



TIMES-PICAYUNE COLUMN – March 7, 2010

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Chamber ambassadors check pulse of membership

The St. Tammany West Chamber is committed to providing an atmosphere where each member business is valued, represented, and connected. Our Ambassadors Council takes the lead role in assuring that this is achieved. Just like all of our committee members, Ambassadors are volunteers. The purpose of this council is to help new and existing members get the most from their chamber member benefits and promote general membership in the chamber.

Our Ambassadors are an outgoing, enthusiastic group of individuals whose contribution to the chamber is much appreciated. They are carefully selected and as a result, the group is comprised of highly respected individuals. **Mike Dugger** serves as the 2010 chairman and the newest ambassadors this year include: **Hayne Beatrous, Stephanie Bedford, Randy Bidleman, John DeSilva, Sally Hoffstadt, Aimee Kitchen, Kim Mancini, Laura Meyers, Mike Trew, and Nancy Vanderbrook.** We are also honored to have the following Ambassadors return again this year: **Fallon Browning, Barry Cottrell, Zondra Jones, Nancy Lee, John Murray, Amy Nevels, Kellie Osbon, Len Snyder, and Keith Steele.**

Ambassadors serve as the public relations arm of the chamber by developing a two-way communication between themselves and the membership. Last year the council's guidelines were revamped, and now Ambassadors call on existing, as well as new members, to update them on the chamber's current activities, policies and special events, as well as asking how the chamber can better serve them. In addition, Ambassadors serve as official greeters at monthly luncheons and business after hours events to help new members and first time attendees feel more at ease and to introduce them to other members.

Every year each chamber member should receive a phone call from an Ambassador. This call has several purposes. The Ambassador will verify contact information, as well as answer any questions a member may have about chamber programs or benefits. They will also ask for feedback and suggestions on events, seminars and government issues we should address. Most importantly, the Ambassador will want to know what concerns or challenges the member faces as a St. Tammany Parish business, as the chamber strives to provide strong business support and a strong voice for business, especially during these challenging economic times.

This year's Membership Drive will take place this spring. The Ambassadors, in addition to all chamber committees, will play an active part and have a competing team to recruit new members.

To learn more about the Ambassadors Council visit www.sttammanycommerce.org or call 892-3216.

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