



# THE NAVIGATOR

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November 2011

## A Fall For All

by Dr. Charles Grant, President & CEO

This fall has been a time for all who wanted to participate in activities and/or events sponsored by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce (NCACC). We began in September with a membership drive chaired by Kimberly Gonzales, President of Platinum Copier Solutions. Five teams consisting of Chamber Board members and Ambassadors successfully brought in over 50 new members. Thank you Kimberly!

Our Ambassadors, chaired by Shalonda Dawkins, Vice President of Marketing with United Community Credit Union

hosted several ribbon cuttings for new chamber members this fall. They included Baskin Robbins located on Wallisville Road, the newly renovated Wal-Mart and Woodforest National Bank both located at I-10 East at Freeport Street, and Sheldon ISD's new Transportation and Maintenance facility as well as Garrett Elementary, both located on Garrett Road. Most recently, the Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting at the new Golden Corral located at I-10 East at Freeport. Great job Shalonda!

This fall's monthly luncheons have provided great speakers who presented information on a

local, state, and national level. For Example, Alex Dreyer, CEO for the Port of Houston Authority discussed the importance of the port and how many jobs are directly or indirectly created because of the Port of Houston. Congressman Ted Poe discussed the national debt, tax reform, and immigration.

Just two weeks ago, the Chamber Foundation chaired by Larry Pfeifer, Assistant Superintendent at Sheldon ISD, hosted North Channel Salutes. This event was held on November 3rd to pay tribute to our veterans, those currently serving in the military, and our service providers such as law

enforcement and first responders. Although it was a blustery day, over 350 meals were served. Thanks Larry for your leadership in coordinating this event!

Last week, Terry Loving, a member of our Board of Directors and Manager of Advantage Howard Glendale Funeral Services, was honored at the Economic Alliance-Houston Port Region's Annual Awards Banquet. Terry received an award for being named the NCACC business of the year. (Please see picture below.) Congratulations to Terry and his entire staff!

So, as you can see, there has been something for all this fall.

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**Pictured left to right: Chris Hext, Chairman of the Board of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region; Terry Loving, Manager, Advantage Howard Glendale; Matt Davis, Chairman of Board and Charles Grant, President & CEO of the NCACC.**



## 2011 Board of Directors

**Matt Davis – Chairman,**  
CommunityBank of Texas

**Dr. Vickey Giles– Chair-elect,**  
Sheldon ISD

**Wilfred Broussard Jr.—1st Vice Chair,**  
Broussard’s Real Estate

**Shalonda Dawkins – Secretary,**  
United Community Credit Union

**Bill Chote – Treasurer,**  
CommunityBank of Texas

**Kim Marak— Immediate Past Chair,**  
Arkema, Inc.

Bob Bartel, Individual  
Don Bobo, CenterPoint Energy  
Marlene Clowers, Congressman Gene Green  
Dr. Shirley Ellisor, Holy Trinity Episcopal School  
Mike Fortner, Fortner Financial  
Pedro Garcia, Port of Houston Authority  
Ramon Garza, Farmers Insurance  
Johnny Gonzalez, Houston Community Newspapers  
Kimberly Gonzalez, Platinum Copiers  
Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College N.  
June Harris, Halo Branded Solutions  
Dean Hofmann, LyondellBasell  
David Hopkins, Life Member  
Carrie Hulsey, Texas Bay Area Credit Union  
Dale Jones, Sterling Wood Church  
Erika Koehler, Wendel D. Ley Y  
Terry Loving, Advantage Howard Glendale  
Edward Miller, Edward Miller Appraisal Svcs.  
John Moore, Galena Park ISD  
Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD  
Larry Pfeifer, Sheldon ISD  
Mike Roussos, East Houston Reg. Medical Center  
Brian Wilhelm, State Farm Insurance

### Staff

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Commerce, P.O. Box 9759,  
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## NEW MEMBERS

### Firestone Complete Auto Care

13714 I-10 East Freeway  
Houston, TX 77015  
(713) 450-1849  
firestonecompleteautocare.com  
Ben Crawford  
Automobile, Tire & Service

### Houston Eye Associates

5614 E. Sam Houston Pkwy.  
Houston, TX 77015  
(713) 558-8752  
Judy Butler, Dolores Diaz  
Ophthalmology

### Infinity Marine Offshore, LLC.

12775 Nimitz St.  
P.O. Box 96147  
Houston, TX 77213  
(713) 330-1700  
www.infinitymarine.com  
Lloyd Burris  
Marine Design, Construction,  
Renovation & Sales

### Manpower, Inc.

2190 N. Loop W., Suite #108  
Houston, TX 77018  
(713) 685-7014  
www.manpower.com  
Jennifer Matlock  
Staffing

### Stargazer Audio

14418 Duncannon Dr.  
Houston, TX 77015  
(281) 685-0471  
www.stargazeraudio.com  
David Pope  
Audio/Visual Services

### Term N 8

16815 Avenue A  
Channelview, TX 77530  
(281) 303-9075  
www.termn8.com  
Bill Meyers  
Pest Control Services

### Wilburn Plumbing

13822 Eden Manor Ln.  
Houston, TX 77044  
(713) 330-4307  
Robert Wilburn  
Plumbing Contractors



# 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

Pineforest Jewelry, Inc.	25 years
Don's Auto Service	24 years
Shiloh Printing, Book Store	24 years
Sign Center	21 years
Maco Construction, Inc.	19 years
Carter Funeral Home	19 years
Lawton Publication	14 years
GB Biosciences	13 years

## 6-10 Years

East Houston Medicine & Pediatrics	9 years
Subway Sandwich Shop	9 years
Drefco, Inc.	8 years
Congressman Ted Poe	7 years
Fellowship of the Nations	7 years
Jim Twardowski	7 years

Basic Equipment	7 years
Lee Brown	7 years
Steve Hanson	7 years
Marriott Houston Hobby	6 years

## 1-5 Years

Crockett Dubose	5 years
Cindy Ollis	3 years
Rockwell Management	3 years
Worldwide Machinery	3 years
Lupe Garcia	2 years
Darrell McWhorter	2 years
Pat Galvan	2 years
Citywide Plumbing Service	2 years
Partners in Power	1 year
Holiday Inn Houston-East	1 year
La Quinta In & Suites Channelview	1 year



## PORT BRIEFS

### Steel Thread Ties Carriers' Maiden Voyages to Houston



A flurry of maiden voyages has been celebrated of late as vessels have called the Port of Houston Authority docks for the first time.

Surging steel volumes at Port Authority docks appear to be one primary reason for the increased vessel activity. Four separate bulk carriers have put vessels new to Houston into service here recently, all bringing in various forms of imported steel.

The *M/V Ashahi Maru* and the *M/V Crystal Island*, both chartered by Daii Chuo Kisen Kaisha, were honored with plaque presentations made by Port Authority officials August 31 and September 2, respectively. The *M/V Atlantic Emblem*, chartered by NS United Kaium Kaisha, LTD., and the *Royal Fairness* received plaques on September 22 and August 14, respectively.

Maiden voyage plaques are presented to operators of vessels calling Port of Houston Authority docks for the first time.

Regarding the most recent vessels, all four ships are carrying steel cargoes from Japan. The vessels, which range in length from 555 feet to 623 feet, are Panamanian flagged. Each is in a regular rotation calling at the Port of Houston.

Their presence may well signal that the increase in steel cargo movements could continue for the foreseeable future.

The amount of steel recorded in August by the Port Authority was 377,000 tons, up 32 percent over August of last year. Initial forecast for September indicated as much as 400,000 tons or more of steel would be handled at PHA docks, which would be a 20 percent hike compared to a year earlier.

Year-to-date through August, the amount of steel handled by the Port Authority was 2,739,000 tons, compared to 1,601,000 through August of 2010, or an increase of 71 percent.

The volumes being recorded by the Port of Houston Authority are higher than what is happening nationally, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute, which reported that finished steel import permit tons are up roughly 22 percent year-to-date.

The uptick in steel cargoes across the docks at the Port Authority started in the second half of last year, with the increases helping boost revenue and net income. The Port Authority recorded a total of 2.7 million tons of steel moving across the docks last year, which was considerably higher than originally expected. In December of 2010 alone, the Port Authority handled 249,000 tons of steel, or almost three times what was handled in December of the previous year.

In addition to the imported steel, the Port Authority also logged a 71 percent increase in exported steel, which helped boost the 2010 totals.

(Taken from *The Port of Houston Magazine*).

## NORTH CHANNEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Houston, TX 77213  
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## Upcoming Events

November 24-25  
Thanksgiving Holidays  
Chamber office closed



### NO DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 8  
Business After Hours & Ribbon  
Cutting  
5-7 pm @ The Holiday Inn Hou-  
ston East, 16311 East Freeway,  
Channelview, TX 77530

Tuesday, December 13  
Chamber Open House  
1—4 pm @ Chamber office

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  
December 23-26

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY  
January 2, 2012  
Chamber office closed

Saturday, January 28, 2012  
Chamber Annual Banquet  
6:30 pm @ Houston Hobby Mar-  
riott, 9100 Gulf Freeway

*Did you know you can put your  
calendar events on our web-  
site? Go to  
www.northchannelarea.com  
click on view all events and  
then click on submit an event.*

## RIBBON CUTTING



THE NEW GOLDEN CORRAL at 14010 East Freeway held a ribbon cutting on October 21. Go by and check them out!

## NORTH CHANNEL SALUTES

Thank you to our sponsors: Advantage Howard-Glendale Funeral Home; Arkema, Inc.; AT&T; Center-Point Energy; Chick-fil-A; North Shore Rotary Club; Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP; Platinum Copier Solutions; Port of Houston Authority; and United Community Credit Union for making this event successful. The Chamber would also like to thank all of the booth participants !

Photos courtesy of Images of the  
Sohl Photography

