



PLAQUEMINES

Association of Business & Industry

2nd Quarter 2011

the PABI "BIZ"



Message From The Chair

As we fast approach the mid point of this year, I wanted to take this time to thank the committee chairman, the board, Bobby and Noelle

for their efforts. Also let me take this time to give you an update on just a few of the issues that PABI is active in and monitoring. We are one of several Business and Civic Groups that got together and formed a Coalition to discuss the future of the Crescent City Connection tolls that are set to expire at the end of 2012. The position of the Coalition is to support the renewal of the tolls IF and when an oversight committee or some similar commission was formed to guarantee sound business and management practices and ensure financial accountability. Our group has met with several Senators and Representatives to discuss the issue. It looks like this session Representative Connick, Senator Heitmeier, and Senator Morell and the other lawmakers in the region will support the creation of a Task Force to look into and make recommendation to the lawmakers on action to be taken in the 2012 legislative session, if any is to be taken. We are doing our best to keep our local officials informed and we will also keep you posted on developments.

Another issues that is near and dear to all of us is the traffic and bridge in Belle Chasse. On May 4, 2011 Dale Benoit and I attended a meeting in Baton Rouge called by Senator Heitmeier and attended by District 105 Representative Wooten; President Billy Nungesser; Shawn Wilson,

DOTD; US Coast Guard Bridge operations and Jim Stark, Executive Director of the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, and Commander David Frank, Eighth Coast Guard District Bridge Operations.



The results of this meeting was several recommendations such as extending the hours the bridge has to stay open in the afternoon from the current 3:30PM to 5:30 to proposed hours of 3:30 to 6:30PM, coordinating and extending the green time of the traffic lights on both sides of the bridge, several steps were discussed to be sure the bridge opens when necessary but cut down on the unnecessary openings. Of course these items will help with short term relief but in the long term it will take such changes as the Peters Road Bypass and a new high rise bridge. Such items will take time but are in different stages of becoming a reality. Follow-up meetings and/or conference calls are scheduled and again we will keep you posted.

Don't forget the 2011 Legislative session is in full swing. We are monitoring issues that effect the members of PABI and will let you know if there is something that you need to know or that we need your help with.

Sincerely,

Mike Ford
2011 Chairman

PABI Is Pleased To Welcome:

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

- Boomtown Casino
- Waste Pro, LLC
- Maggie Moo's Ice Cream & Treatery

Future Meetings:

June 21

Cajun Fishing Adventures Lodge
35427 Hwy 23, Buras
(½ mi. south of flag pole)
6 pm till 9 pm



Networking/Social Meeting

This will be more of a networking or social meeting to allow interaction among members. The Cajun Fishing Adventures Lodge will provide a casual, relaxed setting to visit with fellow members in the "great room" or on the deck surrounding the pool. Captain Tom Luscher, C O, NAS/JRB will give an update on the expansions on the base.

July 25

Bayou Barriere Golf Club
Belle Chasse
11:30 - Networking
Noon - Buffet and Program
Annual Legislative Update Meeting

By this date the State Legislature will have adjourned and our State Delegation will provide insight on the results of the Session. Always a very informative meeting!

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February 2011 Luncheon/Meeting Carnival Cruise "Triumph"

The February 17, 2011, PABI General Membership Meeting-Luncheon had a twist to it this month. We went cruising! PABI Member Kathy LaValla (Vacation Makers Travel, Belle Chasse) arranged for Carnival Cruise Line to host the PABI luncheon and tour of the Carnival ship Triumph. Vacation

Makers Travel also accommodated PABI Members and guests in scheduling shuttle buses to the luncheon from Belle Chasse. We would also like to thank Lori Goynes with Carnival Cruise line for coordinating our ship tour and wonderful lunch.

Photos by Zu Carpenter Photography



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Alliance Refinery Celebrates Esteemed OSHA Recognition

By Dennis Nuss, ConocoPhillips

As the Alliance Refinery prepares to celebrate its 40th Anniversary later this year, one recent addition to the site's history will be considered among its finest achievements.

In late 2010, the ConocoPhillips Belle Chasse refinery joined a handful of large industrial facilities in the state of Louisiana and became the first worksite in Plaquemines Parish to hold OSHA's prestigious Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star status. The VPP was created in 1982 to encourage industrial facilities to strive for safety excellence. VPP sites have shown their commitment to employee protection extends beyond the OSHA standards. Companies whose worksites achieve the VPP Star Award demonstrate injury and illness rates at or below the national average of their competitors.

Achieving VPP Star status is the culmination of an ongoing partnership between refinery management and labor working cooperatively and proactively with OSHA to prevent employee injuries and illness. It is a commitment intended to protect not only workers but also the various Plaquemines Parish communities surrounding the refinery.

Efforts to pursue Star status at Alliance began in 2007 with a small group of employees led by the refinery manager and bargaining unit chairman. A team was formed to attend a national VPP conference and gather more information along with other ConocoPhillips sites. A mutual decision between Alliance management and United Steelworkers (USW) leadership soon followed to commit to achieving the goal of becoming a VPP Star Site in partnership with OSHA. A steering committee and full-time coordinator were put in place, and together with employees throughout the refinery began seeking out and correcting deficiencies at the facility. A formal Process Safety Management group was formed to correct issues found, and in January 2010 an OSHA site evaluation was conducted.

On September 30th, 2010, ConocoPhillips was notified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that Alliance had been awarded the VPP Star. Obtaining Star status is only the beginning though; maintaining the certification requires continuous improvement and annual reports to OSHA on established goals.

The refinery celebrated its achievement at the end of March with a flag raising ceremony and seafood boil. Event attendees included ConocoPhillips executives, regional OSHA leadership, United Steelworkers Local 4-447 leadership, and state and local government officials. Members of the refinery's Community Advisory Panel also joined the

celebration. The Belle Chasse High School Band's rock ensemble provided entertainment before and after the ceremony.

Following opening remarks by Refinery Manager Greg Lucchesi, in which he recognized employees' dedication to safe and reliable operations, labor representatives from the site and USW Local 13-447 praised the VPP partnership. Alliance VPP Coordinator Dan Pellegrin noted the work of the site's steering committee in reaching its goal. Benny Puckett, speaking on behalf of Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser, recognized the significance of ConocoPhillips to the local area, while Rachel Perez read a letter on behalf of Senator David Vitter that applauded the company's achievement. The president and senior vice president of refining from ConocoPhillips' Houston headquarters complemented Alliance management and workers on exceeding safety targets and making the VPP Star pledge, and OSHA's VPP Manager for Louisiana closed the ceremony by presenting a plaque for exemplary achievement to Alliance leaders.

The ConocoPhillips Alliance Refinery is located 25 miles south of downtown New Orleans and employs approximately 700 people. The refinery is capable of processing 247,000 barrels per day of crude oil into many important products including diesel fuel, gasoline, jet fuel and other intermediate refinery products.



March 2011 Luncheon/Meeting Woodland Plantation

Plaquemines Parish President William Nungesser gave his annual State of the Parish address at the March meeting. A few of the key points addressed were: FEMA and flood insurance, the Government and efficiency, Myrtle Grove Homeowners Association levee concerns, new ferry system, Belle Chasse tunnel renovations, completion date of the Empire drawbridge and Belle Chasse drawbridge upgrades as well as upcoming community events. President Nungesser's message was his desire for the Parish to have its own plan concerning the coast and continue to look out for Plaquemines' interests.



Photos by Terri Sercovich, Plaquemines Gazette

Blessing of the Fleet

On Sunday, April 17, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. kicked off the 2011 gulf menhaden fishing season with their 16th annual Blessing of the Fleet. Over 400 employees and their families, management, customers, and government leaders gathered to enjoy crawfish and to wish the boat Captains, crews and spotter pilots good fishing.

Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser spoke to the crowd saying how proud he was of the company for persevering through a second major crisis in less than five years, referring to Katrina and the BP oil spill. He said that the company "never took a second look" but continued to move forward. Senator David Heitmeier concurred with President Nungesser but reminded everyone not to forget that it wasn't just Katrina and BP. He said "don't forget Rita, don't forget Gustav and don't forget Ike." He declared that Daybrook and its more than 300 jobs were "here to stay." Council member Jeff Edgcombe also took place in the introductions.

After Father Joseph Tran blessed Daybrook's captains, crews, vessels, spotter pilots, and shoreside workers, two captains and two deck officers were recognized for reaching career milestones. Daybrook President Gregory Holt and Executive Vice President Borden Wallace presented Captain Arnold Ripley, Captain Jack Stokes, Chief

Herb Sheals and Mate Clarence Dread with crystal arrowheads commemorating their achievement of outstanding fish catches during their tenure with Daybrook.

Once the crawfish were eaten and the blessings were given, the captains and crews boarded their vessels and headed through the canal on their way to the Gulf. Family and friends cheered from the banks and Daybrook's spotter planes flew over to help give the boats a proper send off.

The gulf menhaden fishing season extends from the third Monday in April through November 1 each year. The fishery is managed by the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and has been certified as sustainable by Oceans Trust, Friends of the Sea and IFFO.



Familiarization Tours of Plaquemines Parish

By Stan Mathes, Tourism Committee

Plaquemines Parish was recently visited by 5 national outdoor writers to experience the wonders of our Parish post Oil Spill. The trip was sponsored by the Louisiana Tourism Coastal Coalition of which Plaquemines Parish Tourism Department is a charter member.

The group of journalists were made of up of magazine editors, sportsmen internet wire reporters, outdoor social media managers, and newspaper columnists from varied areas of the United States. On their 3 days in Plaquemines Parish they were afforded the opportunity to take a complete guided tour of the Parish, visit with locals including Parish President Billy Nungesser who gave them his perspective on the spill and the need for coastal restoration, and above all else experience our abundant fisheries on a guided fishing trip to the delta leaving from Venice. The writers were in awe of the amounts of wildlife; the abundance of fish caught on this outing and consumed fresh that evening, and the magnitude of the delta and its needs.

Numerous positive articles and internet stories have appeared telling the national outdoor community of our abundance and need for their support to restore the wonderland that we live, work, play, and depend on. The Tourism Department has seen an upturn in inquiries on visiting the Parish for outdoor activities as varied as bird watching and wildlife photography safaris. To continue exposing our bounty other outdoor familiarization tours are scheduled in both May and June. Continuation of the project is being proposed for the next year to keep Plaquemines Parish in the forefront of the national outdoor writer's community and their subscribers. All of our jobs are to keep people aware that we are open for business with the absolute best outdoors experiences possible in Plaquemines Parish.



INTERESTED IN PABI MEMBERSHIP

For information about membership in the Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry, please contact Bobby Thomas, Executive Director: Office-(504)393-2999, Cell-(504)458-6167, or Email: rthomas@pabigroup.com

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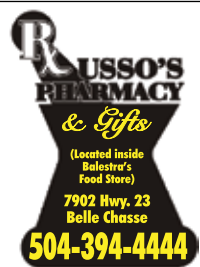
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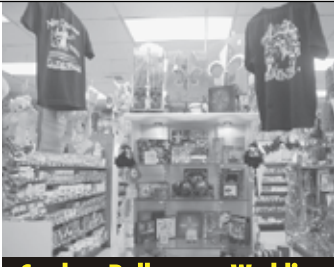


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Military Committee

By Jeff White, Chair

Following a formal ribbon cutting with military dignitaries on hand including Rear Admiral Townsend "Tim" Alexander and our own Captain Thomas Luscher, the grand opening on February 8th of the new \$43 Million Commissary/Navy Exchange was a success. There were also local and military chefs from each military branch, along with celebrity chef...Paul Prudhomme, all of whom demonstrated various recipes and offered samples.

The Navy Exchange features 100,000 square feet of retail space and is open for current service members, their families, and

military retirees at which to shop. According to the deputy director of the Defense, it is estimated about 40,000 eligible people live within a 40-mile radius of the air station. The Belle Chasse commissary is the first to feature all domestic seafood, and particularly that which is caught in the Gulf of Mexico. This government initiative to sell more fresh, local seafood and more domestic frozen seafood will also be the case for 72 commissaries along the Gulf and East Coast regions.

The exchange replaced the current store operating on the Algiers base, which was closed following the opening of the Belle

Chasse Exchange. The new location has expanded departments, a video game exchange, a juniors clothing section, an optical department, a beauty salon/barber shop and a GNC vitamin and supplement store. Between the Exchange and the grocer, the complex will create approximately 250 jobs for civilians.

There is also a Subway located in the NEXCOM building which is the only civilian-owned business partner in the Exchange. It has seating in the "Food Court" for 50.

April 2011 Luncheon/Meeting Bayou Barriere Golf Club

Secretary Sherri LeBas with LA Department of Transportation and Development spoke on the Crescent City Connection toll expiration. She began with a brief overview of the history of the CCC tolls and mentioned the income generated. Operational areas supported by the tolls are the ferry service, CCCD police, bridge and roadway maintenance costs including

landscaping, roadway and bridge lighting, and construction of new projects. Secretary LeBas spoke of several changes to the CCCD including the appointment of herself as Secretary along with a new Assistant Secretary of Operations, Director of Statewide Toll Service, Public Information Officer for New Orleans and new Police Chief. In order to have a check and balance system the CCC

Oversight Authority has been reactivated. Audits, reviews and evaluations are being conducted to determine the effects of losing toll revenue. In conclusion, Secretary LeBas stated that LA DOTD is currently planning for sunset of tolls on December 31, 2012. DOTD will continue its efforts to plan and provide for a smooth, effective transition of the CCCD services.



Photos by Zu Carpenter Photography



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<p>Belle Chasse & Harvey</p> <p>9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Fri.</p>	<p>Port Sulphur</p> <p>9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Fri.</p>	<p>Drive-Ups</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"> <p>Belle Chasse</p> <p>9 a.m. - 7 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"> <p>Harvey</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"> <p>Port Sulphur</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Belle Chasse</p> <p>9 a.m. - 7 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p>	<p>Harvey</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p>	<p>Port Sulphur</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M.- F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.</p>
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Belle Chasse 392-1111	Harvey 391-6965	Port Sulphur 391-6995
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Bicentennial

Mississippi River Bank will be selling the State of Louisiana "mementos" shown as a fundraising effort for the upcoming 200 year anniversary in 2012 of the Louisiana Statehood. Mississippi River Bank has set a goal for our bank of \$5,000 for this fundraiser of which \$2,500 will be a match from the bank and the remainder will be collected from our customers or anyone in the area interested in contributing to underwriting the cost of the Historical Celebration in 2012. All donations should be made payable to the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission.

Lieutenant General Honore' will be the Chairman of the event. His concept was that

if the state did not have the money for the celebration, if every resident put up \$1 we could fund the event on our own. There will be two main events that we are aware of today. The first event is April 30, 2012 and is the date that statehood was given to Louisiana by Congress. This event will be held in Baton Rouge. The other event will be August 4, 2012 in New Orleans and represents the first session of the La State Legislature agreeing to the inclusion of the west Florida parishes to the new state. In addition to these events the commission is also planning on being part of the festivals going on within the state. The information will be updated on their website

as they move further along. They will also be looking for people to donate their time in the portrayal of Louisiana history. For information on volunteering you can contact Julie Vezinot at (225) 342-7009.

For any businesses interested in selling the "mementos" to aid in the fundraising efforts, they can be purchased through Print All. For further information and details you can go to the newly formed website at www.louisianabicentennial2012.com. Remember everyone our state will only turn 200 once so it's important to partake in this historical event.

Communications Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

Our monthly membership meetings have grown steadily over recent years. The purpose of the monthly meetings is two fold. One, to provide our members with timely and important information regarding local, state and federal issues that effect businesses. Two, to provide an opportunity for our members to network and meet other business people. The monthly meetings allow you to discuss ideas and express concerns regarding business issues in our parish. If you have

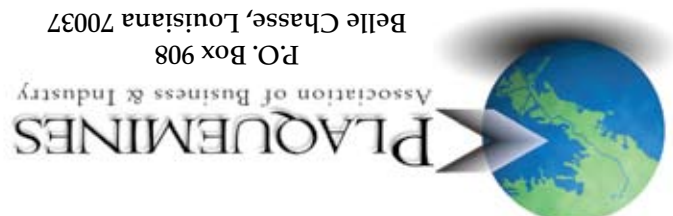
not attended one of the monthly luncheons, I encourage you to put the next one on your calendar. We also hope that members will provide feedback as to how we can continue to improve the meetings. Who or what topic would you like to hear most about? You can contact out Executive Director, Bobby Thomas, or any board member with your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

By the way, don't forget to check

out the revamped PABI website and <http://www.pabigroup.com/>. The website has up to date information and includes past PABI Biz newsletters. If you would like to submit an article or advertise in the next newsletter, please contact us. You can do so through the website.

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Familiarization Tours
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April Luncheon/Meeting
Bicentennial
Communications Committee

Inside PABI "BIZ"



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