



Fall 2011

Newsletter

Member Update of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

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NOTE: Past Chairmen Serve as
Ex-Officio Board Members

PAR's 2011 conference draws record support and attendance

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana marked its 61st year with a record-breaking annual conference April 29 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. The luncheon brought an audience of more than 600 people to hear Louisiana political consultant **James Carville** deliver the keynote speech, *James Carville Looks at Louisiana Politics Today and Tomorrow*. Louisiana Gov. **Bobby Jindal** also addressed the luncheon with a presentation about key issues in the legislative session. Special thanks to the conference co-chairs **David Eustis** and **Ben Miller**.

The presenting sponsors of the event were **All Star Automotive Group, Chevron, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Cox Communications, the William J. Dore' Family, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System and IberiaBank**. More than 70 organizations, companies and individuals served as gold and silver table sponsors.

The morning panel featured an informative discussion about challenges facing the state. The panelists were House Speaker **Jim Tucker**, State Sen. **Eric LaFleur** and Associated Press Baton Rouge correspondent **Melinda Deslatte**. The discussion was moderated by **Shauna Sanford** of Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

James "The Ragin' Cajun" Carville is one of America's best-known political consultants. He has managed the successful campaigns of many politicians, including Bill Clinton's presidential bid in 1992. In recent years he has focused on campaigns in more than 20 countries around the globe. He is a frequent political commentator on CNN and a professor of practice at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he lives with his wife and family.



James Carville offers the keynote speech.



Gov. **Bobby Jindal**.



Panelists State Sen. **Eric LaFleur** (left) and House Speaker **Jim Tucker** with moderator **Shauna Sanford**.

PAR elects new board

R. Hunter Pierson of Pierson Investments in New Orleans was elected chairman of the Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) Board of Directors at the organization's annual conference in Baton Rouge on April 29.

The PAR Board also elected **Richard B. Crowell** of Crowell & Owens in Alexandria as vice chairman. **Jacob Giardina, Jr.**, of HONIRON Corporation in Jeanerette, was elected as secretary, and **Allan Bissinger**, of Electrical Sales Corporation in Metairie, was elected treasurer.

In addition to officers, the PAR membership elected four new Board members for three-year terms ending in 2014. New members are: **Blake Chatelain**, president & CEO, Red River Bank, Alexandria; **Henson Moore**, former U.S. Congressman, Baton Rouge; **Donald Washington**, attorney, Jones Walker, Lafayette; and **Stephanie Cargile**, public and government affairs manager, ExxonMobil, Baton Rouge

The PAR membership also re-elected four directors to serve another three-year term ending in 2014. They are: **Beth Courtney**, president/CEO, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Baton Rouge; **Fred Loy**, president, Government Corporate Consultants, Baton Rouge; **Freddie Pitcher, Jr.**, chancellor, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge; and **Luis Zervigon**, principal, investment management consultant, Crescent Capital Consulting, LLC, New Orleans.



James Carville; Donna Saurage, past PAR chair; Robert Travis Scott, PAR president; Blake Chatelain, PAR board member; and George Nelson, past PAR chair.



From left: (standing) Ben Marmande, IberiaBank; Kevin McCotter, Chesapeake; David Eustis, event co-chair; Dr. Thomas Perone, FMOL Health System; Bill Lockwood, All Star; Hunter Pierson, PAR chair; Ben Miller, event co-chair; (seated) Kevin Reilly, Sr.; Jacqui Vines, Cox Communications; James Carville and Donna Saurage, past PAR chair.



Ben Marmande, IberiaBank (left); Jim Brandt, past PAR president; Lana Sonnier Venable, ExxonMobil; and Beth Courtney, PAR board member.

Save the Date
2012 PAR Conference
April 27, 2012

New Leadership at PAR

PAR underwent a leadership transition in 2011 as Robert Travis Scott took over as president following the retirement of Jim Brandt, who had been president since 1999. Alison Neustrom, Ph.D., took over the position of PAR research director after the departure of Jennifer Pike, who is now a foreign service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development.



A veteran news reporter, Scott has served the citizens of the state for the past 14 years by providing in-depth coverage of political and economic developments in Louisiana. He has received regional and national recognition for his investigative reporting projects and writing.

He has been a journalist in South Carolina and associate director and editor for a nonprofit national security group in Washington, D.C., that is an authority on nuclear arms negotiations. As capital bureau chief of The Times-Picayune and previously as business editor, Scott has extensive experience communicating effectively with government and business leaders. He has lived in Baton Rouge since 2002, covering the Legislature, the governor's office, state politics, business development and the occasional hurricane. Scott brings to PAR a rich background in communications, policy analysis and nonprofit management supported by a passion for making Louisiana a better place to live and prosper.



Dr. Neustrom joined PAR after serving as the vice-president for public policy at the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations where she was responsible for monitoring legislation and informing public policy for the benefit of Louisiana's nonprofit sector and the people

it serves. Prior to that, she served as assistant secretary of the Office of Family Support at the Louisiana Department of Social Services. She served four years as director of policy and planning at the DSS. She also worked as a research associate with the California Judicial Council. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and her graduate degrees are from Louisiana State University. She did post-doctoral work at the University of California Berkeley.

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For more information, contact
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