

October 18, 2016

My name is Carrie Higgs. I am interested in becoming a Ponchatoula Chamber board member to enhance the economic growth and development of this great city. My roots in Ponchatoula date back prior to my birth. My parents and grand-parents are all Ponchatoula High School graduates. My paternal grand-parents owned and ran Cutrer's Grocery on main-street for more than fifty years. It is very gratifying to carry on a tradition of owning a business in historic downtown Ponchatoula.

I attended Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. I graduated from LSU Medical Center in Shreveport, LA in Occupational Therapy. I am married to Scott Higgs and together we have six children. We reside in Ponchatoula, LA. We also own Ponchatoula Therapy in downtown Ponchatoula. I have worked as an Occupational Therapist for twenty-four years. About five years ago, feeling that the community needed an outpatient facility, we decided to open Ponchatoula Therapy.

Thank you for your consideration of nominating me as a candidate for a chamber board member. I hope we can continue to help our city grow.

Sincerely,

Carrie Higgs



Jeffrey E Wright

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Born and raised in the heart of Ponchatoula and currently resided 5 blocks from my childhood home. I have been involved with several organizations throughout my life. Professionally I am currently employed at Cypress Pointe Hospital as their Dietary Manager. I became in community service organizations at the age of 18 when I joined the Ponchatoula Jaycees.

During my Jaycee career I have held several offices in the local chapter including President in 2004. Through the involvement of the Ponchatoula chapter, I was able to serve the Louisiana Jaycees as State President in 2006 and after served as an advisor until 2010.

My involvements in other local organizations consist of being an Associate Board Member for the Ponchatoula Chamber and a member of the Ponchatoula Rotary since 2011; where I served as their President in 2015.

In 1986, I was elected to a position on the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival board as Parade Chairman; a position that I was re-elected to for 2 more years. Over the years I continued to serve on the festival board in several different capacities which included Chairman for the 2008 Strawberry Festival and currently serve as Treasurer for the Strawberry Board.

In 2010, through my involvement with the Strawberry Festival, I was elected District Director for Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festival. I have served as Pageant Director, Vice President, President, Past President, and currently in my third year as Secretary.

I am honored to be able to serve my hometown, My Ponchatoula, through these organizations. I would like very much to be able to continue by being elected to the Board of Directors of the Ponchatoula Chamber. I feel that the Chamber has brought and continues to bring so much to our businesses. I would love to be a part of the continued growth of both the organization and the city.

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I adore my Ponchatoula and I am passionate about developing business in our town. I am a lifelong, sixth or seventh generation Ponchatoula resident. I own Chaleureux, am used to working with the City on projects, and am always a team player. I look forward to serving!



Stephen M. Emmons

Stephen Emmons moved to Ponchatoula in 1987, at the age of 6, from New Orleans. He was a student of the Ponchatoula public school system and graduated with honors from Ponchatoula High School. He attended Southeastern Louisiana University on an academic scholarship, where he graduated with a Marketing degree.

During his freshman year of college, he opened his first business, Total Marine Performance, at the age of 19. This business specialized in high end, luxury, performance boats. Total Marine Performance is still operating in Ponchatoula, and has become one of the industry leaders in Performance boat customization, and works on projects from all over the country.

After Hurricane Katrina, Stephen became very involved in his father's company, Professional Construction and Restoration. This company specialized in ultra high-end, luxury homes in New Orleans. After several years, Stephen became the COO of the company, which has grown to become New Orleans finest luxury and historic restoration contractor. PCR is known for completing one of a kind, special projects, for countless local celebrities, including Reggie Bush, Chris Paul and Angela Hill.

In addition to his construction and real estate ventures, Stephen has developed and sold multiple thriving businesses in Ponchatoula and the surrounding areas. Recently, however, he has turned his attention to developing new luxury homes in Ponchatoula.

Stephen is married to Brittani Emmons, who is a Registered Nurse at North Oaks Medical Center, and they have 1 child, Finn, who is 19 months old, and a baby girl due in March 2018.

In his free time, Stephen enjoys boating and spending time with his family. He also spends much of his time at his garage in Ponchatoula, where he and his staff work on custom projects including boats, Jeeps, Hot Rod cars, and other one of a kind vehicles.



Joshua Dickson, First Baptist Church Ponchatoula

Josh Dickson serves as Minister of Discipleship at First Baptist Church Ponchatoula. Having graduated from Ponchatoula High School in 1996, Josh also received a Bachelor of Arts degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Additionally, Mr. Dickson has earned two graduate degrees from Liberty University. He has been married to Kristin for fifteen years; together, they have three children.

In his role at FBC Ponchatoula, Josh has lead the way in the church's effort to be community oriented. Truly, First Baptist Church loves Ponchatoula and Josh enjoys facilitating opportunities of service. As Ponchatoula embraces business growth and opportunities, Josh understands the dynamics that should be in place so that the community can continue to thrive. If nominated to serve on the Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce Board, Mr. Dickson would bring a spirit of cooperation along with a servant attitude to help meet the needs of the citizens in Ponchatoula and South Tangipahoa Parish.

Alice Bailey Hamilton
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Bio

I have lived in Ponchatoula for almost 50 years. I graduated from Ponchatoula High School in 1973. I have received two degrees from Southeastern Louisiana University, my BA in Psychology and later my Masters in Education.

I taught sixth grade at Martha Vinyard Elementary and was school counselor at Maurepas School in Livingston Parish. I am currently director of the Sylvan Learning Center in Hammond.

I am a member of the Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce, American Legion Post #47 Ladies Auxiliary, and the Selective Service Board. I am married to Terence Hamilton and have eight grandchildren ranging in age from 6 years to 22 years old.

In my spare time I enjoy fishing, painting, embroidery, crocheting, gardening, and maintaining the American Legion website (which I created).

I truly love Ponchatoula. I have lived here through good times and bad. I can remember when downtown was a ghost town, and the work and effort by the Chamber that went into creating our "Antique City." I can remember a Christmas when everyone's pipes froze and Mr. Joe Ebrecht opened his feed store to sell pipes and supplies so people could have Christmas and when Paul Pevey saved a train from derailing. Our town just seems to bring out the best in people. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities being a board member will mean in helping keeping Ponchatoula the great place it is and will be in the future.

Alice Hamilton
October 19, 2017