

Published monthly by the Kilgore News Herald

# Chamber connection



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE 2023 • www.kilgorechamber.com • 1108 N. Kilgore Street • 903-984-5022

## Why Workforce Development Is a Big Deal for Small Business



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

Many small and medium-sized business owners think that workforce development isn't in their "lane." They leave it to the big guys to work with the chamber and community leaders to ensure the large businesses have the skilled employees they need for the future. But unless you are a business of one and plan on remaining that way, workforce development should be a concern of all sizes of businesses. Here's why you should want to get involved:

### WHY SMALL COMPANIES SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

While workforce development may seem like a daunting task for small companies, there are several compelling reasons why they should actively engage in these initiatives:

- **Access to a Skilled Workforce:** By participating in workforce development activities with the chamber and beyond, small businesses can play a pivotal role in shaping the skills and competencies of the future workforce. This provides them with a pool of well-prepared candidates who can contribute to their growth and success. A single small business isn't the main employer of the area but collectively, there's a good chance they are. Workforce development initiatives should consider and incorporate the needs



- of all employers when possible. The chamber can't do that if you don't get involved.
- **Enhanced Competitiveness:** A highly skilled workforce gives small companies a competitive edge in the marketplace. By investing in employee development, businesses can improve productivity, innovate more effectively, and adapt to industry changes with greater agility. While your company may not have the budget to fund employee development, a workforce development initiative might. Working with leaders in workforce development can help you contribute

- your voice to the initiative while also benefiting from their programs.
- **Talent Retention and Attraction:** Workforce development initiatives signal to existing and potential employees that the company and area value employee growth and development. This fosters a positive work environment, boosts employee morale, and increases retention rates. Moreover, small businesses that actively participate in these initiatives become more attractive to job seekers who prioritize professional growth and development. And may help get the small company's name out there in the job market.

- **Building Stronger Networks:** Engaging in workforce development activities provides small companies with opportunities to build relationships with educational institutions, industry peers, and other stakeholders. These connections can lead to collaborations, partnerships, and access to valuable resources and knowledge. While small businesses may have limited resources compared to larger corporations, they have a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on workforce development. By engaging with the chamber of commerce, local educational institutions, industry associations, and larger companies

in the area, a small business owner can provide valuable insights into what's needed in the years ahead. Workforce development is not only crucial for individual companies but also for the overall economic growth and sustainability of the community.

Many small business owners think that as an employer of only a handful of people, their insights aren't critical to the community's plans. However, small business often comprises the largest employment segment in the area. Hearing from businesses under 200 employees is just as important as hearing from the largest employer. If small business owners don't step forward to share their needs, the only ones who will be heard are big businesses and unless you think their employment needs and yours are the same, it's time to speak up.

Contact the chamber today.  
Jill R. McCartney White, IOM  
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce  
President & CEO

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Edward Jones - Brett W Howlett    Hunter 25 Services    Kilgore Dental Care

## MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ABC Auto Parts                               | Kilgore Quick Care                 |
| Ana-Lab Corporation                          | Manpower                           |
| Arabella of Kilgore                          | Merchant Payment Systems           |
| Austin Bank                                  | Mobbs Real Estate Group            |
| Centerpoint Energy                           | Perfect Catering                   |
| Central Title Company                        | Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.            |
| Chicken Express                              | Selleck Accounting & Finance, PLLC |
| Closure Systems International                | Skeeter Products, Inc.             |
| CrossFit Kilgore                             | Stillwater RV Resort               |
| Flint Orthodontics                           | Texas Defense Articulations        |
| Kilgore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta |                                    |

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

## MORNING BREW

POWERED BY  
KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**Kilgore Police Department**  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
8:00 - 9:00 am  
909 N. Kilgore Street  
Kilgore, Texas



WHY JOIN THE KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- NETWORKING
- ADVOCACY
- CREDIBILITY
- VISIBILITY
- LEARNING
- EVENTS
- DIRECTORIES
- COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT
- REFERRALS

**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Come Grow with us!*

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903.984.5022 | WWW.KILGORECHAMBER.COM

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS



### JUNE & JULY

<b>June 19</b>	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>June 26</b>	Growth Growth	12:00pm	Back Porch
<b>June 30</b>	BizConnect Luncheon – Cyber Security	11:30am	Tempest Golf Club
<b>July 4</b>	Independence Day – Office Closed		
<b>July 5</b>	EMT's Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>July 10</b>	Government Affairs Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>July 11</b>	Ambassador Meeting	11:30am	Burger King
<b>July 13</b>	Executive Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>July 17</b>	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>July 20</b>	Morning Brew	8:00am	Kilgore Police Department

Go to [KilgoreChamber.com](http://KilgoreChamber.com) or Visit [Kilgore.com](http://Kilgore.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 [lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com), drop it by the Chamber office at 1108 N. Kilgore Street. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at KilgoreChamber.

Proud Member 46 Years



Therapeutic Optometrists



Dr. Jadie Roberts



Dr. J.T. Roberts



Dr. Shiloh Roberts



1100 Stone Rd • Kilgore, Tx | 903.983.2020 | [www.eyecarecenters.org](http://www.eyecarecenters.org) | CHAMBER MEMBER SINCE 1976

# BizConnect Luncheon

POWERED BY THE KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com)

## JUNE

Friday, June 30, 2023

11:30am-1:00pm

### CYBER SECURITY

#### YOUR BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

Mr. Willis Marlin, Cybr Security Solutions, LLC  
**Certified Government Chief Information Officer/Owner**

Mr. Brandon O'Rourke, Business Computer Solutions  
**Operations Manager**



**\$25**

**PER PERSON**

Location:  
 Tempest Golf Club  
 568 East Wilkins Rd.  
 Gladewater, Texas



Learn how you and your staff along with IT play a role to protect you and your customers data.



**RSVP**

BY:  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH**  
 You can register online at [www.KilgoreChamber.com/events](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/events)  
 or call 903-984-5022 or email [LMorgan@KilgoreChamber.com](mailto:LMorgan@KilgoreChamber.com)



**KILGORE**  
 AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEADERSHIP EMBARK • ENLIGHTEN • EMPOWER • ENGAGE

What are the benefits for you in supporting your employee's participation in the chamber's E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Program?

**Employees will be transformed through E<sup>4</sup>!**

Want an employee who...

- Understands the nature of leadership.
- Possesses team building and communication skills essential for workplace success.
- Understands how personal leadership style may facilitate personal and professional growth.
- Possesses goal setting, critical thinking, and problem solving strategies to tackle challenges in the workplace.
- Understands and practices a rational decision-making process.
- Grasps the importance of fostering employee development through mentoring relationships and networking opportunities.
- Bolsters your company profile in the broader community.
- Embraces the idea that community service is an essential component of self-actualization and satisfaction.

If you want a workforce that brings these benefits to your workplace, support participation in the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce's E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Program.

#### Invest in Your Workforce.

Approve and support your employee(s) participation in the upcoming, 9-session program.

Sessions are 1-full day (Third Tuesday) once a month beginning in October 2023 (retreat is October 12 & 13th overnight) and ending in May 2024 (This is an 8-hour per month commitment for you and your employee. Class Project could extend the program to May 2025).

Invest by sponsoring the E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Training tuition of \$575 (Or split the cost with your select employee to ensure their full commitment to this valuable training.)

Ask for the program application that details the elements of this impactful program. Recognize that the required deadlines, criteria, and guidelines for participation are part of the development process and encourage strict adherence from your employee(s). Pass this Fact Sheet on to your employee. Your endorsement underscores a firm recognition of the benefits to be gained by both your company and your employee.

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Class size is limited to 20 people. Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2023. [www.KilgoreChamber.com/Programs](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/Programs) • 903-984-5022 [JMcCartney@KilgoreChamber.com](mailto:JMcCartney@KilgoreChamber.com)



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored by Martin Midstream Partners.

**Thank you to Sharon Nestleroad and staff 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.

Attendees at these dynamic meetings introduce themselves and their business with a 30-second commercial. Maximize your networking by arriving early or staying after the meeting to enjoy open networking with the local business professionals who attend each month.



The goal of Growth Group is to build personal and professional relationships with other members while exchanging leads, business tips, growing your prospect list, and, most importantly, referrals.



Monday, June 26th, 11:30 am @ The Back Porch

[www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com)

Showcase your business by joining us for a little lunchtime fun and some lively conversation at our Monday Growth Group.

June 13, 2023

On behalf of the Texas business community and the undersigned organizations below, we thank you for your leadership in making sure Texas remains the best place to do business, raise a family, and live.

We support the continuation of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which has provided connectivity to almost 15 million households and small businesses in the U.S., and over 1.3 million in Texas alone. During the last two legislative sessions we have prioritized and supported efforts in the state to increase reliable, high-speed internet, which is critical to commerce, public safety, economic opportunity, and educational access.

Our state efforts along with continuation of the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) will continue to expand the number of Texans who have online access to government services, telework, telemedicine, and virtual education. Such access will continue to boost the Texas economy and the economies of both urban and rural communities across the state.

We respectfully ask for your support to extend funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and thank you for your service and dedication to the state of Texas.

Sincerely,

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Texas Association of Business                | Greater Houston Partnership                      |
| Abilene Chamber of Commerce                  | Greater North Texas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce |
| Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce           | Hurst Eules Bedford Chamber of Commerce          |
| Bastrop Chamber of Commerce                  | Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce              |
| Brazoria County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce                 |
| Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce               | Leander Chamber of Commerce                      |
| Comanche Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture   | Longview Chamber of Commerce                     |
| El Paso Chamber of Commerce                  | McAllen Chamber of Commerce                      |
| El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce         | McKinney Chamber of Commerce                     |
| Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce      | Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce             |
| Frisco Chamber of Commerce                   | Odessa Chamber of Commerce                       |
| Grand Prairie Hispanic Chamber of Commerce   | Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce   |
| Grapevine Chamber of Commerce                | Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center           |
| Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce        | San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce         |
| Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  | Temple Chamber of Commerce                       |
| Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  |  |



*"The Purpose of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote a strong business and industrial environment in the Kilgore area.  
 5 Core Competencies: Accelerate, Advocate, Collaborate, Educate, Innovate"*

### 2023 Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce

1108 N. KILGORE STREET | KILGORE, TEXAS 75662 | 903-984-5022



**KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF**  
 Jill R. McCartney, IOM President & CEO  
 Lisa Morgan, IOM, Member Services Manager

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Robert Young, Chairman ( Skeeter)  
 Erin Brogotti, Chair Elect (HUB International)  
 Tim Capps, Vice Chair (Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC)  
 Kevin Offering, Vice Chair (East Texas Hardware)  
 Blayne Cole, Treasurer (Noble Roofing Bullard Associates, LLC)  
 Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Chairman (Arpco Valves & Controls) Past Chairman  
 Jill McCartney White, Secretary (Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jack Moore (Whataburger)  
 Ubaldo Meraz (East Texas Professional Credit Union)  
 John-Michael Spates (Orgill)  
 Nichole Cole (Business Computer Solutions, BCS)  
 Sharda Shead, FNP-C (Christus Trinity Clinic)  
 Brent Rice (State Farm Insurance)  
 Gene Keenon (Republic Services)

#### EX-OFFICIO

- Dr. Andy Baker (KISD)  
 Dr. Brenda Kays (Kilgore College)  
 Lisa Denton (Kilgore Economic Development Corp.)  
 Josh Selleck (City of Kilgore)  
 David Cleveland (East Texas Council of Governments)

# Proud Chamber Member for Over 25 Years



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 2815 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore

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2022 2023  
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2022 2023  
President's Star Member

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**KILGORE NEWS HERALD**

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1901 Whipporwill Lane  
Kilgore, Texas 75662



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# Congratulations to our winning teams!



**1st Place**  
Tyler Pipe  
-19, 53



**2nd Place**  
National Wholesale  
Supply  
-17, 55



**3rd Place**  
Appraisal Resource  
Group  
-16, 56

**OUR WINNING TEAMS FOR 2023:**

**1ST PLACE:** Tyler Pipe with Andy Alexander, Joe Holzbaues, Jason Moore, and Jason Smith

**2ND PLACE:** National Wholesale Supply - Kilgore, Texas with Wade Silvey, Cody Abbott, Jeff Jackson, and Tiger Stovall

**3RD PLACE:** Appraisal Resource Group with Caleb Chadwell, Jake Huggins, Jason Register, and Kyle Register

Thank you to the team at Tempest Golf Club for taking great care of us and our golfers. We appreciate you! See you next year!

We wrapped up the 3rd Annual Spring Swing Golf Scramble on Friday, June 2nd at Tempest Golf Club around 4:30 pm. We had an amazing group of sponsors this year:

Patterson Kilgore Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM for the 3rd year in a row has been our Titleist Sponsor of the event, Republic Services has also been with us for 3 years as one of the Premier Sponsors. The other premier sponsors include MavTex Fabrication & Supply and Skeeter Products, Inc. Our Scorecard sponsors for 2023 included VeraBank, Southwestern Electric Power Company - SWEPCO, Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC, and Orgill. Our beverage sponsor was Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC, and the Brunch sponsor was Sparklight.

Hole Flag sponsors included: Tyler Pipe, Phillips Watson & Gilchrist, LLP, All Star Ford-Justin Brown, All Star Ford, Mobbs Companies

10 Hole/Tee Sponsors included: Orgill, Austin Bank, East Texas Treatment Center, East Texas Hardware, David M. Hayes, CPA, East Texas Salt Water Disposal Company, Kilgore Eye Care Center, Bob Davis Sales, HD Hydraulics, and Mobbs Companies.

THANK YOU!



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3rd Annual Spring Swing  
2023 Sponsors  
Friday, June 2, 2023, Tempest Golf Club



**PATTERSON**  
KILGORE CHEVROLET CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

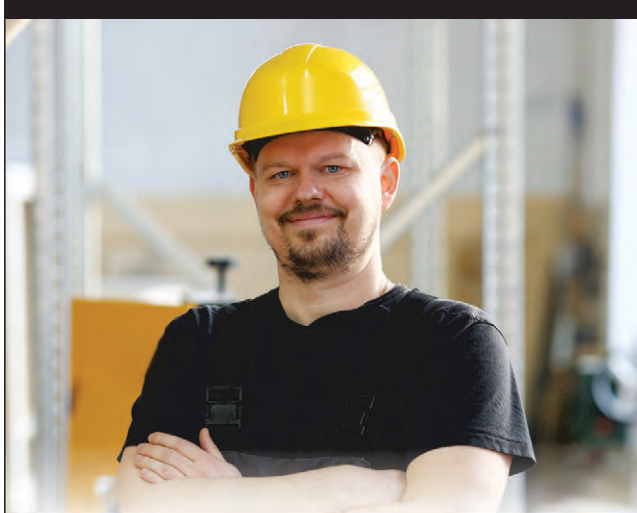


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