

PABI February 2014 General Membership Luncheon Woodland Plantation

The February 2014 PABI General Membership luncheon was held at Woodland Plantation. Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser gave his Annual State of the Parish address. President Nungesser began by emphasizing the importance of comprehensive flood protection to the wellbeing of the Parish. A crucial development is the Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) program which will allow for local and state-constructed levees to meet FEMA's standards. Flood maps could be redrawn and could aid in reducing insurance premiums. The Parish has also made progress with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure new levees are built quickly. President Nungesser addressed the Parish budget. He stated that too many funds are being spent on unnecessary bond interest payments which are preventing the funding of more crucial projects. A cost saving idea that could save the Parish approximately \$3 million would be to consolidate the Parish ferry services by consolidating to one ferry in the central part of the Parish. President Nungesser recently met with Shell Oil Co. as they are evaluating where its workers would disembark to offshore rigs. They are currently using Boothville, but they are looking at Mississippi and Alabama. One factor in their decision would be highway safety of commuting to and from heliports. He is confident that the Parish could expand Highway 23 to four lanes in Port Sulphur, and they are researching adding additional highway lighting. There has also been progress in the development of the Parish's coal and natural gas terminals. President Nungesser spoke on the Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency's two planned large scale river diversions. He would like more information before he comes out for or against the diversions.



Photos by Robert L Thomas and Jack Tiebout