

## ***February 2012 General Membership Meeting/Luncheon Bayou Barriere Golf Club***

The February 2012 PABI General Meeting/Luncheon was held at Woodland Plantation in Myrtle Grove. The keynote speaker was Senator A.G Crowe, Louisiana District 1, speaking about the Louisiana International Gulf Transfer Terminal (LIGTT). Senator Crowe stated that funding has been secured for the construction of the LIGTT through private international investors seeking an EB-5 immigration visa which has not gotten much publicity. The project could create nearly 40,000 jobs for the state of Louisiana. Under the EB-5 program international investors must put up \$500,000 for a project that creates at least 10 jobs for U.S. citizens and the investment has to be tracked by immigration. Senator Crowe and his team are working with New York City-based EB-5 coordinating company ABK Venture Group to find qualified investors interested in the plan. The company had been looking into the LIGTT project and already had over 500 applicants interested. The location of the proposed LIGTT is just east of the mouth of the Southwest Pass in Plaquemines Parish. Senator Crowe stated the intent of the LIGTT is to make the state more competitive in the global shipping market after the widening of the Panama Canal to be completed in 2014. This project will be the nation's first transfer terminal for container cargo strategically designed to serve container vessels too large to enter the Mississippi River and would preserve market share for the Port of New Orleans.



Photos by Zu Carpenter Photography