

# COMMUNIQUE

## Message from WBIA President

*Hurricane Ida's massive destruction has disrupted the lives of many of us. WBIA is working to find the resources we need to get back to business and back to our lives. In this issue you will find a collection of business resources to assist you during this path to recovery.*

*"The voice of business since 1946", WBIA is celebrating 75 years. Rooted in the Harvey Canal, today our membership is throughout the WestBank. We continue to be dedicated to workforce initiatives, infrastructure projects, government and environment issues and economic development in our region.*

*We are planning events in hopes of getting back to a typical WBIA schedule. Small steps to create forward motion!*

*Please reach out to me personally with any issue or concern. We are here to support you.*

Best regards,



WBIA President  
Robert Hopkins

Robert.Hopkins@hancockwhitney.com

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## Tentative DATES

- October 20                      Happy Hour / Bring a friend
- November 4                     WBIA luncheon
- December 2                     Christmas Jingle & Mingle
- January 6, 2022                Installation & 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration
- March                              Golf Tournament returns!

Details will be provided in upcoming eNews.  
Please note that these are being planned as in-person events.

## WBIA mailing address:

**WBIA**  
**P.O. Box 215**  
**Harvey, La 70059**

*Please update your records.*

**Get more from Membership; get active.**

Special Events / Infrastructure / Government & Environment / Workforce / Membership  
Legacy



*2020 gave us lemons and we made lemonade* as best we could. 2021 and the lemons are still coming. Are you beginning to feel completely out of juice? Tired of all the lemonade? You're not alone.

Let's take a minute and take a breath so we can think a bit clearer and try to focus on some good things, in spite of all the things we cannot control. Life just keeps happening and 2021 is challenging each of us. We thought 2020 would be an old memory by now, yet here we are still trying to create something new with lemons. We adapt, we pivot, we hold our breath, take a step forward, glance back, shake our heads, yell, kick, and start all over again.

**MAJOR DISASTER. COVID and a hurricane.** Find your way with these resources.

The state of Louisiana continues to live in recovery mode. Healthcare workers struggle with new strains of COVID-19 while evacuees from Hurricane Ida huddle into hotels and cars. Ida left her mark throughout the New Orleans super region but for many beyond our area, the devastation will be a much longer road to recovery. The situation is fluid with an overwhelming amount of information flowing. For guidance in either disaster, there is help available.

Our partners at GNO, Inc. and JEDCO have information and webinars on:

[Business Resources](#) - [Paycheck Protection Program](#) - [see full listing here](#)

[Hurricane Ida Key Resources, including FEMA, SBA, Post Storm Insurance Basics](#)

Jefferson Parish businesses can visit [JEDCO recovery assistance page here](#). This includes Operation BluRoof, Insurance, FEMA, Rebuilding, and webinars.

Plaquemines Parish can visit [the parish site here](#).

**Sometimes to move forward, we need to look back first.**

*The New Orleans levee system, rebuilt at a cost of \$14 billion after Katrina, featured numerous upgrades: The new flood walls are stronger, they're rooted deeper in the ground, and they're designed to hold up even if water goes over them.*

*For close observers of the city's history, though, this isn't enough. Read the full [article here](#).*

In March WBIA, PABI, JEDCO, AEDF hosted the State of the WestBank



**State of the WestBank** was presented by a united group of West Bank supporters. WBIA, PABI, AEDF, and JEDCO hosted a panel of leaders from Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines. Jabarie Walker, City of New Orleans Director, Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng, and Plaquemines Parish President Kirk Lepine all agreed that working together is required for successful regional growth. You can view the event [here](#).



Pictured L-R: Rachel Shields, AEDF Chair; Cynthia Lee Sheng, Jefferson Parish President; Jabarie Walker, City of New Orleans; Kirk Lepine, Plaquemines Parish President and Rob Hopkins, WBIA President. #virtualmeet #zoom

**WBIA 2021 INVEST WEST CHAMPION** awards were presented by Jefferson Parish Councilman Deano Banano. The night included a special WBIA Posthumous Honor with an Award of Lifetime Achievement for Wayne Crochet.



June 24, 2021 ~ Boomtown

Invest West Champions are nominated by members. They are selected for contributions the company has made to improve the overall quality of life on the West Bank over the years; for growth of facilities and programs or services and /or innovations made to benefit the West Bank community, region and beyond.

**EDWARD JONES**

*\*Frank Roccaforte*

**ENTERGY Louisiana**

*\*Phillip May*

**SOUTHERN SURGICAL SPECIALISTS LLC**

*\*Dr. Charles Thomas*





Invest  
West



James Hines, Deano Bonano, Frank Roccaforte, Chris Breaux, and Rob Hopkins.

Below: Edward Jones representatives



Far left: Councilman Bonano, Philip May, Entergy CEO, and Rob Hopkins.

Left: Ms. Beevers and Mary Fay Legnon, Entergy.



Below: Deano Bonano, Dr. Frank Divincenti, Dr. Charles Thomas, Anthony DiGerolamo, Rob Hopkins





Lifetime Achievement, Wayne Crochet



Carol Crochet and sons accepts honorary award on behalf of Wayne Crochet.



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## WBIA on board

### WESTBANK Port Development Task Force, Danica Ansardi

*Committee Members: Jerry Bologna, Juliette Cassagne, Tim Coulon, Jose Gonzalez, Christopher Kane, Jeff Keever, Louis Lauricella, Natalie Newton, Louis Thomas Jr., Vincent Vastola, Pam Watson, John Alario, Mayor Belinda Constant, William Lazaro, Todd Murphy and Danica Ansardi.*

Purpose: Combing the efforts of public, private, and civic groups, the Westbank Port Development Task Force has worked in a collaborative effort to develop recommendations to make the Westbank of the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish, and the adjacent properties, more attractive for businesses through adaptive reuse and new development.

Goal: To identify opportunities and make recommendations that will help position area properties for development. These recommendations might include changes to parish zoning and land use plans; mapping of transportation and utility infrastructure and identifying transportation and utility needs that will enhance business attraction and retention efforts; reviewing and determining whether current parish codes need to be changed; and developing a suite of local, state, and federal incentives that might be available to attract new development.

#### Westbank Port Task Force, Progress to Date:

Infrastructure- road/rail study existing traffic conditions completed. No operational issues found at major intersections and future traffic analysis to be completed by end of August. Coordination meetings continue with key agencies, UP Railroad and Public Belt. Soon presentation will be given to RPC and Jefferson Parish for review.

Land Use- Camiros, LTD (Consultant) is performing a study of the Jefferson Parish industrial zoning districts which will include an analysis of the Parish's current industrial zoning districts and recommendations that modernize the industrial zoning districts. As part of the study, the Planning Department Staff will be conducting a land use survey of industrial zoned and identified development sites throughout the Parish. Staff divided industrial zoned properties into 37 site visit study areas and will conduct weekly pre-survey research, site visits and updates to the Paris GIS as needed.

Promotion and Attraction- EPA Brownfield assessment grant of \$600,000 awarded to JEDCO for a 3 year period- Oct 2021-Sept 2024 targeting Avondale, Bridge City, Nine Mile West, Westwego and Marrero. The former Johns Manville property was recently purchased. JEDCO met with new owner to learn more about plans for the site. JEDCO and Jefferson Parish continue discussions to determine how to bring two parcels, JM3 and JM5, of the former John Manville property back into commerce.

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### Jefferson Parish Charter Review, Chris Breaux

The Council shall provide for the automatic review of this Charter at least once every ten years through appointment of a Charter Advisory Committee. The Council, by ordinance, shall provide for the method of appointment of members of the Charter Advisory Committee. Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation and shall submit their recommendations for Charter amendments, if any, to the Council for its consideration.

The current Charter Advisory Committee conducting the 2021 review includes Keith Conley (Chairman), Pat LeBlanc (Vice-Chairperson), Marc Burmaster, Ken Krobert, Blair Constant, Michael Fantaci, Steve LaChute, Darold Ingram, James Simmons, Arlanda Williams, Jeffrey Simno. Business representatives on this committee

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Continued from page 6 -

include Donna Austin (Jefferson Chamber), Chris Breaux (Westbank Business and Industry Association), and Tim Coulon (Jefferson Business Council).

Proposals to amend or repeal the charter may be made by an ordinance adopted by the Parish Council or by petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) percent of the total number of registered voters of the parish. Proposals to amend or repeal the charter shall be submitted for ratification to the qualified electors of the parish at an election already authorized for other purposes or a special election. The results shall be determined by a majority vote of the electors voting on any particular proposal. Upon approval by the voters, proposals to amend the charter shall become effective thirty (30) days after certification of the election results. One notable amendment to the Jefferson parish Charter was the adoption of Term Limits in 1994.

## Port of New Orleans Commissioners, Jefferson seats: J.Toomy & J.Jensen

### Port NOLA progresses with due diligence process in development of second container terminal in St. Bernard to benefit

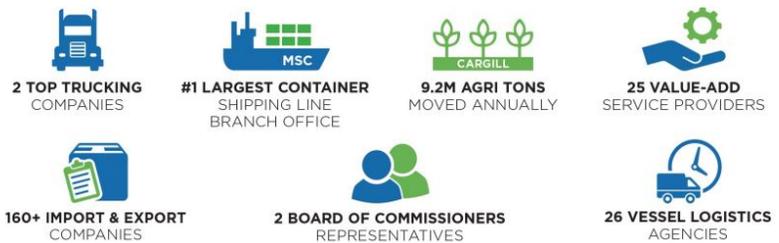
The Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) is making tangible progress toward the development of the new Louisiana International Terminal Project in St. Bernard Parish to meet growing market demand to drive economic growth for the region and state.

Building on Port NOLA's 50 years of service as Louisiana's only international container port, the new container terminal will be capable of handling the largest container vessels and accommodate evolving shippers' needs. This vital economic development project will also generate new local jobs, support logistics-related businesses and accommodate community needs.

At their Regular Monthly Meeting in August, Port NOLA's Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a contract for Program Management and Program Control Services to HDR Engineering, Inc., a global engineering and consulting firm with local connections and experience with container terminal development.

This contract is another milestone in the multi-year due diligence and permitting process for the container terminal,

#### PORT PARTNERS WHO CALL JEFFERSON PARISH HOME



which includes to date: land acquisition in December 2020, initiation of the permitting process in June 2021, an award to AECOM for preliminary design and permitting support in July 2021, and ongoing engagement with industry and community stakeholders. Next steps will include consideration and evaluation of a potential terminal operator and financial partners.

"We are working to deliver a state-of-the-art container terminal that meets the evolving needs of the shipping industry and serves as an economic catalyst for the state and region," said Brandy D. Christian, president and CEO of the Port of New Orleans and President of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad.

The terminal project would occupy approximately 350-acres with a 3,500-linear-foot wharf. This is the premier site for a second container terminal on the Lower Mississippi River due to its:

- Location within the federal government's \$14 billion flood protection system
- Naturally deep-draft riverfront acreage
- 50-foot Mississippi River Channel depth
- Ability to navigate ships with a capacity up to 23,000 TEUs
- Ability to grow Port NOLA's container-on-barge service
- Access to six Class I railroads through New Orleans Public Belt Railroad and interstate highways.

Continued on page 8

Transportation infrastructure projects that accommodate industry and St. Bernard Parish needs beyond the terminal footprint, will be coordinated for maximum positive impact including the vision of a dedicated truck route. Additional acreage beyond the terminal site will enhance the project's economic impact to St. Bernard Parish and beyond, with space to accommodate distribution centers, value-added and logistics-related businesses, and buffer operations from the community and provide for public benefit spaces. A project of this magnitude will benefit Port NOLA's entire three-parish jurisdiction, particularly through the attraction of value-added manufacturing, product assembly, distribution and logistics centers to the region. Distribution centers represent one of the most significant areas of opportunity due to the strength of the area's multimodal connectivity. In addition to Port NOLA's deepwater berths and seamless connection to six Class I railroads via the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, transportation options include easy access to an interstate highway, and barge access to the industrial Midwest and major population centers like Chicago, Memphis and St. Louis.



"Jefferson Parish is well-positioned to attract new logistics-related businesses with its superior access to the Port's river, rail and road connectivity, proximity to industry-related businesses, and its sought-after quality life," said Christian. "Port NOLA will continue to work with our partners at the Jefferson Parish Task Force and the Westbank Port Development Task Force to identify opportunities to grow maritime and logistics development in Jefferson Parish."

# GEAUX VOTE

**Voting Dates have been rescheduled for the Constitutional Amendments.**

**New date: November 13, 2021**

**Early voting for this election will be October 30 through November 6<sup>th</sup> (no Sunday's).**

**AMENDMENTS on the BALLOT include:**

- CA NO.1 (Act 131,2021-HB199)** Authorizes streamlined electronic filing, remittance, and collection of sales and use tax.
  - Yes {allows a single authority to oversee the collection, e-filing and policy guidance for state and local sales taxes.}
  - No {continue to constitutionally require separate collection, filing and policy oversight of sales taxes by the state and local governments}
- CA NO. 2 (Act 134,2021-SB159)** Lowers maximum allowed rate of income tax and allows providing a deduction for federal income taxes
  - Yes {lower the max rate of income tax and allow removal of major state tax deduction, triggering statutory reforms for individual and corporate income and franchise taxes}
  - No {keep the constitution current tax rates and the requirement to allow a deduction for federal taxes paid, which would stop all the statutory reforms}
- CA NO.3 (ACT 132,2021-SB87)** Allows certain levee districts to levy an annual tax for certain purposes.
  - Yes {allow the boards of the levee districts to raise up to a 5 mill property tax without voter approval}
  - No {continue to allow levee districts to get voter approval for any tax millage}
- CA NO.4 (Act 157,2021-HB487)** Increases amount of allowed reduction to certain dedicated funds when a budget deficit is projected.
  - Yes {allow the transfer of more dedicated funds to fix a state budget deficit}
  - No {keep the current 5% limit for tapping dedications to fix a deficit}

A Parishwide School Board RENEWAL – 8.75 mills – SB, 10 years. YES or NO

[Visit PAR Louisiana for more information.](#)

**WBIA NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND at-large Directors**

**JANUARY 2022 – DECEMBER 2022 BEGINS OUR NEW WBIA YEAR!**

Please submit your nomination(s) by November 1, 2021.

Email: [Lisa@WBIAAnola.com](mailto:Lisa@WBIAAnola.com)

Subject: 2022 nomination

Send in:

Name of nominee

Nominee business name

Position on board\*.

*\*President nominee must have served 2 years on the board, 1 as an officer.*

*\*\*Officers*

*Executive VP: must have served on the board for 2 year.*

*VP: must have served on the board for 1 year.*

Nominating Committee: President, Immediate 3 Past (active) Presidents and the executive director.

**INFRASTRUCTURE Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

**Anthony Goodgion**, Linfield Hunter & Junius, [agoodgion@lhjunius.com](mailto:agoodgion@lhjunius.com)  
**Ray Fuenzalida**, Harvey Canal Ltd Partnership, [ray@harveycanal.com](mailto:ray@harveycanal.com)

**SPECIAL EVENTS Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

**Javier Sanchez**, OnPath Federal Credit Union  
[Javier.Sanchez@beonpath.com](mailto:Javier.Sanchez@beonpath.com)  
**Barbara Rutledge**, Banner Chevrolet  
[Brutledge@bannerauto.com](mailto:Brutledge@bannerauto.com)

**WORKFORCE Committee**

**Chair**

**Arlanda Williams**, Delgado Community College  
[Awilli4@dcc.edu](mailto:Awilli4@dcc.edu)

**MEMBERSHIP Committee**

**Chair**

**Tara Miller**  
[tamiller@ochsner.org](mailto:tamiller@ochsner.org)

**Legacy, Past Presidents**

**Chair**

**Jennifer Steel Bourgeois**  
[Jennifer.steel@lcmhealth.org](mailto:Jennifer.steel@lcmhealth.org)

**Government & Environment (G&E)**

**Co-Chairs**

**Jesse Hoppes**, Leaf Environmental LLC  
[jhoppes@leaaf.com](mailto:jhoppes@leaaf.com)  
**Mary Fay Legnon**, Entergy  
[mlegnon@entergy.com](mailto:mlegnon@entergy.com)

**Nominate a leader!**



###

*Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~Henry Ford*

*Great leaders are not the best at everything. They find people who are best at different things and get them all on the same team. ~Eileen Bistrisky*

2021 Officers:

President, Rob Hopkins

Executive VP, Victoria Stipelcovich

VP, Tom Cortazzo

Secretary, Teri Tucker

Treasurer, Anthony DiGerolamo

# NEW WBIA MEMBERS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Café Hope**  
*Luis Arocha*

**Jefferson Community Foundation**  
*Christine Briede*

**ReMax Generations**  
*Mary Cheramie, Owner*

**RiverCity Resources, LLC**  
*Vincent Manalla, President & CEO*

**Trigon Associates, LLC**  
*Michelle Herbert, CEO*

## New Member SPOTLIGHT

**CAFÉ HOPE**  
**@ Timberlane Club House**

This full-service culinary training program is coupled with life skills courses to give students the confidence they need to become fulfilling future leaders in our community.

Cafe Hope in Gretna remains closed due to EXTENSIVE damage from Hurricane Ida. While we are working hard to reopen our restaurant and our mission, we're asking for help.

**DONATE** -> [cafehope.org/donate/](https://cafehope.org/donate/)

# MEMBER TO MEMBER

**The Jefferson Community Foundation's 2021 Gala Celebration** Presented by *The Feil Family Foundation* is scheduled for **Friday, November 5** at **The Moore** in Elmwood. Guests will experience a joyful evening that includes a sponsors' patron party, music, live auction, open bar, and a buffet dinner.

*Proceeds of the event benefit programs and projects in Jefferson Parish in the areas of education, health and wellness, neighborhood support and revitalization, race equity, senior initiatives, and transit. Additionally, JCF will be supporting Hurricane Ida recovery efforts.*



*Jefferson Community Foundation exists to advance philanthropy, leadership, civic action, and innovation in Jefferson Parish.*

To learn more contact Christine Briede, [christine@jeffersoncommunity.org](mailto:christine@jeffersoncommunity.org)



*Co-Chairs: Tina Dandry-Mayes and Victoria Stipelcovich*

**Friday, January 14, 2022 West Jefferson Hospital Foundation** will toast the future of West Jefferson Medical Center at English Turn Country Club in New Orleans. This extraordinary cocktail reception will be an evening filled with lively music, delicious food, and exciting auctions in a grand effort to raise funds to benefit the Neurosciences department. The event will include the presentation of the Frank C DiVincenti Community Leadership Award to Frank Culicchia.

For more information visit [West Jefferson Medical Center site here.](#)

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**WBIA PLATINUM MEMBERS**




**PROUD MEMBER.**  
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[www.WBIAAnola.com](http://www.WBIAAnola.com)  
 504-367-1721

- Get more from membership. Get Active.**
- **Special Events**
  - **Government & Environment**
  - **Infrastructure**
  - **Membership**
  - **Workforce**
  - **Legacy**

*WBIA has a Commissioner serving on JEDCO's Board. WBIA is one of seven nominating agencies for the two Jefferson Parish Board of Commissioners positions for the Port of New Orleans.*

*WBIA hosts forums, roundtables, lunch & learns, and outings with local, neighboring parishes, state officials and rules and regulatory offices.*

*WBIA hosts an annual WBIA Legislative Day with the Jefferson Delegation.*

*WBIA works with Jefferson Parish Schools (Advisory Board), Jefferson Parish Workforce Development (Board), and Louisiana Calling.*

*WBIA offers two scholarships annually available to member's immediate family.*

*Special events include the annual Crawfish boil, President Installation & Celebration, Golf Tournament and Christmas Jingle & Mingle.*

*WBIA organizes The Governor's West Bank luncheon with AEDF, Jefferson Chamber, and PABI which provides a donation to a local 501-c3 annually.*

*Westbank Port Task Force (special task) member.*

*Jefferson Charter Review (special task) member.*

**WBIA 2021 Officers**

**President**, Robert Hopkins, *Hancock Whitney*  
**Executive VP**, Victoria Stipelcovich, *Edward Jones*  
**Vice President**, Tom Cortazzo, *Lewis Brisbois*  
**Treasurer**, Anthony DiGerolamo, *Southern Surgical Specialist*  
**Secretary**, Teri Tucker, *Citizens National Bank*

**Standing Committees**

**Government & Environment**, Jesse Hoppes, *Leaaf Environmental LLC* and Mary Fay Legnon, *Entergy*

**Infrastructure**, Anthony Goodgion, *Linfield Hunter & Junius, Inc.* and Ray Fuenzalida, *Harvey Canal Limited Partnership*

**Membership**, Tara Miller, *Ochsner Health System*

**Special Events**, Barbara Rutledge, *Banner Chevrolet* and Javier Sanchez, *On Path Credit Union*

**Workforce**, Arlanda Williams, *Delgado Community College*  
**Legacy**, Jennifer Steel, *WJMC/LCMC*

**Immediate Past President**, Scott Burke, *Loop Linen Services*

**President Advisor**, Jesse Hoppes, *Leaaf Environmental LLC*

**Directors-At-Large**

Annette McDow, *Rathborne Properties*

Danica Ansardi, *Ansardi Financial Services, LLC*

Chris Breaux, *Past President*

Charlie Fredrick, *Past President*

Executive Director, Lisa Barback  
[Lisa@WBIAAnola.com](mailto:Lisa@WBIAAnola.com)



*The voice of the business community since 1946.*



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**Mail To:**

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