



# PLAQUEMINES

Association of Business & Industry

4th Quarter 2011

# the PABI "BIZ"



## Message From The Chair

Fall is here. Halloween has come and gone, and that means we are approaching the end of another PABI year. As you probably know by now

the annual Installation Banquet has been set for January, 26, 2012, and Congressman Steve Scalise has agreed to be our keynote speaker. As you also know our area is new to Congressman Scalise's district following the redistricting from the 2010 census. Please mark your calendars and be sure to attend this great annual event.

The Board of PABI has decided to make the flooding of Highway 23 around Myrtle Grove a priority because of the impact on Plaquemines Parish businesses and residents when the highway must be closed due to flooding. We are taking two approaches to this issue. One is to raise the affected area of Highway 23 as a temporary fix, and the second is to complete the construction and raising of the back levees as a more permanent

fix. As a means to move this project forward, we have invited President Nungesser to be our speaker at our November Luncheon/ Meeting (November 17, 11:30 am - Woodland Plantation) to address the status of this project. We are continuing to monitor the issue of the Crescent City Connection tolls as well as moving the Railroad tracks from Belle Chasse proper. We are able to monitor these issues due to PABI having members on both committees.

I know we have a while left until my year as chairman is over, and we still have work to do, but this will be my last article as Chairman. I want to take this time to wish all of you a great Holiday Season, and I hope to see all of you at our November Meeting, our Christmas Party (December 8th, Bayou Barriere Golf Club) and our Installation Banquet.

Mike Ford  
2011 Chairman

## PABI Is Pleased To Welcome:

**OUR NEWEST BRONZE MEMBER:**

Southland Rental Tools, Inc.

**OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:**

First Bank and Trust

Safety Ahead

## Upcoming Events:

**Christmas Party**

December 8, 2011

Bayou Barriere Golf Club

**Annual Installation Banquet**

January 26, 2012

## Communications Committee

By Reid McLellan, Chair

We hope all our members have visited our website this past year. In addition to a complete overhaul of the site in 2010, we continue to update and make changes based on feedback we get from you. At our Board meetings, we review a website report from our vendor that details how many visits or "hits" we receive each month. This activity is on the rise, and we are averaging around 200 visits a month. One unexpected result is that every month this year we had visitors to our website from Alaska. Also, there have been visitors from countries such as Russia and

Brazil. Although some of the visits we receive are considered accidental in nature, there is no doubt interest in our area from around the world. Our website is one of the portals being used to see what's going on in this area. So, it is critical that we maintain a high quality website. We also hope that you have reviewed your membership listing for accuracy. If you have not already done so, please go to <http://www.pabigroup.com/> and tell us what you think.

On another note, our quarterly newsletter is provided as a service to our members.

However, it's also a way to let other businesses and organizations in our area stay informed about us. I hope you find the newsletter useful and pertinent to your business. We encourage all our members to consider submitting articles for the newsletter. We would like to know what is happening in your industry. If you would like to submit an article or place an ad in the newsletter, please contact Bobby Thomas at the PABI office. I wish you all a very happy holiday season!

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# The PABI Biz

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# Venice Revitalization Committee

By Danica Ansardi, Chair

The Baptiste Collette "Agency Technical Review" (ATR) is currently being evaluated by the Galveston District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. One of the final issues being addressed is the cost of the re-location of the pipelines. The initial assessment was a cost estimate of \$1500 per linear foot, as opposed to CampDresser's(CDM) estimate, the engineer conducting the study of behalf of Plaquemines Parish, of \$1000 (lf). CDM reports that the District is re-calculating and anticipating that they will conclude with the Parish submitted proposal. Once all clear, CDM will meet with President Nungesser for final review and then the final report will be sent to Washington, DC, for a 6 months review process. In the meantime, Baptiste Collette is currently undergoing maintenance dredging.

The solution for most of our issues... FUNDING...FUNDING...FUNDING...is our immediate challenge. Tiger Pass needs between \$5-6 million for dredging, but currently NO funding in the USACE's budget. South Pass is currently impassable, needing

approximately \$20 million. The funding for this pass is included with the River budget, so all funds are being directed to maintain the River channels. Approaching 2012 does not look much better, with only \$1.2 million in the budget for BOTH Baptiste Collette and Tiger Pass. We will continue to lobby for the needed funding.

Though federal budget woes are straining our waterways, the Venice Port Complex is continuing their expansion by building new bulk heads to meet both current and anticipated demands for wireline and construction companies, with a large expansion being planned by Fab-Con. Some disappointing news, however, is that WNT will be moving out of Venice due to the permit processing delays and both Cypress Cove & River-side Restaurants have closed for the season.

Through our setbacks and delays, your Venice Revitalization Committee continues to move our initiatives forward in positioning Venice as a premier destination for oil & gas services to the Gulf of Mexico.



**Edward Jones**

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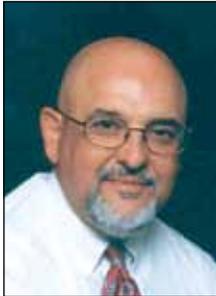
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## Did you know...

December 22nd is the shortest day of the year and the first day of winter for all us folks in the Northern Hemisphere?

Down under, however, summer is just kicking off with extra long, extra warm days of sunshine. Anyone want to book a trip to Australia or Brazil?



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# September 2011 General Meeting/Luncheon

## Boomtown Casino Pier 4 Restaurant

The September 2011 PABI General Meeting/Luncheon was held on September 15, 2011 at Boottown 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 populations shifts after Hurricane Katrina. The redistricting has six of the nine districts falling in the Belle Chasse region. 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 peaceful while the base remains functional and operational in it's current role. 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.



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# PABI Co-Sponsors 2011 Business and Industry Trade Show

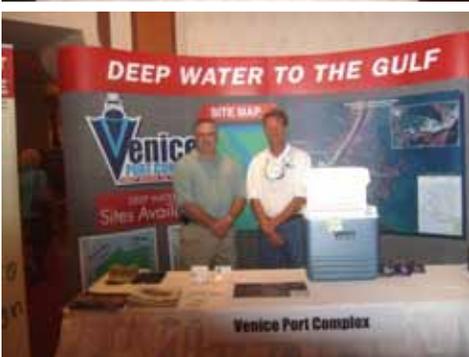
The 2011 Regional Trade Show co-sponsored by PABI, Harvey Canal Industrial Association (HCIA), West Jefferson Industrial Association (WJIA) and Algiers Economic Development Foundation (AEDF) was held in September at the Boomtown Casino Exhibition and Banquet Center. This year's Trade Show had a record number of both vendor exhibits and visitors. A total of 55 vendors showed their products and services, filling the second floor room of the casino. Thanks to host Charlie Frederick, who made

the space and light food available for the show. Frederick said hosting the trade show is Boomtown's way of giving back to the community.

The following PABI Member-Businesses participated in the show: 5 Minute Oil Change; AEDF; Bayou Barriere Golf Club; Care Services, Inc.; Edward Jones; Entergy; EPIC Diving & Marine Services, LLC; First Bank & Trust; Holiday Inn-Westbank; Regions Bank; Sea Pear, Inc.; Tesvich Enterprises; The

Parks of Plaquemines, LLC; Vacation Makers Travel; Venice Port Complex; Waste Pro of LA; West Jefferson Industrial Medicine; West Jefferson Medical Center; Whitney Bank.

Chairman Mike Ford manned the PABI exhibit for much of the Trade Show. Thanks to HCIA Executive Director, Peggy Bourgeois, AEDF Executive Assistant, Jenny Tagert and PABI Office Manager, Noelle Williams for producing an excellent show



# CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

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## *65th Annual Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival*

Historic Fort Jackson will once again host the 65th annual Orange Festival. The three-day event, which starts on December 2, celebrates a century of citrus farming with live music, family activities, local foods and carnival rides. The festival features free admission to the festival grounds and free parking.

Orange Festival offers fun for the whole family including a 5k race, helicopter rides and kids activities like sack races and orange rolls. On the fairgrounds, attendees can also get an early start on holiday gifts shopping by visiting the variety of community vendors and artisans selling local arts and crafts.

Visitors will also have a chance to mingle with Orange royalty as this year's King, Mr. Borden Wallace and Queen, Ms. Sissy Stricklin, will be on hand to greet guests,

officiate events and even compete in a contest or two.

The public is invited to participate in our always entertaining contests, including classic orange festival competitions like pie-eating, kumquat stuffing, orange eating and peeling as well as local favorites like duck calling, shrimp peeling, catfish skinning, oyster shucking and the always popular Citrus Dessert Contest.

The Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, where visitors can preview the carnival. On Saturday, registrations for the kid's ½ mile Fun Run and adult 5K run/walk starts at 8:30 a.m. and the gates open at 10 a.m. On the Main Stage, Big River Band performs at 10 a.m. and Ryan Foret and Foret Tradition at 12 p.m. Rockin' Dopsie will rock the Main Stage at 3:00 p.m. On Sunday, gates

open at 10 a.m. The concert line-up includes Ernie Wilkinson & the Hot Sauce Band at 10 a.m., Groovy 7 at 12:30 p.m., and The Topcats at 3 p.m. The fairgrounds close at dusk on Saturday and Sunday while the carnival remains open.

Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival is located on the grounds of historic Fort Jackson in Buras, about an hour south of Gretna, off LA Highway 23. The festival is always held during the first full weekend in December. Prior to Katrina, Fort Jackson served as the home to the Orange Festival since the 1970's, and as the festival proudly celebrates its 65th anniversary we are excited to be returning to this historic Louisiana landmark.

For more information, visit [orangefestival.com](http://orangefestival.com).

# October 2011 General Meeting/Luncheon

## Annual Membership Campaign Meeting • Belle Chasse Auditorium

The October 2011 PABI General Meeting/Luncheon and Annual Membership Campaign Meeting was held at the Belle Chasse Auditorium and catered by MeMe's New Orleans Café and Catering. The keynote speaker was Mr. Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc. Mr. Hecht began by thanking PABI for their continued support of GNO, Inc. A list of GNO, Inc.'s STARS (Statistics, Testimonials, Awards and Rankings) is included in the official minutes. Mr. Hecht mentioned the successes of GNO, Inc. including: Louisiana being named 2011 State of the Year by *Southern Business & Development*; New Orleans (as a write in candidate) was ranked Top City for Young Entrepreneurs 2011 on a website poll on 30CEO.com; Greater New Orleans won 2011 Co-Major Market of the Year (tied with Charlotte) by *Southern Business & Development*; New Orleans MSA was ranked Top 5 in the USA for "Logistics/Distribution/Shipping Hubs" (highest ranking ever) by *Business Facilities*; and Greater New Orleans was ranked 16th out of 800 regions surveyed on list of best places to raise

a family by *Parenting Magazine*. Louisiana is becoming an object lesson for other states to learn from. Mr. Hecht feels we are selling the New Orleans area the right way to encourage business. He feels that in order to continue, they can't lose good people so permanent policies need to be put in place to continue succeeding. Mr. Hecht also discussed GNO, Inc.'s business plan. They plan to focus on Energy, Shallow Water Drilling, and Trade. In addition to these foundations, Mr. Hecht mentioned other areas of interest such as Digital Media, Medical and Sustainable Industries which include waste, water and energy as well.





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## First Annual Cycle Orange Ride Registration Now Open



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PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LA • NOVEMBER 11-12, 2011

Enjoy Cycling AND one of Louisiana's BEST Festivals! Cycle Orange 2011 is a 60 mile loop ride beginning and ending at historic Fort Jackson in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This first-time event begins with registration opening at 7:30 a.m. and will conclude between noon and 1 p.m. on the same day.

**Date:**  
Sat., December 3, 2011 @ 7:30 AM

**Address:**  
Fort Jackson, Plaquemines Parish  
Louisiana, Buras-Triumph, LA

**Fees:** \$20.00 includes event t-shirt

**Registration Closing Date:**  
Thurs., December 1, 2011 @ 11:59 PM PST

**To register, please visit**  
www.plaqueminesparishtourism.com/  
cycleorange or  
www.mississippiivertrails.org

# PABI Participates In College and Career Day

College and Career Day brought together seniors, juniors, and 8th graders from all schools throughout the parish; including Belle Chasse Academy and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Approximately 749 students gathered at Belle Chasse High School, during staggered times, to focus their energy on the additional training necessary for a successful life.

Each group began their day with a motivational message that addressed their current transitional phase in life. This year's junior guest speaker was Dr. Shari Rodgers, former graduate of Belle Chasse High School, who is currently a family medical doctor at Ochsner Health Center in Belle Chasse. Dr. Rodgers challenged the students to think BIG! She encouraged them to stay focused and connect NOW with successful individuals who have trudged the paths they are pursuing.

Seniors are at a phase in life where they may begin seeking part-time employment. Therefore, they were gathered together for a message from Yvonne McIntyre, Human Resources Manager for Chevron Oronite. Ms. McIntyre's message centered on the skills the students should possess for considerable employment within a company or organization. She emphasized the value of teamwork, collaboration, and the importance of being able

to demonstrate to your employer your ability to perform the job you were hired to do! She stressed self motivation, perseverance, and determination as key ingredients for success in any field of study they pursue.

As a whole, the 8th graders were very impressive. They were greeted by members of the Belle Chasse High School Peer Support Leadership Class who spoke to them regarding making a successful transition to high school, the importance of school pride, time management, getting involved, and being role models. The goal was for them to leave College and Career Day with a sparked curiosity of the path they planned to pursue in life and the necessary training they would need to achieve their goals.

All 749 students were given the opportunity to meet with college representatives to discuss admission standards, academic programs, scholarship requirements, campus life, and financial aid opportunities.

Local businesses, representing the 16 Career Clusters recognized by the LA Department of Education, were on site to discuss information on education and skills needed for various career positions. Also, governmental agencies and community organizations were on site to discuss employment

possibilities, leadership opportunities, and after school program offerings.

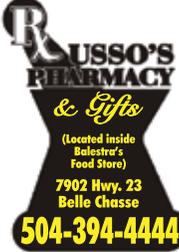
The Plaquemines Parish School System is truly grateful for the support we received from both the business and academic communities. As we continue to implement this program, we hope to provide each student with goal-specific information needed to make them successful future leaders of Plaquemines Parish.




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# DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill

By Dale Benoit, Governmental Affairs Chair

Oil and gas activity continues to suffer drastically following the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. GNO, Inc.'s Gulf Permitting Index (GPI) continues to show deep-water permit issuance continues to lag the monthly average observed in the year prior to the oil spill. Only 5.0 deep-water permits are being issued per month since September 2011, representing a 0.8-permit — or a 14% — monthly reduction from the average of 5.8 permits per month. This number also represents a 2.0-permit — or a 29% — reduction from the historical average of 7.0 permits per month over the past three years.

Shallow-water permit issuance is also below the historical average. Since September 2011, 7.0 shallow-water permits per month,

on average, were issued. That number represents a 52% decrease from historical average of 14.7 permits per month over the past three years.

In 2011, the average approval time for a plan is 114 days, compared to the historical average of 61 days. All deep-water plans that include any type of drilling activity must now undergo an environmental assessment (EA) process; for those plans requiring EAs in 2011, the average approval time is 218 days, significantly higher than the overall average approval time. Additionally, in 2011, 36% of plans submitted to BOEMRE are being approved, compared to the historical 73.4% approval rate.

## — CHECK IT OUT —

**PABI Member, John Espenan Star Electric, was featured on Front Page of City Business Nov. 4th edition.**

# INTERESTED IN PABI MEMBERSHIP?

For information about membership in the Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry, please Visit our website

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Message from the Chairman  
PABI Welcomes New Members  
Upcoming Events  
Communications Committee  
Venice Revitalization Committee  
September Meeting  
PABI Co-Sponsors Trade Show  
Calling All Businesses  
Plaquemines Orange Festival  
October Meeting  
First Annual Cycle Orange Ride  
PABI Participates in Career Day  
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Check It Out  
Interested in PABI Membership

## Inside PABI "BIZ"

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