

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E



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## **PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES RIVER REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Paul Aucoin was invited to speak at the River Region Chamber of Commerce (RRCC) general membership meeting held earlier today at Oak Alley plantation. He presented on the state of the Port of South Louisiana during the last year, focusing the audience’s attention on the economic development accomplishments in the River Region.

The economic development departments of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James Parishes and of the Port of South Louisiana have historically had a strong relationship and commitment to the region’s growth, working cooperatively on projects to benefit the entire region. For that reason, in 2004, these entities formed the River Region Economic Development Initiative (RREDI) to develop strategies to further economic growth and diversification of the River Region.

As fruits of their labor, within the last four years alone, there have been, at least, 18 announced projects that will establish industry and/or expand operations within the river parishes. Companies, which include Yuhuang Chemical, First Bauxite, and Marathon Petroleum, are slated to collectively invest over \$25 billion and create over 2,700 direct jobs that offer an average salary (plus benefits) of \$76,000. “The world outside of the Port of South Louisiana is discovering what the River Region has to offer and that is location, location, location...plus inexpensive natural gas, and generous economic incentives,” said Aucoin.

Aucoin also announced during the meeting that the Port of South Louisiana has been the recipient of an Excellence in Economic Development Award in 2015 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for its quarterly publication, the PortLog. “I am very proud of the Port,” said Aucoin, “particularly the department of business development, and Renaissance Publishing, our publisher, for being recognized with this special award. Fortunately, we have a lot of exciting things happening at the Port of South Louisiana that we can share with readers.”

### **About the River Region Chamber of Commerce**

In support of its members who are dedicated investors to the communities of St. James, St. John, and St. Charles, the River Region Chamber of Commerce provides businesses of all sizes a multitude of valuable benefits and online tools that enhance their respective markets to further business growth. It offers portals to public policy development, business resources and governmental and economic agencies, news and information on chamber events, networking opportunities, and service committees.

## About the Port of South Louisiana

The Port of South Louisiana is a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, encompassing the parishes of St. Charles, St. John and St. James. The facilities located within the port's district consistently handle over a quarter billion short tons of cargo annually, ranking it the largest tonnage port district in the Western Hemisphere, the nation's greatest grain exporter, and the number one energy transfer port in the United States. Along the 108 miles of deep-water frontage on both banks of the river there are seven grain transfer facilities, four major oil processing plants, 11 petrochemical manufacturing facilities and several other facilities for a total of more than 50 piers and docks owned and operated by an impressive group of resident tenants such as ADM, ArcelorMittal, Dow, Cargill, DuPont, Motiva Enterprises, Marathon, Shell, Nucor Steel., Occidental, and Occidental Chemical To learn more visit our site at [www.portsl.com](http://www.portsl.com) and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/portsl).



*Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Paul Aucoin*



*L-R: RRCC Chair-Elect Annette Wray, RRCC Executive Director, Chassity McComack, Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Paul Aucoin, RRCC Board Member Ralph Phillip, and RRCC Board Member Henry Friloux*

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