

March 2012 General Membership Meeting/Luncheon Bayou Barriere Golf Club

The March 2012 PABI General Meeting/Luncheon was held at Bayou Barriere Golf Club in Belle Chasse. The keynote speaker was Plaquemines President Billy Nungesser delivering his annual State of the Parish address. President Nungesser spoke about the progress of several area projects including Baptiste Collette, Peters Road Bypass, Federal levees, Coastal Restoration Plan, Belle Chasse bridge and tunnel, and Changing the Charter to create Boards. The Baptiste Collette project which involves the deepening of the pass to create a shorter distance from the Gulf to the Mississippi River for offshore vessels is being reviewed in Washington for approval. Federal funding has not been secured, but the Parish has a fallback plan. President Nungesser stated that Phase 1, the initial design and engineering phase, of Peters Rd Bypass has been completed and land is being purchased in Jefferson Parish for Phase 2. The Parish has broke ground on this project. In regards to the levee, President Nungesser commented that he is working to secure federal funding. He mentioned the possibility of finding levee material within the parish which could speed up the project as well as bring down the cost to complete. President Nungesser stated that the first phase of coastal restoration, berms behind the levee, has reduced storm surge by five feet which qualifies the parish for 100 year protection and could decrease residents' flood insurance. He will be asking the council to bond money to start on restoration projects. The bridge and tunnel are now in the second phase. Once the study is completed the Parish will move on to the design and construction phase. Lastly President Nungesser mentioned that he is putting an item on the ballot that would change the parish charter to create boards to oversee various Parish operations.



Photos by Karen Bazile