

# Chamber Connection

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The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau serves as the Voice of Business for businesses located in Kilgore, Texas and surrounding communities. The Chamber represents our business members' voice by addressing and adoption of support or opposition on key legislative priorities that is believed to affect economic growth in the Kilgore area.

The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is committed to supporting and assisting in building a strong economic partnership with the business community and business leaders through the continuance of positive and enhanced quality of life, business growth through the attraction of new business and residents, and enhancement of workforce development and training. The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau's Legislative Agenda reflects our business partners and members priorities for the future.

## EDUCATION

- **Support** access to career and technical dual credit opportuni-

ties producing marketable credentials leading to a family supporting wage

- **Oppose** any legislation that negatively impacts the funding mechanisms for our public education systems

## RESPECT KILGORE'S LOCAL IDENTITY

- **Support** legislation that recognizes the uniqueness of Texas and its individual communities

- **Oppose attempts to standardize and over simplify statewide regulations weakening Kilgore business community**

## ECONOMIC & WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Oppose** legislation that erodes access to existing economic development tools

- **Support** legislation that enhances the East Texas workforce through coordinated efforts amongst local school districts, Kilgore College, and industry (i.e. P-TECH)

Beers, Clubs  
& Bugs  
▪ 5

Membership  
renewals ▪ 6



# We Advocate for YOU!

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Support** legislation that improves access to quality water, broadband, electric and gas services
- **Support** legislation that protects the rights of East Texans to maintain control of historical water rights

The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau understands the importance of a unified partnership in dealing with business issues that affect our diverse membership. We remain increasingly dedicated to identifying issues that matter to our members so we can effectively advocate for local business interests at the local, state and federal level.

Through our Government Affairs Committee, the East Texas Coalition, and consistent outreach to our elected officials at all levels of government, the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau consistently strives to stay informed on the latest developments while seeking common sense



Jill R. McCartney, IOM,  
CCEO-AP  
President & CEO

solutions to many complex issues. Advocating for a strong local economy is one of our highest priorities.

Kilgore, Texas and the surrounding area is a great place to do business and we will continue to work hard at maintaining that. We work closely with the City of Kilgore, KISD, Kilgore College, Kilgore Economic

See ADVOCATE, Page 3



Dr. Jadié Roberts



Dr. J.T. Roberts



Dr. Shiloh Roberts



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# Talking Tourism



**Ryan Polk**  
**Tourism Mgr.**

are what I love the most. The food is down-right delicious too. I could go on and on, but right now Valentine's chocolate sounds better. With spring around the corner, you know the warmer weather brings those wonderful events and beautiful blooms. But first, if you haven't checked out the recently renovated East Texas Oil Museum, you should make plans to do so now. The museum is open Weds-Sat 10am-5pm.



It's the month of love in Kilgore. There is a lot to love about the City of Stars, from the prolific past to the present day attractions and events, Kilgore has a lot of likes on social media. The amazing personalities that give Kilgore its unmatched charm

## SAVE THE DATE!

**March 28-31:** The ultimate spring weekend starts at the KilGogh Arts Festival! This year the festival is going all out with the biggest event yet with the theme "Gogh Big or Go Home". We're talking two locations and four days of activities for KilGogh 2019. This popular festival will now kick off with an exclusive preview party on Thursday, March 28, followed by the annual Art & Wine exhibition on Friday night and Saturday will again see the art exhibits open for free to the public. "KidsGogh" will be adding Chalk Fest, outdoor chalk drawing competition and moving to Harris St Park for two days of fun, creativity and lots of activities! There will be a shuttle bus on Saturday to take visitors from Harris St Park to the Downtown Entertainment District where both



the Texan Theater and Old Post Office will be open with demonstrations, seminars, and artwork.

## Every Weekend, March 30-April 28:

Travel back to 16th Century Europe at the Avalon Faire Renaissance Festival where you'll find special foods, and drinks of the period, not to mention an array of characters ready to chat with you and show off their unique wares ranging from silks to swords. The live jousts with French knights and performances from renaissance musicians and dancers spreading their merriment throughout the festival are a sight to behold! For more info. including tickets visit [avalonfaire.com](http://avalonfaire.com).



**April 5:** Get ready to dance at Fridays After 5! Hosted by Kilgore Main Street, the first concert of the year welcomes The

Social Club! They are known to get the party started by playing top 40 hits from the 60s to today. So bring your chairs or a picnic blanket and join the fun under the derricks at the World's Richest Acre for this FREE family-friendly outdoor concert. There will be local vendors for you to buy from and it's a perfect opportunity to get some dinner from our local downtown restaurants. For more info visit [KilgoreMainStreet.com](http://KilgoreMainStreet.com).

April 10-13: The Rangerettes always bring their highly acclaimed and well-attended Revels each spring. This year's variety show performed by the Kilgore College Rangerettes and include a wide variety of dance genres including the Rangerettes signature "high kick" production for the finale. The show runs 3 nights with 5 performances that take place before a sold-out crowd in Dodson Auditorium on the Kilgore College campus. For more info. visit [rangerette.com](http://rangerette.com).

Kilgore is a unique and dynamic destination with so many interesting attractions and experiences! Don't forget to use #VisitKilgore or #KilgoreTX when using Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter and we may just repost your image on our Visit Kilgore social media sites. Stay up-to-date on current events by liking us on Facebook and following us on Instagram and Twitter at [VisitKilgore](http://VisitKilgore).



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# State of Community



## ADVOCATE, From Page 1

Development Corporation, and Gregg & Rusk Counties. We are dedicated to helping local companies grow their businesses by taking the lead in programs and efforts that help create a strong local economy and making Kilgore the best place in East Texas to Live, Learn, Work and Play.

In addition to working hard at making certain our businesses and communities are being heard legislatively, we also make certain we recognize leaders, and allow members to just have a little bit of fun. Yes, I said it, F.U.N.

### *For example:*

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun – Cyndi Lauper may have sang the song, but we are going to have the fun. Ladies, join us on Thursday, April 4, at 6 pm at Hidden Timbers Lakeside Venue for our Annual Texas Tea, Women in Business where we will announce who the 2019 Women in Business are with the Rising Star, The Shining Star, and the Lifetime Star Achiever awards. Get your Aqua Net out, your hair crimper, the neon earrings and leggings, dust off your denim jacket and join us for a good ole '80's style par-

ty where you may or may not like totally have a gnarly, tubular time and may even say "gag me with a spoon." Trust me – you don't want to be left out.

Now if you prefer to drink beer, play games, and eat bugs, then our very first "Beers, Clubs & Bugs" may be more your style. On Friday, March 22, at 4:00 pm join us and tee off at Meadowbrook Golf Club for this first time event, a glow in the dark golf outing. We will tee off at 4 and then once we finish the first 9 holes of play, we will then enjoy a masterfully crafted crawfish boil for your dining pleasure. Once all the lights go down and moon is set, we will kick off the 2nd round of nine holes in the dark with glow in the dark balls and other items to assist in this fun event.

Sponsorships are still open for both events, contact Lisa at 903-984-5022 for any and all detailed information. We look forward to seeing you.

We Are Kilgore,  
Jill McCartney, IOM  
President & CEO  
Kilgore Chamber of  
Commerce & Visitors Bureau



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# TEXAS TEA Women in Business 2019

THURSDAY  
APRIL 4

Hidden  
Timbers  
Lakeside  
Venue

just wanna have fun

## SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

The Kilgore Chamber is seeking sponsors and vendors to participate in the upcoming Texas Tea – Women in Business event. Over 150 women are expected to attend this year's event so this is a great opportunity to showcase your business.

The 80's themed evening of "Girls Just

"Wanna Have Fun" will take place on April 4 at Hidden Timbers Lakeside Venue beginning at 6:00 pm. The evening starts with a social and shopping segment including vendors selling jewelry, purses, clothing, cosmetics and many other items. If interested in selling a product or ser-

vice at this event, contact the Chamber. Dinner and Women in Business Awards program will follow the social and shopping segment.

The Chamber is also seeking business sponsors. Your sponsorship of this event is a great way to support the recognition of

outstanding women in business. In addition, it is a great way to market your business to numerous women in business.

For details on sponsorship levels and/or vendor information, call 903-984-5022 or email your interest to [lmorgan@kilgore-chamber.com](mailto:lmorgan@kilgore-chamber.com)



## Recognizing Outstanding Women In Business

The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce announced the date of April 4 as the day to recognize Women in Business during the annual Texas Tea event. The theme this year is "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", totally 80's!

On April 4, the Chamber will recognize three outstanding business women in Kilgore, Texas at the annual Texas Tea event. The Women in Business Awards acknowledges unique women who approach community and business needs with strong leadership, collaboration and intentionality to affect change and influence their surroundings.

The three award categories include: The Rising Star, The Shining Star and Lifetime Star Achiever. We encourage you and your company to utilize this prestigious award

program to recognize outstanding business women from your business or others that you believe are outstanding business women. You may nominate an employee, yourself, a friend or an acquaintance.

The process is simple. Give the Kilgore Chamber a call or email lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com for a nomination form. Nomination deadline is February 22, 2019.

The nomination forms may be submitted by:

Mail/Deliver to:  
**Kilgore Chamber of Commerce**  
**813 N. Kilgore Street**  
**Kilgore TX 75662**

Scan & Email to:  
**lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com**



### AVALON FAIRE

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903 985-0165

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e-mail: [info@avalonfaire.com](mailto:info@avalonfaire.com)



### NEW EVENT!

This is an 18-hole tournament with a 4 p.m. start time.

First 9 will be played, followed by a Crawfish Boil

Once it is dark the second part of the tournament will be Glow Golf in the dark.

Stated time is subject to change to ensure proper playing time in the dark.

### TEAM REGISTRATION

**Friday, March 22, 2019 at Meadowbrook Golf & Event Center**

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE NUMBER  
OF CARTS NEEDED...  
**NONE    1    2**

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM ENTRY:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$400 FOR MEMBERS**

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$450 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Shot in the Dark Premier Sponsors: \$1000    Beers, Clubs & Bugs Sponsor: \$500  
 Full Moon Sponsor: \$750    Hole/Tee Sign Sponsor: \$100



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## New Members!

East Texas Tire & Service Center  
Hidden Timbers Lakeside Venue  
Simply Southern Catering

Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at  
[www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com).

**"The purpose of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is to cultivate a strong business and industrial environment in Kilgore, creating a vibrant place to live, learn, work, and play."**

### KILGORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Jill McCartney, President/CEO  
Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager  
Ryan Polk, Tourism Manager

### 2018-19 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

James Murphy, Chairman (Republic Services)  
Dr. Chris Gratton, Chair Elect  
(Gratton Chiropractic)  
Mark Robinson, Vice Chair (AEP/SWEPCO)  
Billie Mims, Treasurer (Austin Bank)  
Reece Nichols, Immediate Past Chair  
(Edward Jones)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pam DeCeault, Citizens National Bank  
Bobbie Guinn, Arpco Valves & Controls  
Robert Young, Skeeter Products Inc.  
Joe Stephens, Brookshire's  
James Wright, Halliburton Energy Services

#### EX-OFFICIO

Richard Nash, KISD  
Dr. Brenda Kays, Kilgore College  
Amanda Nobles, KEDC  
Josh Selleck, City of Kilgore  
David Cleveland, East Texas Council of Government



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LLC

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K.K. Mobbs Construction

KHPF

KIBA

Laird Insurance Agency

McDonald's Kilgore

Martin Resource Mgmt. Corp.

McKinnon Construction

Morrison Supply Company

Rivers Recycling, LLC

Steelman Industries

Thieman and Associates, Inc.





## Morning Brew

**Coffee + Conversation = Connections**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019 ~ 8:00–9:00 A.M.**  
**1718 S. Henderson Blvd**



Attending Morning Brew is a great WAY to make business connections! Join us and take advantage of meeting potential customers, share your promotional message with other businesses, make a business announcement, and learn more about the host business. Door prizes and breakfast refreshments top off the morning.

*What's not to like about making new business friends?*

A Member Program of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored and held at Tempest Golf. Thank you to Randy Wade and Andrea Jones for hosting an outstanding event! If your business is interested in hosting a Morning Brew, contact Lisa Morgan at the Kilgore Chamber 903-984-5022.



### Chamber Meetings & Events – February/March

Feb 21	Morning Brew	12:00pm	CHRISTUS
Feb 24-26	East Texas Coalition	8:00am	Austin, TX
March 5	Mud Run Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
March 6	Chamber E.M.T.'s Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
March 11	Government Affairs Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
March 12	Ambassador Meeting	11:30am	McKay's

### Community Events – February/March

Feb 22	Trivia Night	6:30 pm	Kilgore Public Library
Feb 23	Ranger Preview Day 2019	8:00 am	Kilgore College
Jan 19	East Texas Lone Star Shootout	7:00 pm	LoneStar Speedway
Mar 2	Mardi Gras with The Brick Street Blues Band	8:00 pm	The Back Porch
Mar 7-10	Kilgore College Theatre: The 39 Steps	7:30 pm	Van Cliburn Auditorium
Mar 17	Dean Keener Crim House Plant Sale	9:00 am	Dean Keener Crim House

**Go to [KilgoreChamber.com](http://KilgoreChamber.com) or [VisitKilgore.com](http://VisitKilgore.com) for more event information.**

If you have a community event you wish to have listed on the Kilgore Calendar please send your information via email to [info@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:info@kilgorechamber.com), drop it by the Chamber office at 813 N. Kilgore Street. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at KilgoreChamber and VisitKilgore.

**Proud Chamber Member for Over 25 Years**



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