



# PLAQUEMINES

Association of Business & Industry

October 2009

# the PABI "BIZ"



## Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the third quarter edition of the PABI "Biz." The last three months were busy for PABI with issues that have both local and regional implications.

When the dust settled from the 2009 Legislative Session, there were several victories for business. One of these was the Capital Gains Tax Exclusion Bill, HB 106 by Representative Hunter Greene excludes capital gains from personal income tax for the sale of a privately held business in Louisiana. Prior to this legislative change, business owners were hit with a 6% tax bill when selling their companies. As a result, many moved to other states, taking with them taxes, philanthropy and talent. This wealth and brain drain will now be eliminated.

The July PABI General Membership Luncheon featured Senator A.G. Crowe (District 1) and Representative Ernest Wooton (District 105) as keynote speakers to give a review of the recent legislative session. Crowe touted his efforts to fight tax increases in order to address the budget shortfall and despite the budget,

Plaquemines will receive millions for local levees. Wooton said this year's session was the hardest in his 11 year tenure. He compared the political atmosphere in Baton Rouge to the gridlock that now exists in Washington. "In three years, experts are predicting a \$2 billion shortfall in Louisiana," Wooton said.

Other items of interest for the third quarter for PABI were:

**PABI hosted a visit by Governor Jindal:** On July 31, PABI sponsored a visit by Governor Jindal to Plaquemines Parish. The overflow crowd at the Belle Chasse Library saw the Governor present a check for \$2.4 million to Parish Officials and business leaders. The Community



PABI Chairman, Michael Bush and PABI Member/Councilman, Dr. Stuart Guey witness as Governor Jindal presents a check for \$2.4 million to Plaquemines Parish.  
*Photo courtesy of The Plaquemines Gazette*

Development Block Grant funds will go towards recovery efforts related to hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and levee construction.

### Charter Commission:

At the July 15, PABI Board of Directors Meeting, a resolution urging the Plaquemines Council to allow the voters of the Parish to accept or reject the proposal of the Charter Commission (Council created and appointed) was introduced. After lengthy discussion and a presentation by Mr. Phillip Cossich, Chairman of the Charter

## October Meeting:

The October PABI Meeting/Luncheon will be held on **October 14, 11:30 a.m., at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. Garret Graves, Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will be the keynote speaker.**

*The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's mandate is to develop, implement and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration master plan. For the first time in Louisiana's history, this single state authority will integrate coastal restoration and hurricane protection, to speak with one clear voice for the future of Louisiana's coast.*

PABI General Membership Luncheon/Meetings are open to the public, however reservations are required. **For reservations and information call the PABI Office: 393-2999.**

Commission, the resolution was adopted. As you are aware, the recent judicial decision ruled in favor of the Council, however that decision could be overruled during the appeals process. The PABI Board feels that after 18 months of discussion and testimony from sitting and past Council Members, all former and current Parish Presidents and any resident that wished to speak at the (advertised and open to the public) Charter Commission meetings, that the public deserves to have the final say on this proposal. PABI has **NOT** taken a position for or against the proposal, we have only taken the position that the voters of Plaquemines Parish should be allowed to make that decision for themselves!

### Reception for Captain Tom Luscher:

On September 2, PABI held a "Welcome to Plaquemines Parish" reception at Barriere Golf Club for Captain Tom Luscher, the new Executive Officer at NAS/JRB New Orleans. When Commanding Officer Bill Snyder introduced the new XO he said that Capt. Luscher will assume his duties as CO next summer upon his new orders. This is the first time the Navy has brought

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Plaquemines Parish state legislators gave recaps of the recently ended legislative session at July's Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry meeting. Above, PABI Chairman Mike Bush, Representative Ernest Wooton, State Senator A.G. Crowe, State Senator Nickie Monica of Laplace and PABI Executive Director Bobby Thomas.  
*Photo courtesy of The Plaquemines Gazette*

# The PABI Biz

is published quarterly for members of  
The Plaquemines Association of  
Business & Industry  
P. O. Box 908 Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
504-393-2999 - fax: 393-2725  
www.pabigroup.com

## 2009 PABI Officers and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2009 Chairman..... Michael Bush  
**Immediate**  
Past Chairman.....David Pavlovich  
Chairman Elect..... Bart Breland  
First Vice-Chairman..... Mike Ford  
Treasurer.....Ed Camnetar  
At-Large..... Dale Adams  
At-Large..... Darryl W. Bubrig, Sr  
At-Large.....Kevin Guidry  
At-Large..... Jim Gable  
Community Representative...Lisa Tomlin  
(GNO, Inc. Representative to Board)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Governmental Affairs..... Dale Benoit  
Maritime..... Darren Angelo  
Membership.....Bill Bubrig  
Military..... Reid McLellan  
Oil & Gas..... George Pivach  
Tourism.....Rhonda Panepinto  
Transportation..... Bart Breland  
Venice Revitalization.....Danica Ansardi

## Tourism Committee

By Rhonda Panepinto,  
Committee Chairperson

Woodland Plantation will be the base of operations for the Redbone Fishing Series charity fishing tournament, October 13, 14, and 15. The tournament will benefit Cystic Fibrosis. Bert Jones, a major supporter for the rodeo, will take this opportunity to capture film, which will be used in the production of a parish tourism promotional video.

The Plaquemines Parish Orange Festival Golf Tournament will take place Friday, October 30 at Bayou Barriere Golf Club. The Belle Chasse Rotary Club, and the Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival Organization will share proceeds from the tournament

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in the officer assuming the command a year early. Luscher said he's looking forward to a smooth transition because of his



Capt Tom Luscher, NAS XO, PABI Chairman Michael Bush, Parish President Billy Nungesser and Captain Bill Snyder, NAS Commanding Officer.

additional year at the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station.

On a related note, watch for the upcoming announcement of the **PABI Breakfast/Naval Air Station "Windshield tour."** Since September 11, 2001, and the necessary heightened level of security, access to the NAS/JRB, Belle Chasse has been somewhat restricted. Captain Snyder has offered to make his staff available to conduct driving tours of the base that will feature the ongoing construction and expansion of his base. The date will be announced shortly.

**Member Spotlight:** Starting this month, each week in the Plaquemines Gazette, a different PABI Member Business will be highlighted. Danica Ansardi is heading this effort to showcase all PABI Businesses. The names for the third quarter reports to be published were drawn at the September General Membership Meeting.

Each quarter a new set of member names will be drawn for the next round. Be on the lookout each week for the "PABI SPOTLIGHT."

**Response Cards:** At each monthly PABI General Membership Meeting/Luncheon response cards are now on every table. Please use these cards if you have an interest in serving on one of the eight standing PABI Committees. I want to make it as easy as possible for any member who wishes to serve on a committee, to do so. Your interest, participation and assistance will not only help PABI grow, but will also

enhance your PABI experience.

Because of your strong support, PABI will continue to address issues that affect business and industry in Plaquemines Parish. I hope this review of the last few months of PABI activities will bring you up to date. I know everyone has great demands on their time, however it's always good to see the members that can attend the monthly meetings. Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Bush  
2009 Chairman

## Annual Membership Campaign

By Bill Bubrig,  
Committee Chairperson

Each year during the month of October, PABI conducts the Annual Membership Campaign. Even though new members are recruited and welcome to join PABI anytime during the year, a special emphasis is placed on new membership during this month. We all know there is strength in numbers and membership growth is vital to any organization. However, we must also realize that a broader range of membership will only add to the familiarity and knowledge that PABI has in order to address business issues with competence.

Please take a moment to consider who you come across in your daily business routine that would benefit from PABI

Membership. I have enclosed a letter to prospective members in this issue of the "BIZ" listing bullet points of the benefits of being a PABI Member. On the reverse side of this letter is an application form including the annual dues structure. Or, if you prefer to contact our Executive Director, Bobby Thomas to have a prospect invited to the October 14th Luncheon, please contact him at the PABI Office: 393-2999. *NOTE: New members to PABI who join during the fourth quarter of the year have their dues credited thru all of next year!* They will be receiving three months of PABI Membership benefits for free!

If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance with a new member prospect, please do not hesitate to contact me: Office: 392-4898.

## Why should I join PABI?

As the PABI membership chairman, I am often asked this question. This is why you should consider joining:

- The Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry provides private sector leadership and works for the business community to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment in Plaquemines Parish (our mission statement). We are the only such group in Plaquemines Parish.
- Since our inception in 2004, our association's membership of business and professionals is over 200 strong and growing. The more our membership grows, the more respect we can command from our local, state, and federal officials who we regularly lobby and work with. There is truly strength in numbers.
- Our members include multinational corporations as well as small entrepreneurs and business of every size in between. What a great group to network and market your business through!
- PABI is a nonprofit organization not associated with any government agency. The association is financed entirely by the investment of its members through annual dues. PABI is lead by an all-volunteer board elected from the general membership.
- Our monthly membership luncheons/meetings typically host a guest speaker addressing current topics of interest to our business community. The meeting locations normally alternate between the northern and southern part of the parish.
- Our membership is kept informed by our Executive Director, Bobby Thomas. Bobby attends meetings throughout the region and brings valuable information back to our members.

Every new member adds to our strength by bringing knowledge and experience to our ranks. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me. And if your interest is business in Plaquemines, we hope you consider joining PABI.

Respectfully,

Bill M. Bubrig  
Membership Chairman  
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

## Mission

Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry will provide private sector leadership and will work for the business community to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment, and to advance the quality of life in Plaquemines Parish.

**Annual Member Dues:** Based on number of employees. (select one):

- |                                       |          |  |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOLD Level   | \$ 5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 11 employees  | \$ 250   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SILVER Level | \$ 3,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 – 20 employees | \$ 500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRONZE Level | \$ 1,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 or more        | \$ 1,000 |

**Firm Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street

Suite #

City

State

Zip

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street

Suite #

City

State

Zip

**Key Contact:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of employees – full time**

(two part time equal one full time)

**Business classification – type of business** \_\_\_\_\_



**P.O. Box 908 • Belle Chasse, LA 70037**  
**504-393-2999**

# Venice Revitalization Committee

By **Danica Ansardi,**  
**Committee Chairperson**

**Baptiste Collette:** Update meeting was held last week with significantly encouraging news on the feasibility of the project. Optimal depth of 22' in BC, 24' to jetties and 27' to Breton Sound.. Question remains as to who is ultimately responsible for cost of lowering pipelines.....parish or oil/gas company. This costs represents approximately ½ cost of the entire project.

Study completion schedule is as follows:

- October 5, 2009**-draft to Parish for comments
- October 12, 2009**- Parish comments due back
- October 19, 2009**-submit draft to USACE for comments
- Week of November 30-December 4, 2009**- USACRE meeting
- April 5, 2010**-submit final draft of the Feasibility Study to ASCW..... followed by a 6 month review process.

In the meantime, next steps of the study:

- Sediment analysis
- Cultural resources survey
- Complete hydrodynamic & sediment modeling
- Analysis of increased shoreline erosion due to increase traffic & larger vessels
- Analysis of jetties



GNO, Inc. VP of Workforce Development, Lisa Tomlin, PABI Member Dr. Rocky Asevedo, PABI Past-Chairman Dale Benoit.



PABI Past-Chairman and 2009 Orange King Bill Bubrig, flanked by Paula Cappiello and Mary Ann Braud.

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# Maritime / Coastal Restoration Committee

By **Darren Angelo,**  
**Committee Chairperson**

## Navigation

Algiers Canal Storm Contingency, as presented by the U.S. Coast Guard was not well received by business constituents of Plaquemines Parish. The current ruling by the Coast Guard is being revisited on a case by case basis for businesses along the Algiers and Harvey Canal basin, in which businesses must submit individual Storm Contingency Plans for review by the Coast Guard. Only Business Contingency Plans approved, in advance, by the Coast Guard in writing, will have authorization to stay in the canals during tropical storms or greater. Although this new "possibility" of staying "in place" by the Coast Guard was received by businesses as an alternative option, it suggests that only those companies incapable of leaving their current moorings, (Boomtown) and those such as McDonough, which is a logistical

impossibility, would be approved until a later date. The Coast Guards determination on issuance of the initial evacuation ruling was stated to have been sent due to a lack of response from previous requests by the Coast Guard to the businesses of the two canals. It is the opinion of the Harvey Canal Industrial Association and many businesses along the canal that if a revised (practical) ruling is not issued by the Coast Guard, then many current businesses will begin to relocate to areas outside the evacuation zone.

Lighted Navigational Aids are said to have been repaired and/or replaced at all major passes in Plaquemines Parish.

## Coastal Restoration

- 1) Bay Joe Wise Restoration project has been finalized under the terms of the initial project.
- 2) East Grande Terre Restoration Project is currently under construction.

- 3) Jefferson Lake Marsh Replanting Project was completed September 5, 2009.

## Storm Surge Protection

The Plaquemines Parish COASTAL RESTORATION and STORM SURGE PROTECTION are currently being reviewed by the CORPS for initial permit approval. Although the project has gained funding sources and additional support by State and Federal Agencies, the start date cannot be anticipated due to lack of dredge sources or lease acquisition by the Parish for a dredge. The current lead time for dredge delivery is 2 years from date of signing an Agreement.

# Military Reports

By Reid McLellan  
Committee Chairperson

PABI welcomed the new Executive Officer of the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station with a meet and greet at Bayou Barriere Golf Club in early September. Captain Tom Luscher became the XO of the base in August, 2009. He will assume command of the base next summer. It is the first time that a future commanding officer will first serve a year as the chief assistant to the current commander. This should help lead to a seamless change of command. Captain Luscher in no stranger to our area. In a previous assignment, he was stationed in Algiers and served on an admiral's staff. PABI Chairman Mike Bush addressed the crowd of approximately 55 members and guests to officially welcome Captain Luscher to our community. Also, Parish President Billy Nungesser was in attendance and offered the cooperation of the parish government in continuing to support the mission of

the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station. The current base commander, Captain Bill Snyder, spoke about the great relationship the Belle Chasse NAS has with the local business community and government. He complimented the people of Plaquemines Parish for all they do to support the men and women of our nation's military. The event was a great success.



Military Committee Chairman, Reid McLellan and NAS/JRB Commander, Captain Bill Snyder.

# Communications Committee

By Reid McLellan,  
Committee Chairperson

You are now receiving your second quarterly PABI newsletter! Is the content useful? This publication is designed to inform our members of what PABI is doing to improve business in our parish. We hope that as our membership grows, we will continue to grow and improve this newsletter as well. What can we do to improve? Please call Bobby Thomas at 393-2999 or email at rthomas985@aol.com with your ideas. Also, please know that this is YOUR newsletter. We encourage our members to send us articles about their business or industry. In October, you may be receiving a call from one of our board members. The purpose of this call is to get your reaction to the newsletter and its content. We welcome constructive criticism so that we can provide you with information you want. Thank you for your support of PABI.

Communications

Military Reports

Maritime/Coastal Restoration

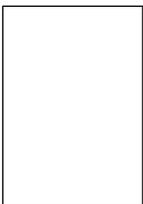
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