

# COMMUNIQUE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH  
CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

## 12 AFTER THE STORM

PARISH PRESIDENTS DISCUSS THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES  
OF REBUILDING POST-IDA

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SCIA Communiqué is a publication of the  
**South Central Industrial Association**  
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Houma, LA 70361-2143  
(985) 851-2201  
Fax - (985) 851-2202  
[sciaonline.net](http://sciaonline.net)

**Printed by Star Printing**  
309 North Hollywood Rd  
Houma, LA 70364  
(985) 87204584

**Designed by White Car**  
407A W. 4th St.  
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



## TO OUR MEMBERS,

First, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. 2022 was a year of recovery for our region and a year of growth for SCIA. It has been fun to return to normalcy after a couple of very difficult years. I would like to applaud our membership for delivering a wonderful banquet, golf tournament, and crawfish boil as well as the many other workshops and events this year. Our Females Fueling Our Workforce event may have been our best ever! Last week I had the privilege to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the first federally funded project for the Morganza to the Gulf System. This is an effort SCIA has supported for many years, but it is proof that through constant engagement anything is possible. It is for this determination and voice that I am so proud to be a part of this organization. This past year at our luncheons we were informed by our local, state, and federal delegations on many issues that our companies face in these challenging times. SCIA will continue to be the active voice for this region and our industries. We also had the privilege of hearing from industry leaders and are very comforted to reinsure the role that Gulf of Mexico will play in sustainable energy for our world. To be an active voice we must have an active membership! It is with this in mind that I call on our membership to engage with SCIA through our committees and with our great board. We have the ability to affect great change for our region! I look forward to another great year and hope to see you all at our next event!!

— MITCH MARMANDE

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



With a new year upon us, it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on a great year of normalcy and recovery.

Kathy and I were happy to bring you all of the events, luncheons, workshops, and fundraisers that you have grown to love and expect from SCIA. We were excited to see all the faces that we missed the last couple of years and meet new ones as well. We were happy to bring back the Females Fueling our Workforce event with hundreds of high school young ladies hearing from fierce women who have forged their way in the energy industry. We organized tours for high school students to Bollinger Shipyards, Gulf Island, John Deere, K & B Industries, and Sealevel Construction in conjunction with National Manufacturing Week

We are hoping that 2023 will be another year of growth for SCIA. Hopefully, we've done enough pivoting and recovery for a while.

We have some exciting things coming your way. We're working on a year-end annual report that will be published in January. We're bringing Meet Your Regulator Day back to you in April. And our Communique newsletter will be offered in printed and digital form, allowing for click throughs for our advertisers.

As always, we appreciate our members and know we are nothing without you.

Happy New Year!

— CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

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# SCALISE ELECTED AS HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

**Congressman Steve Scalise was elected the House Majority Leader just one week after his bid for the position.**

What exactly does a House Majority Leader do, you might wonder. Elected by the entire membership of the House of Representatives, the Speaker presides over the House as its administrative head and serves as the leader of the majority party in the chamber. The majority leader schedules legislation to be considered on the House floor; organizes daily, weekly, and yearly legislative plans; consults with Members to understand how party members feel about issues; and works to advance the goals of the party.

Scalise issued the following statement regarding his election:

"It has been an honor to fight for the American people as the Republican Whip for these past eight years, and I am humbled to be elected by my colleagues to serve as the Majority Leader in the new Republican-majority House of Representatives. By rejecting big government socialism, hardworking people all across America, from Portland,

Oregon to Miami, Florida, elected a House Republican majority that will fight for them every day so we can get our country back on track, and we are ready to face this challenge. We will get to work preparing an agenda that is focused on the struggles hardworking families are facing, including passing bills through the House to reduce inflation, lower energy costs, secure the border, and help law enforcement officers get the tools they need to keep our communities safe from rampant crime.

"We will also carry out the important oversight necessary to hold the Biden Administration accountable for their actions that undermine our national security and the rule of law. Millions of voters across America have elected us to address the problems facing our country, restore the American Dream, and get our country back on the right track, and I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work fighting for those families who are struggling as the new House Majority Leader."

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEIRARCHY



### SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Presiding officer of the House and chief spokesman for the majority congressional party. Second in line to the Presidency after the Vice President.



### MAJORITY & MINORITY LEADERS

The **MAJORITY LEADER** is second in command, chiefly responsible for scheduling the House floor's legislative calendar and overseeing the operations of all House committees. The **MINORITY LEADER** is chief strategist, floor leader and spokesperson for the minority caucus or, in short, the opposition leader.



### MAJORITY & MINORITY WHIPS

Responsible for instructing rank-and-file members how to vote on specific bills and making sure that members show up to votes. They also warn the Speaker and Leader when members are likely to vote against party-backed measures.



### RANK-AND-FILE REPRESENTATIVES

The bulk of the 435 members of the House who try to protect the interests of their constituents, serve on congressional committees and subcommittees, and vote.



# CHEVRON VP ADDRESSES SCIA MEMBERS

BY CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

**Brad Middleton, Chevron's Vice President of the Gulf of Mexico Business Unit was the guest speaker at SCIA's July General Membership Luncheon. Middleton gave views on the energy landscape from a world view, company view, and Gulf of Mexico view.**

"We need the oil and gas industry to continue to develop gas. Any knee-jerk reaction to get off of it quickly will just result in inflation and high prices," Middleton said.

"If the world needs oil and gas, and a cleaner energy mix, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, then what the world needs is for the oil and gas industry to do 2 things: Keep investing and get cleaner in delivering its products. In order to achieve the Paris Acord, every company, industry, government and society needs to get cleaner," said Middleton.

Chevron has pledged to get to net zero aspiration by 2050, to get to zero routine flaring by 2030 and to have 50% reduction of methane gasses by 2028.

"The Gulf of Mexico barrels are some of the lowest carbon barrels in the world. The world average is around 25-30kg of CO2 emissions/barrel of oil. Chevron's average is 6kg of CO2 emissions/barrel of oil, primarily because we monetize all of the gas and do very little flaring," said Middleton. The GOM is a way for the US to help meet its energy demands with the lower carbon footprint. If the US produces it with less carbon kg and we begin importing more at 30kg, that is counterproductive in lowering our carbon footprint.

Middleton thinks the GOM is very uniquely positioned for a real win-win for what the world is trying to do to move to a cleaner future and develop oil and gas that the world needs.

Chevron is focused on reducing the carbon footprint and also focused on growing their oil and gas business.

Chevron has increased their reserves over the last 10 yrs. We will increase our production from 3mm barrels/day to 4 mm b/day over the next 10 years with assets that we currently own: Tahiti, Genesis, Jack/St Malo, Big Foot, Patronius and Blind Faith. We also partner with Shell, bp, Equinor and others in six other different fields, totaling 12 fields in which we produce over 200,000 barrels of oil a day.

As for the future, Chevron is focused on three things: renewable fuels, Hydrogen and carbon capture sequestration. On renewable fuels, Chevron is a significant producer of renewable-based oils. On hydrogen, Chevron produces hydrogen as part of their refining process in the petrochemical industry. Hydrogen has the potential to be a true breakthrough as it pertains to transportation. Hydrogen fuel cells offer a zero emissions opportunity. You need to make hydrogen in a green matter and the key to that is carbon capture sequestration. If you take the carbon from generating hydrogen and you inject the carbon into the ground, you could actually have a transportation option that is zero carbon.

On to carbon capture sequestration, the only way for the word to achieve the Paris Accord is to do significant CCS. Chevron currently has the largest CCS plant in the world in Australia, injecting 4 million tons of Co2 a year. Chevron's goal is 25 million tons a year over the next 5 years.



Brad Middleton

**"WE NEED THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP GAS. ANY KNEE-JERK REACTION TO GET OFF OF IT QUICKLY WILL JUST RESULT IN INFLATION AND HIGH PRICES."**

— BRAD MIDDLETON,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
MEXICO BUSINESS UNIT,  
CHEVRON



# PARISH PRESIDENTS DISCUSS CHALLENGES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY COLIN CAMPO, AS EDITED BY CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

**The presidents of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes said at the SCIA September General Membership Luncheon that rebuilding efforts today in the wake of Hurricane Ida will better prepare the area to face future challenges.**

"The better we build back today, the less damage we will hopefully have in the future," Lafourche Parish President Archie Chaisson said.

Chaisson and Terrebonne Parish President Gordan Dove spoke to the South Central Industrial Association at a luncheon in Gray. They discussed recovery efforts since Ida and plans going forward. Dove and Chaisson sat on one side of the stage, and South Central Industrial Association Mitch Marmande was seated across from them and asked about subjects ranging from total costs so far to FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0.

Hurricane Ida inflicted heavy upfront costs on the two parish governments, both of which borrowed money and expect to recoup the cost from FEMA in the upcoming years. Lafourche Parish borrowed \$120 million, of which Chaisson said roughly \$25 million has been recovered. Terrebonne Parish has borrowed \$50 million and has recouped \$23 million, Dove said.

Chaisson said about 99% debris has been picked up across Lafourche, about 400 structures are planned for demolition, and the parish is looking at repairing about \$231 million in public infrastructure damage.

"That's \$44 million in pump stations and drainage, probably about \$35 million in buildings, another \$10 million to \$12 million in rec facilities and about \$28 million in debris pick up," he said.

Dove said Terrebonne is focusing on its power plant and courthouse. The power plant was previously an 80-megawatt plant. Dove said his administration is pushing to upgrade it to a 100-megawatt plant. It will cost about \$200 million for both the power plant and the grid system upgrades.

"We believe we've got FEMA where we want them to replace it," Dove said.

Dove said a portable power station is being built on Barrow Street. It is costing the parish \$1.5 million a month for the next three years. He expects the it to be complete in about three weeks.

The courthouse is repaired but needs replacing, he said. The parish recently let the engineering contract out for the courthouse.



## PUMP STATIONS

Chaisson said his administration is looking to improve the old pumps Lafourche has and is looking to Terrebonne as a model. He said his parish is looking to concentrate pumping power and lower the total number of pumps by making them more efficient. Lafourche Parish has 86 pump stations with a total of 184 pumps.

"We are actually looking at hydraulic standards -- and I kind of picked this up from President Dove -- we're really looking at ways to improve the efficiency of pumping so that we can take the 86 pumping stations that we have across Lafourche Parish and maybe consolidate them down to 60," he said. "Making bigger and better pump stations that will cost us more up front, but we're moving more efficiently, and they will last us longer into the future."

Dove said his focus for many years has been pump stations. In his seven years in office, he added 30 stations, he has 24 complete and six under construction but already paid for. In total, he said his parish has increased its pumping waterflow by about 70%. Terrebonne has 95 pump stations and 210 total pumps.

"When I took office, you had about 95 pump stations in Terrebonne Parish, but about 24 were electric, and none of them had back up electric generators, so when you had a hurricane and electric was out, people would flood," he said. "So we had to rewire the buildings, because none of them even had transfer switches."

**"THE BETTER WE BUILD BACK  
TODAY, THE LESS DAMAGE  
WE WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE  
IN THE FUTURE."**

— ARCHIE CHAISSON,  
LAFOURCHE PARISH PRESIDENT

## RISK RATING 2.0

The two presidents were asked about the impact of Risk Rating 2.0 on the parish. Both said the effects are pricing residents out of their homes.

"FEMA at this point is basically telling us where we can live," said Chaisson. "That's what they are trying to do."

Chaisson said Louisiana Citizen's customers are looking at potentially a 63% increase in costs. According to Chaisson, he lives in Lockport and has never flooded. He has paid about \$400 a year for insurance. In five years his insurance will be \$4,600 a year.

People cannot sell homes because people do not want that rate, and new homes start at the increased rate. He said FEMA is trying for solvency, but he, and people like him who have never flooded, will not buy insurance, because when they finally flood, so will everyone else.

"They're trying to make the program more solvent, but what you are going to have happen is people like me, who don't need those policies, are going to drop out the program. We know if we flood, half of Lafourche is under water," he said. "So you are going to see the program become more insolvent rather than you will solvent."

Dove said another program coming into effect is FEMA wanting all homes raised two feet above the base flood elevation. Dove said he is against this program but hopes that the choice is given to local legislators whether to add it into the code.

If the rule comes into affect, Terrebonne Parish residents will see a 10% increase on their flood insurance. This will occur because Terrebonne Parish is part of the Consumer Ratings System and receives a 15% discount. Failure to comply with the rule would cause the parish to lose 10% of the discount.

"All of this is administrative. It's not legislatively done," Dove said. "So, with the right people in Washington, D.C., we can cancel that."

Lafourche is not part of the Consumer Ratings System, Chaisson said, because the parish was removed from it roughly 80 years ago, so the 10% change wouldn't affect Lafourche.

Dove said he is hoping to offset the cost of the two feet with money from the Hazardous Mitigation Grant received from FEMA.



# OUT-AND-ABOUT





MEMBERS HAD A FUN QUARTER AT OUR  
**MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS, WOMEN IN THE  
INDUSTRY EVENT, AND OUR ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET.**





# GOV. EDWARDS BREAKS GROUND ON \$96 MILLION PUMP STATION ON BAYOU LAFOURCHE

BY BLFWD, AS EDITED BY CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

**Gov. John Bel Edwards, members of Louisiana's congressional delegation and several elected officials celebrated the groundbreaking of a critically needed \$96 million pump station in Donaldsonville where Bayou Lafourche meets the Mississippi River.**

The pump station will protect the drinking water supply for Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes and will combat saltwater intrusion in the Lafourche and Terrebonne estuaries, which experience some of the highest land loss rates in the world.

"The importance of this project to the Bayou Region and to our state can't be overstated," said Gov. Edwards. "The pump station will protect nearly 10 percent of Louisiana's drinking water supply while nourishing over 85,000 acres of marsh in some of the country's most land starved areas. We're investing more than ever before into protection and restoration projects across our coast, and it's clear these efforts will continue to benefit Louisiana for decades to come."

Work to restore Bayou Lafourche and build the pump station has been ongoing since Hurricane Gustav in 2008. The storm churned up muck and debris that not only blocked the mouth of the bayou, but contaminated it causing it to go septic; the waterway's flow was too weak to flush out the clogged bayou. The new pump station will have a minimum pumping capacity of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and be constructed beside the existing 450 cfs pump station which will remain in service.

"We're effectively tripling our capacity for fresh water entering the bayou," said Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District Executive Director Ben Malbrough. "Saltwater intrusion is a leading contributor to land loss in this region, and this increased flow of fresh water will be critical in the long-term fight in preserving what we have and aiding in the restoration of what we've lost."

In the years following Hurricane Gustav, an influx of state and federal funding have allowed the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District (BLFWD) to dredge portions of the bayou and remove a build-up of fallen trees and other debris. BLFWD also removed a weir on the bayou in Thibodaux that restricted the flow of freshwater.

BLFWD fought for years to get the funding and permits needed to build the sorely needed pump station, which will be one of its biggest tools in restoring the bayou, and a collaboration with state agencies finally made it happen.



CPRA, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and the BLFWD signed an agreement in 2019 to finance the project's construction through a \$65 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan administered by LDEQ. This EPA fund helps communities stay in compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

CPRA has pledged over \$50 million toward repayment of the loan using a portion of future Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenues it will receive from offshore federal oil and gas leases. BLFWD will repay the balance of the loan with revenues from an existing property tax.

For construction costs in excess of the loan value, BLFWD will provide an additional \$5.5 million of its own funds, and CPRA will contribute a total of \$26 million through a combination of GOMESA revenues and Capital Outlay funds as approved by State lawmakers.

The new pump station is anticipated to be completed and in operation by June 2025.

# LMOGA PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT SCIA

BY COLIN CAMPO, AS EDITED BY CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

## Global demand is pushing toward cleaner energy, and Louisiana must follow, an oil industry leader said Tuesday in Houma.

"If we are serious about energy production in Louisiana, and future energy production in Louisiana, we have to be serious about reducing carbon in the atmosphere," said Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association President Tommy Faucheux. "It does have an impact."

Faucheux spoke to members of the South Central Industrial Association during the group's October General Membership luncheon at the Cypress Columns meeting hall in Gray.

Political and market trends are pushing the oil and gas industry toward cleaner output, and government regulations are making it harder to operate, he said.

"If you look from a market standpoint, the market wants companies to be lower carbon," he said. "I know it is hard for some people to embrace a lower carbon energy future for any number of reasons. Be open to it because it is a new wave of industrial investment in Louisiana that I believe in. It will definitely bring increased revenues and jobs while at the same time allowing us to expand oil and gas production."

Oil companies are cutting carbon emissions wherever they can because consumers are demanding it, Faucheux said. Much of this is done through carbon capture, where companies collect carbon byproducts and waste during the production process and store them underground.

The Gulf of Mexico produces the world's lowest-carbon oil, something that could position the area to produce more crude as other places cut, he said.

Carbon capture has its limitations, so it's important that Louisiana schools, including Fletcher Technical Community College in Schriever and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, stay on the forefront of wind, solar, natural gas and other energy options, Faucheux said.

"When it comes to carbon reduction, you only get so far. We'll never get where we want to be with carbon emissions without investing in innovation and new technologies as well," he said. "We want those members of our workforce to be able to find employment opportunities as the industry ebbs and flows."

Local businesses are exploring solar and wind energy in the Gulf, he said. Hydrogen energy and carbon capture technologies are also receiving attention.

President Joe Biden's administration has taken policy actions that have hampered oil companies' ability to drill in the Gulf, Faucheux said.

"You can't separate this lack of an energy policy from the anti-domestic energy sector that we see from a lot of people in Washington," Faucheux said. "Many of them on the other side want you to believe as they do at their core, that the time for fossil fuels has passed and that the need for expanded domestic production should be over."

This political opinion will have a significant impact in Louisiana, he said, because between 20% and 26% of Louisiana's economic output is wrapped up in the oil sector and its service industries.

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association has lobbied the Biden Administration to ease restrictions in Gulf oil activity.

"We have tried our best, quite frankly, to get the Biden administration to reverse course on this path of stopping Gulf of Mexico oil and gas production," he said. "The blocking of the previously approved lease sales by federal courts, at the end of last year going into this year, was unneeded."

Lease sales in the Gulf are of great importance because they create future predictability for profits. People's jobs are tied up in where and when the next drilling begins, Faucheux said.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, was pivotal in getting lease sales moving again. Now that two lease sales have been given the green light, a five-year draft plan has been created by the Biden administration. The five-year plan for oil leasing should have been in place July 1, when the previous plan expired, Faucheux said.

The lack of a plan was creating anxiety among oil companies. Now there is some optimism, but this draft is less than clear and even leaves an option for zero drilling in the Gulf, something Faucheux labelled "unacceptable."





# JOHN DEERE TO EXPAND THIBODAUX MANUFACTURING PLANT, CREATING **70 DIRECT JOBS**

BY KEITH MAGILL, AS EDITED BY CHRISTY ALLEY-ZERINGUE

**The expansion is expected to create another 110 indirect jobs in the Thibodaux area, officials said Tuesday.**

A \$29.8 million expansion at the John Deere factory in Thibodaux will create 70 direct jobs and help retain more than 300 employees locally and across Louisiana, officials said Tuesday.

The project will shift cotton harvester production from China to Lafourche Parish, according to Louisiana Economic Development.

Deere & Company will create 70 new direct jobs at the Thibodaux plant with an average annual salary of \$47,472, the state agency said in a news release. It will also retain 311 existing jobs in Louisiana, including 284 jobs at the Lafourche Parish facility.

Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in 110 new indirect jobs, for a total of 180 new jobs in the Thibodaux area, officials said.

The announcement coincided with Louisiana's observation of Manufacturing Week, the 11th annual nationwide celebration of the sector's continued growth and the career opportunities it has to offer.

"This investment by Deere & Company demonstrates not only the strength of Louisiana's manufacturing sector, but the resilience and recovery of the Bayou Region," Gov. John Bel Edwards said in the release. "Manufacturing has long played a vital role in Louisiana's economy and never more so than today, supporting more than 178,000 Louisiana workers and their families through ongoing investments in every region of the state. Thanks to Deere & Company for its commitment to Lafourche Parish, and congratulations to the skilled workers whose dedication convinced this global manufacturer to expand its footprint in our state."

The expansion involves the development and installation of a new production line and upgraded equipment, which will allow the Thibodaux facility to begin producing medium-chassis cotton harvesting models that will replace existing models currently built in China.

"The new cotton harvesters present a huge opportunity for John Deere Thibodaux to deliver innovative and technologically advanced solutions to our customers, which will increase their productivity and profitability," said Mike Duplantis, factory manager at John Deere Thibodaux. "This expansion is possible due to the tremendous amount of hard work and resiliency of the Thibodaux team."

The Thibodaux site is a design center for sugar harvesting and earth-moving scraper equipment as well as a manufacturing facility for a variety of agriculture and construction products. The company expects production of the new cotton harvesters to begin within the next two years and reach full capacity by 2025.

"John Deere's expansion is a huge win for Lafourche," Parish President Archie Chaisson said. "The addition of new manufacturing lines to John Deere Thibodaux shows how productive and efficient this facility is, which is a testament to the local workforce and management. The Thibodaux facility's successful competition for these new cotton harvesters shows just how competitive Lafourche Parish can be."

To secure the project in Thibodaux, the state offered Deere a competitive incentive package including a performance-based retention and modernization grant of up to \$1 million, and the services of LED FastStart, Louisiana's nationally acclaimed recruitment, customized training and workforce development program. The company is also expected to participate in the Industrial Tax Exemption and Enterprise Zone programs.

"It's always exciting for our community to experience new high-paying employment opportunities and a positive stimulus to our local economy," Thibodaux Mayor Tommy Eschete said. "John Deere Thibodaux once again illustrates its history as an outstanding corporate citizen by diversifying its production capabilities so as to remain a viable manufacturing business in the Bayou Region."



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## TERREBONNE GENERAL WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Terrebonne General Health System welcomes Arlanda Williams and Tanner Magee to the Terrebonne General Board of Commissioners.

Arlanda Williams obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans. She then earned her doctorate (Ph.D.) in Public Policy from Southern University, Baton Rouge. She served as a Terrebonne Parish Councilwoman for the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government from 2006 to 2020. Her involvement in professional and community affiliations in Terrebonne Parish and the surrounding areas is numerous. She is currently the Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development & Institutional Advancement and Executive Dean of River City Advanced Manufacturing Site at Delgado Community College.



Arlanda Williams

Tanner Magee is a Houma native. He attended Louisiana State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Masters in Public Administration, and Juris Doctorate, Bachelor of Civil Law. Tanner was elected in 2015 and 2020 to serve in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was additionally elected as Speaker Pro Tempore. He is the owner of Landry Magee, LLC, a law firm located in Houma, LA.



Tanner Magee

"It is an honor to have Arlanda Williams and Tanner Magee serve on our board," said Phyllis Peoples. "Their ambition will help the growth of our organization, and together we will continue to bring specialized care to our community."

**"THEIR AMBITION WILL  
HELP THE GROWTH OF OUR  
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COMMUNITY."**

— PHYLLIS PEOPLES,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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## THIBODAUX REGIONAL PARTNERS WITH NICHOLLS STATE

For more than 30 years, Thibodaux Regional Health System and Nicholls State University have worked together to provide the best possible support for student-athletes. Thibodaux Regional has invested in high quality sports medicine and athletic training services and has launched integrated sports and wellness services such as strength and conditioning, sports nutrition, and injury prevention. Nicholls has worked diligently to develop competitive athletic programs and has received national recognition for its efforts.

Officials with Thibodaux Regional and Nicholls are excited to announce the continued collaboration and expansion of its partnership to include the use of Thibodaux Regional's new, state-of-the-art sports complex. Thibodaux Regional Sports Complex provides an opportunity for Nicholls Athletics to enhance its soccer, tennis, beach volleyball and track programs. The Sports Complex has been built to meet or exceed NCAA standards which enables Nicholls to participate and hold competitive games, matches, and meets as well as host championships. Recruitment and retention of athletes will also be aided with the new facilities.

"Thibodaux Regional appreciates the opportunity to further our relationship with Nicholls and its Athletics Department," said Greg Stock, CEO, Thibodaux Regional Health System. "We are happy that we can provide student-athletes with a premier sports facility that can assist them in achieving excellence within their sport. This on-going relationship with Nicholls will also positively impact the community and region for many years to come."

"This Thibodaux Regional-Nicholls partnership will impact the majority of the university's 350 student-athletes, allowing them to compete at facilities unmatched by almost any collegiate sports program in the country," Nicholls State University President Jay Clune said. "The tennis, beach volleyball, track and field, and soccer venues put Nicholls on the map for hosting regional and national competitions. For that, and so much more, we are grateful to CEO Greg Stock, the Thibodaux Regional Health System Board of Directors, as well as the staff at the hospital and Wellness Center."

"To have a partner like Thibodaux Regional is a game changer for Colonel Athletics," Nicholls State University Athletics Director Jonathan Terrell said. "The Thibodaux Regional Sports Complex puts us on a whole other level in terms of recruiting, competition and game day logistics. With over 30 years of partnership between us, we are excited for our community and our student-athletes to be able to bring NCAA D1 competitions to the best multipurpose facility in the state."

As acknowledgement of this collaborative endeavor, Thibodaux Regional Health System will be recognized and known as The Premier Healthcare Partner of Nicholls Athletics and the Official Hospital and Sports Medicine Provider of Nicholls Athletics.

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## KRISTINE STRICKLAND SELECTED FOR THE COMMITTEE OF 100

The Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc. has selected Dr. Kristine Strickland as a member for 2022. C100 Committee Member Jason Bergeron stated, "C100 is excited to have Kristine. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the membership of C100 that will greatly benefit our members and the citizens of our state."

Dr. Strickland is the Chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College. During her leadership at Fletcher, Kristine has focused on growing programs, building public-private partnerships, increasing economic and workforce development, continuing community relations, improving student outcomes, and diversifying revenue streams. Notably and most recently, Kristine led the institution through the COVID-19 pandemic and the response and recovery following Hurricane Ida, while ensuring minimal interruption of educational services.

Prior to her time at Fletcher, Dr. Strickland served in executive-level positions at Delgado Community College, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and Baton Rouge Community College. Kristine earned her Ph.D. in Leadership for Higher Education from Capella University, and more recently, completed the Institute of Higher Education Management (IEM) at Harvard University.



**Dr. Kristine Strickland**



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## BOLLINGER TO ACQUIRE VT HALTER MARINE

### **Acquisition cements Bollinger's position as a globally recognized, leading designer and builder of high-performance vessels and complex structures for government and commercial customers**

Bollinger Shipyards, the largest privately-owned and operated shipbuilder in the United States, today announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire VT Halter Marine, Inc. and ST Engineering Halter Marine Offshore ("STEHMO"), together a leader in the design, engineering, construction, and repair of complex, state-of-the-art vessels for government and commercial customers, from parent company ST Engineering North America, a leading technology, defense and engineering group. The transaction expands Bollinger's new construction and repair capacity and capabilities to better serve its key defense and commercial customers.

This acquisition creates expanded opportunities for Bollinger to better serve and deepen its relationships with its key defense and commercial customers with an increased capacity and footprint, improved efficiencies, enhanced economies of scale, and access to a large skilled workforce, including increased engineering capacity. It also brings expanded capabilities for future programs, including an ACAT I program.

Bollinger's acquisition increases the shipyard's growing new construction and repair portfolio. All ongoing programs are to be conveyed with the transaction. Notably, the Polar Security Cutter (PSC) program for the U.S. Coast Guard and the Auxiliary Personnel Lighter-Small (APL(S)) program for the U.S. Navy. Given the proximity to Bollinger's existing facilities, Bollinger will be able to support further efficiencies and resolution of any potential capacity constraints.

The acquisition includes 378 acres comprising 2 shipyards in Pascagoula and two dormant yards north of Pascagoula. The newly acquired yards will be renamed Bollinger Mississippi Shipbuilding and Bollinger Mississippi Repair. The Pascagoula facilities are strategically located with direct, deep-water access to the Gulf of Mexico and houses corporate office space, engineering, fabrication, warehousing and a foreign trade zone. The shipyard consists of 225,000 square feet of covered production area in the main fabrication assembly buildings. The facility is capable of producing Panamax-sized vessels up to 50,000 DWT and features an expanded 225.6m (740ft) tilt-beam launch system.

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## ENTERGY TO EVALUATE OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIAL IN GULF WATERS

### **Companies partner on the future development of offshore wind power to serve Louisiana customers**

Entergy Louisiana, Entergy New Orleans and Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of Diamond Generating Corporation, today announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding regarding the evaluation and potential early development of wind power generation in the Gulf of Mexico. The agreement could put Entergy in a position to deliver another source of clean power to customers while also strengthening the region's economic development.

"This is an important first step to possibly bring wind power to our Louisiana shores," said Phillip May, Entergy Louisiana president and CEO. "While there remains work to be done before that happens, we are excited by the opportunity to begin this process. We aspire to help our communities thrive for generations to come, and this marks yet another milestone in honoring that mission."

"Clean and affordable power is a driver of economic growth, resulting in increased investments and good paying, green jobs in our communities," added Deanna Rodriguez, Entergy New Orleans president and CEO. "Entergy New Orleans understands the importance of serving customers

with clean energy to reduce the impacts of climate change and doing so in a way that keeps service affordable to families and businesses in New Orleans. This agreement creates another possible avenue to meet those demands."

The MOU provides a legal framework for Entergy and Diamond Offshore Wind to work toward the development of potential offshore wind demonstration projects located in Louisiana state waters and will focus in the near term on the evaluation of grid interconnection to determine the optimal size and locations of future offshore wind development.

Earlier this year, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards submitted the Louisiana Climate Action Plan, which offered a series of recommendations that can lead Louisiana to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 – a key action from that plan is to achieve five gigawatts of offshore wind generation by 2035. Development of wind energy in the Gulf of Mexico will accelerate the state's role as a leader in renewable energy development, and drive collaboration between state and federal agencies, utilities, the private sector, and our state's colleges and universities. Entergy is proud to be a leader in this exciting future for Louisiana.

## TERREBONNE GENERAL RECEIVED LCTCS AWARD

Terrebonne General Health System was recognized by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Foundation with a 2022 Impact Award during the 5th Annual Impact Awards celebration. The purpose of the LCTCS Foundation's Impact Award is to celebrate extraordinary leadership efforts which have been notably effective in advancing the education and workforce needs of students, businesses, and communities across Louisiana.

Terrebonne General Health System would like to thank Fletcher Technical Community College and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) for honoring us with this distinction. We are proud to be recognized as a community partner who is an outstanding leader in advancing education and workforce development in Louisiana.



Pictured in photo (Left to Right): **Tim Barfield**, Secretary/Treasurer, LCTCS, **Jamie McKnight**, Dr. **Monty Sullivan**, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), **Phyllis Peoples**, Terrebonne General President and CEO, and Dr. **Kristine Strickland**, Chancellor, Fletcher Technical Community College.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 11:50 AM**  
**At the Cypress Columns**

Register by Jan 10th by emailing  
[kathy@sciaonline.net](mailto:kathy@sciaonline.net) or call 851-2201  
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**KRISTI LUMPKIN**, LAFOURCHE PARISH GRANTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
**COHEN GUIDRY**, CEO OF TERREBONNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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