

NOMINEES TO THE HANCOCK CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Announcing the Ballot for **Nominees for Elected Directors** to the Hancock Chamber Board for the three-year term beginning January 2026. **You may vote for up to five (5) nominees. The ballot must be answered on or by 5pm on Friday, January 2, 2026.** Any ballots received after this time will be disallowed. Cumulative voting is not allowed. **Each member of the Chamber has one representative who is designated to cast the vote on behalf of the member company.**



Christy Anderson

Assistant Vice President / Multi Financial Center Leader, Hancock Whitney Bay 90 & Bay Main

For nearly two decades, Christy Anderson has been a driving force at Hancock Whitney, exemplifying leadership, integrity, and dedication to service. Recently promoted to Multi Financial Center Leader, she oversees two key Bay St. Louis branches, ensuring exceptional client service and operational excellence. Beyond her professional success, Christy is deeply rooted in community engagement. She has been an active supporter of CASA of Hancock County, the Bay Roller Bike Giveaway, and Hancock Whitney's Chamber After Hours events. A longtime advocate for youth and education, she has also served on the executive board of a local high school athletic organization for seven years, promoting programs that help students and teams thrive. Christy brings a proven record of leadership, collaboration, and passion for helping people succeed—qualities that make her a strong voice for Hancock County's business community.



Dr. Raymunda Barnes

Vice President, Hancock County Campus, Pearl River Community College

A respected educator and community leader, Dr. Raymunda Barnes has long been a champion for educational excellence and workforce development in Hancock County. As Chairman of the Hancock Chamber Education Committee, he has led transformative initiatives including *Excel by 5*, *Bookworms*, the *Annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner*, and the *Classroom Grant Program*, which has awarded over \$80,000 to local teachers since 2009. Dr. Barnes' leadership has earned him recognition as *Citizen of the Year (2017)* and the *One Coast Award for Community Leadership (2016)*. A 2013 graduate of Leadership Hancock, he holds degrees from Alcorn State University, William Carey University, and the University of Southern Mississippi, and completed the Institute for Educational Leadership's prestigious Education Policy Fellowship. Dr. Barnes' lifelong commitment to education, equity, and community advancement continues to strengthen Hancock County's future.



Bailey Braswell, CFP®, CRPC®

Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

As a Certified Financial Planner and active community leader, Bailey Braswell combines professional expertise with a passion for building connections. Since joining Edward Jones in Diamondhead, Bailey has been an advocate for young professionals and local business growth. Recognizing a need for engagement among emerging leaders, he co-founded *Hancock Young Professionals*, which now hosts monthly networking and development events. A 2017 graduate of Leadership Hancock, and member of the Hancock Chamber Executive

Committee, Bailey has served the organization for several years, helping shape programs that support business success. A University of Mississippi MBA graduate and past president of the Diamondhead Rotary Club, Bailey was recognized as a *Top 10 Under 40 Business Leader* by the Coast Chambers. Bailey brings fresh perspective, financial acumen, and proven leadership to every endeavor—making him an asset to the Hancock Chamber Board.



Cynthia Chauvin

Executive Director, CASA of South Mississippi

With over 24 years of experience in child welfare, including more than a decade in South Mississippi, Cynthia Chauvin has dedicated her career to advocating for children in foster care. Under her leadership, CASA of Hancock County expanded from 26 to over 100 volunteer advocates, achieving 100% representation for local foster children during the COVID pandemic—a first in program history. Now leading the state's largest CASA program, Cynthia has been nationally recognized as *CASA Program Director of the Year* by Kappa Alpha Theta and serves on both the *National CASA Leadership Council* and *Suburban Leadership Council*. Locally, she is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis and a *Top 10 Outstanding Citizen* honoree in 2018. A 2015 graduate of Leadership Hancock,

Cynthia's visionary leadership and unwavering compassion exemplify the kind of servant leadership that strengthens our community and the Chamber alike.



Kristyn Gunter

Special Projects Division Director, Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District (SMPDD)

In her leadership role with SMPDD, Kristyn Gunter manages programs that improve quality of life and drive growth across the Mississippi Gulf Coast—including the *Mississippi Access to Care Center*, *Brownfields Program*, and *Coastal Map Revision Project*. She collaborates with local, state, and federal partners to advance regional development and innovation. Appointed by the Governor to the *Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and GIS*, Kristyn also serves her community as *Chair of the Student Programs Committee* at St. Stanislaus and

as a volunteer at Our Lady Academy. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with both a B.S. in Biological Sciences and an MBA, she is also a proud alumna of *Leadership Gulf Coast*, *Leadership Mississippi*,

and the *Gulf Coast Business Council Masters Program*. Kristyn brings strategic vision, technical expertise, and a collaborative mindset—assets that make her a strong advocate for Hancock County’s continued progress.



Melanie Hotard

Supervisor, Volunteer Services & Community Outreach, Ochsner Health – Hancock

Known for her warmth, enthusiasm, and ability to connect people, Melanie Hotard has become one of Hancock County’s most active and inspiring community leaders. Through her role at Ochsner Health, she fosters meaningful partnerships that enrich patient experiences and expand healthcare career opportunities for local youth. Melanie’s commitment extends far beyond her professional duties. She serves as Chair of the Hancock Chamber Ambassadors Committee, and on the boards of the Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis, the Hancock Health Foundation, and numerous civic committees including *Excel by 5*, *Port Air Space Day*, and the *Bay St. Louis Christmas Committee*. Named one of the *Top 10 Outstanding Citizens in 2024*, Melanie’s energy, inclusivity, and dedication to service make her an outstanding advocate for

the Chamber’s mission and membership.



Scott Lemoine

Owner, Lemoine & Associates / Co-owner, Lemoine’s Landing

As the founder of Lemoine & Associates, Scott Lemoine has spent 25 years helping businesses thrive through strategic accounting, tax planning, and financial guidance. With offices in Baton Rouge and Metairie—and a new Bay St. Louis location on the horizon—Scott’s business success reflects his passion for entrepreneurship and community development. A proud resident and investor in Bay St. Louis, Scott also co-owns Lemoine’s Landing, bringing jobs, tourism, and vitality to the local economy. A graduate of LSU with a degree in accounting, he balances his professional pursuits with an active family life and a love for the Coast’s outdoor culture. Scott’s deep

business insight, integrity, and commitment to helping others achieve success embody the Chamber’s values of leadership and community investment.



Dr. Sherry Ponder

Chairman, Hancock Health Foundation

A lifelong resident of Hancock County, Dr. Sherry Ponder has dedicated her career to education, leadership, and community service. With over 30 years in public education—as a teacher, administrator, professor, and longtime school board president—Dr. Ponder has helped shape countless lives and strengthen local institutions. In retirement, she continues to lead as Chairman of the Hancock Health Foundation and as a board member and past president of the Library Foundation of Hancock County. A 1998 graduate of Leadership Hancock, she also serves in ministries at St. Clare, St. Rose, and Our Lady of the Gulf. A passionate advocate for

education and economic opportunity, Dr. Ponder played a key role in advocating for the establishment of

Pearl River Community College's Hancock County Campus. Her integrity, compassion, and lifelong service make her a trusted voice for the community and a proven leader for the Chamber.



T.J. Pruitt

Area Manager, Mississippi Power

TJ is Area Manager for Mississippi Power, which serves the 23 counties of southeast Mississippi with clean, safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. It is a subsidiary of Southern Company – one of the nation's largest energy companies. He is a native of Bay Minette, Alabama and is an Electrical Engineering graduate from Auburn University. He has a Master of Engineering Degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. TJ has served in various leadership roles at Mississippi Power and has been engaged in several leadership initiatives in the community. He is currently serving on Auburn University Engineering Advisory Board, the Academic Excellence Advisory Board, Hancock Chamber of Commerce Board, Hancock County Community Development Foundation Board, Pass Christian Main Street Board, and CASA. He is an active supporter of the Boys and Girls Club and the American Heart Association, serving as 2024 Chair of Heart Walk for Mississippi Power Company. TJ is also an ambassador for the Hancock Chamber and in 2021 was selected Auburn University Outstanding Young Engineer of the Year.



Sandy Walsh

Broker Associate, Allied Realty Coastal Homes

As co-owner and Broker Associate of Allied Realty Coastal Homes, Sandy Walsh represents the entrepreneurial spirit that defines the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Her business is built on relationships, integrity, and a deep love for the communities she serves across Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. Sandy is passionate about fostering sustainable growth and protecting the unique character of coastal living. She works closely with homeowners, investors, and small businesses—giving her a first-hand understanding of the region's economic and housing needs. A member of the *2025/2026 Leadership Hancock Class*, Sandy continues to grow her impact through service, advocacy, and collaboration. With a proven record of leadership, community engagement, and business success, Sandy brings valuable perspective to the Chamber Board.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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