams, East Houston Reg. Med. Center  
 Marcile Barnett, Bates Collison Centers  
 Brandan Baird, Woodforest National Bank  
 Angela Broussard, Broussard's Real Estate Inv.  
 Rick Brown, Arkema, Inc.  
 Marlene Clowers, Congressman Gene Green  
 Ronny Dwairy, Bestway Oilfield  
 Pedro Garcia, Port of Houston Authority  
 June Harris, Halo Branded Solutions  
 Gretchen Knowles, Harris County Pct. 2  
 Erika Koehler, Wendel D. Ley YMCA  
 Kris Lynn, Channelview ISD  
 Bill Palko, Amegy Bank  
 Dr. Bill Raffetto, San Jacinto College North  
 Garland Rutherford, LyondellBasell  
 Joe Stephens, Farmers Insurance  
 Pravin Sonthalia, Kwik Kopy  
 Lon Squyres, City of Jacinto City  
 Jim Wadzinski, Community Toyota/Kia/Honda  
 Mike Williams, Edward Jones

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 Chamber of Commerce  
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 Houston, TX 77015 (713) 450-3600  
[www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com)**



## NEW MEMBERS

### North Channel Assistance Ministries

Gayle Redford, Rodney Redford, Executive Director  
 13837 Bonham  
 Houston, TX 77015  
 (713) 453-8028  
 Social Service

### Petroleum Express Inc.

Peggy Roark, President  
 E-mail: [proark@petroleumexpress.com](mailto:proark@petroleumexpress.com)  
 Tami Sandlin, VP  
 E-mail: [tsandlin@petroleumexpress.com](mailto:tsandlin@petroleumexpress.com)  
 10141 Market St  
 Houston, TX 77029  
 (713) 223-0231  
[www.petroleumexpress.com](http://www.petroleumexpress.com)  
 Petroleum & Related Products

## NORTH CHANNEL SALUTES

### Booths Filling up Fast



Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 3, 2016. This is the date for the eighth annual North Channel Salutes. On this day, we will honor our veterans, current military personnel, and our service providers. In addition to honoring our military and other service providers with lunch, a Business Expo and Health Fair will be in place. The hours are 10 AM—2 PM. The 2016 Salutes will be held at Armenta's Banquet Hall located at 823 Sheldon Road. Booth space is available to chamber members for \$250 and \$350 for non-members. Silver Sponsorships are available for \$1,000 (includes booth, 10 lunch tickets, your choice location, recognition on chamber web and spotlight on printed materials). Corporate Sponsorships are also available for \$500 (includes booth, 4 lunch tickets, prime location and on printed materials). Please contact the Chamber office ASAP to reserve a booth. Space is limited. To register: call 713-450-3600; email [blanca@ncachamber.com](mailto:blanca@ncachamber.com), or sign-up online, [www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com).

# RENEWALS

A special thank you to the following members who have shown their dedicated support of the Chamber and the community by renewing their membership investment.



## 21-35 Years

Dr. Kemp, Optometrists	35 Years
Advantage Howard-Glendale	29 Years
Don's Auto Service	29 Years
Galena Park Motors	29 Years
Harris Co. FWSD #47	21 Years
So. Lake Houston EMS	21 Years
Port of Houston	21 Years

## 10-20 Years

Mr. Gatti's, No. 412	19 Years
Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP	17 Years
Pizzinis Pizza & Steak, Inc.	14 Years
Enterprise Crude Pipeline, LLC	13 Years
A-1 Fire	12 Years
Tony's BBQ & Steak	12 Years

Days Inn & Suites	11 Years
Jerry Fallin	11 Years

## 1-10 Years

Atlas Truck Sales	10 Years
Northshore Dental	9 Years
UTLX	8 Years
Farmers Insurance – Ramon Garza	7 Years
The UPS Store #6204,	6 Years
Anheuser-Busch, LLC	6 Years
Alliance Safety	5 Years
Basic Logistics, Inc.	4 Years
XTreme Sandblasting & Painting, Inc.	4 Years
International Community Builders	3 Years
Southwest Galvanizing	2 Years
Walgreens—Wallisville	1 Year



# PORT BRIEFS



## M/V Sam Houston Boat Tour

Experience an unforgettable waterborne voyage through one of the busiest ports in the world aboard the Port of Houston Authority's free public tour boat! Named for the legendary military commander who led the fight for Texas independence from Mexico and later statehood, the *M/V Sam Houston* offers free leisurely 90-minute round-trip cruises along the Houston Ship Channel. Individuals and groups are invited to learn about the port through this enjoyable tour.

Embarking from the port's Sam Houston Pavilion, visiting sightseers aboard the *M/V Sam Houston* can enjoy passing views of international cargo vessels, and operations at the port's Turning Basin Terminal. The 95-ft. vessel holds up to 100 passengers and features air-conditioned lounge seating as well as standing room outside on the boat's deck.

The *M/V Sam Houston* has been operating as the Port of Houston's public tour vessel since its first voyage on July 30, 1958. In 2010, the vessel received new low-emission fuel engines and a new generator. The environmental upgrades were made possible through grants from the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program.

Make your reservations now for this rich and unique educational experience.

**COST:** The tour is free. Reservations on a first-come, first-serve basis are required at least 24 hours in advance.

**SCHEDULE:** The current tour schedule can be found at <http://www.portofhouston.com/community-outreach/sam-houston-boat-tour/tour-schedule/>

**RESERVATIONS:** Register online any time at [portofhouston.com](http://portofhouston.com) or call 713-670-2416, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Port of Houston Authority maintains a steadfast commitment to safety. Due to activities inside the Port Authority terminal, no one is allowed to walk onto port property to access the *M/V Sam Houston* tour vessel. All individuals and groups taking the boat tour must enter the terminal and drive to the tour boat area in a car, van, or bus.

**CHAMBER DINNER TOUR:** For North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce members and their guests, October 20, 2016, 5:30 PM. RSVP to [blanca@ncachamber.com](mailto:blanca@ncachamber.com) or call the Chamber @ 713-450-3600.





## Upcoming EVENTS

### Friday, September 2

Monthly Luncheon  
11:30 am @ San Jacinto College  
N., 5800 Uvalde Rd.  
Speaker: Leslie Herbst, Manager-  
Community Relations  
Topic: State of the Port of  
Houston Authority, general port  
overview and impact of the  
Panama Canal

### Monday, September 5

LABOR DAY—Chamber office  
closed

### Tuesday, September 13

Ambassador Meeting  
11:00 am, Location TBD

### Wednesday, September 14

Ribbon Cutting  
9:00 am @ Chick-fil-A, 13720  
East Freeway, 77015

### Tuesday, September 27

Free Coffee Network-  
ing/Membership Drive Kick-Off  
9:30 am @ La Quinta Inn &  
Suites Channelview, 5520 E. Sam  
Houston Pkwy., N., 77015

### Friday, October 7

Monthly Luncheon  
11:30 am @ San Jacinto College  
N., 5800 Uvalde Rd.

Program: State of the Schools  
Speakers: Superintendents—Dr.  
Angi Williams, Galena Park ISD;  
King Davis, Sheldon ISD; and  
Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD

Please RSVP for events to  
[blanca@ncachamber.com](mailto:blanca@ncachamber.com),  
call 713-450-3600 or go online to  
[www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com)

# CHAMBER ROYALE



L-R: Ronny Dwairy, Bestway Oilfield and Chamber board member; Lucia Bates, LB Marketing Sol. & Chamber Board Chairman; and Bill Palko, Amegy Bank & Foundation Chairman.



The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation wants to give a big **THANK YOU** to:

Title Sponsor—Bestway Oilfield

Corporate Sponsors—Amegy Bank, East Houston Regional Medical Center, Farmers Insurance—Joe Stephens, United Community Credit Union, San Jacinto College Foundation, Woodforest National Bank, Arkema, Inc., Community Toyota\*Honda\*Kia, North Shore Rotary, and Advantage Howard Glendale.

Also, thank you to Jacinto City, volunteers and all that attended!