



# THE NAVIGATOR

## Col. Waterworth to Speak at Banquet

By Dr. Charles Grant, President & CEO

Col. Leonard "Len" Waterworth, Executive Director for the Port of Houston Authority, will be the speaker at the 36th North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet will be Saturday, January 26, 2013 at the Houston Marriott Hotel located at 9100 Gulf Freeway. Social hours begins at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:30 PM. A new chamber member, Shell Federal Credit Union, located at 5544 E. Sam Houston Pkwy. N., is a major sponsor of this year's banquet. Below is Col. Waterworth's bio.

On April 24, 2012, the Port Commission appointed Leonard D. Waterworth the permanent Executive Director of the Port of Houston Authority. He had served as the Interim Executive Director since January 30, 2012. Col. Waterworth

has held multiple executive leadership positions in both the private and public sectors, handling increasing levels of leadership and management responsibilities over a 33-year career.

In the private sector, he served as President/Chief Executive Officer of Danenbaum Engineering Corporation, a Texas-based engineering consulting firm, from January 2007 to December 2011. The firm provides services to government agencies and private industry.

In the public sector, he served as District Engineer/Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District, Galveston, Texas, from 2001 to 2004. He was Deputy Director for Civil Works, Central Region, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C., from 2000 to 2001.

Col. Waterworth began his military service in 1979,

and has had multiple assignments around the world including overseas assignments in Germany and Turkey. Col. Waterworth has had numerous Command and Staff positions and has served on both the Army Staff and in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon.

Among his military awards are the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal for service during Desert Storm.

Col. Waterworth received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State, a Master of Engineering Administration from George Washington University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Len has been married to Cheryl Waterworth for 28 years. They share their home with Stella, a rescue dog.



Please contact the chamber office at 713-450-3600 or by e-mail at margielb@flash.net to make your reservations. A table of eight is \$500 and individual tickets are \$60. Remember, table assignments are made on a "first pay-best table" basis. There will be a "special award" presented at this year's banquet but it is a secret! Show your support for the Port of Houston as well as the chamber by your attendance at this fun evening. This year's banquet promises to be one of the very best with lots of surprises!

### Inside this issue:

Board of Directors	2
New Members	2
Renewals	3
Port of Houston	3
Ribbon Cuttings	4
Calendar of Events	4

**Happy Holidays**

*From the*

**North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce**

*Dr. Charles Grant*  
President & CEO

*Margie Buentello*  
Membership Assistant

## 2012 Board of Directors

**Dr. Vickey Giles— Chairman**  
Sheldon ISD

**Wilfred Broussard Jr.— Chairman Elect**  
Broussard's Real Estate

**Greg Ollis—1st Vice Chairman**  
Channelview ISD

**Kimberly Gonzalez— Secretary,**  
Platinum Copier Solutions

**Bill Palko —Treasurer,**  
Amegy Bank

**Matt Davis – Immediate Past Chair,**  
CommunityBank of Texas

Alice Adams, East Houston Regional Med. Center  
Bob Bartel, Individual  
Don Bobo, CenterPoint Energy  
Ryan Dagley, Individual  
Shalonda Dawkins, United Community Credit Un.  
Dr. Shirley Ellisor, Holy Trinity Episcopal School  
Pedro Garcia, Port of Houston Authority  
Ramon Garza, Farmers Insurance  
Abraham George, Sheldon ISD  
Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College N.  
Dawn Harris, Harris County Precinct 2  
June Harris, Halo Branded Solutions  
Dear Hofmann, LyondellBasell  
David Hopkins, Life Member  
Carrie Hulsey, Texas Bay Area Credit Union  
Jennifer Johnson, United Community Credit Un.  
Dale Jones, Sterling Wood Church  
Erika Koehler, Wendel D. Ley Y  
Terry Loving, Advantage Howard Glendale  
Adam Lund, Woodforest National Bank  
Kim Marak, Arkema, Inc.  
Edward Miller, Edward Miller Appraisal Svs.  
John Moore, Galena Park ISD  
Larry Pfeifer, Sheldon ISD  
Jim Wadzinski, Community Toyota  
Brian Wilhelm, State Farm Insurance  
Mike Williams, Edward Jones

### Staff

**Dr. Charles Grant, President & CEO**  
cgrant@ncachamber.com

**Margie Buentello, Membership Assistant**  
margielb@flash.net

**Blanca Lerma, Administrative Assistant**

North Channel Area Chamber of  
Commerce, 13301 I-10 East Freeway,  
Suite 100, Houston, TX 77015 (713) 450-3600

## NEW MEMBERS

**Air Liquide America**  
2000 Sheldon Rd.  
Channelview, TX 77530  
(281) 452-4766  
Kyle Legros  
Bryan Sundberg  
Chemical Processing

**Carl's Jr**  
15236 Wallisville Rd.  
Houston, TX 77049  
(713) 455-0070  
www.carlsjr.com  
Kirk Doughty  
Restaurants

**East Houston Dental  
Care**  
13447 I-10 East  
Houston, TX 77015  
(832) 767-5614  
easthoustondentalcare.com  
Babak Goravanchi, DDS  
Sunail Ramzanali, DDS  
Dee Reyna  
Dentists

**Landscape & Design**  
14025 Greenville St.  
Houston, TX 77015  
(713) 451-7162  
http://landscapeanddesign.com  
John Norris  
Landscaping

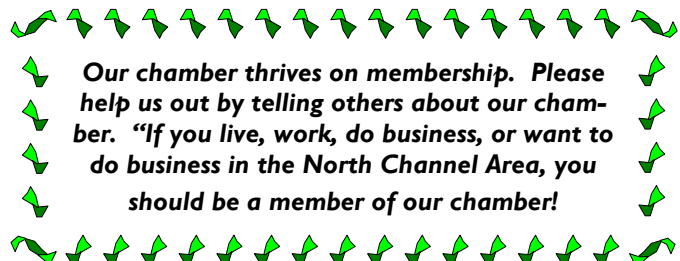
**RC Clark Investments D/  
B/A ReadyMaid**  
15906 Hidden Crest Dr.  
Houston, TX 77049  
(713) 264-2084  
Reid Clark  
Janitor Service

**Rene Hernandez**  
374 Freeport St.  
Houston, TX 77015  
(832) 282-2632  
Individuals

**Silver Springs Health Care  
Center**  
12350 Wood Bayou Dr.  
Houston, TX 77013  
(713) 453-0446  
Donna Sonnier  
Nursing & Rehab Center

**TransCanada**  
2700 Post Oak Blvd. #400  
Houston, TX 77056  
(713) 557-6436  
www.transcanada.com  
Jamie Hopkin, Susan Medina &  
Kirsten Torgerson  
Construction

**VESCO Business Properties**  
425 N. 10th Street  
LaPorte, TX 77571  
(281) 842-1877  
www.vescolp.com  
Robin Vest  
Business Equipment



# Still caring...by renewing their membership

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.

## 11--31 Years

Foster Fence Ltd.	31 years
Wendel D. Ley Y	30 years
Don White & Co. Realtors	30 years
North Channel Emergency Medical	29 years
Channelview Coca-Cola	29 years
The Honorable Mike Parrott	21 years
Harris County WCID #36	21 years

## 6-10 Years

Dr. Carmen Wong	10 years
East Houston Medicine and Pediatrics	10 years
HCC-Northeast	9 years

Wanna Giacona	9 years
Marcus Kramer	8 years
David Franklin	8 years
Lee Brown	8 years
Rep. Ana Hernandez Luna	6 years

## 1-5 Years

The Conklin Clinic	5 years
Eileen Palmer	5 years
Roberto Hernandez	5 years
Darlene Lovinggood	5 years



## PORT BRIEFS

### Norwegian Cruising into Port of Houston



Local officials signed a much publicized agreement with Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) on Wednesday to sail out of the Bayport Cruise Terminal in Pasadena. The deal calls for 25 cruises with NCL per year for three years, begin in the fall of 2014.

Speaking on behalf of the Port of Houston, Port Commission Chairman, Jim Edmonds said, "The Port Commission and Port Authority staff persevered to make this day happen, and I believe it's the beginning of a very productive partnership that will have a tremendous economic impact on our community."

Edmonds elaborated, "Since its beginnings, the Port Authority has had a mandate to support job creation and economic development in the region. Taxpayers and the Federal Government have invested billions of dollars in the port and its many projects. These investments have produced economic devel-

opment to the region and the state to the tune of 178 billion dollars annually, and more than a million jobs. And now, the partnership with Norwegian Cruise Lines at the facility in Bayport helps us continue that mandate."

Edmonds cited estimates that the 25 annual trips would generate about \$50 million in economic impact per year (\$2 million per trip). The tourism would generate 200 jobs, add almost a million dollars in state and local taxes and add to the growth of the area surrounding the cruise terminal. He concluded, "2014 will be the port's 100th anniversary. What a great way to celebrate!"

Pasadena Mayor, Johnny Isbell was excited about the deal. He said, "My staff knows how long I've been pushing to get a cruise ship of Norwegian's quality in here." He cited all the activities that would benefit from an extra day's stay for departing tourist, and what a great facility they would have to depart from.

Jorge Franz, the vice president of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau touched on the same theme noting that Space City Houston and the Kemah Boardwalk were only a ten minute drive from the Bayport Terminal, and that Houston offers a "City Pass" that gives visitors to Houston special

deals on a variety of tourist attractions and accommodations. He also mentioned how lucky Houston was to attract a cruise line because of international competition for their business.

Kevin Sheehan, NCL's CEO then spoke. He said, "We're privileged to be here. This is big for us. We have received very positive feedback from our travel partners and guests since announcing our return to Houston." The reference to returning to Houston came from the fact that this had become a point of departure for them temporarily after hurricane Ike had devastated Galveston's port.

Sheehan also elaborated on the ship that will be servicing the new Caribbean departures. The Norwegian Jewel carries 2,374 passengers and a crew of 1,100 to serve their every need. It boasts 14 restaurants, 10 bars and lounges, a casino, a special VIP stateroom called "The Haven" and special activities for children referred to as the "Splash Academy" and "Nickelodeon Experience." Further information about Norwegian Cruises can be obtained at their website, [www.ncl.com](http://www.ncl.com) or call 800-327-7030.

*Reprinted from northchannelnews.com by Bob Bartel, Volunteer Editor and chamber board member.*

**NORTH CHANNEL AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

P.O. Box 9759  
Houston, TX 77213  
13301 I-10 East, Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77015  
Phone: 713-450-3600  
Fax: 713-450-0700  
www.northchannelarea.com

**Upcoming Events**

**December 24-25**  
Christmas Holiday  
Chamber office closed

**Dec. 31—Jan. 1**  
New Year's Holiday  
Chamber office closed

**NO JANUARY LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, January 15**  
Chamber Board Meeting, 11:30 am  
@LyondellBasell

**Thursday, January 17**  
Ribbon Cutting, 10:00 am @ The  
Rhodes School

**Friday, January 18**  
Ambassador Retreat, 9-11 am  
Location TBD

**Saturday, January 26**  
Chamber Annual Banquet, Social  
Time—6:30 pm, Dinner—7:30 pm  
Houston Hobby Airport Marriott

*Did you know you can put  
your calendar events on our  
website? Go to northchan-  
nelarea.com, click on view all  
events and then click on  
submit an event.*



**Like us on Facebook!**

<http://www.facebook.com/ncachamber>

**CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS**



**Left—A ribbon cutting was held at Longhorn Steak House, located at 6201 E. Sam Houston Pkwy., N., on December 14.**



**Right—A ribbon cutting with Harris County Commissioner Jack Mormon was held at the new basketball court in Galena Manor on December 12.**



**Left—A ribbon cutting was held at the newly renovated Silver Springs Healthcare Center, located at 12350 Wood Bayou Dr., on December 17.**