



CHAMBER CONNECTION

A publication of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce



MARCH 2021

Leadership Lincoln class XXXIV met in February for Economic & Workforce Development Day. The group visited on location, at the Chamber, or via Zoom with Louisiana Workforce Commission, Coordinating & Development Corporation, North LA Economic Partnership, Sparta Groundwater Commission, Choudrant Mayor Bill Sanderson, and Ruston Economic Development Director, Ray Watson.



The group also attended ribbon cutting ceremonies for Common Goods and Goldie Boutique. Lunch was sponsored by Origin Bank; thanks to Sarah McKinnie for delivering it. The March focus for the class will be Industry.



For a list of program sponsors please visit our [website](https://www.rustonchamber.com).

More photos on Facebook [@RustonChamber](https://www.facebook.com/RustonChamber).



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If you would like information on joining the Chamber contact Ashley at asmith@rustonlincoln.org or 255-2031.

Congrats!



The following members will be featured in an upcoming Chamber video! Thanks to all who participated in our contest.

Origin Bank

Hunt, Guillot & Assoc.

Anti Pest & Veitch

Centric FCU

Century Next Bank

Chicken Salad Chick

Fyzical Therapy & Balance

Kindred at Home

Martin Presence Group

McCarter Financial Group

Newcomer, Morris & Young

Temple Baptist Church

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Lincoln Parish

PRIMARY ELECTION

MARCH 20



Find all your voting info at the [SOS Voter Portal](#).

What's on the Ballot?

U. S. Representative 5th Congressional Dist.

Sandra "Candy" Christophe
Chad Conerly
"Jim" Davis
Allen Guillory
Robert Lansden
Julia Letlow
Jaycee Magnuson
Horace Melton III
M.V. "Vinny" Mendoza
Richard H. Pannell
Sancha Smith
Errol Victor Sr.

Judge, Court of Appeal 2nd Circuit, 2nd Dist., Section 1

Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Robinson
(unopposed)

Mayor, Dubach

Ruby Dawson
Mona Durrett Wilson

Council Member Dist. A, Dubach

Angela Dunn (unopposed)

Council Member Dist. B, Dubach

Christopher Moerbe (unopposed)

PW Law Enforcement District - 7.83 Mills Renewal - Sheriff - 10 Yrs.

This property tax which helps fund the LP Sheriff's Dept. is a renewal, not a new tax.





SPOTLIGHT ON

Ambassador & Board Member

RON "RONNIE" VEITCH

ANTI PEST & VEITCH

OWNER/OPERATOR

ANTIPEST@ATT.NET

WHAT MOTIVATES ME TO WORK HARD?

Retirement

WHAT IS MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT MY CAREER?

My grandfather started Anti Pest & Veitch 67 years ago and he would take me to work with him as a youngster even before I was in school. I had a pair of coveralls and would go with him under the houses. I'm still doing that today and even though most folks would cringe at the thought, it's just as natural as can be to me.

WHAT DID I WANT TO BE WHEN I WAS YOUNG?

An Oceanographer.

WHAT WOULD I SING AT KARAOKE NIGHT?

Beautiful Loser by Bob Seager

WHAT IS MY PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

I was a single parent of a 9-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son. Somehow, they have become loving, servant-minded, compassionate members of society and as much as I would like to call that my accomplishment, I know it was only by God's grace so, good job GOD!

IF I COULD CHOOSE TO DO ANYTHING FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would be a Gazillionaire and give it all away. Well, all but a million.

WHAT'S MY FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPE

My mom makes a dish she calls goulash with hamburger meat, noodles, cheese and corn, and I love it so, that she still makes a casserole dish and gives it to me for my birthday.

DO I PREFER TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO, PODCASTS, OR OTHER?

NO.

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT YEAR WOULD I TRAVEL TO?

I would go back to December 6, 1941 and warn everyone at Pearl Harbor.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Board Member

PATRICIA WILLIS

THE CHILDREN'S SHOPPE

OWNER/OPERATOR

312.251.9599

WHAT MOTIVATES ME TO WORK HARD?

Both of my parents worked all my life that I was at home. They instilled in us that hard work pays off. You might not see results immediately, but you will eventually see the fruits of your labor.

WHAT HAS BEEN MY CAREER PATH?

For 20 years I taught in the homebound program in Ouachita. I would teach in homes of students who could not go to school due to health, accidents, pregnancy, or special education needs students who were removed from school for having drugs or weapons, or any other reason. I began making hair bows in 1987 to supplement my income, selling at craft shows. That lead to other items being added and finally opening a store front in 2000. I enjoy working with the public and watching families as the children grow up. (It does make me seem a lot older when some of my former students come in and are now grandparents!) At The Children's Shoppe, we strive to give the best service, have the best selection of items, and we offer free gift wrapping. We carry up to size 12 clothing for both girls and boys and have toys for this age range. We also have many educational toys for all ages.

WHAT DID I WANT TO BE WHEN I WAS YOUNG?

I wanted to be a secretary like my mother was. My parents had always told us we were going to college. We had three choices: Tech, Tech, or Tech. So, I chose Tech. I started in Medical Technology but my father said since he was paying I needed to change to education. You can always find a job with an education degree. So, I changed to English Education with a minor in science to not lose my science hours from the first year. It was 11 years after I graduated before I began teaching.

WHAT WOULD I SING AT KARAOKE NIGHT?

I would never sing karaoke because I cannot carry a tune in a bucket.

WHAT'S MY FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPE?

Anything my husband cooks. I do not cook so whatever he cooks is fine with me. He is a meat and potato man with vegetables. I love fresh vegetables.

DO I PREFER TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO, PODCASTS, OR OTHER?

XM Radio. I love the 60's music and some of the 50's and 70's.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

trio's

Tuesday, March 23

5-6:30pm

101 Pelican Blvd., Ruston

WELC^{ME}

New Ambassador



Kristi Greer

Academy Mortgage Corporation
kristi.greer@academymortgage.com

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

Chair & Legislative Devt:
Ryan Madden, Napper & Madden

Vice Chairs
Chair Elect & Finance:
Eric McCulloch, Edward Jones

Membership Devt:
Ron Veitch, Anti Pest & Veitch

Events, Planning & Devt:
Callie Grubb, Century Next Bank

Community Devt:
Elizabeth Turnley, Individual

Organizational Devt:
Brent Causey, Delta Broadband, LLC

Immediate Past Chair: Marisol O'Neal, Origin Bank

DIRECTORS

John Deason, Fairfield Inn & Suites
Thomas Graham, The Lincoln Agency
George Lee IV, Temple Baptist Church
Bobby Mounts, PJ's Coffee of New Orleans
Victoria Sexton, Centric FCU
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Brandon Sutherland, LP School District
Anthony Tchakounte, Ruston Cleaning Services
Morgan G. Thornhill, Uptown Downtown
Danny Walpole, Walpole Tire & Service
Patricia Willis, The Children's Shoppe

EX-OFFICIOS

Jeremy Dubose, Crime Stoppers
Ryan Richard, Louisiana Tech Univ.
Doug Postel, LP Police Jury
Stephen Williams, LP Sheriff's Office
Marc Newman, Grambling State Univ.
Grace Ruiz, Louisiana Delta Community College
Lindsay Tomlinson, Origin Bank
Ronny Walker, City of Ruston

AMBASSADORS

Victoria Sexton, Centric FCU (Program Manager)
Rachel Cooper, Individual
Kathy Crowder, Crowder Concepts
Chris Gantt, Princeton Place
Missy Gibbons, Skip Russell State Farm
Thomas Graham, The Lincoln Agency
Rick Greene, Moxey NeLA
Kristi Greer, Academy Mortgage Corporation
David Long, ENSURE The Insurance Agency
Dayna Poppen, Holiday Inn Express
Stacy Scheer, The Arbor & Terrace
Anthony Tchakounte, Ruston Cleaning Services
Ron Veitch, Anti Pest & Veitch
Janet Wilson, Boys and Girls Clubs of NCL

STAFF

Judy Copeland, President
Ashley Smith, Membership Coordinator
Ivana Flowers, Communications & Special Events
Victoria Sexton, (volunteer) S.A.I.L. Manager


**Northern Louisiana
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NorthernLouisianaMedicalCenter.com
401 E. Vaughn Avenue, Ruston, LA

Ribbon Cuttings

More photos on Facebook @RustonChamber.



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RUSTON ROTARY CLUB ANNOUNCES RICHARD LEWIS AS WINNER OF BILL BEST HUMANITARIAN AWARD



The Bill Best Humanitarian Award is an annual recognition presented by the Ruston Rotary Club to a resident who has made a difference in the Lincoln Parish community.

Richard has devoted a lifetime of unselfishly serving the community through various organizations. He was an active member of the Ruston Jaycees for five years, one year as treasurer. He served on the Ruston Community Theater board for two years as Treasurer. For twelve years, he was on the board of the North Central Louisiana Arts Council serving eleven years as Treasurer, and he is currently serving a ten year term on the United Methodist Foundation board.

Richard's volunteerism also has included supporting the mission of DART, hurricane relief efforts through Trinity UMC, and perhaps his greatest service has come from being a board member for the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home (LMCH) for over 10 years, 8 of those years he served as President of the board and is currently the Treasurer.

Rick Wheat, CEO of the LMCH said, "Richard Lewis has a long history of humanitarian work on behalf of children and families through the ministries of LA Methodist Children and Family Services. I share my conviction that LMCH is better for Mr. Lewis' active participation as an engaged member of our Board. During his long tenure as a Board member, Mr. Lewis has been an active member of a number of our Board's Standing Committees. As past Chair of the Board, Mr. Lewis served as an engaged ex-officio member of all Board committees. The ultimate impact of Mr. Lewis' leadership as Board Chair was transformational. He led our Board during the 2011-14 transition imposed upon our residential services by LA's creation of a Medicaid-funded behavioral health system. A steady example of his generosity is Mr. Lewis' extended Adopt-A-School support of Howard School, the alternative school on the grounds of the LMCH. Any person who spends a moment with Richard Lewis knows he cares about their well-being and that he desires goodness for them. Without a doubt, Mr. Lewis is manifestly deserving of recognition as a true humanitarian."

For thirty years, Richard managed a family-owned department store, Lewis and Company in Ruston. He continues to work in land management with a family member. Richard has been married to Janine for forty-six years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

This award and others will be presented at the 101st Annual Chamber Banquet, which will be scheduled when COVID restrictions are eased.

Happy Anniversary

March

80+ YEARS

First National Bank

30+ YEARS

Mason Forest Products, Inc.

20+ YEARS

Hood Companies
McDonald's
Ruston Nursing & Rehab Center

15+ YEARS

Papa John's Pizza

10+ YEARS

Johns Manville
Ruston Community Theater
Wood Marine, LLC

5+ YEARS

Cotton Top Print Shop
Devine Wines & The Keg Package
John Belton, District Attorney
RE/MAX Results Realty
Wiggin' Out

1+ YEARS

BAS Construction
BGC Advantage, LLC
Champs Sports Bar & Restaurant
Christ Church
Cornerstone Surveying
Gina L. Jones, Attorney at Law
L&L Catering
Lincoln Parish Tax Assessor Billy McBride
M&T Property Management
Make It Mine, LLC
Plumwood Marketing, LLC
Ruston Pet Resort Boarding & Daycare
Shopper's Value
Simply Southern Rescue
Trappings - Home of Ruston Florist

We wish you all a happy membership anniversary! We appreciate you and look forward to many more years!



March Happenings!

NEW
OWNER



Mar. 4 Ribbon Cutting, Railway Coffee, 10am

Mar. 11 Leadership Lincoln: Industry Day

Mar. 11 Ribbon Cutting, Delta Broadband, LLC, 11am

Mar. 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Mar. 18 Ribbon Cutting, The Collective, 2pm

Mar. 20 LP Dist. 5 Primary Election

Mar. 23 Business After Hours at Trio's Dining - Ruston, 5-6:30pm

Mar. 30 Ribbon Cutting, Ruston Army Recruiting Station, TBA

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO & HAPPENINGS.

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Dicky Nealy
Broker

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AROS





Thank you Champs Sports Restaurant and Bar for hosting a great **Business After Hour** in February! Food and drinks were good and company was even better.



Next:
Trio's Dining - Ruston
March 23, 5-6:30pm

More photos on Facebook [@RustonChamber](#).

Pillars

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À LA CARTE

