

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce *Celebrates 50 Years*

A rich history of Rice Harvest Festivals, grand openings, business networking opportunities, and community service to Katy, Texas

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated their 50 year anniversary with a special luncheon held at the Wyndam Houston Hotel. Established in 1962, some of the Chamber's earliest projects included installing the first Welcome to Katy sign off I-10, coordinating city-wide beautification and cleanup projects, hosting the first Rice Harvest Festival, and distributing Katy maps. Through the years the Chamber has grown to 850 members and continues to be a champion of businesses and quality of life in the Katy area. Katy's affordable real estate, exceptional school district, and friendly business economy, continues to draw new businesses and residents from all over the world.



Groundbreaking at Rover Oaks Pet Resort



Vanessa Wheelless and Angela Thomason



Kelly Gaines, current Chairman of the Board, with several past Chairmen: Nick Alexander, Doyle Callender, Kerry Gilbert, Troy Maxwell, Stan Stanley, Jay Jorns, Rod Seidel, Presley Schoenaman, Paul Kurt, and Walt Sass

Select photos courtesy of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce



“The contacts made through the Katy Area Chamber start as business associates and soon turn into life-long friends. They have a real interest in your success and the success of your business. That doesn’t happen everywhere-only in Katy!”
 -Kelly Gaines, Chairman of the Board

Katy Day in Austin 2007

Katy Area Chamber Timeline

- 1962 Charter received from Secretary of State
- 1980 Holds first Rice Harvest Festival
- 1985 Installs first ‘Welcome to Katy’ sign off I-10
- 1999 Ann Hodge is named president & CEO
- 2002 Helps form Katy Area Economic Development Council
- 2007 Relocates to La Centerra Cinco Ranch



A photo of the board of directors in the ‘90s



Chamber staff Debbie Glasser, Ann Hodge, and Brenda Grogan



Mayor Don Elder, Senator Glenn Hegar, Ann Hodge, Commissioner Andy Myers, Kelly Gains, Kerry Gilbert, Hon. Carol Adams, Rep. Bill Callegari, and Commissioner Stan Kitzman

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce *Fast Facts*

- PRESIDENT & CEO: Ann Hodge 1999-present
- CURRENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 850
- KEY EVENTS: Rice Harvest Festival, annual gala, monthly luncheons, after-hours networking events, golf tournaments, business breakfasts, ribbon cuttings, and more

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Community Service

For the last half a century, the Chamber has sponsored, hosted, or initiated hundreds of Katy events that have been instrumental in fueling Katy's growth.



Katy ISD Teachers of the Year luncheons



Galas with live and silent auctions



Rice Harvest pageants, parades, photo and cooking contests



New business ribbon cuttings and grand openings



Rice Harvest Festival attracting approximately 50,000 attendees



Charitable events and check presentations



Annual FFA student luncheons



The gala Chamber committee Waller County Constable Joe Trimm, Jr., Candice Trimm, Linda Nichols, Ann Hodge, Kelly Gaines, Joycelyn Urech, Brenda Grogan, Jackie Grogan, Chaille Voelkel, Rip Blackwood, Debbie Glasser, Tom Richter, Kelly Nolan, Chris Crockett, Frank Dahl, Nicole LeBoeuf, Lori Gunn, Eileen Newsome, Chris Dahl, Cassie Richter, Mindy Adams, Deborah Bautista, and Joel Newsome

Fatima and Brett Donaldson



Vanessa Castillo, Terri Beiber, and Ana V Roman



Sandra, Ayla, Tad, and Will Adams



Susan and Jeff Smith



Celebrating the first 50 years of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce



Toasting the next 50 years of the Chamber



Looking Ahead

“When the Katy Chamber of Commerce was founded fifty years ago, it is doubtful any of the original members could imagine the Greater Katy area as it exists today. Thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Chamber, its leaders, and its Board of Directors, past and present, the Katy area today represents a success story that is the envy of many other communities across the country. With a solid business community, outstanding school district, and award-winning residential neighborhoods, the Chamber has every reason to celebrate its success as it looks forward, with anticipation, to the next half century.”

-Woody Mann, Vista Equities Group

To learn more about the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce or become a member, visit katychamber.com

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