

January 2020 – NFIP Update Breakfast

This meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Past PABI Chairman, Bill Bubrig (2005) served as moderator for the panel of Flood Insurance, Public Policy, and FEMA experts. Members of the panel were: Caitlin Berni, Berni Consulting; Lindsay Cooper, Policy Analyst, Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities; Ileana Ledet, Vice-President of Policy, GNO, Inc.; and Dwayne LeBlanc, Business Development Manager, Wright Flood Insurance Company. After a brief history and overview of NFIP, the issues of “Risk Rating 2.0,” “grandfathering” and “new-mapping” were discussed.

December 2019 – PABI Christmas Party

The 2019 PABI Christmas Party was held at Toast Event Room (PABI Member) on December 5. PABI Members and families and guests gathered to celebrate the holiday season. PABI once again participated in the Toys for Tots campaign and asked Members to bring a toy. The evening was a great success, and the Marines took home boxes of toys! Thanks to all who participated.

November 2019 – State of the Port Luncheon

The PABI Annual State of the Port Luncheon was held on November 7 at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. The event was emceed by the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (PABI Member) Executive Director, Sandy Sanders. Some of the topics Director Sanders and his guest speakers addressed were, the rail relocation along Peters Road, the proposed Plaquemines Liquids Terminal, the Port Container Terminal, and Venture Global LNG. There was a full-house in attendance and everyone’s attention was on the speakers!

October 2019 – PABI Member and Guest Networking Event

On October 23, Boomtown Casino (PABI Member) hosted the Networking event for PABI at the “Pier 4” Bar on the second floor. There was a large crowd in attendance including Members, guests and public officials. The food and drink served by Boomtown were delicious. This type of gathering is becoming more popular with Members each year.

September 2019 – PABI Luncheon featuring Rio Grande Pacific Railroad (PABI Member)

The luncheon was held at Toast Event Room (PABI Member) on September 19. The keynote speaker was Mr. Richard Bertel, Chairman and CEO of Rio Grande Pacific Corporation, parent company of New Orleans Gulf Coast Railroad. Mr. Bertel spoke on the proposed \$330 Million Peters Road Rail Relocation and servicing the many future industrial developments in Plaquemines Parish and other economic drivers on the Westbank.

August 2019 – PABI Luncheon featuring Gulf Coast Energy Outlook

The keynote speaker at Toast Event Room (PABI Member) on August 14, was Dr. Gregory Upton, Assistant Professor at the Center for Energy Studies at Louisiana State University. Dr. Upton's research interests are related to the analysis of economic, environmental and public policy issues in energy and regulated industries. Dr. Upton presented the Gulf Coast Energy Outlook that provides an overview of the energy industry and its economic contribution to the Gulf Coast Economy. The outlook includes forecasts for oil and gas production, investment in refining and chemicals, and employment.

June 2019 – Annual Legislative Recap Luncheon

PABI joined forces with the WBIA to cosponsor the Annual Legislative Recap Luncheon on June 12 at Boomtown Casino (PABI Member). The speakers included State Senators' John Alario and Troy Carter and State Representatives' Leopold, Connick, Lyons and Billiot. The Legislators spoke on they considered the recent 2019 Session to be a success. The State's \$300 million surplus as well as \$55 million for Coastal Restoration were also discussed.

May 2019 – The “NEW” New Orleans Airport

On May 15, the Members and guests of PABI met for lunch at Toast Event Room to hear the latest update on the construction of the new terminal at MSY. Already delayed many times, the finish line is drawing near. Kevin Dolliole, Director of Aviation of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport gave a preview on how to arrive, depart and move about the new \$1 billion terminal.

May 2019 Venice Luncheon

Once again PABI hosted a working lunch-meeting with many of the representatives of industry in Venice and the southern area of Plaquemines Parish. Frequently our PABI Members from the coastal area are unable to attend monthly functions held in Belle Chasse so this is a prime opportunity for everyone to reconnect. George Pivach of Venice Port Complex (PABI Member) served as facilitator during the discussions of the meeting.

April 2019 – Networking Event at Cypress Bar

The PABI Networking event was held at Cypress Bar in Belle Chasse on April 10. This provided an opportunity for PABI Members and guests to socialize in a casual atmosphere to discuss business and issues of the day.

March 2019 – Annual State of the Parish Address

On May 20, Parish President Kirk Lepine spoke to PABI Members during the annual State of the Parish Address at Woodland Plantation (PABI Member). The President began his comments by saying, "Plaquemines Parish is open for business!" Lepine had been in office less than 90 days at this point and said he's spent those days focusing on initiatives to make the Parish more attractive to new business. In addition, the Parish President also told the capacity crowd that he had re-signed a contract with DOTD to continue having the State cut the grass on LA 23. The contract had been cancelled by Amos Cormier in 2017.

February 2019 – PABI Annual Installation Banquet

On the evening February 7, PABI held their Annual Installation Banquet at English Turn Golf & Country Club. Stephen Waguespack, President and CEO of the Louisiana Association of Business & Industry gave the keynote address. That night, Waguespack put out the call for businessmen and businesswomen to consider running for public office. He stated that 70 Louisiana Legislators will hit their term limits in 2019 and business people are best qualified to steer the State towards more prosperous times. Waguespack also spoke on the importance of qualified officials because of the upcoming 2020 census and potential impact on our State. Michelle Herbert was installed as the 2019 PABI Chairwoman. Herbert congratulated and thanked the outgoing PABI Chair, Jeff DiMarco for his dedication and a job well done!

January 2019 – Coastal Restoration with Oil & Gas Research

New Orleans Geologist Chris McLendon, who works closely with Oil & Gas along the Louisiana Coast addressed the January 16 PABI Luncheon at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. McLendon who is past President of the N. O. Geological Survey and an exploration geologist with Upstream Exploration in Metairie, called upon the CPRA to open its doors to O & G Companies in order to use decades of data and maps compiled by the industry. He insist that information sharing will only improve the effectiveness of all parties. McLendon endorsed dredging over river diversions as the most effective way to redistribute sediment from the bottom of the Mississippi River. CPRA has maintained that dredged sediment is not as sustainable as land built via river diversions and is considering expanding the plan for the proposed Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion on Plaquemines' Eastbank from 35,000 cubic feet per second of water to 75,000 cfs.