

March 25, 2009

GNO Inc. ushers in leadership for 2009

by CityBusiness staff report

NEW ORLEANS — reater New Orleans, Inc., the regional economic alliance, recently installed its 2009 board of directors. **Martin Mayer, president and CEO of ERA Stirling Properties**, was installed as chairman, making him the first Northshore chairman to serve in the position.

Mayer has been involved with the organization for four years and has served on the GNO Inc. Regional Insurance Task Force as well as serving as the chairman-elect for 2008.

As chairman, Mayer said he will work to promote the organization's vision.

"My objective for 2009 is to enable GNO Inc. to be the catalyst for building bridges together, bringing together various groups, organizations and individuals who share a common vision and helping to lead such groups toward mutually shared goals," Mayer said. "We have already seen some tangible results, and I look forward to working with the organization and the board to building a prosperous future together for our region."

Other officers voted in include Omni Bank CEO James Hudson, chairman-elect ' Transoceanic Trading and Development Co. CEO Gregory Rusovich, secretary and treasurer; and AT&T Louisiana chief executive William Oliver, immediate past chairman.

Working closely with the board, Michael Hecht, president and CEO of GNO Inc., said he will continue to play a pivotal role in redefining the organization's role as a regional economic development agency.

"GNO Inc. has defined itself as a community wealth creation non-profit, acting not as a layer, but rather as a nexus, or honest broker in attracting and retaining companies in the 10-parish region," Hecht said. "I am incredibly thankful to have had such a strong board in 2008 to help create this new model. Moving forward, the 2009 board consists of great regional diversity, and some of the strongest human capital our region has to offer. I am looking forward to working with them to fulfill the region's potential as one of the best places in the country to grow a company, and a family."

Named to GNO Inc.'s executive committee were Taylor Berry, Frantzen, Voelker and Conway Investments; Dale Benoit, Print All; Howard Daigle Jr., Daigle Fisse & Kessenich PLC; Steven Hemperley, Capital One; Leslie Jacobs, Strategic Comp; Jay Lapeyre, Laitram; Walter Leger Jr., Leger & Shaw; John Little III, International Matex Tank Terminals; Woody Oge Jr., Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Timothy Ryan, University of New Orleans; Gary Silbert, Entergy New Orleans Inc.; and Lizette Terral, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank.

The GNO board members are: Arnold Banker, Baker Ready Mix & Building Materials; Mac Bordelon, M.B. Realty & Appraisals; Jean Champagne, Delta Core Development; Tim Coulon, Jefferson Business Council; Scott Cowen, Tulane University; John Crain, Southeastern Louisiana University; Darryl d'Aquin, CommTech Industries; Thomas Fierke, Lockheed Martin; Octave Francis III, FFC Capital Management; Henry Friloux Jr., Echo Ventures; Frank Glaviano, Shell Oil & Production; Tara Carter Hernandex, JCH Development; Bill Hines, Jones Walker; Karl Hoefer, IberiaBank; Scott Howard, Regions Bank; Bill Hubbard, St. John the Baptist Parish; Sean Hunter, Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport; Steven Kuiper, Acadian Ambulance Service New Orleans; Shelley MacNary, Entergy Louisiana; John Manard Jr., Phelps Dunbar; David Martin Jr., Wound Care Specialists; Suzanne Mestayer, Advisean Partners; Tom Meyer, Benefit Planning Group; David Mize, New Orleans Federal Alliance; Robert Clay Neff, Chevron North America; Billy Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish; Miji Park, Idea Village; Stephen Perry, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau; Patrick Quinlan, Ochsner Health System; Lawrence Rase, CGB Enterprises/Zen Noh Grain Corp.; Mike Reitz, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Louisiana; Jan Robert, St. Tammany Healthcare Alliance; Ashton Ryan Jr., First NBC Bank; Daniel Schaus, Cleco Power; Ryan Seal, Washington Economic Development Foundation; Ray Seamon, Louisiana Landscape Specialty Inc.; Henry Shane Jr., Favrot & Shane Cos.; Mark Singletary, New Orleans CityBusiness; Mark Spansel, Adams and Reese; V.J. St. Pierre, St. Charles Parish; Charles Teamer, Dryades Savings Bank; John Turner Jr., Whitney National Bank; Robbie Vitrano, Trumpet; Hugh Weber, New Orleans Hornets; Matt Wisdom, TurboSquid; and Ron Wright, Delgado Community College.