A Trash Bag, a Laptop, and Your Next Referral

Network Educator | Gulf Coast Networking | Thursday, October 15, 2026

Saturday, a trash bag earns new contacts. Next Thursday, a laptop earns new skills. Both are free.

1 TIP OF THE WEEK: BE THE CONNECTOR

Make one introduction in each room. A new owner becomes known fast. A seasoned owner turns old contacts into fresh referrals.

Follow up: Email both people the same day. Add one line on why they should talk.

2 NEXT 8 DAYS: OCT 15-22 (FREE OR LOW-COST)

Date	Time	Event and Place	Host
Thu Oct 15	9 AM-2:50 PM	ScaleUp Day 2: 101 Women in Business (open to all), Biloxi Civic Center. Free; register.	MS SBDC
Thu Oct 15	5-7 PM	Business After Hours, Silver Slipper Casino, 5000 S Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis.	Hancock Chamber
Fri Oct 16	10; 10:30 AM	Ribbon cuttings: Bonjour Nails & Spa, Pass Christian (free). Scooter's Coffee, 1831-A Popp's Ferry Rd, Biloxi.	MS Gulf Coast; Biloxi Bay Area Chambers
★ Sat Oct 17	**8-10 AM**	**MS Coastal Cleanup. GCN team at Jones Park, Gulfport. Free; register ahead.**	**MS Coastal Cleanup Program**
Tue Oct 20	2-4:30 PM	Ribbon cutting, Sunflour Sourdough Co., plus Sip'n Learn class, 1050 Beach Blvd, Biloxi.	Biloxi Bay Area Chamber
Wed Oct 21	2 PM; 4 PM	Ribbon cutting, Sunshine Sips, 1909 E Pass Rd, Gulfport (free). WE: Ready & Resilient workshop, Knight Nonprofit Center.	MS Gulf Coast Chamber
★ Thu Oct 22	**8-10 AM**	**Small Business B(AI)sics free AI workshop, Hollywood Casino, Bay St. Louis. Bring a laptop.**	**Hancock Chamber**
Thu Oct 22	4-5 PM	Ribbon cutting, Firetower Health & Wellness, 1687 Firetower Rd, Kiln.	Hancock Chamber
★ Thu Oct 22	**5-7 PM**	**Chamber After 5, Nine Toes Brewing, Pass Christian. Complimentary.**	**MS Gulf Coast Chamber**
Thu Oct 22	5-7; 5-8 PM	Fawkes Party Boat ribbon, Point Cadet Marina, Biloxi. OktoBEEfest, Chandeleur Brewing, Gulfport ($10).	Biloxi Bay Area Chamber; Seabee Fdn.
Oct 15-22	Noon	Gulfport Rotary (Thu). Orange Grove Rotary (Mon). Biloxi Rotary (Tue). Gulfport Kiwanis, Edgewater Rotary (Wed).	Civic clubs

★ Top 3 picks. *Civic clubs welcome guests; lunch at your own cost. Details and links on page 2.*

3 COMING UP: OCT 23-NOV 4

- **Tue Oct 27, 3:30-5 PM:** Chamber 101 Welcome Social, Knight Nonprofit Center, Gulfport. Complimentary.
- **Thu Oct 29, 5:30-8:30 PM:** Boo on the Rue, 135 Rue Magnolia, Biloxi. Free (Biloxi Bay Area Chamber).
- **Ribbon cuttings:** Humane Society, Gulfport (Oct 26); Luxury Bath (Oct 29); Good Heart, Gulfport (Oct 30); Apelah (Nov 4).
- **Wed Nov 4, 5-7 PM:** StartUP Gulf Coast Fall Mixer, CRAVE Food Hall, Ocean Springs. Free with registration.

4 2027 SEATS THAT MAY SUIT BUSINESS OWNERS

Business owners bring budget sense and local ties to these posts.

- **Key dates:** Qualifying opens early January and ends 5 PM Mon Feb 1, 2027. Primary Tue Aug 3, 2027. General Tue Nov 2, 2027. County candidates qualify with the county Circuit Clerk.
- **Election Commissioner, Districts 2 and 4 (Harrison and Jackson):** one-time 3-year term; D1, 3, 5 follow in 2028. Harrison D2: north/west Gulfport, Orange Grove, Lyman. D4: central/north Gulfport. Jackson D2: Moss Point, east Pascagoula. D4: Ocean Springs, Gulf Hills, St. Martin.
- **Board of Supervisors, Districts 1-5:** county budget, roads, and economic development.
- **County offices:** Justice Court Judge (nonpartisan), Constable, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Chancery Clerk. **Legislature:** State House and Senate seats on the Coast.

  Confirm details with your county Circuit Clerk.

Make one introduction this week. Follow up the same day.

Extended Information: Event Links and Details, Oct 15-Nov 4, 2026

For the GCN website | Gulf Coast Networking

Details checked on live host pages Wed Oct 14, 2026. Times and places may change; confirm on the host page before you go.

All MS Gulf Coast Chamber events: Chamber calendar https://www.mscoastchamber.com/calendar/chamber-calendar

A NEXT 8 DAYS: OCT 15-22

ScaleUp 2026, Day 2: 101 Women in Business | Thu Oct 15, 9 AM-2:50 PM
Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave, Biloxi. Host: Mississippi SBDC Network. Free with registration; open to all. **Why attend:** A free day of sessions among owners. https://www.mississippisbdc.org/scaleup

Business After Hours | Thu Oct 15, 5-7 PM
Silver Slipper Casino & Hotel, 5000 S Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis. Host: Hancock Chamber. Cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** Hancock County's evening mixer. https://business.hancockchamber.org/chamber-calendar/Details/business-after-hours-silver-slipper-casino-1594862

Bonjour Nails & Spa Ribbon Cutting | Fri Oct 16, 10-10:30 AM
210 E Scenic Dr, Pass Christian. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A short morning room in Pass Christian. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=yhFjwoNn2KEznSGUKCdaQw2

Scooter's Coffee Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening | Fri Oct 16, 10:30 AM-2 PM
1831-A Popp's Ferry Rd, Biloxi. Host: Biloxi Bay Area Chamber. Cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** A long window; drop in. https://www.biloxibayareachamber.org/events/scooters-coffee-ribbon-cutting-grand-opening/

★ Mississippi Coastal Cleanup: GCN Team Outing | Sat Oct 17, 8-10 AM
Jones Park, Gulfport (GCN team site). Host: Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program. Free; supplies provided. Each volunteer registers ahead. Subject to weather. **Why attend:** Work beside members and neighbors. Wear a GCN shirt for the team photo. https://coastalcleanup.extension.msstate.edu/events/annual-mississippi-coastal-cleanup-event

Sunflour Sourdough Co. Ribbon Cutting and Sip'n Learn Class | Tue Oct 20, 2-4:30 PM
Biloxi Bay Area Chamber, 1050 Beach Blvd, Biloxi. Class cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** Easy talk over a shared class. https://www.biloxibayareachamber.org/events/ribbon-cutting-for-sunflour-sourdough-co-a-sipn-learn-sourdough-class/

Sunshine Sips Ribbon Cutting | Wed Oct 21, 2-2:30 PM
1909 E Pass Rd, Ste E, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A quick afternoon room. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=oU22DW2tWh2Jgizc6dcB7g2

WE: Ready & Resilient Self-Defense Workshop | Wed Oct 21, 4-5 PM
Knight Nonprofit Center, 11975 Seaway Rd, Ste B-120, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber (WE). Register; cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** Safety skills beside fellow members. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=opSgMW9%7cKe9%7cw66fOoSZHQ2

★ Small Business B(AI)sics: Master AI Tools for Smarter Workflows | Thu Oct 22, 8-10 AM
Hollywood Casino Gulf Coast, Cypress Ballroom, 711 Hollywood Blvd, Bay St. Louis. Host: Hancock Chamber. Free; register; bring a laptop. **Why attend:** Hands-on AI training. https://business.hancockchamber.org/chamber-calendar/Details/hancock-chamber-small-business-b-ai-sics-program-master-ai-tools-for-smarter-workflows-1897105

Firetower Health & Wellness Ribbon Cutting | Thu Oct 22, 4-5 PM
1687 Firetower Rd, Kiln. Host: Hancock Chamber. Cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** A short room in Kiln. https://business.hancockchamber.org/chamber-calendar/Details/ribbon-cutting-firetower-health-wellness-1952970

★ Chamber After 5 | Thu Oct 22, 5-7 PM
Nine Toes Brewing Company, 110 W Scenic Dr, Pass Christian. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Complimentary. **Why attend:** The largest open mixer in the window. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=Q26ScM6NNtl5OJyNKxd4iw2

Fawkes Party Boat Ribbon Cutting | Thu Oct 22, 5-7 PM
Point Cadet Marina, Dock D, 119 Beach Blvd, Biloxi. Host: Biloxi Bay Area Chamber. Cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** A waterfront room at Point Cadet. https://www.biloxibayareachamber.org/events/ribbon-cutting-for-fawkes-party-boat/

OktoBEEfest Gulfport | Thu Oct 22, 5-8 PM
Chandeleur Island Brewing, 2711 14th St, Gulfport. Host: Navy Seabee Foundation. $10 pre-registration. **Why attend:** A fit for veteran-owned firms. https://seabee.org/event/oktobeefest-gulfport-ms-2/

Jackson County Chamber Business After Hours | Thu Oct 22, 4:30-6:30 PM
Merchants & Marine Bank, 4619 Main St, Moss Point (past 30 miles). Host: Jackson County Chamber. **Why attend:** Meet Jackson County owners. https://business.jcchamber.com/events/details/business-after-hours-m-m-bank-2188

Thu Oct 22 has five evening events. Pick one and go all in.

B COMING UP: OCT 23-NOV 4

Humane Society of South MS Ribbon Cutting | Mon Oct 26, 1-1:30 PM
2615 25th Ave, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** Meet nonprofit leaders. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=D29jNXtlDAD8wZEn4IpYCA2

Right Track Medical Group Open House | Tue Oct 27, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
1633 Popp's Ferry Rd, Ste A, Biloxi. Host: Right Track Medical Group. Cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** A health-care B2B room. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-track-medical-group-biloxi-open-house-tickets-2002635523761

Health Care Medical Infusion Specialties Ribbon Cutting | Tue Oct 27, 3-3:30 PM
6510 US 90, Gautier (near the 30-mile edge). Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A health-care room. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=3352F1LPIpiTQzFpsYAvHA2

Chamber 101: Welcome Social | Tue Oct 27, 3:30-5 PM
Knight Nonprofit Center, 11975 Seaway Rd, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Complimentary. **Why attend:** A first step for new members and guests. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=o%7cUnaUSkaJxPta7YAoz8yQ2

Luxury Bath of the Gulf Coast Ribbon Cutting | Thu Oct 29, 10-10:30 AM
8292 Firetower Rd, Pass Christian. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A fit for trades firms. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=eD1i6EpfptMigqiLhE53Gw2

Boo on the Rue | Thu Oct 29, 5:30-8:30 PM
Rue Magnolia, 135 Rue Magnolia, Biloxi. Host: Biloxi Bay Area Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A downtown evening crowd. https://www.biloxibayareachamber.org/events/8814/

Good Heart Professional Counseling Services Ribbon Cutting | Fri Oct 30, 11-11:30 AM
706 E Pass Rd, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A short late-morning room. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=0BN5TqP6kRmyle66lK9jbw2

Apelah Ribbon Cutting | Wed Nov 4, 10:30-11 AM
810 Iberville Dr, Ocean Springs. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Free. **Why attend:** A short morning room. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=dH1MyjO6cjyEQfEaC3eGxQ2

StartUP Gulf Coast Fall Mixer | Wed Nov 4, 5-7 PM
CRAVE Food Hall, 1515 Government St, Ste B100, Ocean Springs. Host: StartUP Gulf Coast. Free with registration. **Why attend:** Meet founders and investors. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/startup-gulf-coast-fall-mixer-tickets-1998985595728

Jackson County Chamber 2026 Annual Meeting | Wed Nov 4, 7:30-9 AM
Hilton Garden Inn, 2703 Denny Ave, Pascagoula (past 30 miles). Host: Jackson County Chamber. $35 with breakfast. **Why attend:** A large chamber breakfast. https://business.jcchamber.com/events/details/2026-annual-meeting-1868

LOOKING AHEAD

Speed Networking | Thu Nov 5, 3:30-5 PM
Knight Nonprofit Center, 11975 Seaway Rd, Ste B-120, Gulfport. Host: MS Gulf Coast Chamber. Members $15; potential members $25. **Why attend:** Two-minute rounds; bring cards. https://www.mscoastchamber.com/event-detail?e=NLuZVo8fexYoD76oEuoIqg2

Business After Hours | Thu Nov 5, 5-7 PM
Bay-Waveland Yacht Club, 1 Yacht Club Dr, Bay St. Louis. Host: Hancock Chamber with Hancock Whitney. **Why attend:** Hancock's next mixer. https://business.hancockchamber.org/chamber-calendar/Details/business-after-hours-hancock-whitney-1594879

Gulf Blue Networking | Wed Nov 11
Gulf & Ship Island Building, 2605 13th St, Gulfport. Host: Gulf Blue (USM). Time and cost: confirm with host. **Why attend:** Meet blue-economy firms. https://www.gulfbluenavigator.org/upcoming-events/

CIVIC CLUBS THAT WELCOME GUESTS

Lunch at your own cost. Call ahead where noted.

- **Rotary Club of Gulfport:** Thursdays noon, Great Southern Club, 2510 14th St. https://rotaryclubofgulfport.org/
- **Biloxi Rotary:** Tuesdays noon, Mary Mahoney's, 116 Rue Magnolia. https://rotary6840.org/clubinfo/rotary-club-of-biloxi
- **Edgewater Rotary:** Wednesdays noon, Jalapeno Grill, Gulfport; social Oct 28. https://rotary6840.org/clubInfo/edgewater-(biloxi-gulfport)
- **Gulfport-Orange Grove Rotary:** 1st & 3rd Mondays noon (Oct 19), Coast Electric, Hwy 49 N. https://rotary6840.org/clubInfo/gulfport-orange-grove
- **Ocean Springs Rotary:** Wednesdays noon, Ocean Springs Yacht Club (call ahead). https://rotary6840.org/clubInfo/ocean-springs
- **Pass Christian Rotary:** Thursdays noon, Pass Christian Yacht Club (call ahead). https://www.rotary6840.org/clubinfo/pass-christian
- **Long Beach Rotary:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6 PM (Oct 27), Bulls' Restaurant (call ahead). https://rotary6840.org/clubInfo/long-beach
- **Bay St. Louis Rotary:** Wednesdays noon, Bay Waveland Yacht Club (call ahead). https://rotary6840.org/clubInfo/bay-st-louis
- **Gulfport Kiwanis:** Wednesdays noon, Great Southern Club. https://mscoastchamber.chambermaster.com/members/member/gulfport-kiwanis-9874
- **Exchange Club of Gulfport:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays noon (Oct 27), Golden Corral, Hwy 49 (call ahead). https://member.nationalexchangeclub.org/club-locator/
- **Bienville Toastmasters:** 2nd & 4th Mondays 6 PM (Oct 26), site down Oct 14; confirm with host. https://9990.toastmastersclubs.org/

FREE ONLINE LEARNING

SCORE Mississippi webinars (CT): Reference Solutions with your library card, Mon Oct 19, 1 PM. Filling Your Sales Pipeline, Tue Oct 20, 11 AM. SBA Pathways to Capital, Thu Oct 22, 11 AM. QuickBooks Online Overview, Fri Oct 23, 10 AM. All free. https://www.score.org/ms/business-education/

2027 ELECTIONS: OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Key dates: Qualifying ends 5 PM Mon Feb 1, 2027. Primary Tue Aug 3. General Tue Nov 2. File with the county Circuit Clerk.

- **MS SOS 2026 County Election Handbook** https://www.sos.ms.gov/content/documents/elections/2026%20County%20Election%20Handbook.revised%2012-30-2025.pdf
- **Mississippi Secretary of State: Elections** https://www.sos.ms.gov/elections-voting
- **Harrison County Election Commission** https://harrisoncountyms.gov/government/election_commission/index.php
- **Harrison County district map lookup** https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4ab54b33a4994bf9aa3cc5032b1ce521/
- **Jackson County Election Commission** https://www.co.jackson.ms.us/334/Election-Commission
- **Jackson County district map lookup** https://ags.co.jackson.ms.us/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=343c49bf1be046b69f5c4988040dafd2