

NEWS FROM THE DOCKS



ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

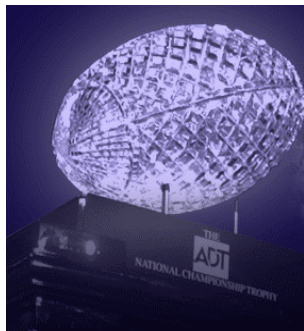
Louisiana Ports Deliver

January 2004
Volume 5, No. 1

Message from the PAL Office

It Happened! It actually happened!! LSU won the National Football Championship. Would anyone have predicted that in August? What a thrill for all of Louisiana. Congratulations to Coach Saban and all of his staff. You really made us proud!

GEAUX TIGERS



The start of 2004 has been a busy time in the PAL Office. All of our membership renewals have begun arriving. If you have not sent yours in yet, please remember to do so.

Plans continue to develop for our annual conference to be held in Houma in March. Speakers will include Dr. Loren Scott who will discuss Economic Impacts of the Oil and Gas Industry on Louisiana, and a panel of speakers addressing port security issues. Other topics to be discussed include oil spill response, coastal restoration and trends for Gulf Coast ports.

Registration information will be mailed toward the end of January and will be concurrently available on our website. The conference promises to be informative, entertaining and a good opportunity for networking. We hope you are planning to join us.

Remember that PAL has a very informative PowerPoint presentation. If your local civic organization is looking for speakers, contact the PAL office and we will arrange for one of Louisiana's port directors to talk to your group.

Legislative Update

House & Senate Leadership Elected

While people were gathering on the lawn of the state capitol preparing for the inauguration of the state's first woman governor, Kathleen Blanco, the House and Senate were in an organizational special session swearing in the newly elected legislators and electing their leadership. Senator Don Hines, a Bunkie democrat, was elected Senate President by acclamation and Representative Joe Salter, a Florien democrat, was elected Speaker of the House also without opposition.

One of the first jobs for the new leaders was to appoint committee chairmen and members. Speaker Salter was the first to notify his members of the assignments. Among the most important to PAL Members are the appointments of Rep. Roy Quezaire as House Transportation Chairman, Rep. Bryant Hammett, Chairman of Ways & Means, Rep. John Alario, Chairman of Appropriations.

Senate President Don Hines has made his chairmanships known, however entire committee rosters are yet to be announced. The new Senate Transportation Chairman is Senator Noble Ellington from Winnsboro, Senator Francis Heitmeier, Chairman Senate Finance and Senator Willie Mount Chairman Revenue & Fiscal Affairs.

Entire committee rosters (that are currently available) are shown at the end of this document.

Corporate Member News

Port of New Orleans

Napoleon Container Terminal Opens

The Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal began full operations today, receiving its first vessel the Lykes Motivator. The \$101-million terminal is being operated jointly by Ceres Gulf and P&O Ports of Louisiana. Both operators have finalized 24-year terminal leases with the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.



Lykes Motivator

"We are pleased to begin operations today," said Gary LaGrange, the port's executive director/CEO. "This is a technologically advanced terminal. We are utilizing transponders, digital cameras, optical character readers and AM radio broadcasting within our gate management system. We expect Napoleon Avenue to be the most efficient container terminal operation in the world."

Ceres and P&O are transferring their container operations from the terminals they previously operated at France Road on the Industrial Canal. CP Ships (Contship Containerlines, Italia Line, Lykes Lines and TMM Lines) Mediterranean Shipping and Zim Lines will operate out of the new terminal.

The Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal, which is located on the Mississippi River, occupies 61 acres and has a capacity of 366,000 teus. It includes two 1,000 foot berths with a draft of 45 feet. Four gantry cranes provide dockside lift capacity. The 48-acre marshalling yard includes six rubber tire gantry cranes and

connections for 192 refrigerated containers. The new container terminal is located within close proximity of the six class one-rail lines that intersect New Orleans.

The technology employed at Napoleon Avenue enables terminal operators to move a maximum number of containers without delay or congestion. Truckers use an internet-based appointment system to schedule cargo moves. They are required to arrive at the terminal within 30 minutes of their scheduled appointment.

Port of Greater Baton Rouge

The board of commissioners for the Port of Greater Baton Rouge recently elected officers for 2004. Officers elected include Charles L. Thibaut, Donaldsonville, president; Larry Woods, West Baton Rouge, vice president; Chucky Tillis, East Baton Rouge, treasurer; Larry Johnson, Port Allen, secretary. The new officers will be seated in January 2004 at the beginning of the port's fiscal year and will serve a one-year term.



Charles Thibaut – President Board of Commissioners, Port of Greater Baton Rouge

Thibaut, who was elected president, has served as a port commissioner representing Ascension Parish since 2000. He is an appointee of the Farm Bureau on the Port Commission. He serves as chairman of the National Legislative Committee for the American Sugarcane League, which represents the growers and processors of sugarcane in Louisiana. He is a sugarcane farmer in Ascension Parish and is a native of Donaldsonville where he resides with his wife and three children. Thibaut is also the general manager of Lemann & Thibaut, Inc., which operates Crescent Luxury RV Resort. Lemann & Thibaut, Inc. is a leading lessor of land to sugarcane farmers.

During his presidency, Thibaut plans to facilitate infrastructure improvements at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge to enhance port security.

"I am concerned about upgrading security at the port," said Thibaut, "and I want to assure port

tenants and employees that the port will be responsive and provide the best preventive security within our means." Thibaut said he wants to see the port's short-sea shipping service expand in an effort to continue increasing new customers for the port and the tonnage that goes through the port and the greater Baton Rouge area.

"We are excited about our new commission officers and we look forward to a productive, successful year for the port under their leadership," said Roger Richard, chief executive officer of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

Port of South Louisiana

The Port of South Louisiana will retain its ranking as America's largest tonnage port, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics for 2002. The "Transportation Center of the Americas," located in the parishes of St. Charles, St. John, and St. James on the Lower Mississippi River, ranked first with 216.4 million short tons of total waterborne commerce. In 2002, the port handled 124.9 million short tons of domestic cargo and 91.5 million short tons of foreign cargo, accounting for an overall increase of 1.8% from 2001. Total waterborne commerce includes import, export, coastal and inland commerce.

The port's leading cargoes include bulk products such as chemicals, petroleum, and grain commodities. As the largest grain port in the U.S., the elevators within the port handle over 60% of the nation's grain exports annually. On average, the public and private terminals transfer cargo on more than 4,000 deep-draft vessels from over 100 countries supported by approximately 100,000 barge transfers. Only the international ports of Rotterdam and Singapore handle more annual tonnage than the Port of South Louisiana.

At the heart of the port's 54 Mississippi River Mile jurisdiction is Globalplex Intermodal Terminal, located in Reserve, Louisiana. The 335 acre multi-use, multi-modal, public dock and storage facility is ideally located for markets of the world and the heartland of the U.S. The terminal's infrastructure, including the General Cargo Dock, Bulk Dock, Warehousing/Transit Sheds, and Roadway System, is designed to handle a variety of bulk, break-bulk, neo-bulk, and containerized products simultaneously.

Globalplex is modeled to meet the specific needs of small and mid-sized industrial, distribution, and manufacturing operations.



Purple Beach Containers and Steel Rolls at Globalplex

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joseph Accardo, Jr. believes that "the development of Globalplex Intermodal Terminal will further enhance the port's ranking as the largest tonnage port in the U.S. The #1 statistical ranking is proof that the Port of South Louisiana continues its mission to provide jobs and stimulate economic development opportunities for the citizens of our community."

Lake Providence Port Commission and Port of Columbia

Lake Providence and Columbia participated in the Northeast AG Expo 2004, which was held in Monroe on January 16 and 17th. The event was sponsored by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and attracted approximately 10,000 people.

With the assistance of the Red River Waterway Commission, a booth was established to showcase Louisiana's ports and the services they offer.

Materials were included from the Ports of Shreveport-Bossier, South Louisiana, Greater Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lake Charles as well as Columbia and Lake Providence. The presentation included videos and PAL's PowerPoint presentation.

Associate Member Profiles



Diamond B Construction

Drive a thirty- (30) mile section of I-10 through Egan, Jennings, Roanoke, and Lacassine or an eleven- (11) mile section of I-12 between Walker and Livingston and you might experience rain, sunshine or fog but you will not experience a bump. There are no bumps because of the attention to detail and quality work performed by the professional road building team of Diamond B Construction Co., LLC.

Founded in 1952 as L.H. Bossier, Inc. and reorganized in 1978 as Diamond B Construction Co., LLC it is the top asphalt producer in Louisiana with award winning road construction. Awards include:

- 2002 National Asphalt Pavement Association Quality in Construction Award I-10 Project
- 2002 National Asphalt Pavement Association Quality in Construction Award I-12 Project 454-02-0028
- 2002 Pavement Smoothness Award Federal Highway Administration I-12 Project 454-02-0028
- 1978 Sheldon G. Hayes Award National Asphalt Pavement Association US 71. This coveted recognition is awarded to only one contractor each year in the entire United States.



Diamond B generally operates five asphalt plants located around the state of Louisiana with

over 200 dedicated employees who take pride in their work and always put safety first. Permanent plant sites are in Alexandria, Monroe, and Amite. Diamond B is involved in all phases of highway construction including patching, milling, soil cement, and asphalt laydown.

Diamond B provides services and products to private and public entities. Diamond B produces and sells hot mix, cold mix, and gravel.

Heard McElroy & Vestal



Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, LLP is a locally owned and based professional service and certified public accounting firm with offices in Shreveport, Bossier City, and West Monroe. Since 1946, Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, L.L.P. (HMV) has strived to be a pillar of trust, integrity, and competence, remaining focused on the same goal, striving for the unconditional confidence of its clients. No matter what the scope of the engagement, HMV seeks to understand the clients' ultimate goals and motivations and searches beyond fiscal information for answers to their questions.

For the past eight years, *Practical Accountant* has ranked HMV in the top 15 accounting firms in the Southwest region of the United States. In the April 2003 edition, HMV was ranked ten when comparing the revenue of firms in the Southwest region. With twelve partners, an affiliation with Business Valuation Consultants, L.L.P., and a partnership with Enterprise Computer Services, L.L.P. (ECS), a business computer firm, Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, L.L.P. has endless ways to help clients reach their full wealth potential.

Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, L.L.P. employs more than 80 full and part-time employees. In the entire HMV firm, clients utilize the knowledge and experience of approximately 36 CPAs, Certified Financial Planners, Certified Valuation Analysts (professionals accredited in Business Valuation), and Certified Fraud Examiners. At Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, L.L.P., we're well prepared to meet both your business and personal financial needs. From basic accounting

issues to the most complex business transactions, HMV is staffed with the right people to help you make the right decisions.

Legal News



STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES FOR PORTS OF LOUISIANA

As a consequence of the events of September 11, 2001, Congress amended the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201, et seq.) by adding the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. Its purpose was to develop a multifaceted coordinated national strategy for carrying out health regulated activities to prepare for bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. The Act provides for funding guidelines and regulations for security, medical research, training, and emergency services so as to better respond should terrorists attack the nation's food supply, drinking water, and drug supply and reserves. The Act is very comprehensive and, as might be expected, lengthy. However, there are sections of interest particular to commerce and our ports. Title III, Section 302, recognizes the need for increased inspections of imported agricultural and food products and high priority is given to inspection efforts at U.S. ports of entry, the purpose being to detect the intentional adulteration of food intended for distribution across the nation.

The Act permits on site inspection and registration of all facilities engaged in processing, manufacturing, packing or holding of food. This applies to foreign and domestic facilities. As written, this would apply to barge fleets and land based facilities such as wharves, warehouses and elevators where food products may be stored or held. The Act required detailed records regarding food products being kept for at least two years and must be produced when requested. If food products are found to be questionable or possibly tainted, they can be detained and removed to a secure facility. The Act also prohibits "port shopping", that is, the practice of importers trying to enter a port with a product that has been refused by another. Space prohibits detailed analysis of the Act and the

requirements it places on industry, and a review of the Act itself is recommended.

What does this mean to the Ports of Louisiana? From a practical sense, it will require increased security and detailed record keeping. It will mean allowing free access to those facilities where food is imported for U.S. consumption. Further, it will apply to a broad range of facilities including fleets and land based structures where food products are stored pending shipment inland for consumption. Obviously, there will be expenses incurred in order to comply with these regulations. However, such is the price we pay given global events of the last three years.

**Wilton E. Bland, III - Partner at Mouldoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett, LLC
(504) 595-3000 www.mblb.com**



Federal Update

NOAA

Angela Cring of NOAA attended PAL's January meeting and discussed navigation charts that are available in an electronic, downloadable format. To access these charts go to the NOAA site at <ftp.rac.louisiana.edu/pub/NOAA/USCG>. There is a folder for Louisiana Charts.

USCG Marine Safety Unit, Houma requested that NOAA post a warning of hazard notice to NOAA's Coast Pilot for the area of Bayou Lafourche at Leeville Bridge. Eleven reported vessel strikes to the bridge have been recorded for this year. The presence of high current conditions at the bridge has made for the potential of vessels losing navigation control and hitting the bridge structures .



View of Leeville Bridge

In addition to the notice, USCG and NOAA are discussing a chart correction to post the warning and also the possible request of a current study and possible monitoring of current conditions of the waterway at the bridge.

Welcome New Associate Members

PAL would like to welcome CANAC, Inc. of Houston, TX as our newest associate member. Mr. Dennis Guth will be our contact person and CANAC describes their business as rail switching, track maintenance and rail track design.

If you have news to share, please send the PAL office a press release, and we will include it in the next issue. We would also like to include your pictures. Be sure to send them along as well as the articles.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 10 – 11, 2004

Seminar on Tide and Geodetic Datums in Louisiana
Sponsored by NOAA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

March 10-12, 2004

Annual Conference of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord will be held in Cancun, Quintana Roo www.gomsa.org

March 16-18, 2004

Inland Waterways Conference – Haytt Regency
New Orleans, LA <http://www.inlandwaterwaysconference.com/>

March 17-19, 2004 - PAL 21st Annual Conference

Holidome, Houma, LA (1-800-465-4329)

May 17-19, 2004

Port Planning and Management International Training Program
Sponsored by UNO – (504)280-6519

Louisiana
Ports Deliver

LA Senate Committee Assignments

Finance Chair, Francis Heitmeier

Agriculture Chair, Mike Smith

Commerce Chair, Ken Hollis

Education Chair, Chris Ullo

Environmental Quality Chair, Clo Fontenot

Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Chair, Willie Mount

Health & Welfare Chair, Joe McPherson

Retirement – Chair, Lambert Boissiere

Trans. Hwys & Public Works – Chair, Noble
Ellington

Insurance – Chair, James David Cain

Judiciary A - Chair, Art Lentini

Judiciary B – Chair, Rob Marionneaux

Judiciary C – Chair, Joel Chaisson

Labor & Industrial Relations – Chair, Kip Holden

Local & Municipal Affairs – Chair, Cleo Fields

Natural Resources – Chair, Max Malone

Senate & Governmental Affairs – Chair, Charles
Jones

LA House of Representatives

Committee Assignments

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DeWitt, Charlie
Glover, Cedric
Gray, Cheryl
Guillory, Elcie
Hopkins, Roy
Hudson, Charles
Hunter, Willie
LeFleur, Eric
McDonald, Charles
McVea, Tom
Murray, Ed
Scalise, Steve
Smith, Jack
Thompson, Francis
Welch, Yvonne

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Johns, Ronnie, Vice Chair
Alexander, Ernie
Badon, Austin
Bowler, Shirley
Carter, Robby
Gallot, Rick
Walker, Monica

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Doerge, Jean, Vice Chair
Bruce, Beverly
Crowe, A.G.
Flavin, Dan
Frith, Mickey
Geymann, Brett
Jackson, Michael
Marchand, Charmaine
Powell, Tank
Ritchie, Harold
Shepherd, Derrick
Smith, Gary
Strain, Mike
Trahan, Don
Waddell, Wayne
Walsworth, Mike
White, Bodie
Winston, Diane

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Honey, Avon
LaBruzzo, John
Morrish, Dan
Romero, Romo
St. Germain, Karen
Wright, Tommy

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Beard, Gary
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Dove, Gordon
Downs, Hollis
Erdey, Dale
Fannin, Jim
Futrell, Mike
Guillory, Mickey
Hutter, Nita
Katz, Kay
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Lambert, Eddie
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Powell, Mike
Smiley, Mert
Tucker, Jim

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Jefferson, Jalila
Kenney, Lelon
Montgomery, Billy
Morrell, Arthur
Odet, Ken
Richmond, Cedric
Smith, Jane
Townsend, Taylor

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Bruce, Beverly
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Cazayoux, Don
LeFleur, Eric
Morrell, Arthur
Romero, Romo
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Pitre, Loulan
Smiley, Mert

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McVea, Tom
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Dartez, Carla
Dove, Gordon
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Guillory, Mickey
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Kenney, Lelon
LaFleur, Eric
Morrish, Dan
Smith, Jack
St. Germain, Karen
Strain, Mike

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Farrar, Rick
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Romero, Romo
Shepherd, Derrick
Welch, Yvonne
White, Bodie
Wright, Tommy

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Johns, Ronnie
Murray, Ed
Odet, Ken
Pitre, Loulan
Powell, Tank
Scalise, Steve

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Gray, Cheryl
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Trahan, Don
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