

Responding Together During Times of Uncertainty



Dear Investors,

As we prepare for another week of challenges, tough decisions, hardship and, potentially chaos, I wanted to touch base with the business community, employers and employees alike.

For those who know me, I tend to be an optimist—half cup full kind of person. It serves me well personally and professionally. Plus, it has helped me through some tough times in both aspects of my life. But I must admit the events of the past week and the unknown of what's ahead have tested that mindset more than ever.

This past week was spent hearing of the devastating impacts to area companies and friends who've lost their jobs. As an introvert, I typically enjoy times of being alone to recharge my batteries, but the distancing of myself from family and friends has left me unsettled. Yet, the most challenging day was Saturday, when I had to leave my 87-year-old mother in the ER alone. I could feel her sad eyes follow me out the door as she sat alone dealing with the unknown—this was very disconcerting! Fortunately, she was able to get what she needed and I was allowed to pick her up later that day.

Even in these times of uncertainty there have been several bright spots this past week. I have enjoyed hearing about the many heroes among us, old and new. Our emergency responders, healthcare workers and all those that make our healthcare facilities shine continue to lift up and care for our community. Churches have been proactive by hosting daily devotionals and providing services on Sundays as well as other time during the week. New responders have begun to emerge: such as grocery store workers, pharmacists, delivery people, utility workers, and all those involved with life-essential businesses, including the down-stream manufacturers that continue to make the products we need, to the list. These people are literally on the front-line of a pandemic and their work is holding our society together. We cannot thank them enough!

I've also been motivated by people's resilience. Virtual meetings to continue important work; virtual worship sessions; virtual gatherings with friends and family; and volunteers stepping up to lend a hand, all while heeding the very important call for social distancing.

However, make no mistake about it, this coming week (and weeks) will be tough. Gut-wrenchingly tough. We are going to have to climb mountains and conquer barriers we haven't faced yet. And it will be hard for everyone. Yet, there are already some cracks in that chaos where people are stepping in, stepping up and becoming a force that can turn the tide in our favor.

I share these stories with you to build your foundation of hope! Practice patience with everyone around you. Be generous where you can. And never doubt the power of the Gregg County and East Texas business community!

This week we are helping Greater Longview United Way by asking you to complete the following survey. They are setting up a COVID-19 Relief Fund to roll out this week. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LR5RNC9>

As for the Chamber? We want to be here for you as best we can. A sampling of news/updates for the coming week includes:

- **FREE Webinar: COVID-19 Solutions Ask the SBA / Stimulus Bill – April 1, 2020 @ 10:00am**
<https://longviewchamber.com/calendar/#id=1670&cid=317&wid=301&type=Cal>
- **FREE Webinars** designed to help you navigate times of uncertainty. Review and Register at <https://longviewchamber.com/calendar/#cid=317&wid=301>
- Maintain one of the most robust COVID-19 fact driven resource pages in East Texas. <https://longviewchamber.com/covid-19/> . Page includes recorded webinars, downloadable documents, and more!
- We have joined with chambers across the country as businesses and organizations to take a WE MEAN BUSINESS survey. Please take 3 minutes and help us collect vital information at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wemeanbusiness>.

In the weeks and months ahead, your Chamber will continue to be available to help you navigate the day-to-day fluidity of the pandemic. We value your investment in our community!

Please know our team is committed to demonstrating empathy, flexibility, and responsiveness during this public health crisis. We also know that this situation will cause enormous financial stress on many businesses and organizations, so we are also exploring ways that we can help disseminate information that helps you make good decisions. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how best to do so.

Together We Are Stronger,



Kelly R. Hall, CCE IOM MSL
President/CEO