



# PLAQUEMINES

Association of Business & Industry

April 2010

# the PABI "BIZ"



## Message From The Chair

It is an honor to serve as your 2010 Chairperson. The first quarter with our new 2010 Board of Directors and Officers has been very active and productive. I would like to share with you some of those highlights.

PABI rolled out its traffic video at the January induction banquet and by all accounts it was a great springboard to kick off the Transportation Committee's initiatives. This committee has met with several of our local and state officials, presenting them with the infrastructure issues and obstacles that the parish is facing, and presenting tangible solutions. The immediate goal is to push the projects forward that will most readily expedite the solutions to our traffic issues now in our Parish. In these efforts, the committee is working closely with the NAS as well to show the regional impacts of these projects.

I am very pleased to announce that we have many new members serving on our various committees for 2010. The Tourism, Transportation, Military and Communications Committees all have representation of our membership that do not currently hold positions as board members or officers. Their contributions, input, insight and skills, will enhance our effectiveness and help PABI reach our goals and objectives. We will continue to encourage participation from our diverse membership.

At our February meeting at Woodland Plantation, President Billy Nungesser was

the guest speaker and he gave us the State of the Parish address. The President's message was clear. Coastal restoration, 100 year levee protection and infrastructure improvements continue to move ahead at a rapid pace. The energy that comes from the President's office continues to keep Plaquemines Parish in the forefront of our state and federal governments and keeps the parish in line for funding for the many projects ahead.

Finally, on March 10th, PABI co-hosted this year's Governors Westbank Luncheon at the Alario Center. Gov. Jindal was very supportive of PABI's agenda and spoke highly of our efforts to continue with coastal restoration projects and our infrastructure needs. This year's event was a huge success with the proceeds going to Café Hope. Café Hope is a restaurant that employs at-risk youth, providing them a path to self-sufficiency through job readiness training and job placement. PABI is very proud to support Café Hope.

I want to thank everyone for their support in the first quarter of 2010 and please contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance. I also want to encourage all of our members to attend and participate in our monthly meetings this year. Networking with our fellow business members and learning more about everyone in the Parish will help us to grow as an organization.

Sincerely,

*Bart J. Breland*

Bart Breland  
2010 Chairman

## Looking Forward To It:

### Upcoming PABI Meetings:

**April 7 Woodland Plantation**  
6 p.m.

**Tourism Networking Meeting**

*All invited (see flyer page 3)*

**Light dinner will be served,**

**No charge**

*Compliments of Woodland Plantation and PABI*

**April 8 Woodland Plantation**  
10:30 a.m.

**20th Anniversary - CWPPRA,**

*All encouraged to attend (see flyer page 6)*

*Opportunity to remind our Senators/*

*Congressman/State Officials/Corps of*

*Engineers of our continued need of their support in restoring our coast.*

**Lunch will be served, No charge**

*PABI is co-sponsoring this event*

**April 21 Woodland Plantation**  
Noon

**General Membership Meeting/  
Luncheon**

*David Ozmere, Pres/CEO, YMCA of Greater N.O.*

**May Topic: Hurricane Season Prep**

*Date and location to be announced soon*

**June 23 Barriere Golf Club**  
Noon

**General Membership Meeting/  
Luncheon**

*Walter Brooks, Executive Director,  
Regional Planning Commission*

## PABI Is Pleased To Welcome Our Newest Members:

Venice Port Coalition  
Empire Environmental  
Solutions, LLC

## Buras Volunteer Fire Department Oilfield Crawfish Boil-Off



**APRIL 17, 2010**

**Fort Jackson • Buras, LA**



# The PABI Biz

is published quarterly for members of  
The Plaquemines Association of  
Business & Industry  
P. O. Box 908 Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
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www.pabigroup.com

## 2010 PABI Officers and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Membership . . . . . Bill Bubrig
- Military . . . . . Reid McLellan
- Oil & Gas . . . . . George Pivach
- Tourism . . . . . Rhonda Panepinto
- Transportation & Infrastructure . . . . . David Pavlovich
- Venice Revitalization . . . . . Danica Ansardi

### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- NAS JRB . . . . . Bruce Keller
- GNO Inc. . . . . Thomas Rush

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert L. Thomas

## PABI Satellite Meeting In Venice

PABI realizes the difficulty for many of our Business Members in Venice and Southern Plaquemines to attend the monthly Luncheons, especially when held in Belle Chasse. On February 10, a satellite meeting was held at the Venice Port Complex to bring these members together for an Association update and to receive their input.



## UPDATE: Plaquemines Medical Clinic

By Stan Mathes,  
Director, Plaquemines Parish Economic Development

The good news keeps on coming for our own Plaquemines Medical Clinic located in Port Sulphur. As of this writing the Clinic has been awarded approximately \$14 million to rebuild the facility lost due to Hurricane Katrina. Construction is slated to begin on the new 35,000 square foot facility by the end of this year with a grand opening in late 2011. The Hospital Board has been working diligently with government agencies, architects, and all the related institutions to make this project a success.

The new facility will be in all ways a world class center of medicine. All equipment will be state of the art with the trained personnel to use it for the benefit of our residents. The facility will be located in Port Sulphur just south of the new Mississippi River Bank branch. It will be

elevated with easy ambulance access and a heliport to allow air transport of patients as needs arise. Also of keen interest to all residents of Plaquemines Parish is the planned **24 hour service schedule that the Clinic will initiate very soon.** Couple this with the plans to employ a full time Nurse Practitioner in support of the doctors on staff to offer unparalleled health services to our residents and visiting workers.

Since its reopening in mid 2006, the Clinic has served over 20,000 patients in the temporary facility. Considering where we have come from since Katrina, the hard work and dedication of this fine group of medical and support staff along with the hospital board shows how Plaquemines Parish is rebounding to be better than before. Congratulations to a job well done.

## Westbank Luncheon

The 23rd annual Governor's West Bank Luncheon was held at The Alario Center in Westwego on Wednesday, March 10. The event is annually the largest business meeting (over 900 attended) held on the West Bank. The luncheon provides an opportunity for the critical needs of the business community on the West Bank to be addressed directly by Governor Jindal. The event is co-sponsored by PABI, the



Joe Toomy, Commissioner, Port of New Orleans, Governor Bobby Jindal, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Bart Breland, PABI Chairman, Mitch Landrieu, Lt. Governor/New Orleans Mayor Elect, Ricky Temple, State Representative, District 85.

Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to Café Hope, a non-profit project that works with at risk youth of the West Bank to provide life skills training, as well as on the job experience. Café Hope will be a fully functional restaurant (scheduled to open April 19, 2010) operating on the Hope Haven campus in Marrero in partnership with Catholic Charities.



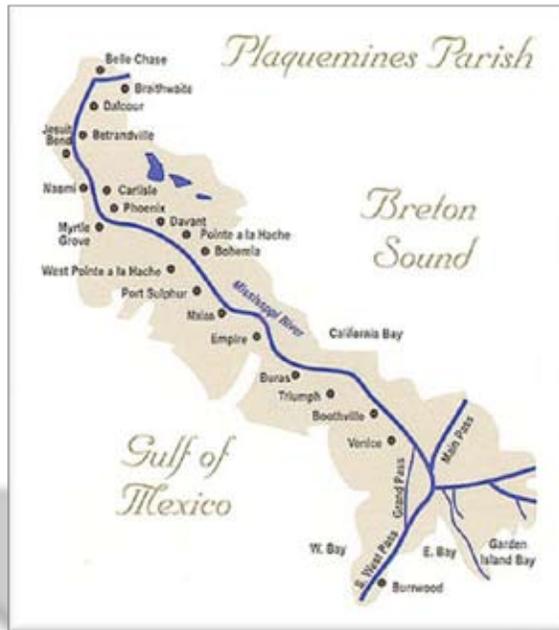
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PRESIDENT

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504-657-9891

# Mark Your Calendar!

What can PABI do to help YOU grow your business?  
How can WE as a community attract more visitors?



**Wednesday April 7, 2010  
6:00 pm**

**Woodland Plantation  
21997 Highway 23  
West Pointe a la Hache, LA**

**Come to the PABI Tourism Networking Meeting to find out!**

- All businesses that can benefit from an increase in visitors to our parish are invited to attend!
- Jambalaya and soft drinks will be served compliments of PABI and Woodland Plantation.
- **FREE** admission.....a cash bar will be available.



For information Call:  
Bobby Thomas 393-2999  
Rhonda Panepinto 394-5633



# Introducing Callender Commitment

By Stan Mathes,  
 Director, Plaquemines Parish Economic Development

A civic committee made up of Plaquemines Economic Development Department and PABI members was recently formed to support and help maintain the tremendous growth that the Joint Reserve Base located in Belle Chasse has recently experienced. The group came into being in late 2009 after brainstorming with a like minded group located in Shreveport called Barksdale Forward. Barksdale Forwards Director, Murray Visor, explained that his group's sole purpose was to keep the economic engine that Barksdale Air Force Base is running smoothly so that the tremendous positive economic impact it has on both Shreveport and Bossier City keeps growing.

After meeting with the base Commanding Officer and expressing its desire to form such a support group, the Base command structure warmly extended its support. The Callender Commitment

board is made up of PABI member Reid McLellan and PABI Director Bobby Thomas. The other members are Paul Sawyer who is the Director of Federal Programs for the State of Louisiana Economic Development Department and Stan Mathes the Director of Plaquemines Parish Economic Development. Plaquemines Parish President Nungesser and the Council are also strong supporters of the formation of this group.

Most people are not aware of what the base brings to our region. The base currently has 9500 personnel both active, reserve, and contractors with an annual payroll of \$402 million. This will be growing with new commands locating on the base this coming year. When the new commands arrive, an additional 1022 new jobs to Louisiana will be operating right here in Belle Chasse. To support all of this expansion, the Federal Government is in the process of building an additional \$182 million

in infrastructure to support the bases expanding mission. Also keep in mind as Federal City in Algiers develops, the Joint Reserve base will become the hub of all military activity in Southeast Louisiana.

With the Naval Air Station's ever expanding economic impact not only on Plaquemines Parish but the entire Southeast Louisiana Region, the group has been warmly received in its initial undertakings. Callender Commitment has chosen as one of its main thrusts to support the need for better roads in Plaquemines to service the Joint Reserve Base. So far we have met with the Regional Planning Commission, Senator David Heitmeier, Representative Wooton and the Department of Transportation to make all of them aware of the ever expanding role the base plays in the daily lives of the residents of Plaquemines Parish.

## PABI Installation



## Communications Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

PABI is focusing on improving communications this year. Our 2010 Chairman, Bart Breland, has stated that improving communications with our members is critical to our mission of serving the business community of Plaquemines Parish. To that end, we are currently in the process of re-designing our website. The website has served its purpose since PABI was formed. However, the board has agreed that it is time to make the website more interactive. We are in the process of selecting a web design company to overhaul the site. We hope a new site is up and running by the end of the second quarter of this year. On another subject, we are now accepting advertisements for the PABI BIZ! The cost will be \$100 per ad or \$350 for a year. A one year ad would be for 4 consecutive quarterly issues. Members will be given the first opportunity to advertise in the newsletter. The Communications Committee will have the final approval on ads submitted for the PABI BIZ. No political advertisements will be allowed. Please contact our Executive Director, Bobby Thomas, if you would like to place an ad in the newsletter.



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# Maritime / Coastal Restoration

By Darren Angelo, Chair

On April 8, 2010, Plaquemines Parish will be well represented by our Local, State, and Federal delegates for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). This Act, which was approved by Congress, and signed into Law by President Bush in 1990 is authorized until 2019, and has already been responsible for creating over 110,000 acres of wetlands. Never has an Act of Congress had such a direct, positive impact on the vital ecosystem of Louisiana.

This event, sponsored in part by PABI, will celebrate the restoration projects completed as well as under construction throughout Louisiana since the inception of this important Act, and will be held at the Woodland Plantation in West Pointe a la Hache, on April 8th beginning at 10:30 a.m. It is of such importance that many of our U.S. Senators, State Legislators, Parish Officials, and top personnel from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will be present. Also in attendance will be Garrett Graves,

Chairman, CPRA, Secretary Robert Barhum, LA Wildlife & Fisheries and other dignitaries.

It is of the utmost importance for the Parish of Plaquemines to be well represented at this event to ensure that both Federal and State officials are aware of our continued needs of their support in restoring our coast, and we ask all PABI members to attend.

For further information on this event, you may contact:

Susan Bergeron at U.S.G.S.  
337-266-8623  
bergerons@usgs.gov

Foster Creppel, Woodland Plantation  
504-656-9990  
spiritsofwood@gmail.com

# Tourism Committee

By Rhonda Panepinto, Chair

PABI has recently organized a Tourism Committee consisting of: Chairperson – Rhonda Panepinto (Southern Seaplane, Inc.), Cory Arbough (Bayou Barriere Golf Club), Maureen Blackwell (Holiday Inn Westbank), Stan Mathes (Plaquemines Parish Government), and Toni Plumer (State Farm Insurance).

The Committee will promote tourism throughout the Parish by offering PABI members an opportunity to be a part of co-op advertising in major tourist publications such as the Official Louisiana Tour Guide. Other ideas being considered that will bring visitors into the Parish are craft fairs, a farmer's market, and sporting

events such as softball tournaments. Any suggestions will be considered and welcomed.

A tourism networking meeting will be held at Woodland Plantation on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 6:00 pm to discuss possible events and opportunities. All PABI members as well as other businesses in the Parish that are in any way related to tourism are invited to attend. We urge you to make the effort to attend this meeting, if we join forces we can succeed. Look for the upcoming emails and flyers providing details about the meeting.

# Membership Committee

By Bill Bubrig, Chair

Hello to all. Another new year is underway, and PABI membership remains strong. We ended 2009 with 202 members. We have mailed all current members their renewal invoices. Most have renewed already and many more will be received soon based on our discussions with them.

We would love your help. As with all organizations, the easiest, most effective, way to increase membership is to have our current members ask their friends and associates to consider joining. Explain to them the value that PABI brings to the business community in Plaquemines. As we have said since day #1, "Strength is in our numbers!" When we go to Baton Rouge and Washington to lobby for our business community, we are more effective the more members we represent.

Thank you for your involvement with PABI. And thank you in advance for your help to increase our membership and strengthen our association. If you are interested in getting involved with our membership committee efforts, please feel free to call me at 392-4898.

# February Luncheon



## Mississippi River Bank

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

*Big Enough To Be There. Small Enough To Care*

<b>Belle Chasse &amp; Harvey</b>		<b>Port Sulphur</b>	
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.		9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.	
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Fri.		9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Fri.	
<b>Drive-Ups</b>			
<b>Belle Chasse</b>	<b>Harvey</b>	<b>Port Sulphur</b>	
9 a.m. - 7 p.m. M.- F.	8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. M.- F.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M.- F.	
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Sat.	

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<b>Belle Chasse</b>	<b>Harvey</b>	<b>Port Sulphur</b>
<b>392-1111</b>	<b>391-6965</b>	<b>391-6995</b>

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT



# CWPPRA



## SAVE THE DATE!

### APRIL 8, 2010

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY FOR SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

April 8, 2010 - 10:30 A.M.

Woodland Plantation

21997 Highway 23

West Pointe a la Hache, LA 70083

Join the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) as we celebrate 20 years of restoring and protecting Louisiana's coast.

For more information contact:

Susan Testroet-Bergeron (337) 266-8623 or [bergerons@usgs.gov](mailto:bergerons@usgs.gov)

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (*Public Law 101-646, Title III-CWPPRA*) was approved by Congress and signed into law by President George Bush in 1990 and is authorized until 2019. Since its inception, 148 projects have been approved, benefiting over 109,766 acres.



For more information visit us at: [www.LaCoast.gov](http://www.LaCoast.gov)

## Oil & Gas Committee

By George Pivach, Chair

Contract & Offshore rig count for the Gulf of Mexico has been on the increase for the last six (6) months, which presently at its highest level since March of 2009.

LLOG Exploration Company made a discovery its Mandy prospect on Mississippi Canyon Block 199 in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico. LLOG is now drilling at Mississippi Canyon Block 503 and is using the Venice Port Complex as its support base for this deepwater project.

The Mineral Management Service (MMS) held lease sale # 213 on March 17, in New Orleans. This Central Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas lease sale had 77 companies submitting 642 bids and attracted

over \$949 million in high bids. The sale encompassed 6,958 un-leased Blocks covering more than 36.9 million acres offshore Louisiana, Mississippi & Alabama. Approximately 4.1 million un-leased acres in the "181 South Area" were included in this sale, with Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas sharing in revenue from tracts leased in that area.

Approximately 394 leases in the US Gulf will expire by the end of the year. The majority of these are deepwater, over 3,000 feet, with 137 leases set to expire before the end of 2010.

McMoRan Exploration has made what is terms a "major discovery" on its

Davy Jones Ultra-Deep prospect on South Marsh Island block 230 in around 20 feet of water. This prospect is West of Venice. The discovery could lead to a new wave of shallow water Shelf exploration in the Gulf of Mexico for wells below 15,000 feet.

Companies drilling or with permits to drill within Plaquemines Parish at the present time are HilCorp Energy Company, Swift Energy Company, Chevron, Apache Corporation, LLOG Exploration, W&T Offshore, Arena Offshore, Freeport McMoRan, GOM Shelf LLC, Bopco, Lobo Operating, Wild Well Controll, Century Exploration, and EnergyQuest II.

## Governmental Affairs Committee

By Dale Benoit, Chair

The 2010 legislative session began March 29. Over 1900 bills have been filed including 34 by Representative Ernest Wooton, 17 by Senator A.G. Crowe and 13 by Senator David Heitmeier. Wooton is serving as Chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee and is also on the House Homeland Security and the Joint Homeland Security Committees. Crowe is Vice-Chair of Commerce and Consumer Protection and serves on Judiciary C, Local and Municipal Affairs, Retirement and the Natural Resources Committee. Heitmeier is Chairman of Oversight Committee of the

Greater New Orleans Expressway, Vice-Chairman of Judiciary B and serves on Revenue & Fiscal Affairs, Governmental Affairs, Transportation, Consumer Affairs and Veterans Affairs.

A policy meeting for all interested board members will be scheduled in Mid-April to review any legislation relative to Plaquemines or business issues.

The governor's push for higher education reform has gained much attention and the BILD coalition, which includes PABI, is credited with helping.

PABI was represented at the Southeast

Business Council Coalition Social by Danica Ansardi, Redi McLellan, David Pavlovich and Bill Bubrig and at the group's legislative luncheon by Bart Breland and Dale Benoit.

Work continued on getting the state mineral board to reduce royalties on deep gas drilling. Meetings were held recently with Governor Bobby Jindal and Chief of Staff Timmy Teepell to ask for their help with urging the mineral board to reduce state royalties from 22% to 12.5% on deep gas wells below 15,000 feet. It is hoped this will incentivize drilling in Coastal Waters.

## Venice Revitalization Committee

By Danica Ansardi, Chair

Progress continues to be made regarding the feasibility study for the deepening of Baptiste Collette. Costs are estimated at \$36M for a 22' deepening with a very favorable cost-benefit ratio of 2.08. Existing users and potential transfer opportunities have been identified, all with favorable responses. On March 4th, a final public meeting was held at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. There were four statements of support read, and we received a couple of comments from the Buras family concerning erosion and traffic issues with a new channel. These comments will be addressed in the final report to the USACE, which is scheduled to be submitted on April 5th to Secretary Darcy in Washington, DC.



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# Military Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

This will be another busy year for our military neighbors. There are many construction projects under way. There is a large post exchange and medical center that is under construction. Also, a project to improve the runway on the base has begun. More soldiers and civilians will be moving to our community as the base continues to expand as other bases around the nation are closed. Captain Tom Luscher will become the new Commanding Officer when a change of command takes place in May, 2010. Captain Luscher has been serving as the Executive Officer since last August. The current commanding officer, Captain Bill Snyder, will be missed. He has been very involved in building a strong relationship between the military base and

the surrounding region. PABI would like to thank Captain Snyder for his involvement in our community and we wish him success in his next assignment. We also look forward to continuing to build a strong bond with the base as Captain Luscher takes command of the base. In our next newsletter, we will have details about a Wounded Warrior Fishing Tournament that will be held at Delta Marina, Empire, LA the last weekend in September. The tournament was held for the first time last year. Please call or email the PABI office if you know of a soldier who has returned from Iraq or Afghanistan. We would like to invite them to be an honored guest at one of our next membership meetings.

## 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  
Email: rthomas@pabigroup.com

PABI Welcomes New Members  
PABI Satellite Mtg  
Update: Plaq. Medical Clinic  
Westbank Luncheon  
Callender Commitment  
Communications  
Maritime/Coastal Restoration  
Membership  
Tourism  
Oil & Gas  
Governmental Affairs  
Venice Revitalization  
Military

### Inside PABI "BIZ"



Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037

P.O. Box 908

Association of Business & Industry

