



THE NAVIGATOR

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Let's Grow Together

by Dr. Charles Grant, President & CEO

My first month transitioning from a North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer to President & CEO has been both eventful and exciting. I am appreciative of all the kind words and pledges of support that I have received. I look forward to the task ahead.

In just a few short weeks, we have conducted a successful Membership Drive and planning is underway for our North Channel Salutes event on November 3rd. Additionally, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett has agreed to speak at our Annual Banquet on January 28, 2012 and Genan, Inc. has

agreed to be our major sponsor for our 2012 Annual Golf Tournament on June 18, 2012.

I offer the above examples as but a few of the events conducted by the Chamber that provide an avenue for promotion of your business or organization. Please take full advantage of your membership by attending or sponsoring a Chamber function. Details of these and other opportunities can be found in future *Navigator* editions, on our Facebook page and at www.northchannelarea.com.

I encourage you to at minimum be a member

and hopefully to participate actively in the Chamber. It's a simple fact that the need for business or organization promotion has never been greater. However, it's even more factual that the most affordable way to reach the greatest number of potential customers or supporters is the North Channel Area Chamber. In these challenging times, you can't afford to not belong.

As a former volunteer, I have an appreciation for those that give their time and talent in support of our mission. Our staff could not possibly handle the Chamber's program of work without our highly

dedicated non-paid advocates. As President & CEO of the Chamber, I understand that I work in support of our membership and at the direction of our Board.

To the general membership, I offer my thanks for your investment in the community. I promise to do my part to reward your faith in the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. I also welcome your input. A Chamber serves to do the collective will of its members. My job is to oversee the effort and I am up for the task. Let's grow together!

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Speaker at the Chamber's October Luncheon was Congressman Ted Poe (center). Pictured also is Chamber Chairman, Matt Davis (right) with CommunityBank of Texas and President & CEO of the Chamber, Dr. Charles Grant (left).



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
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 Svs.
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

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

Margie Buentello, Membership Assistant
margielb@flash.net

North Channel Area Chamber of
Commerce, P.O. Box 9759,
Houston, Texas, 77213, (713) 450-3600
www.northchannelarea.com

NEW MEMBERS

AAA Tax Services

11811 I-10 E., Ste. # 240
Houston, TX 77029
(713) 455-5222

www.aaataxservices.net

Finnessa J. White

Tax Services

Jeffrey W. Burnett, PLLC

12226 Walraven
Huffman, TX 77336
(281) 324-1400

www.burnetthoustonlaw.com

Jeffery W. Burnett

Attorneys

Allied Pallet & Equipment Company, LLC.

P.O. Box 96677
Houston, TX 77213
(281) 850-8090

Jerry Friday

Pallet Mfg.

Division One Construction

11500 Northwest Frwy., Suite
#150, Houston, TX 77092
(713) 688-7330

Todd Callaway, Clayton T.
Hamby

Construction Companies

Allstate Insurance - Joe Si- mien

14618 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(713) 453-8424

Joe Simien

Insurance Agencies

East Houston Heat

778 Bermuda Ave.
Lancaster, TX 75146
(225) 776-9722

Hellion Knight

Minor Professional Basketball
League

ECMS, Inc.

4911 Lyons Ave.
Houston, TX 77020
(713) 842-9896

www.ecmstx.com

Tyrone P. Dorian

Consulting

Continued on Pages 4-5

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

State Farm Insurance—Dever	31 years
Galena Park ISD	21 years
Winn Richbourg, Attorney	24 years

6-10 Years

A & B Environmental Svs., Inc.	9 years
Wanna Giacona	8 years
Bay Star Ambulance	7 years
John Moore	7 years
Bryan Clements	7 years
State Farm Insurance—Wilhelm	7 years

Abraham George	7 years
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.	7 years
Legend Oaks Healthcare & Rehab.	6 years

1-5 Years

Leroy Willits, M.D.	3 years
Global Services, LLC	3 years
Randy Burchfield	2 years
Bay Architects	2 years
Marna Harper	2 years
JC Penney	2 years
Wells Allergy Associates	2 years
Candlewood Suites Houston East	2 years



PORT BRIEFS

The Panama Canal Widens Opportunities



One hundred years ago, dredging of the 52-mile-long Houston Ship Channel was just beginning as construction of the 50-mile-long Panama Canal was nearing 70 percent completion. Today, those following the progress of the \$5-\$25 billion project enlarging the Panama Canal are anticipating a boost in international trade for Houston.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to fulfill our mandate of job generation and economic development," says James T. Edmonds, Port Commission Chairman. "We must make sure the right infrastructure is in place, including excellent access from our facilities to efficient transportation arteries. By using best business practices, we can take advantage of this opportunity to capture this increased trade while still remaining good stewards of the environment."

The anticipated increase in containerized cargo going to Houston via the Panama Canal could grow by 15 percent in the next few years, with a projected 150 percent increase to a total of 4.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) by 2030.

"Industry experts project the increase in containerized cargo trade via the Panama Canal could be as much as 35 percent for Houston," says Ricky Kunz, Vice President of Origination for the Port Authority. "However large the increase is, we plan on being the first port of call once those ships enter the Gulf of Mexico.

"We continue to work with the big box retailers to show them how Houston can assist them in serving their customer base in Texas and middle America. Those that have already established distribution centers here have seen the value of using Port Authority facilities and are moving increased volumes through the port," points out Kuntz.

The Houston business community recognizes the economic engine the port has been throughout its nearly 100-year history and what the expansion of the Panama Canal means for the Houston region. The Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) recently led a delegation to Panama of 22 individuals from Houston that included elected officials, news media, Port Authority officials and members of the business community. They attended a ceremony to extend the Port of Houston Authority's relationship with the Panama Canal for another five years.

"The Houston region is poised to benefit tremendously from the Panama Canal's new super cargo lane," says GHP President & CEO Jeff Mosley. "Most of the increased activity will come from Asia through Panama to the states.

"As it stands now, Asian cargo has to go through the Rocky Mountains by rail to transport goods to the East Coast and the Midwest. With the expansion of the canal, the route will go through the Port of Houston, thereby saving money and time to ship goods. The Houston region will now be

able to serve the midcontinent and act as the global gateway to the Americas," says Mosley.

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan attended the ceremony in Panama. He has a strong interest in the canal and served as a board member of the Panama Canal Commission from August 1995 to December 31, 1999, when control of the canal was transferred to Panama.

"The expansion of the Panama Canal is more important to the Houston-Harris County-Gulf Coast region than any place else in the world if we aggressively take advantage of the potential trade that can flow here through the canal," said Ryan.

Is Houston ready for this increase in international trade? "We will be ready," says Roger Guenther, Vice President of Container Terminals. "The terminal at Bayport is designed to handle the larger ships and we have the larger cranes in place. We are also taking all the steps necessary to prepare the Bayport channel for larger ships.

"We have also recently presented a strategic plan to the Port Commission to redevelop the Barbour's Cut Container Terminal so it can handle the larger ships. We are beginning the redevelopment master plan that includes both landside and channel upgrade. We know what it takes to get ready and are taking the steps to get there," says Guenther.

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

NORTH CHANNEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 21
Ribbon Cutting
10:00 am @ the new Golden Corral, I-10 & Freeport
Complimentary Breakfast 8—10 am.

Thursday, November 3
North Channel Salutes
10 am—1 pm @ the North Shore Rotary Pavilion, 14350 1/2 Wallisville, 88049

NO MONTHLY LUNCHEON FOR NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 8
Ambassadors Breakfast
8 am @ TBD

Friday, November 11
Veterans Day
Chamber Office closed

Tuesday, November 15
Chamber Board Meeting
11:30 am @ Sheldon ISD

November 24-25
Thanksgiving Holidays
Chamber Office closed

Tuesday, December 13
Chamber Open House
11 am—2 pm @ Chamber office

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

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

Econocuts

15716 S. Brentwood
Channelview, TX 77530
(281) 862-2887
www.econocuts.com

Jorge Campos

Lawn Care

Epps, Dr. Mechelle

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1033

Individuals

Esquivel, Lina

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1234

Individuals

Frey, Jonathan

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1231

Individuals

Galena Park Community Assistance Program

P.O. Box 805

Galena Park, TX 77547
(713) 455-3255
Don Nichols
Nonprofit

Guardian Windows

11303 Brass Hammer
Houston, TX 77065
(281) 955-8994
Marty Scarpati
Windows and Window Repair

Insogna & Stewart, CPA, PC

P.O. Box 96316
Houston, TX 77213
(713) 446-1032
www.iscpapc.com
Chase Insogna, Steven Stewart
CPA Firm

Johnson, Pam

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1064
Individuals

Johnson, Yvonne

Galena Park ISD

14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1020
Individuals

Lovinggood, Darlene

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1038
Individuals

Mayeux, Dollie

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(281) 850-3341
Individuals

**McCord Development,
Inc.**

1021 Main
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 860-3000
Ryan McCord, Rick Yarbrough
Real Estate

**Northeast Houston Advi-
sory Council**

P.O. Box 24351
Houston, TX 77229
(713) 674-5863
Sue Blackburn, Kim Petersen
Nonprofit

**PNC Mortgage Co., A Di-
vision of PNC Bank, N.A.**

17225 El Camino Real, Ste.
#110., Houston, TX 77058
(713) 851-5308
Terri L. Davis
Mortgage Company

**Quantum Environmental
Consultants, Inc.**

1308 S. Loop W.
Houston, TX 77054
(713) 961-9975
www.qeci.com

William Beasley, Bennie L.
Benford Jr.
Environmental Consulting

**Rogers, Morris & Grover,
LLP.**

5718 Westheimer, Suite #
1200, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 960-6000
Micki Morris, Jeff Rogers
Attorneys

Safe Way Signs, Inc.

12842 Nimitz
Houston, TX 77015
(713) 453-0480
Renee Cooper, Ron Cooper
Signs

Spiller's Automotive

335 Sheldon Rd.

Channelview, TX 77530
(281) 452-4405
Earl Spiller
Automobile Repairing & Srvs.

Sutera, Karen

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1417
Individuals

Telephone Market & Svs.

14516 Kenney St.
Houston, TX 77015
(713) 455-4007
Brian Jurek
Telephone Marketing

Helen Tiller

Galena Park ISD
14705 Woodforest Blvd.
Houston, TX 77015
(832) 386-1064
Individuals

Val Supply

5500 E. Sam Houston Pkwy.
N., Suite #103
Houston, TX 77015
(281) 452-2047
Vicki Smith
Manufacture & Sales



*You are invited to the 35th Annual
North Channel Area Chamber of
Commerce Membership and Awards
Banquet*

*Saturday, January 28, 2012
at Houston Hobby Airport Marriott
9100 Gulf Freeway
Houston, Texas 77017*

Speaker – Judge Ed Emmett

Social time and Auction - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Entertainment - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person

Corporate Tables for Eight are \$500.00

*Table assignments are based on a first paid
first assigned basis. Please RSVP at*

713-450-3600 or

email margielb@flash.net