

Regan takes the reins at Lafayette Chamber

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But the smaller staff took on more responsibilities, working with the members to find ways to help them and showing them how working together could help them prosper and succeed, Regan reports. In fact, according to McCormick, during COVID, Regan “worked miracles with our membership.”

The Chamber was instrumental in helping the restaurants work around the ban on indoor dining during the pandemic. “Jay was out there pounding the pavement to see what we could do to keep the restaurants viable,” Regan says. They are continuing to help this important segment of Lafayette’s business community by spearheading an ad hoc restaurant committee

to work on a variety of challenges, including staffing shortages and inflation.

Today, “membership is the best since 2017,” Regan proudly states. She sees that people want to connect with the community. New businesses are coming in and she’s confident it will keep growing. The Chamber has hired a new member engagement coordinator because, Regan says, “as we’ve grown the membership, we really want to support them. We want to find out what they need and how we can help them.”

In addition to figuring out what the new normal may be, Regan sees 2023 as a time to “streamline efforts to be more relevant in the community.” She wants to keep the relationships they have built over

the years and support the “membership we have been able to build back up.” She looks forward to “getting off the roller coaster and having some stability in the business community.”

Chamber Executive Committee member Merchant is confident that Regan will be able to accomplish these goals. “Sara’s irrepressible humor, grace with members and the greater community, and her commitment to inclusive leadership continues the Chamber’s legacy as an unwavering partner with the city,” she says.

Regan is especially proud of the team she works with — both her staff and her board. “They’re the ones that really make it all happen.”

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