NORTH AMERICAN CHAPTER MEETING BULLETIN
October 2015

OVERVIEW

The third annual meeting of the GABV North American Chapter (Canada and the United States) was held in Clarksdale, Mississippi, USA on October 26-27, 2015, hosted by Southern Bancorp. The meeting was held immediately prior to the fall meeting of the GABV Board of Directors’ meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Participants included the CEOs and representatives of host Southern Bancorp Inc. and Southern Bancorp Bank, as well as City First Bank of DC, First Green Bank, Sunrise Banks, Beneficial State Foundation, New Resource Bank and Vancity. Guest Metro Bank of Louisville, Kentucky joined the group, as did members of the GABV Secretariat.

Chapter members focused their discussions on examining their business models and challenges in the current economic environment, a review of the GABV’s long-term strategy GABV2020 and an update on current GABV activities around the world.

Southern Bancorp hosted the chapter in a Learning Journey that wound through the Mississippi/Arkansas Delta with opportunities to see the work Southern is doing in regional economic development and meet with clients. The group was also hosted by Southern Bancorp at a dinner at the Clinton Presidential Library with a wide range of guests.

The fourth annual chapter meeting will be held in the fall of 2016 at a location yet to be determined.
Host Southern Bancorp shared its approach to supporting regional economic development in the Mississippi / Arkansas Delta through tours of Clarksdale, Mississippi and Helena, Arkansas. The group also spent time with Southern Bancorp clients to learn about how the bank interacted with them to fulfil their personal and business needs.

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Tamara Vrooman**, CEO, Vancity (Vancouver, BC, Canada) and Director, GABV Board (North America)  
**Darrin Williams**, CEO, Southern Bancorp Inc (Arkadelphia, AR, USA)  
**Brian Argett**, President & CEO, City First Bank of DC (Washington, DC, USA)  
**Ken LaRoe**, Chair, President & CEO, First Green Bank (Mount Dora, FL, USA) and Director, GABV Boards  
**David Reiling**, CEO, Sunrise Banks, (St. Paul, MN, USA)  
**Vince Siciliano**, President & CEO, New Resource Bank (San Francisco, CA, USA)  
**Salvador Menjivar**, Executive Director, Beneficial State Foundation (Oakland, CA, USA)  
**Marcos Eguiiguren**, Executive Director, GABV (Barcelona, Spain)  
**Mary Houghton**, Honorary Director, GABV Board (Chicago, IL, USA)  
**Dominik Mjartan**, EVP, Southern Bancorp Inc (Arkadelphia, AR, USA)  
**John Olaimey**, President & CEO, Southern Bancorp Bank (Arkadelphia, AR, USA)  
**Jimbo Boyd**, Regional CEO, Southern Bancorp Bank (Helena, AR, USA)  
**Pedro Bryant**, CEO, Metro Bank (Louisville, KY, USA)
Participants also had an opportunity to meet a wide variety of Southern’s partners at a hosted dinner at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library. President Bill Clinton sent his greetings to the GABV:

Southern Bancorp was founded in 1986 to create economic opportunity in one of the most persistently poor regions of the United States, the Delta. Southern comprises a CDFI bank holding company, a CDFI depository institution and a nonprofit CDFI loan fund. With 80,000 customers, 42 branches in Arkansas and Mississippi and 357 employees, Southern has $1.1B in assets and originates $400MM in new loans in high poverty markets annually, with supportive credit counselling, matched savings account purchases and free volunteer income tax assistance.

www.banksouthern.com
www.southernpartners.org
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

No trip to the South would be complete without world-renowned southern hospitality—music and food:

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