



PLAQUEMINES
Association of Business & Industry

3rd Quarter 2010

the PABI "BIZ"



Message From The Chair

The first two quarters of 2010 have been very active and productive. Obviously, at the forefront of everyone's minds is the oil spill in the Gulf. Not only is it an environmental disaster but it is an economic disaster for Plaquemines Parish businesses and businesses in the region, state and nation. PABI has been very involved since the oil spill in communication, coordination and representation between businesses and representatives of BP.

We continue to provide BP with the names and contact information of all our businesses to encourage them to use local vendors to support the cleanup efforts. This will be a long drawn out process with regard to capping the well, cleaning our shores and wetlands, and restoring our coast to the way it was prior to the disaster. Let's hope and pray that this comes sooner rather than later.

Work on our committees has been forging along although this disaster has changed some of the committee's priorities. While our Coastal Restoration, Tourism and Oil and Gas committees have had to change directions. The Transportation, Military and Communication committees have seen significant progress in the last quarter.

On May 18, 2010, I was honored to attend the Change of Command ceremony at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve in Belle Chasse. I would like to take this time to welcome Capt. Tom Luscher as the new Commander. The NASJRB is very important to the economic sustainability in Plaquemines Parish and we look forward to a continued working relationship with the leaders of NASJRB.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce a partnership between PABI and Plaquemines Parish School Administration. We are in the beginning stages of establishing an Education Committee and would like to thank Supt. Denis Rousselle for

agreeing to appoint a liaison to represent the Plaquemines Parish School System as a PABI board member. This has been a missing link in PABI and will help tie in our education system to our local businesses. We look forward to a great partnership with the school system.

I want to thank everyone for their support for the last 6 months. Again, I want to encourage all members to attend and participate in our monthly meetings. Continuing to network with fellow business members will allow us to become a more beneficial organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance.

Sincerely,

Bart J. Breland

Bart Breland
2010 Chairman

PABI Is Pleased To Welcome Our Newest Members:

- Vacation Makers Travel
- The Trophy Shoppe
- West Jefferson Industrial
Medicine
- Clubhouse Bar & Grill
- Coastal Conservation
Association
- A & W Catering
- Plaquemines Pharmacy

PABI contributes in Community Outreach



A weeks supply of groceries to 800 local families affected by the oil spill was generously donated by N. O. Hornets General Manager and Belle Chasse resident Jeff Bower, PABI Members, Plaquemines Firemen and friends of the community.

NO AUGUST MEETING

Because of so many end of summer vacations and last minute activities before the new school year starts, there will be
NO PABI MEETING/LUNCHEON IN AUGUST

The PABI Biz

is published quarterly for members of
The Plaquemines Association of
Business & Industry
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert L. Thomas

Communications Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

The Board of Directors of PABI agreed to a complete overhaul of our website. The new website is being re-done by DP1 Design out of New Orleans. The new and improved website will be more interactive and easier to navigate. We intend on using the website more than before and we think you will find it useful for keeping up with local business news as well as relaying

your thoughts and concerns to us. We will let you know as soon as the new website is available. Also, don't forget that we are accepting advertisements in the PABI Biz. The cost is \$100 per issue or \$350 for a year (4 consecutive issues). Please contact our Executive Director, Bobby Thomas, if you would like to place an ad in our next newsletter.

April 21, 2010 Meeting/Luncheon Woodland Plantation

Mr. David Ozmore, President/CEO
YMCA of Greater New Orleans

Mr. Ozmore spoke of the four Parish-owned Community Centers being built. Mr. Ozmore said, "the Y's mission is to serve all, our job will be to listen, make adjustments to our services, and to offer the core expertise that the Y provides."



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PRESIDENT

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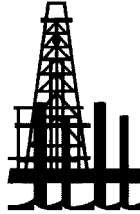
Booth space includes:

- ➔ 6ft skirted table and 2 chairs
- ➔ Company sign
- ➔ Business listing in Tradeshow program and on HCIA and PABI website.

Booth information must be received by August 18th to be included in program

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY EXPO

Rescheduled!



The Business and Industry Expo, originally postponed in February due to the Super Bowl, is now rescheduled for

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 24th
at Boomtown Casino**

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3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
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Or - Email: Peggy Bourgeois at: hcia@bellsouth.net or Bobby Thomas at: rthomas@pabigroup.com
HCIA – (504) 367-1721 PABI at (504) 393-2999

Company

Representative

Address, City, State, Zip

Type of Business

Phone Cell

Email

Do you need electricity? NO YES

Booths will be assigned on a First Come First Serve basis.

May 20, 2010 Meeting/Dinner Delta Marina Grill

ANNUAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MEETING

Brigadier General Glenn Curtis
Director of the Joint Staff for the
Louisiana National Guard

Mr. Tim Osborne,
Regional Navigation Manager, NOAA

Colonel Charles Guey,
Chief of Operations, PPSO



June 23, 2010 Meeting/Luncheon Bayou Barriere Golf Club

Hon. James D. "Buddy" Caldwell
Attorney General, State of Louisiana

On June 4, 2010, Attorney General Buddy Caldwell filed a Petition for Discovery and Investigation against BP in state court in Plaquemines Parish. The petition alleges that BP has failed to cooperate and share important information with the State, specifically information requested repeatedly by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Department of Social Services regarding all claims data collected by ESIS, the third party administrator for claims, and for information about workers hired by BP. The purpose of the petition is to gather information as part of the State's investigation as to the causes of the spill and impacts to our state.





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June 9, 2010

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Ken Salazar
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Moratorium on Deepwater Drilling

Board Members

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Thomas Rush
Jeff White

Dear President Obama and Secretary Salazar:

The Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry (PABI) was founded in 2004 with a mission to provide private sector leadership and to work for the business community to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment, and to advance the quality of life in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Today, PABI includes in its membership over 200 businesses from Plaquemines, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. PABI not only represents a strategic component of the energy industry sector of the economy, but a diverse group of businesses such as suppliers, service companies, banks, insurance agents, hotels and restaurants which all support the energy industry of Louisiana which is vital to the entire United States.

On behalf of our members, as well as the hundreds of thousands of hard-working men and women of South Louisiana, we strongly urge you to modify the 6-month moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in a manner that will ensure public safety and environmental protection without destroying over 30,000 regional jobs and the economies of our local communities.

The coastal parishes where we work and live are literally "America's energy workhorse." An estimated 103,000 people go to work each day to service the oil and gas drilling industry here, including painters, electricians, deck hands and mechanics. This is what we do. It is a job that we take very seriously and have performed extremely well for over half a century.

Please be aware that the members that PABI represents will never underestimate the tragedy that was The Deepwater Horizon nor will we ever forget the loss of the eleven crew members and the heartache and void left in their families.

However, the Administration's May 28th order to suspend all existing deepwater drilling for at least six months will cause irreparable harm to our energy service industry and further decimate our communities that are already suffering from the environmental and economic impact of the BP oil spill. Every sector of our economy from grocery stores to restaurants to hospitals and schools will be crippled by the cascading effects of this moratorium and many may never recover.

The residents of coastal Louisiana have zero tolerance for the actions and decisions that resulted in the BP oil spill. We care about our natural resources, our communities and each other. However, we also know that we can protect workers and the environment, while we continue to produce energy and jobs for Americans. It is critical to the entire nation that we do both!

Therefore, we urge you to reduce the six-month moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf to no more than 30 days, during which time any additional rig inspections can be conducted by the Minerals Management Service officials, greatly reducing the job loss and minimizing the negative economic impacts felt by our region while ensuring a safer industry.

Please do not allow this environmental tragedy to become for us in South Louisiana an economic tragedy of historic proportions as well.

Sincerely,

Bart Breland, Chairman
Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry

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Legislative Session Ends with High Drama, Mixed Results

Overview:

The 2010 Session started off slowly, but the pace quickened the last 10 days, and then rushed to a panic in the closing hours, as dozens of bills awaited final action before the clock struck 6pm, including several of high interest to GNO, Inc. Complicating factors this Session included the \$1.2B budget shortfall, which had the House and Senate leadership battling, and the gulf oil spill which distracted the administration, irritated coastal legislators, and created a legal battle over contingency fees. In the end, 1068 bills were passed by the legislature (more than usual), with hundreds now sent to the Governor for signature or veto. Resolutions do not require signature and any constitutional amendments go straight to the voters. Of the 335 bills tracked by GNO, Inc., 160 passed in their initial chamber, 142 passed the full legislature, and 29 have been acted upon by the Governor, with only one veto thus far, HB 386 by Hutter, that would have required additional reporting requirements by LED.

Outcome of Priority Bills:

GNO, Inc. priority bills for the 2010 Session focused on higher education reforms and the reinstatement of the Angel Investor program. The higher ed reforms were passed across the board, but the angel bill got bottled up on the last day of the Session, for the second year in a row!

The signature item of the higher education package was HB 1171 (GRAD Act),

championed by Speaker Tucker, backed by the Governor, a statewide business coalition called BILD, and the university systems. This united front proved successful as the bill took weeks to get through four tough committees and floor action in both chambers, requiring a 2/3 vote (House 87-13 and Senate 26-13). The bill picked up many amendments in the process, which had to be cleaned up on the Senate side, where Senator Nevers led the charge. With some resistance, the House finally concurred in the Senate amendments, adopting the more favorable version of the bill from the proponents' perspective. So, HB 1171 now goes to the Governor for signature which is certain as one of the administration's priority items.

Rounding out the higher education package are two bills critical to advancing the community college system. SB 712 Nevers and SB 752 Long as passed will work together to establish Centers of Excellence in the LCTCS system, which was part of the BILD Coalition platform coming into the Session. SB 712 provides the structural component and SB 752 adds the financing mechanisms to realize Centers of Excellence around the state in the coming years. In the Greater New Orleans region, an Advanced Manufacturing Center is targeted to provide state of the art curricula and facilities to meet workforce needs in that sector. Again, the Governor's signature is expected on these bills.

The outcome was not good for SB 500 Marionneaux (Angel Bill), which failed to pass in the final hours as the clock ran out

before the House could adopt the conference committee report, the same fate as 25 other bills that were in line and awaiting final action when the Session gavelled out Sine Die at 6pm. After limping along in both chambers, and overcoming opposition from the administration, LED and the House Ways and Means Chairman, SB 500 was thrown into conference by Senator Marionneaux on the final eve of the Session, in spite of the proponents' request to the contrary. The conference committee process proved to be the fatal blow to the effort. If passed the bill would have reinstated the angel investor program, which expired at the end of 2009, after failing in similar fashion in last year's session. A private sector alliance vows to keep bringing the bill back until it is finally passed and enacted into law.

Other Bills of High Interest:

Other matters tracked by GNO, Inc. ended mixed in the categories of economic development, education, infrastructure, streamlining, tax policy, and the budget.

Economic development highlights include passage of bills dealing with blighted properties, renewable energy, global trade strategy, DBE programs, PILOT Financing for Port of South LA project, Mega Fund program changes, and new LED reporting requirements.

Education highlights include passage of K12 reform measures, TOPS for proprietary schools, transfer of adult education to LCTCS, GO Grant Program, inmate rehab program, WorkKeys for Tops Tech, and apprenticeship programs. Note, bills to provide school board term limits and higher education consolidation failed.

Infrastructure highlights include passage of bills dealing with the LA Intrastate Rail Compact, Southeast Flood Protection Authority, Coastal Science Consortium, alternative funding for transportation, South LA Wetlands Discovery Center, OCS spending restrictions, and Coastal Zone expansion.

Streamlining measures got their first test, after a year long commission led by Senator Donahue. The package fared modestly, with dozens of related bills filed and several passed, including retirement changes, government position reductions, broadcasting of BESE/Regents meetings, review of appropriation fees, State Building and Land Use Group. Note, Civil Service reforms failed.

Tax Policy highlights include passage of bills dealing with homestead exemption





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extensions for hurricane properties, tax administration remedies, millage rate disclosure, TIF district changes, and oil service support occupational license tax clarification. Note, the oil and gas processing tax failed.

On the budget front, HB1 Appropriations was in turmoil all session, as the House and Senate differed in their approach to close a \$1.2B shortfall. Ultimately, the Senate version prevailed, backed by the Governor's Office which restored significant funding to healthcare, higher education and the state mega fund, patched together by Tax Amnesty dollars and the Rainy Day Fund. HB2 Capital Outlay was squeezed out of the process in the final hour, as legislators had to filter down \$2B in construction requests against \$300M line of credit capacity. While some

regional projects like the Medical Center fared well, the status of the NUCOR mega project funds remain in question.

Lastly, the "budget flexibility" six-bill package proposed by the administration and Senate President Chaisson was largely supported in the Senate but faced stiff opposition in the more conservative House, where the trust funds were defeated in Appropriations, the cuts-across-the-board were defeated by the House in the final hour, and the rainy day fund bills never made it out of the conference committee. LABI and other industry groups led the charge against the budget flex package, while much of the GNO region business community endorsed the package to keep all options on the table in fiscal deficit years.

LSU AgCenter Scientists To Look At Petroleum Resistance In Marsh Plant Research

PORT SULPHUR, La. – Up river from where oil is washing ashore in Plaquemines Parish, LSU AgCenter research associates are planting ponds with smooth cordgrass. This grass is the predominant plant species in Louisiana's intertidal marshes.

"Not just theoretically, but literally, in the most saline, open-water area, smooth cordgrass is the plant that is holding all that wetland together," said LSU AgCenter coastal wetland plant specialist Mike Materne.

So far, the researchers have planted 600 individual plants of smooth cordgrass in ponds at the LSU AgCenter Coastal Area Research Station here.

"We're expecting to release six new varieties of smooth cordgrass to wetland plant growers, so these plants will one day help restore deteriorating marshes, areas that are now threatened by oil," Materne said.

This grass reproduces vegetatively as opposed to by seeds. It creates a strong root system and can stand up to high concentrations of salt and to the pounding of the tide.

Materne said it is unclear how the oil spill will affect the smooth cordgrass plant. He says it can withstand oil that is suspended in the water, but worse conditions may kill it.

"If the oil lingers in heavy concentration for any length of time and gets into the soil, then damages that below ground portion of the plant, there is a pretty good

chance that the plant will die altogether," the researcher said.

After the spill's effects have been assessed, Materne said researchers with the LSU AgCenter's wetland plant program will collect plants affected by and surviving the oil spill.

"We'll bring them back to our program, and over the next several years we'll be testing, and as quickly as we can, we'll release a suite of plants across several species that we are confident are somewhat petroleum-resistant."

Louisiana's wetlands also are home to many species of wildlife and seafood. Residents of this coastal parish rely on the fish, shrimp and oysters the marshes support. Storms have battered the fishing community in recent years, and this oil spill could be just as devastating.

"The real catastrophe is in the socio-economic context," said Rusty Gaude, an LSU

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

By David Pavlovich, Chair

Woodland Highway (LA Hwy 406) is the main thoroughfare between Algiers Federal City and the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base. The environmental study has begun for the widening of Highway 406 to four lanes. NAS/JRB has finished a traffic study revealing that the exiting traffic in/out of the Base has increased 50.8 % since 2004. With this increase of traffic and the fact that the base will relocate the Main Gate entrance to the back (off of Barriere Rd.) in 2011, traffic problems are expected on Barriere Road. There are plans to try to get DAR (Defense Access Roads) money for improvements to Barriere Road. This is another hurdle in the step of change.

Other infrastructure information is Peters Road Bypass; plans are 100% complete for Phase I with 60% of Phase II complete- yet the bonds have not been sold for Phase I due to the economy.

AgCenter fisheries agent for Plaquemines, St. Bernard and Orleans parishes. "For the people affected, this is as bad as, if not worse than, Hurricane Katrina."

The spill and the subsequent closing of fishing areas have put fishers out of work. Gaude said they are filled with anxiety and uncertainty about when their next paycheck will come, and many were still recovering from hurricanes.

"There will be a lot of people that this will be the straw that broke the camel's back," he said.

Gaude said that seafood harvested from open fishing areas is safe to consume, and that closures are strictly enforced.

"The seafood that is coming into the market chain from Louisiana is just as safe as it was before," Gaude said. "We still have our signature quality on all seafood coming in."

Tobie Blanchard



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Military Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

Once again, our military base has stepped up to assist the local community during a time of crisis. Now, with the BP oil spill, the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse has been a hub of activity to provide resources in support of the clean up effort. Our local military continues to do whatever it can to support our community during difficult times. We want to say thanks to the Coast Guard and all those in the military who have been called upon to help with this disaster.

In other news, a change of command took place at the base in May. Captain Tom Luscher is now the commanding officer and his new executive officer is Commander Jason Welch. We look forward to continuing to build a strong relationship between the military and the local business community. Captain Luscher was the XO of the base prior to assuming command.

An important development in May was an agreement reached between the military base and the Plaquemines Parish DA's office and Sheriff's Department called Concurrent Jurisdiction. Although a few minor details remain to be ironed

out, the basic premise of CJ is to allow local law enforcement the ability to go on the base and bring criminals to the local jail to be prosecuted for their crimes. Before this agreement, minor offenders went unprosecuted. The agreement shows a commitment from District Attorney Charles Ballay and Sheriff Jiff Hingle to assist the Naval Air Station in making sure criminal offenses committed on post are not overlooked. We thank DA Charles Ballay, Sheriff Hingle, Capt Luscher and Capt Snyder for their efforts.

On a final note, Callendar Commitment is a new organization designed to help the military base with local and state issues as it continues to grow and serve its mission. The current members of this organization include myself, Stan Mathes with the Plaquemines Parish Dept of Econ Dev, PABI Executive Director Bobby Thomas and Paul Soyer with the Louisiana Dept of Econ Dev. We meet each month with the CO and other officers of the base to discuss topics and ways we can work and grow together. More about Callendar Commitment will be coming in the future.

INTERESTED IN PABI MEMBERSHIP?

For information about membership in the Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry, please contact Bobby Thomas, Executive Director:
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Email: rthomas@pabigroup.com

Military Committee

Committee

Transportation and Infrastructure

March Plant Research

at Petroleum Resistance in

LSU AgCenter Scientist to Look

High Drama, Mixed Results

Legislative Session Ends with

Letter to President Obama

June Meeting/Luncheon

May Meeting/Dinner

HCIA

April Meeting/Luncheon

Communications Committee

PABI Welcomes New Members

Inside PABI "BIZ"

