

Synovus Walton County Advisory Board



Lisa Anderson

Lisa Anderson is a native of Walton County and grew up in Monroe. She holds a bachelor's degree in management from Georgia College and owns four businesses in Monroe's downtown district. With her brother and mother, she owns two retail stores, Sidestreet Boutique and J. Reynolds Furniture & Interiors. She owns Anderson Grading and Pipeline with her husband, Jason, and she is a licensed real estate broker and owns Reynolds Real Estate Group. Anderson and her family reside in Monroe, and Lisa serves on the Monroe Downtown Development Authority.



Kelly Bowling

Kelly Bowling is the president and CEO of Robertson Optical Laboratories, Inc., which was founded in 1958 in downtown Atlanta and includes two wholesale manufacturing laboratories in Loganville, Ga. and Columbia, S.C. Bowling grew up in the optical business and worked for Robertson Optical during summer breaks and after school. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and holds a degree in computer science. Following her time at UGA, she began her career in the accounting department at Robertson Optical Laboratories in 1988. She assumed the role of company vice president in 1993, and she has served as president and CEO since 2015.



Terry Chongulia, MD

Dr. Terry Chongulia has been a resident of Walton County since 2003. She is originally from Chicago and attended the

University of Chicago for both undergraduate and medical school. Chongulia is board certified (since 2002) and practices obstetrics and gynecology. Throughout her career, she has served in several medical executive roles, including as Piedmont Walton chief of staff in 2011 and 2012. Chongulia is a co-owner in a private practice located in Monroe and is a member of the Piedmont Clinic. In the community, Chongulia plays violin in the Athens Symphony (since 2019) and serves on the church council at Nativity Lutheran church in Bethlehem, Ga. She is married to Phil Lanier and has one daughter who attends the University of Georgia.



Jeremy Dupree

Jeremy Dupree is the principal partner at CORE Commercial Real Estate, Inc., a full-service real estate brokerage firm located in Metro Atlanta. Dupree is a lifelong resident of Walton County and still resides in the area with his wife Brittany. Dupree is a member of the Bethlehem Church 316 Campus and the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors. He is an SEC, ACC, and Sun Belt (NCAA Division I) Conference baseball umpire and partners with the Georgia High School Association as a baseball umpire development guest instructor. Dupree serves as Chaplin at Fergus Lodge #135 in Loganville, Ga., and he is involved with local York Rite of Freemasonry organizations and the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for Valley of Atlanta.



Ben E. Garrett

Ben E. Garrett is executive director of the Walton County Health Care Foundation. He began his career in banking in 1979 at Gainesville National Bank. In 1989, he transferred to Monroe. In 1990, he joined the National Bank of Walton County (Synovus). Garrett was named bank president and CEO in 1997 and retired from Synovus in 2017. In the community, Garrett serves as co-chair of the Walton County YMCA Capital Campaign Committee. He is also a member of the United Way of Walton County Campaign Team and a member of First Baptist Church of Monroe.



Chris Ibikunle, MD

Dr. Chris Ibikunle is the CEO of IBI Healthcare Institute and its subsidiaries, including Georgia Surgicare and Surgicare Gwinnett. IBI Healthcare is a premier same-day surgery center in Georgia with locations in Loganville and Buckhead. The company is also currently expanding into Tampa, Fla. Ibikunle, who completed his residency at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, is a professor of surgery at Augusta University and specializes in all aspects of general and bariatric surgery. He is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, a medical/operations officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and a CrossFit trainer. Ibikunle resides in Grayson, Ga. with his wife, Dr. Angelina Postev, and family.



Wesley Sisk

Wesley Brown Sisk is the managing partner of Brown Oil Distributors, LLC, a multi-branded fuel and lubricant wholesaler. Wesley is a lifelong resident of Monroe and Walton County. He attended the University of West Georgia, where he graduated with honors and a degree in business management. He resides in downtown Monroe with his wife, Maghan, and two daughters, Abby Kate and Andi.



Bruce Verge

Bruce Verge is co-owner of IMMEC, Inc., an industrial and mechanical maintenance company that also provides

industrial construction, fabrication, millwright, and electrical services in Georgia and the Southeast. The company is highly regarded within the industry, and clients include Delta, Coca-Cola, Georgia Pacific, General Mills, Good Year, and the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta Airport. Verge and his wife Susan are avid real estate investors, and Verge often provides professional advisement on community projects managed by organizations such as the Walton County YMCA and local schools.



Tom Walker

Tom G. Walker Jr. is a lifelong resident of Monroe and the director of sales for Cherokee Brick in Macon. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Monroe and has served on several of the church's committees. Walker is a previous member of the boards of directors of the Monroe Golf & Country Club, the Boys and Girls Club of Walton County, the National Bank of Walton County (NBWC), and Athens First Bank & Trust. Walker and his wife, Cynthia, have one daughter, Lucy, a senior at the University of Alabama.