

GATEWAY NEWS

A Publication of the Iberville Chamber of Commerce FEBRUARY 2017



James "Fry" Hymel receives the Spirit of Iberville Award from Iberville Chamber Director Hank Grace (right). The Spirit of Iberville Award is the highest award given by the Chamber, and recognizes community service.

'Fry' Hymel gets prestigious Spirit of Iberville award

White Castle resident and parish community volunteer James "Fry" Hymel was honored with the Chamber's most prestigious award, the Spirit of Iberville Award, at the Chamber's annual banquet and recognition ceremony held at Notoway Plantation Resort on January 26.

Hymel has a record of more than 20 years of community service. He is perhaps most know for serving as chairman of the Iberville Museum Board of Directors and as emcee for the annual Iberville Salute to Veterans event. He is also an active member of the American Legion Westside Honor Guard.

Hymel has served as Secretary of the Home Rule Charter Commission from 1995-1996. This commission worked to create the Home Rule Charter form of government for Iberville Parish. He also served on the Iberville Economic Development Committee, which led to the establishment of the Iberville Tourist Commission, where he served as Chairman from 1990-1992. He has served as an original member of the committee to create the Iberville Zoning Commission, and has been

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Chamber 2017 Board of Directors

Board members for 2017 attending the Chamber Annual Banquet are, from left, Iberville Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Tonya Orcino, St. John School; Bryan Casebonne, Shintech; Steve Smith, The AME Group; Chamber Executive Director Hank Grace; McKenzie Wille, Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office; Chris Daigle, Daigle's Market; Arron Pierre, A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC; Jolain Landry, Iberville Parish School Board; Christina Cedotal,

The Dow Chemical Co.; Edward Earl Comeaux, Comeaux Brothers; Brad Guerin, board appointee, Fusion Architecture; Leman Raphael, board appointee, City of St. Gabriel; Joycelyn Lamothe, Citizens Bank; Larry Rouse, Individual Member. Not pictured are board members David Hall, Iberville Parish Council; and Chandler Smith, board appointee, Iberville Parish School Board.



From the Executive Director

Dear members,

The Chamber has ushered in 2017 with a great Annual Banquet at Nottoway Plantation Resort in January, and the new Chamber board is developing plans for the year's activities.

As part of that effort, the Chamber did a survey in January to determine the needs and wants of our membership. The survey asked what you like and don't like regarding Chamber activities and programs, and how your Chamber can work with member businesses to make them more successful. The results of that survey are presently being studied as planning takes place.

Another survey was e-mailed to members on February 8 to determine what types of training would benefit your business. We will make every effort to provide training locally that our members deem beneficial. Member input is extremely important to us and helps guide our plans for the year, so I hope you participate in this survey.

The new board is being led by Chairman Arron Pierre of A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC. We are looking forward to working with him and the Chamber Board of Directors to continue moving Iberville and the Chamber forward in 2017.

Please note two upcoming events - the membership meeting on February 21 with Superintendent Joffrion (see page 4), and the Chamber's annual Golf Scramble (at right), which is a fun networking opportunity. We hope to see you at both of these events.

Hank Grace



LEADERSHIP CLASS GETS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LESSON...

The 2017 Leadership Iberville class toured the Dow Chemical Co. site and Cora Texas Sugar Refinery in White Castle, and heard a presentation on community competitiveness as part of its economic development class in November. Shown at Cora Texas are class members, from left, Seth Cannon, Axiall, A Westlake Co.; Dan Bucholtz, Dow Chemical; Kasimaria Castle, Total; Ronnie Anderson, Brown-Eagle Group; Brandi Scivicque, Eastman; Sharon Williams, WBR Chamber; Bryant Kessler, The Bank of Commerce; Stacy Blanchard, Iberville Parish School Board; Warren Bates, Syngenta; Robert Samson, Dow Chemical; Beth Bueche, Max Rehab; and Hillary Garner, Axiall, a Westlake Company. Not pictured are Darla Singh, Corey Sarullo, Marcus Rutherford and Ginny Leonard.

Iberville Chamber 19th Annual GOLF SCRAMBLE

Monday, March 27

11 am registration; 1 pm shotgun start
The Island Country Club - Plaquemine

Register your team and enjoy an afternoon of networking. Sponsorships also available
Call the Chamber: 225.687.3560



50/50 RAFFLE!

Following Golf Scramble
Tickets: Chamber office or at
www.ibervillechamber.com

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a team leader of Habitat for Humanity home construction projects in Iberville Parish.

Also at the banquet, Jolain Landry of the Iberville Parish School Board was recognized as outgoing chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors, and was presented with a plaque and gift for her years of service. Landry passed the chairmanship gavel to Arron Pierre of A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC, who serves as the 2017 chairman of the board.

Landry recognized outgoing board members and presented them with a plaque for their service. Recognized were: Outgoing Treasurer Arron Pierre, A. Wilbert's Sons LLC; Grace Cryer, Syngenta; and Hayley Brown, Axiall, A Westlake Company.

Taskforce Chairmen for 2016 were also recognized. They included Economic Development Commission/Root tops Chairman Christina Cedotal, The Dow Chemical Co.; Skilled Workforce Chairman Grace Cryer, Syngenta; Member Services Chairman Arron Pierre, A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC; and Loan Committee Chairman Bubba Beatty, Plaquemine Bank.



TURNING OVER GAVEL...
Incoming Chamber Chairman Arron Pierre receives the gavel from outgoing Chairman Jolain Landry during the Chamber banquet.



BRONZE SPONSORS included, from left: Joel Prejean, SGS Petroleum; Bryan Casebonne, Shintech Louisiana; Polly Higdon, Iberville Parish School Board; Allison Rogers, Essential Federal Credit Union; Dr. Brandon Weeks, Ochsner Medical Complex-Iberville; and Chris Settoon, Olin Corporation-Louisiana Operations. Not pictured are representatives of Axiall, A Westlake Company; EXCEL Group; NRG Energy; SNF Flopam; Tiger Truck Stop, and A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC.



PLATINUM SPONSOR of the Chamber Banquet was The Dow Chemical Company. Representatives at the banquet were, from left, Justin Mendoza, Christina Cedotal, Derek Landry, Robert Samson, Stacey Gautreau, and Dan Bucholtz.



GOLD SPONSOR was the Iberville Community Banks. Representatives included Steve Panepinto, Plaquemine Bank; Danny Strickland, Anthem Bank; Bobby Blanchard, Iberville Bank; Brooks Lewis, Citizens Bank; David Kessler, The Bank of Commerce, and not pictured, Guaranty Bank.



SILVER SPONSOR was Plaquemine Truck Stop and Travel Center. Its' representatives included Jerry and Tommy Parsons; Crystal Cabrera Thibodeaux; Ivan Cabrera and Jessel Ourso.



TIGER CHEVROLET OPENS

Tiger Chevrolet held its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for its location at 17505 Sidney Road in Grosse Tete in November. Shown at the celebration are, from left, Mark Major, Guaranty Bank; Sharon Williams, WBR Chamber; Joe Landry, Tiger Chevrolet; Heather Smith, Guaranty Bank; Sammy Collura, Tony Brockoff, and Robert Bellelo, Tiger Chevrolet; Mike Alexander and James Geary new owners of Tiger

Chevrolet; Village of Grosse Tete Mayor Michael Chauffe; Betty Crosby; Letha Butler, Guaranty Bank; Karen Myers and Natash Smith, Tiger Chevrolet; Chamber Executive Director Hank Grace, Village of Rosedale Mayor Riley Blanchet, Kim Lutz, Kelli Kimball, Roland Domino, Jeff Hoffman, Amy Daigre, Josh Anderson, Mark Shearer, and Walter George, Tiger Chevrolet.

A dose of reality, careers for local students



Some 700 students in the 10th and 11th grade got career advice and a reality check at Career Connections, the popular career information event for Iberville students, held Nov. 9 at the Carl Grant Civic Center.

Representatives of a variety of some 50 career fields gave the students information on the educational requirements, duties and pay of various jobs at booths. They also got a dose of real life financial costs and their career pay at the "reality store." The event is coordinated by the Chamber's Skilled Work-



force Committee. Gold sponsors of the event were Brown Eagle, the Dow Chemical Co., East Iberville-Industry Neighbor Companies (EI-INC), and the Iberville Parish School Board. Silver sponsors were A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC and Shintech Louisiana; and bronze sponsors were Siemens Industry and Olin Corporation, Louisiana Division.

Low interest business loans available

The Chamber has up to \$50,000 available for businesses to expand operations, make capital improvements or purchase needed equipment! Call 225.687.3560

NEW MEMBER

The Ashley Reid Company
Plaquemine, LA
225-445-4830

School superintendent to address Chamber

Tuesday, February 21 Portobello's, Plaquemine
11:30 - Networking Noon-1 pm - Lunch and guest speaker

Iberville Parish School Superintendent
Dr. Arthur Joffrion - speaker
\$20 - members, \$30 future members

Seating is limited - call 225.687.3560 or register at www.ibervillechamber.com



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The Iberville Chamber of Commerce is an equal opportunity provider.