



Left: The Sheriff's Explorer Post color guard presented the colors to open the ceremony. Right: Judge Robert Morrison III swears in new chairman of the board, Regina Scott

Top photo: The LPC Board of Directors for 2012 sworn in at the installation banquet January 11 are, front row, left to right, Earl Price/Richard Price Contracting; Jolene Ott/Whitney Bank; Abigail Lefebvre/LEDC; Jill Wyble/Our Lady of the Lake; Shannon Bernard/Primerica, Incoming Chairman; Sonya Allen/Livingston Parish President's Office; Donna Erdey/Erdey Insurance; Kristie Gros/Geauxing Places Travel; Josh Prejean/First Guaranty Bank; 2nd row, Lawson Covington/Covington & Associates; Ivy Graham/The Law Office of Ivy Graham; Joan Gunter/Livingston Parish Literacy & Technology Center; Susan Olivier / American Gateway Bank; Mike Cotton/Office Depot; 3rd row, Margot May/Arceneaux Communications, Outgoing Chair; Sherry Mely/Tiger Electric Company; Jackie Dykes / GMFS Mortgage; Regina Scott/North Oaks, Chairman of the Board; Brian Abels / Boyer, Abels, Hebert & Angelle; Sue Everts/Bancorp South, Treasurer/Secretary; Kim Sanders /LA Champagne, Director at Large; Jeremiah Johnson/River Road Coffee; Ron Menville/Greystone Country Club, Director at Large; not pictured: Diane Adams/Forrest Grove Plantation.

## New Chamber officers and board installed in formal ceremony

The installation ceremony and banquet for the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce officers and board of directors was held January 11 at Forrest Grove Plantation in Denham Springs. Following presentation of the colors by Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Explorer Post and invocation and blessing by Pastor Joe Alain, Executive Director April Wehrs spoke about the history of the Chamber of Commerce and its important role in promoting business development.

She said it is also the role of the Chamber to put on a business expo and members had expressed support for staging one this year. Wehrs plans to survey members to collect other ideas. She pointed out the importance of members being aware of and taking advantage of available resources. The Chamber is also valuable for referrals and endorsements among its members and getting the word out to the masses.

The Chamber will continue its partnership with the Livingston Parish Literacy Center and will pursue leadership development of the Chamber staff.

Parish President Layton Ricks commended the Cham-

ber for its work and the exciting projects it is planning. He said, "Livingston Parish is ready for business, and business has a friend in parish government. I pledge my cooperation, and I will work with the Chamber and the LEDC to encourage more business to come here."

April Wehrs recognized the outgoing Chamber board, and Judge Robert Morrison III installed the 2012 Chamber officers and board of directors. Outgoing chair Margot May reviewed some of the accomplishments of 2011 such as the monthly recognition of students, sponsoring election forums, a new website, strong committees, a good media relationship, membership growth, the strong commitment of the members, an energetic board and publishing a strong membership directory that is used by municipalities and the parish tourism commission as a marketing tool.

May presented the Member of the Year award to Josh Prejean of First Guaranty Bank for his constant volunteer work on behalf of the Chamber in many areas. She presented Sherry Mely of Tiger Electric with the Board Member of the Year award for her untiring dedication to

the Chamber. May awarded the Chairman's Award to the entire board instead of one person because of the huge contribution the group as a whole made to many different projects in 2011.

May passed the gavel to incoming Chair Regina Scott who presented an award to May for her extraordinary service. Scott spoke of the Chamber's tremendous opportunity for growth and said the Chamber will announce its strategic plan in February. She also thanked employers for allowing their employees the time to attend meetings and serve on committees.

*Sponsors of the installation were Arts Council of Livingston Parish, Arceneaux Communications/Livingston Business Journal, Bancorp South, The Buzz Carwash, Carnahan Andrews CPA, DEMCO, Forte & Tablada, GMFS, Hancock Whitney Bank, LaBarre Associates, La Quinta Inn, Livingston Literacy & Technology Center, North Oaks Health System, Our Lady of the Lake, Primerica, River Road Coffees, TARC, and United Blood Services.*