

GINA SPAGNOLA, IOM

President

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Ms. Gina Spagnola is president of The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce and has served in that capacity since 2003. In her role at the chamber, representative of almost 900 businesses, she is committed to its mission to “Promote and Advocate For Business And Community Development.” This year marks the 170th anniversary of the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce – Texas’ first chamber. It is her vision, her leadership, her commitment to Galveston and the entire Texas Gulf Coast region that has resulted in positioning the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce as the leading business organization in this area.

In 2007, Gina saw clearly the need to encourage women to participate fully in the civic, political, and business life of the region. Additionally, as a working wife and mother, she saw how critical it is for women to maintain a balance of mind, spirit, and body. With the help of an energized group of women from throughout the area, she created Galveston’s Celebrating Women: Mind Body Spirit Conference.

Several years ago, Gina created the education committee for the chamber. This was the one venue in which all layers of education from the University of Texas Medical Branch to East End Preschool, from charter schools to public schools to private schools, meet together on a regular basis. Out of that committee was born “Lemonade Day Galveston County.” Gina took this national program, which encourages entrepreneurship among young people to a level never before achieved. The support from the business community, every corner of the education community, and civic volunteers garnered the attention of the national Lemonade Day organization. In 2013, Gina was invited by Michael Holthouse, founder of the Lemonade Day event, to serve on the National Lemonade Day Council with the responsibility to oversee and assist all geographically assigned “domain” leaders. In 2014, Gina was named “National City Director of the Year” at the National Lemonade Day Conference.

In March 2013, Gina was honored with the 2012 Christie Mitchell Beachcomber Award. The award was created by philanthropist George Mitchell in honor of his brother, Christie, to recognize those individuals and entities who promote this Island like Christie did his beloved home. Under her guidance, the chamber was recognized by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) for Communication Excellence: 2013 Grand Award for the 2012 Celebrating Women Conference and the Award of Excellence: 2013 Advertising and Marketing Campaign Lemonade Day Galveston 2012. In 2012 she was bestowed the Paul Harris Fellow, Distinguished Award from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Gina is very active and involved in the Galveston community and serves on various boards and committees. She is a graduate of the four-year Northeast Institute Board of Regents: U.S. Chamber of Commerce program. The Business Civic Leadership Center (BLBC) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced Gina’s appointment as a member of the National Business Recovery Corps., created after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 made up of committed individuals whose communities experienced major disasters in the past, and who would like to help future community leaders tackle the challenges of disaster recovery. The distinguished list of individuals includes citizens from across the U.S. committed to the concept of “paying it forward.” In 2015, Gina was asked to serve as a faculty member for Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

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The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce is the oldest chamber of commerce in the state of Texas and has been promoting and advocating for business since 1845. The Galveston Chamber is a national model for programs that engage the next generation of business leaders, as well as exploring better connections with current members and the community. The chamber creates a catalyst for change and offers a legislative voice for the business community thanks to a synergistic environment where people and organizations come together and facilitate effective plans of action. The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce has proven itself to be the single most effective organization committed to helping solve today’s complex business and community problems in the Houston and Galveston region of the Texas Gulf Coast.