

September 2011 General Meeting/Luncheon Boomtown Casino Pier 4 Restaurant

The September 2011 PABI General Meeting/Luncheon was held on September 15, 2011 at Boomtown Casino's Pier 4 Restaurant. The keynote speaker was Dr. Stuart Guey, Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman. He was presented with questions/concerns of particular interest to members. His first point of interest was the redistricting of the parish due to massive population shifts after Hurricane Katrina. The redistricting has six of the nine districts falling in the Belle Chasse region which is too much power for one segment. He would like to incorporate a 5-2 system within the Council and will be introducing this alternative in the future. The rerouting of the rail lines currently running through Belle Chasse is another potential change. Dr. Guey feels in order to complete this project, business will have to stay informed and get involved. He spoke briefly on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) by the Naval Air Station and the effect of the base on the community. The JLUS could be a solution for keeping surrounding neighborhoods inhabitable and peaceful while the base remains functional and operational in its current location. Another area of interest was the proposed Wal-Mart in Belle Chasse. As litigation is ongoing, Dr. Guey could not say more than that the possibility still exists that Wal-Mart will be coming into the Parish. In conclusion, Dr. Guey stated that struggles have existed between local government and the business community. He has noticed bonds being formed at local, and more importantly regional levels, and he this is the path the Parish should follow.



Photos by Zu Carpenter Photography