

Published monthly by the Kilgore News Herald

# Chamber connection



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JANUARY 2023 • [www.kilgorechamber.com](http://www.kilgorechamber.com) • 1108 N. Kilgore Street • 903-984-5022

## 3 Reasons to Join the Chamber in a Time of Economic Uncertainty



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

or not, growth is slow. Costs are up. Shelves are not as full as they once were. Some industries are already claiming a recession has hit them.

In times of economic uncertainty, businesses have greater needs than usual. It helps to have a partner looking out for your best interests. The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is in a unique position to provide that assistance for a minimal investment.

### THE HIDDEN JOB MARKET

One of the reasons economists are slow to call what we're in currently "a recession" is because the job market on average remains strong. Employers are hiring. Sometimes their hiring needs are even outpacing available, skilled candidates.

Through chamber membership, you receive two types of job assistance—help in finding positions and candidates. If you're looking for a job, you can network and locate available opportunities in the hidden job market (before they come available). Membership helps you get to know hiring managers and business owners, making a job search much easier and improving your chances of finding your dream job.

On the other hand, as a hiring entity, you will be in a solid position to get to know potential job candidates who aren't actively looking for work. This is often one of the easiest ways to find top performers. Plus, connecting with possible job candidates on a professional level outside of the office can assist you in getting to know them better than you would through a 30-minute

**Opportunities & Resources** ★ **Access to Information**  
**Networking** ★ **Publicity & Credibility** ★ **Advocacy**



*Come Grow with us!*  
POWERED BY THE KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Times of economic uncertainty doesn't cause anyone to look for new ways to spend money. But there are some investments in your business that even when you're worried about cash flow, are worth the return. Without those necessities—be they software or services—you couldn't operate. Chamber membership is one of those necessary business investments and here's why:

### UNCERTAIN TIMES MEAN UNPRECEDENTED BUSINESS CHALLENGES

According to a survey released in early January by the National Association for Business Economics, more than half of respondents believe the U.S. is headed toward a recession in the next 12 months. An additional 11% of those polled think the economy is already in a recession. (A recession is commonly defined as two consecutive quarters of shrinking growth). However, the severity and depth of the possible recession are matters of debate among most economists and market experts. Whether we face a recession

interview. This helps to ensure a stronger hire and better fit for your organization.

### PUBLIC SECTOR ASSISTANCE & ADVOCACY

Whether you have your eye on pro-business legislation or are worried about a zoning issue, like anything else, business often goes your way based on who you know. As a chamber member, your concern over business—your own or the entire business community—is amplified. When the chamber speaks to city, state, or federal leaders,

they are speaking on behalf of all businesses. This gives your concerns more power among elected leaders.

The chamber may also be able to help by placing your request in context in the larger picture. The zoning problem you're having isn't just about your business property but all properties moving forward. The chamber is well-suited to propose "if, then" scenarios that can help you get the assistance you need quickly. We also provide opportunities for you, our members to speak one on one with the people we elect and put in office.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

While the economic development of the area may not seem like a pressing issue in your mind right now, it helps keep you in business, regardless of your industry. A strong local economy can help maintain prosperity even when the national economy is struggling as the minority-business owners did along Auburn Avenue in Atlanta in the 1930s. While the rest of the country was experiencing the dark crash of '29 and the subsequent depression, Au-

burn Avenue thrived because its interests were protected.

The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to building community and ushering in smart economic growth so everyone can thrive. Chamber membership not only safeguards your business interests and helps you achieve your own goals but improves the business community, and thus the community, for all.

*Jill R. McCartney White, IOM  
Kilgore Area Chamber of  
Commerce  
President & CEO*

<i>we are the</i> <b>CONNECTOR</b> of Leaders & Influencers <a href="http://www.KilgoreChamber.com">www.KilgoreChamber.com</a>	<i>we are the</i> <b>CATALYST</b> for Business Growth <a href="http://www.KilgoreChamber.com">www.KilgoreChamber.com</a>	<i>we are the</i> <b>CHAMPION</b> for a Stronger Community 903.984.5022
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Camfil USA

Brandi Jo Newman

## MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

Anchor Safety, Inc.

Randy Gaut

The Back Porch

Kilgore College

Origin Bank

Lennis Design, LLC

Citizens Bank

Linda Melton, LLC

Coldwell Banker Lenhart Properties, Inc.

Mobbs Builders

East Texas Hardware

Nichols Transportation

Edmonds Family Trust

Planet Fitness

G. Scott Brown Leadership Training

Sheriff Maxey Cerliano

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY

<b>Jan 25</b>	Education Committee	8:00am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>Jan 27</b>	State of the Community	11:00am	Texan Theater
<b>Feb 1</b>	EMT's Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>Feb 13</b>	Governmental Affairs Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>Feb 14</b>	Ambassador Lunch	11:30am	TBD
<b>Feb 16</b>	Morning Brew	8:00am	All Star Ford
<b>Feb 16</b>	Executive Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>Feb 20</b>	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>Feb 23</b>	Star Gala	6:00pm	Texan Theater

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 [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



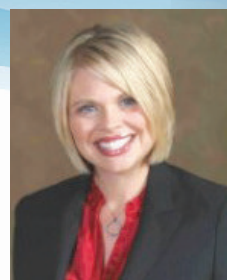
Therapeutic Optometrists



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



## East Texas Coalition March 5-7 Austin



### Registration Form: East Texas Coalition Goes to Austin March 5 – 7, 2023

You are invited to participate in the 2023 East Texas Coalition trip to Austin. This year's host hotel is The Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta Hotel, 701 Congress Ave, Austin, Texas 78701. Block rates are available by calling 1 800 Sonesta (766-3782) and asking for the room block of East Texas Coalition or [registering online](#) by **February 15, 2023**. Room rate is \$224 + tax single/double occupancy.

#### Trip at a Glance

<b>Sunday,</b> *Optional Dutch Treat Dinner	<b>Monday,</b> *Breakfast with Guest Speaker *Morning & Afternoon Briefings *Tentative Capitol Tour w/ Sen. Hughes	<b>Tuesday,</b> *Breakfast & Briefings at the Stephen F. Austin *Picture at The Stephen F. Austin *Evening Reception
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#### Registration Information

General Registration with payment on or before December 30, 2022		After December 30, 2022	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
\$300	\$400	\$350	\$450
Tuesday Morning Breakfast & Briefings at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel			
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
\$ 45	\$75	\$60	\$90

Number of General Registrations: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tuesday Morning Registrations: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due with registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC/DISCOVER/AMEX: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE NOTE: Reservations require payment unless canceled by January 29, 2023  
If a registration is canceled after February 10, 2023, an additional \$50 cancellation fee will be applied.)

Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce  
1108 N. Kilgore Street  
Kilgore, Texas 75662



Phone: 903.984.5022  
Fax: 903.984.4975

The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce takes the concerns of our member businesses and community to Austin and/or Washington D.C, this is a very important part of our Program of Work. We create a Legislative Agenda for each session in Austin and utilize the agenda to oppose or support different legislation that is created to be voted on. We survey our members to glean what is important to them. For example, we are certainly Pro Oil and Gas and oppose any legislation that erodes access to existing economic development tools. We focus on these key areas: Business & Community Advocacy, Economic & Workforce Development, Infrastructure, Energy, Healthcare & Education. We will once again be heading to Austin to make certain our legislators are aware of our concerns and issues. Our advocacy efforts are for the betterment of the Kilgore Area to assist in making Kilgore the best place to Live, Learn, Work & Play.

In cooperation with Tyler, Longview, Lindale, and other East TX Chambers, Kilgore businessmen and women come together for a 2-day event to meet with state legislators and representatives to discuss issues and legislation relative to our community during the Legislative Session in Austin. This is a very important activity and provides exposure to your business to all of East Texas. We will be including a trip to DC in March of 2024 with the East Texas Coalition.

**Commitment Deadline for ETC Conference during 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session- January 22, 2023, for submission of logo and sponsor form**

#### Capitol Sponsor - \$2000

- Top billing on Kilgore Chamber event promotions
- Name on coalition materials at the event
- Logo on social media promotions & Chamber website
- Name on event signage at the reception in Austin
- Verbal recognition at legislative delegation functions
- Includes registration fees for 3 to ETC Conference in Austin (does not include hotel or food)

#### Principal Sponsor - \$1500

- Name recognition on the Chamber website
- Name on social media promotion
- Name recognition on event signage at the reception in Austin
- Includes registration fee for 2 to ETC Conference in Austin (does not include hotel or food)

#### Legislative Sponsor - \$750

- Name recognition on the Chamber of website
- Name on social media promotion
- Name recognition on event signage at reception
- Includes registration fee for 1 to ETC Conference in Austin (does not include hotel or food)

## 2023 OFFICERS KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

 <p><b>Robert Young</b> Customer Relations Mgr., Skeeter Boats  Chair</p>	 <p><b>Erin Brogoitti</b> Benefit Advisor, HUB International  Chair Elect</p>	 <p><b>Tim Capps</b> Managing Partner, Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC  Vice Chairman</p>	 <p><b>Kevin Offerding</b> General Manager East Texas Hardware  Vice Chairman</p>
 <p><b>Blayne Cole</b> CFO, Noble Roofing  Treasurer</p>	 <p><b>Bobbie Hurley O'Dell</b> CEO, Arpco Valves &amp; Controls  Past Chairman of the Board</p>		

*"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 Brogoitti, Chair Elect (HUB International)  
Tim Capps, Vice Chair (Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC)  
Kevin Offerding, 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)  
Sharla 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



## REPUBLIC SERVICES

2611 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore  
2815 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored by East Texas Professional Credit Union. Thank you to Ubaldo Meraz 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.

2023 Business of the Year Nominee's	2023 New Business of the Year Nominee's	2023 Industrial Business of the Year Nominee's	2023 The STAR Award Nominee's
Automotive Super Center #5 Business Computer Solutions (BCS) David M. Hayes, CPA Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC Kelly Tractor	Camfil USA The Bliss House	Communication & Power Ind. (CPI) Energy Weldfab Drover Energy Services Geonix HD Hydraulics Woolley Tool	Brookshire's Downtown D'Lites Energy Weldfab McDaniel's Quality Body Works - Kilgore National Wholesale Supply



**The Office Center**

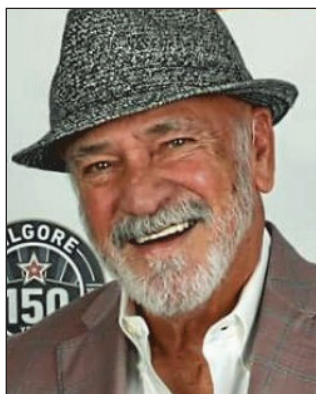
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# City Connection



JANUARY 2023 • www.cityofkilgore.com

## Canine tourists and their people



**Bill Woodall**  
Kilgore Community Relations Manager

Hold your horses there, pardner.

Before we start celebrating our mild winter, let's not forget the 2021 snowpocalypse – snowmageddon, if you prefer -- came in mid-February following a normal January.

As Kilgoreans, we are routinely beset by interesting phenomena. Among the more interesting is the evolution of the city's dog park.

The park, relocated a couple of years ago to property donated by Mayor Ronnie Spradlin, has become a bit of an attraction for out-of-towners.

Encircled by an asphalt walking path that connects to the Creekside Trail, the property at the corner of Houston and Crescent is celebrated by the 'regulars' who maintain contact through a members-only (membership is free, but you should be a "dog person") Facebook page, Kilgore Dog Meetup.

This writer is a member of

that page and a semi-regular at the park. Not on every visit, but certainly quite often, I meet residents of neighboring cities who bring their canine pals to Kilgore just because of the park, officially Meadowbrook Bark.

A couple of Michigan-based snowbirds wintering at an RV facility in Tatum (they have a Kilgore connection and may wind up here eventually) visit from time to time because it's the best in the area. Despite the round-trip drivetime, a woman from Henderson brings her dog because she "loves" our dog park and the adjoining Creekside Trail – even though her husband thinks her rationale is a bit suspect. A woman from White Oak

recently discovered the park and expects to visit regularly – she says only an amazingly affordable rental in White Oak prevents her from relocating to Kilgore. A young couple from Longview say they bring their dog here because "Kilgore's got it going on," whatever that means.

A surprisingly large contingent of dog-owners from Longview bring their furry partners to our park. They can walk the trail and then rest at the park while the dog run and wrestle with other dogs. Or they can first sit a while on our vinyl-clad benches, visit, and then go to the walking trail. Visitors regularly comment on the difference in the level of maintenance at our park as compared to others.

The function of a tourist attraction is to draw visitors who will stay in our motels, buy gas at our stations, eat in our restaurants, shop with our retailers and in other ways boost our local economy. Meadowbrook Bark likely does not fit that strict definition... it may not boost our economy but, by golly, it's boosting our reputation.

We're never surprised by laudatory comments about the World's Richest Acre, about Driller Park, about the Texas Shakespeare Festival, about Creekside Trail and Big Head Creek MTB trail, about Meadowbrook Golf Course or downtown streetscaping. But I confess to complete surprise by the Bark's evolutionary status as

a regional attraction.

That odd-looking table near the Creekside Trail parking lot on Dudley Road is a Tec Ball table... think ping pong with a soccer ball and played without paddle or the use of one's hands. It's a head-and-feet kind of thing requiring far more coordination and flexibility than I can muster.

Two tables were donated by the Tec Ball company. One is at that Dudley Road multi-use field and the other has been installed at the boys and Girls Club on Houston Street.

Yet another recreational diversion to satisfy our endless need to recreate.

### 2023 Kilgore Community Calendar available at 1108 N. Kilgore Street



Area Chamber of Commerce

# KILGORE 2023 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit Us Online... www.KilgoreChamber.com ...for the latest on all the Kilgore Chamber Events!

CALENDAR

GO IT-SHIRTS MATS DECALS BANNERS GLOBAL GRAPHICS

Place **YOUR AD** in next month's **City Connection**

Call 903.984.2593

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

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