

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CARL JOINER
Joiner Partnership, Inc.- Architects

CHAIR ELECT 2016 - 2017
VICE CHAIR FINANCE
BRYAN BOGLE
Ventech Information Systems

VICE CHAIR ADMINISTRATION
BRIAN FREEDMAN
The Boeing Company

VICE CHAIR MEMBERSHIP
BRENDA MILLER- FERGERSON
The City of Kemah

VICE CHAIR RESEARCH
CHARLIE FELTS
Opus Bistro & Opus Ocean Grille

PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
ROY GREEN
South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANETTE ALFORD
AdvoCare Independent Distributor

SHAWN BAILEY
AMOCO Federal Credit Union

ANGELA BIVENS
The Pet Palace Pet Resort

NICOLE BELLOW
Smarter HR Solutions

PIERR CASTILLO
Top Star Marketing

GINA CONKLIN
Houston Community Management Services, Inc.

MARK CONRAD
Express Employment Professionals

JONATHAN COTTRELL
Martha Turner Sotheby's Int'l Realty

RITA CUNNINGHAM
Clear Lake Regional Medical Center

TERI CRAWFORD
San Jacinto College

BOB DAVEE
Mills Shirley, LLP

GLENN ELLIS
Jacobs

SUE FLANNIGAN
Berkeley Eye Center

RAY HOLLOWAY, JR.
Center Point Energy

J. P. MORRIS
Texas Citizen's Bank

CHRIS REED
Chris Reed Consulting

WAYNE RUTLEDGE
Rutledge Commercial Real Estate

KAT SANFORD
KAT Sanford Productions

KATHERINE WALSH
Houston Methodist St. John

EX- OFFICIO DIRECTORS

BOB MITCHELL
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

Dr. GREG SMITH
Clear Creek Independent School District

Dr. WARREN NICHOLS
College of the Mainland

Dr. BRENDA HELLEYER
San Jacinto College

Dr. WILLIAM STAPLES
University of Houston- Clear Lake

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

DEBORAH ACOSTA CONDER
NASA/ Johnson Space Center

GENERAL COUNSEL

DICK GREGG, JR.
Gregg & Gregg, P. C.

STAFF

CINDY DEWEASE, IOM, President & CEO
SHARI SWEENEY, IOM, Vice President
SUNYA FITZ, CFO
STEPHANIE TANNER, Communications Specialist
PEYTON WALDRUP, Director of Membership



1201 E. NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058
P: 281-488-7676 | F: 281-488-8981 | www.ClearLakeArea.com

March 20, 2017

Representative Greg Bonnen
PO Box 2910
Capitol Extension
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Representative Bonnen:

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is a Champion for Business Success and Quality of Life in our community, representing about 900 Chamber members with a population of over 300,000. I am writing today to express our support for the Texas Dealer Franchise law, which helps to protect consumers and prevent monopolies. More importantly, to us as community leaders, the dealer franchise system encourages partnership between a dealer and their community. Many of the Clear Lake Bay Area Houston franchised dealers work as community partners. We are fortunate to have their leadership on many of our community Boards along with their financial support of various events and organizations that make the Clear Lake region such a great place to live and raise a family.

It has come to our attention that California based Tesla is seeking a special exemption from our important Texas Dealer Franchise laws. At this moment, there is nothing in state law preventing a citizen of Texas from purchasing a Tesla today. Many Texas franchised dealers are eager to help Tesla succeed. It is our understanding that they have contacted Tesla seeking an opportunity to retail their vehicles – including an offer to absorb any capital expenses required for the Tesla model. Tesla would instead prefer a special set of rules just for their company, which puts their profits over the well being of Texas communities.

There is not one compelling reason to threaten the system that works well for Texas and protects Texas business and consumers. The potential negative ripple effects for entertaining such legislation is significant and will impact those small Texas communities who can least afford to see job and philanthropic losses.

We urge you to SAY NO to special interests and support the current Texas Dealer Franchise laws, as we continue to thank our local dealers who keep our Clear Lake/ Bay Area Houston Region communities thriving.

Respectfully,

Cindy H. DeWease
President and CEO