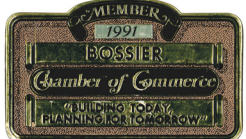


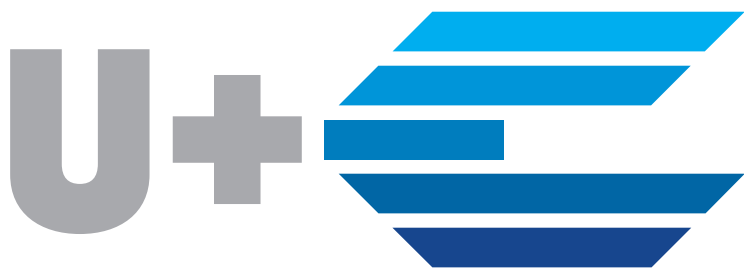
from 1947 to 2022 and beyond

Bossier
Chamber
of Commerce

Celebrating

75
years





INVESTING IN
LOCAL
BUSINESSES
THAT ENRICH OUR
COMMUNITY

Congratulations
BOSSIER
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
on 75 Years!



citizensnb.com NMLS#412577



Bossier Chamber celebrates storied 75 years

We are extremely honored to be helping lead the Bossier Chamber through its 75th year serving Bossier Parish by advancing the economic interests of this great and growing parish.



While many membership organizations struggle to retain members, engagement and participation, the Bossier Chamber has remained a successful entity through the years.



As we have been researching the history of the Bossier Chamber, there are a few things that stand out that have really propelled this organization through the years to have influence and impact on the growth and success of Bossier City, Bossier Parish and Northwest Louisiana - and they really boil down to our four values:

- Advocacy
- Education
- Opportunity
- Partnerships

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the accomplishments of the Bossier Chamber throughout the past 75 years. This report isn't large enough to hold all that the Bossier Chamber has done but we give you a glimpse into this organization's great history!

Eric Barkley, Chairman of the Board

Lisa Johnson, President/CEO, Bossier Chamber

Past President/Chairman of the Board

1948	V.V. Whittington	1985	Raymond L. Bond
1949	Arthur Ray Teague	1986	Rogers M. Prestridge
1950	Delma L. Patrick	1987	Ron Fayard
1951	James K Larkin	1988	Tom Crumpton
1952	J. Ashley Sibley	1989	Robert L. Taylor
1953	Harry B. Walker	1990	Steve Doss
1954	Enoch T. Nix	1991	Ray Urban
1955	J. Murray Durham	1992	Thomas Daugherty
1956	O.E. Price	1993	Eddie Faith
1957	Willie D. White	1994	Will Hubbard
1958	J.A. Dunham, Jr.	1995	Jim Connerly
1959	Thomas R. Merideth	1996	Gene Dickerson
1960	O. Gladstone Lynch	1997	Bob McArthur
1961	R. R. Forbing	1998	Bill McFadden
1962	Donald M. Clements	1999	John LeGrand, Jr.
1963	Forest E. Vaughn	2000	Connie Brown
1964	Walter O. Bigby	2001	Thomas Boggs
1965	Robert B. Scott	2002	Helen Black
1966	James N. Fritze	2003	Rick Osburne
1967	Glenn F. Armstrong	2004	Jeff Thompson
1968	James E. Graham	2005	John Hubbard
1969	Bruce E. Karnes	2006	Wanda Bennett
1970	Dalton L. Knight	2007	Doyle Adams
1971	Gerald R. Brooks	2008	Gary Hubbard
1972	J. Weyland Herring	2009	Jim Waugh
1973	David A. Montgomery, Sr.	2010	Hedy Hebert
1974	E. J. Bud Lyons, Jr.	2011	Tommy Clark
1975	Lawrence H. Nickel	2012	Kara Lowrie
1976	Wesley D. Burdine	2013	Jason Smith
1977	Wayne I. Summerlin	2014	Dr. Jim Henderson
1978	Percy Hubbard	2015	Emile Cordaro
1979	M. Kennon Harvill	2016	David Specht
1980	Graham Rogers	2017	Terry Moore
1981	Darnell Sibley	2018	Dana Smelser
1982	Don Johnson	2019	Patrick Gullatt
1983	Loy B. Moore	2020-21	Barry Regula
1984	Ed Beck	2022	Eric Barkley

We're your people.

Being local means supporting great things close to home—
and being part of something bigger. At Red River Bank, we don't just
appreciate your commitment to the community. We also share it.



redriverbank.net • 318-675-2960

Member
FDIC

Sept. 1947

Work began in 1947 to start the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, gathering support throughout the year before electing officers at the first board meeting on September 5, 1947, signing the articles of incorporation in October.

In its first year alone, the Chamber proposed and saw to the passage of a 3-mill street tax to answer the growing needs of Bossier City.



CHARTER MEMBERS

8 Charter Members remain from the original businesses that founded the Bossier Chamber of Commerce in 1947, although some have changed names in the 75 years.

- AEP Swepco
- Builders Supply Co.
- CenterPoint Energy
- Coca-Cola United Bottling Company
- Maddox & Hughes Insurance Agency
- Montgomery Agency Inc.
- Pulley-White Insurance Agency Inc
- Red River Motor Company

1950s

Bossier City was shaped and built in the 1950s. The Chamber led discussions and made recommendations on annexation, water supply, economic development and districting the city.

1950

Chamber buys land to develop Palmetto Country Club.



1955

Chamber pushes for Bossier City to annex a portion of land that doubles the size of the city and adds 10,000 to the population.

1955

Chamber lobbies for and Bossier City receives its own Post Office.

1960s

The Bossier Chamber advocated for Bossier City to have its own hospital. In 1966, Bossier City opened Bossier City General Hospital in 1966.

1960

Bossier Chamber purchases land from the Bossier Parish Police Jury to build current office building.



1962

Bossier Chamber's first slogan - *Progress is our Policy* - created by a 6th-grader from R. V. Kerr Elementary.

1969

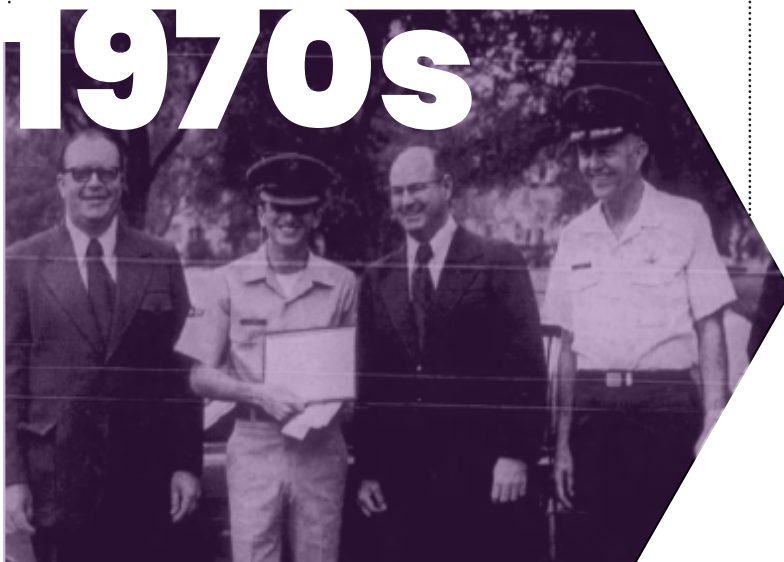
Hotel/Motel tax passes in Bossier City, an idea originally proposed and backed by the Bossier Chamber.

1970s

Bossier was experiencing unprecedented growth, setting records for building permits awarded as well as the Chamber calling for special censuses in 1971 and 1974 to keep up with the growth.

1970s

Chamber led studies on changing the form of city government, a Red River Parkway, navigation on the Red River, and an interchange at I-220 and Shed Road. All things that became a reality.



1972

Bossier Chamber Military Affairs Committee partnered with Barksdale Air Force Base officials to initiate an Airman of the Month award program, gifting the winner with special awards donated by local businesses.

1979

Bossier Chamber establishes two very successful things: the Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation and the Bossier Christmas Parade.

1980s

The Bossier Chamber grew by leaps and bounds in the 80s, with membership growing from 400 to 1,000 and staff growing from 1 to 7 during the decade.

1981

Bossier Chamber welcomes its first woman to serve as President of the Board – Darnell Sibley.

Formed Crime Stoppers of Bossier.



1986

The Bossier Chamber joined with the Shreveport Chamber to form the Military Affairs Council.

1987/1988

The Bossier Chamber starts new events: Bossier's Best Trade Show and Community Expo in 1987 and Taste of the Bossier Chamber in 1988.

1990s

Bossier City and Bossier Parish saw record investment in residential and commercial construction, boasting \$94.8 million in residential construction in 1997 alone.

1990

An idea born out of the Bossier Chamber's Community Development committee, Mardi Gras in the Ark-La-Tex begins and produces millions in commerce.



1993

Bossier Chamber inaugurates Bossier Youth Leadership program, taking Bossier parish high school juniors on monthly trips to learn the different aspects that make up a community.

1998

Construction begins on multi-purpose arena, just one of many initiatives the Bossier Chamber is pushing to grow the entertainment/festival presence of the city to complement new gaming industry.

2001/2004

The Bossier Chamber began a Patriots Celebration in 2001 in the wake of the 9-11 attacks. In 2004, changed it to an awards program for first-responders.

2003

The Bossier Chamber and Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation become two separate entities.

2010s

The Bossier Chamber earned a 4-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber in 2013 and a 5-star accreditation in 2019, the highest possible rating from the U.S. Chamber.

2018

The Bossier Chamber led a united coalition for the Barksdale I-20/I-220 Interchange, gathering more than 60 letters in support.

2000s



2004

The Bossier Chamber and partners open Business Recovery Resource Center to assist business owners affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

2007

Doyle Adams is first African-American to serve as President of the Board.

2008

The Chamber led benchmarking trip of elected officials and educators to visit Cummings Research Park in Huntsville, Ala., a model for what would become the National Cyber Research Park in Bossier.



2010s

2018

The Bossier Chamber was named the state Chamber of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

2020

The Bossier Chamber worked hard to keep our business community operational during the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out more about our accomplishments so far this decade on the following pages.

2020s

2022

at a glance



**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**
Eric Barkley,
CenterPoint
Energy,
Chairman

Nicole Wilhite, Citizens National Bank,
Chair Elect

Jonathon Reynolds, Carter Credit Union,
Finance Chair

Barry Regula, Margaritaville Resort
Casino, Past Chair

Kathy French, Port of Caddo-Bossier,
Business Development Chair

Jerome Dubose, LTRI, Government
Relations Chair

Col. West Anderson, USAF Retired,
Boeing, Military Relations Chair

Mike Busada, Butler Snow, Community
Sustainability Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Rick Bateman, Bossier Parish
Community College

Damien Ford, Mike McSwain Architect

Carlton Golden, GBEDF Representative,
Builder's Supply Co. Inc

Patrick Gullatt, Barksdale Federal Credit
Union

Jay Johnson, General Dynamics
Information Technology

Charley Kingery, Wieland

Gordon Mosley, Mosley Title Co

Kevin Nolten, Cyber Innovation Center

Vita Riner, 318 Latino Radio/Magazine

Vincent Sedminik, Willis-Knighton Health
System

Scott Solomon, AT&T Government
Solutions

Carl Thibodeaux, Community Bank of
Louisiana

Jennifer Varnadore, CHRISTUS
Shreveport-Bossier Health System



Members of the Bossier Chamber have access to more than 40 events per year, including a variety of business-building opportunities that are crafted to establish relevant connections.

2022 Highlights > > > > > > > >

For the second time in four years, the Bossier Chamber has been named a state Chamber of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

This was also a year of firsts, created two new events and launched a new member program.

> LAUNCHED MILITARY COMMUNITY CHAMPION PROGRAM: The Chamber seeks to promote our businesses, schools and organizations that have committed to intentionally provide support for our military connected individuals. Through this program the Chamber businesses show they truly champion our military members, families and veterans.

2023

CELEBRATING BUSINESS!



63 Ribbon Cuttings | **4** Ground Breakings

82 # of bills the Chamber actively followed during the state Legislative session



1,389



TOTAL event attendees in 2022

158 State, Local & Federal Meetings attended, including those of our area partners.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nicole Wilhite,
Citizens
National
Bank,
Chairman



Jonathon Reynolds, Carter Credit Union,
Chair Elect

Charley Kingery, Weiland, Finance Chair

Eric Barkley, CenterPoint Energy, Past
Chair

Vita Riner, 318 Latino Radio/Magazine,
Business Development Chair

Scott Solomon, AT&T Government Solu-
tions, Government Relations Chair

Col. West Anderson, USAF Retired,
Boeing, Military Relations Chair

Mike Busada, Butler Snow, Community
Sustainability Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew D'Avy, CHRISTUS Shreveport-
Bossier Health System

Jerome DuBose, LA Tech Research
Institute

Damien Ford, Mike McSwain Architect

Kathy French, Port of Caddo-Bossier

Patrick Gullatt, Barksdale Federal Credit
Union

Daniel Ihm, Margaritaville Resort Casino

Jay Johnson, General Dynamics
Information Technology

Dr. Jennifer Lawrence, Bossier Parish
Community College

John Michael Moore, Greater Bossier
Economic Development Foundation

Kevin Nolten, Cyber Innovation Center

Vincent Sedminik, Willis-Knighton Health
System

Carl Thibodeaux, Community Bank of
Louisiana

Ashley Warner, Louisiana Boardwalk

> **NEW! SALUTE TO COMMUNITY HEROES:** An event to not only continue the tradition the Bossier Chamber has of recognizing our military and first-responders for their great work day-in and day-out, but to also recognize those in sectors like education, healthcare, non-profit/community service and military/support/law enforcement.

> **NEW! STATE OF COMMUNITY REPORT:** Bossier Chamber discusses our region's greatest assets and how we can build upon them for the future -- Transportation, Defense, Energy, Healthcare. These four assets were highlighted in a printed report, giving a baseline of data points for each so we can work to grow these areas for a prosperous future.

2022 Program of Work

OPPORTUNITY

- Welcomed nearly 90 new members to the Bossier Chamber, bringing in \$40,000 in new revenue.
- Hosted 5 signature events, with more than 1,500 members participating and make networking connections.
- Held 63 Ribbon Cutting Events and 4 Ground Breaking Events for new and existing members.
- Recognized Business, Small Business and Business Person of the Year at the 2021 Annual Banquet in front of hundreds of members.
- Organized a military and veteran job fair with Barksdale Air Force Base, Goodwill Industries and the La. Workforce Commission.
- Welcomed more than 1,200 new Airmen to Barksdale Air Force Base through base-organized newcomer's events
- Launched the Military Community Champion program to encourage our business community to hire our military-connected individuals, and provide them with the assets of our great quality of life amenities while they are stationed here.

ADVOCACY

- We collaborated with our city and parish officials on both sides of the river to push for a new, four-lane bridge across the Red River connecting south Shreveport and South Bossier. We hosted the Lt. Governor to get his support of adding the existing Jimmy Davis Bridge into the state park system as a linear park.
- Represented business and member interests during the 2021 Legislative Session, following 82 bills that pertained to Northwest Louisiana issues.
- Conducted Congressional appointments during two

Washington, D.C. Fly-ins.

- Represented Northwest Louisiana on the Governor's Task Force for Litter Abatement and Beautification.
- Introduced the NEW State of Community Report event, combining attributes of our former State of Bossier and State of Education addresses.
- Attended city and parish government meetings throughout the year.

PARTNERSHIP

- Combined our Patriot Award event with our Military Recognition Breakfast to create a new event - Salute to Community Heroes - to honor heroes in the sectors of military and law enforcement as well as education, healthcare, nonprofits and others.
- Partnered with Boomtown Bossier City to give out more than 5,000 cookies to all of the local military units in Shreveport and Bossier.
- Hosted a Military Leadership Reception to give our business leaders and military leaders a chance to meet one-on-one.
- Represented Bossier Chamber of Commerce as Chair of of the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives board.

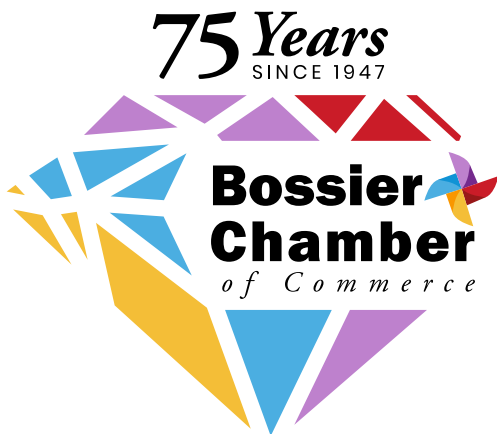
EDUCATION

- Graduated 41 Bossier Parish High School students from the Bossier Youth Leadership Program, which trains and develops local youth for future community leadership roles.
- Continued our STEM scholarships, thanks to the generous donations of our business community.

OUR MISSION: The Bossier Chamber of Commerce's purpose shall be to promote the advancement of the civic, commercial, industrial, technological, and agricultural interests of Bossier Parish all while promoting the general welfare and prosperity of the parish and the stimulation of the public's interest on key issues.

OUR VISION: Our vision is to be the collaboration hub that cultivates and shapes the business climate.







CARE TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD

Willis-Knighton proudly joins with the Bossier Chamber of Commerce to enhance health and life in Bossier.

As the principal healthcare provider in Bossier Parish, we know our responsibility is a serious one. Count on us to be here for you and your loved ones in sickness and in health, delivering care when and where you need it.

For routine care, wellness services or healthcare that is more complex, we pledge to offer care designed to improve your health and your life. Quality. Access. Convenience. Caring people. All dedicated to supporting your best life.

