



Chamber Update

Don't miss the region's largest tradeshow, EXPO '08!

Only one more week until EXPO '08, set for **Wednesday, May 7 at the Castine Center from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** A special Business After Hours will close the show.

Special thanks to EXPO '08 sponsors:

Platinum—DQSI, Fairway Medical Center, Humana, Sunshine Pages/Eatel and *Times-Picayune*
Gold—Lakeview Regional Medical Center, *Sophisticated Woman* and The Lake 94.7
Silver—AT&T Real Yellow Pages, Covington's Village Walk, *Inside Northside*, Network Logic, Express Employment Professionals and Protection One

E- Tickets for EXPO '08

Support our 110 exhibitors and attend EXPO '08 anytime from 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on May 7. Also, please help promote attendance at EXPO with your customers by inviting them to the Northshore's premier business show. Although admission is **FREE**, **e-tickets** enable you to easily inform others about this once a year chance to visit 100 businesses in one day, under one roof!

Learn to Network to Grow Your Business

The Chamber's Small Business Advisory Council will hold a workshop featuring Dr. Jeanne Hurlbert, PhD, with LSU and Optinet Resources, LLC, on **Strategic Social Networking** on **Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. until noon** at the Merrill Lynch office located at 2681 N. Causeway Blvd, Mandeville. Participants will: learn why the current conception of networking is too narrow; see an alternative model that is consistent with the needs of business owners today; and learn how to build the social network that can advance your business, help to cope with stress, etc.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Gulf Coast Bank, there is no charge to participate. Space is limited, advanced registration is required.

Lunch and Learn: Managing, Motivating, and Leading a Multi-Generational Workforce

Bruce S. Wilkinson, a leadership consultant, professional keynote speaker, and workplace trainer will be the guest speaker at the Small Business Advisory Council

Thursday, May 15 Lunch and Learn. This event will be held in Room 325 at Southeastern's Koop Drive Campus, **from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Maintaining a motivated, quality workforce will become even more challenging in the future as many organizations look for creative ways to get Baby-Boomers, Gen-Xer's, and Gen Y employees to work together as an effective, cooperative, and respectful team. This will be an enthusiastic, informative, and fun-filled program that will demonstrate some unique and effective ways to manage, motivate, and lead a diverse and multi-generational workforce.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Whitney Bank, there is no charge to attend.

Save the dates!

Chamber members are invited to attend a **special Blueprint Louisiana Update** breakfast, taking place at **8 a.m. on Thursday, May 22** at the Holiday Inn in Covington.

And, **Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden** will be the speaker at our **luncheon** set for **May 28** at Beau Chene. Watch for more information on these two events in the coming weeks.

Visit our website to register for any Chamber event:

<http://events.sttammany-chamber.org>

Committee meetings this week

- Small Business Advisory Council: Tuesday, May 6 at 8 a.m., Chamber office

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE THIS SATURDAY!!

Membership in the St. Tammany West Chamber reached a record high of 1,055 as reported at today's monthly Board of Directors meeting. That means these weekly Updates are reaching a record high audience. Together, with the St. Tammany East Chamber and the Northshore Business Council, our mission is to serve as the premier voice of and to business. We continue to not only encourage you, our members and all your 28,000 employees to exercise your right to vote, but to also encourage your friends, neighbors and families to do the same. Voter turnout in St. Tammany in recent elections has been very low, so we are including the following message from Malise Prieto in an effort to inform you, our members, and encourage you to be a part of changing this trend. TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE THIS WEEKEND!!

A special message from:

Malise Prieto

St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court

St. Tammany's voting statistics are on a downward spiral. Many people were confused or frustrated by the "closed primary" system that went in to effect for the past two Congressional elections, but I think that many more just did not take the time to go to the polls.

In February, when we had municipal elections and party politics, only 17.07% of our registered voters went to the polls. In March, the first Congressional Primary, only 17.13% turned out. The Republican run-off earlier this month had only a 9.23% turnout. Last November, for the state legislature and parish government run-offs, only 16.62% of us voted in St. Tammany. Last summer, 3.4% turned out to vote on the Northshore Harbor Tax that affected 61,000 people! AND, for the Governor's race, less than half (46.66%) voted.

I have been on a personal mission since last fall, simply asking people to do their civic duty and make some choice in candidate and tax matters.

The legislature has made voting easier by enacting "early voting", where you can appear at the Registrar of Voters office, both in Covington at the Justice Center and in Slidell at the temporary Annex on Old Military Road (Levee Board Buildings) and cast your vote. In the past, you had to "be out of town" on election day. Now, you can early vote at your convenience. Early voting was held on April 25 and 26. It is too late to early vote but Election Day is THIS SATURDAY, May 3. Many of us are going to Jazz Fest, vacationing, working out of town, attending sports events, etc. There are a million excuses. It will only take a minute or two to vote because, unfortunately, there will not be a line.

Dedicated poll workers will be in place, just waiting to serve you!

Spotlighting Our Small Business Members

This spotlight on small business is a new project of our Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC). Winners are drawn from business cards collected at our events. The more events you attend, the greater your chance of being in the spotlight!

- **Founders Title Company**

Founders Title has several attorneys on staff with offices on the north and south shores. They handle residential and commercial real estate closings and litigation. **Susan Gutierrez Brady**, manager of the Mandeville branch, is a Notary Public with 18 years of experience in the title business.

1200 West Causeway Approach, Suite 17
Mandeville, LA
985.624.3307

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

The Louisiana Department of Insurance will host a *free* half-day seminar for small business owners interested in affordable health coverage options for their employees this **Thursday, May 1 from 1-4:30 p.m.** For more information please visit the Louisiana Department of Insurance website at http://www.lidi.state.la.us/Health/LHCC/upcoming_events.htm. Should you have questions contact Thomas Clemons at 225.219.4772 or tclemons@ladoi.com.

Hurry, hurry, and don't be late! Buy your ticket now for the **Children's Advocacy Center's 6th Annual Mad Hatter Tea** set for **Saturday, May 10, 2-4 p.m.** in the gymnasium of St. Scholastica Academy in downtown Covington. Enjoy tea (or

lemonade), party sandwiches and desserts with Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Queen, and other Alice in Wonderland characters. The afternoon will also include stilt walkers, face painting, and games. Price is \$15 per person. Call Liz at 985.892.3885 ext. 4 for tickets and more information.