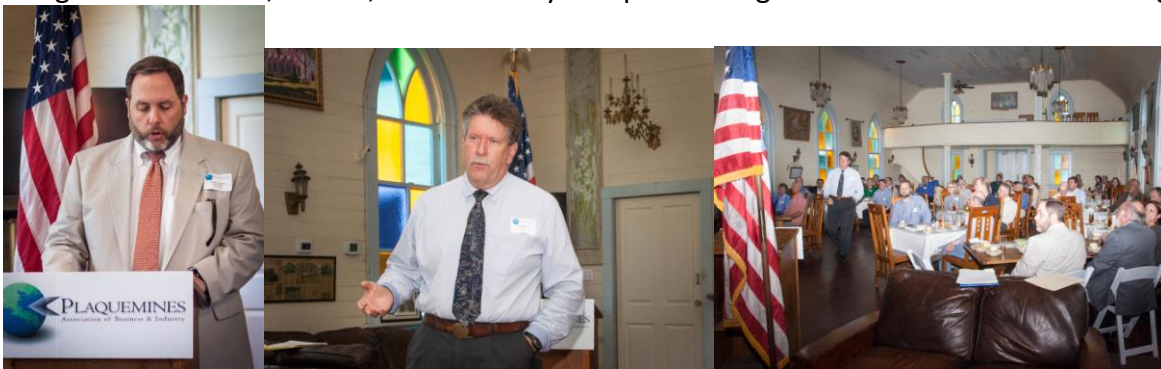


## ***PABI June 2016 General Membership Luncheon Woodland Plantation***

The June General Membership Luncheon was held on Wednesday, June 22 at Woodland Plantation. Tim Osborn, Regional Navigation Manager in the Office of Coast Survey at NOAA in Lafayette, was the keynote speaker. Following a welcome by Executive Director Bobby Thomas and a prayer by past President Jody Guilbeau, PABI Chairman Robert Hopkins spoke briefly on the passing of Parish President Amos Cormier, Jr. He then welcomed Mr. Osborn to the podium. Mr. Osborn spoke on the importance of Plaquemines Parish to Louisiana and the nation because of the Mississippi River and the ports associated with it. With hurricane season having begun on June 1, we already have had four named storms; however it only takes one storm to devastate an area. The “Big Four” local impacts of hurricanes are storm surge (the number one killer), inland flooding, tornadoes and wind. Mr. Osborn stressed that, as the gateway to the world’s largest network of ports, the preparedness and response to any hurricane event in the Parish is critical. He emphasized the need for complete flood protection and sustainability. He pointed out that over 5,500 acres of new wetlands have been created since 2009 in the Birdfoot Delta through partnerships with the Parish, the Big River Coalition, USACE, local industry and pilots using no coastal restoration funding.



Photos by Zu Carpenter