

***PABI General Membership Meeting
October 30, 2012
Bayou Barriere Golf Club***

The October 30th General Membership Meeting at Barriere Golf Club was PABI's annual Membership Campaign. Numerous representatives of businesses in the region who are not members of PABI were invited to attend the luncheon as guest to introduce them to the Business Association. The keynote speaker was Louisiana State Treasurer, John Kennedy. Treasurer Kennedy began his address by speaking about the \$859.2 million in Medicaid cuts versus the Department of Health and Hospital's increase in spending by \$786 million since 2011. He feels that if DHH would go back to the previous year's spending levels, it would balance the cuts. Treasurer Kennedy would also like to see a change in the way Medicaid reimburses E.R. visits. He cited a list of 500 "non emergency" medical conditions that he suggest no longer be paid for if treated in the E.R., but rather should be treated in a clinic. He said the state currently has 19,000 consulting contracts. Treasurer Kennedy stated he helped draft a bill that would have eliminated 10% of these contracts which passed in the House of Representatives, but died in the Senate Finance Committee. Lastly, Treasurer Kennedy commented that since 2005, the state has eliminated 6,900 positions, however they are spending \$650 million more in labor costs today. He feels there needs to be a change in spending.



Photos by Zu Carpenter Photography