PAR’s 2013 conference another resounding success

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana marked its 63rd year with an enormously successful annual conference April 19 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. The luncheon brought an audience of more than 600 people to hear Vice President of Public and Governmental Affairs for Exxon Mobil Corp., Ken Cohen, deliver the keynote speech. Cohen has world-wide responsibility for the company’s public policy, government relations, communications and corporate citizenship activities. His speech at the PAR luncheon addressed his forecast for the global energy industry and Louisiana’s future role.

The presenting sponsors of the event were Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Chevron, Cox Communications, Eagle Cove Investments, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, Jones Walker, LUBA Workers’ Comp, Pierson Investments, Turner Industries and Verizon. More than 60 organizations, companies and individuals served as gold and silver table sponsors.

The morning panel featured an informative discussion about the 2013 legislative session and the fiscal and tax reform challenges facing the state. The panelists were Sen. Jean-Paul Morrell, Rep. Joel Robideaux, Rep. Brett Geymann, and Baton Rouge correspondent for The Associated Press, Melinda Deslatte. The discussion was moderated by Robert Travis Scott, PAR President.

Special thanks to the conference co-chairs, David Eustis and Ben Miller.
PAR elects new board

The PAR Board elected the following officers to serve a term of one year: Chairman of the board is Dick Crowell of Alexandria; Vice Chairman is Jacob Giardina, Jr. of Jeanerette; Secretary is Allan Bissinger of Metairie; and Treasurer is Scott Hensgens of Baton Rouge.

The PAR membership elected the following directors to serve a three-year term ending in 2016. S. Dennis Blunt is a partner with Phelps Dunbar, LLP located in Baton Rouge. Michael J. Brown is vice chairman & COO of IBERIABANK Corp. located in New Orleans. Steve Hemperley is manager of Commercial Banking and market president for Greater New Orleans located in New Orleans. Jody Montelaro is vice president of regulatory and governmental affairs of Entergy Louisiana & Entergy Gulf States in Baton Rouge. Kenneth Robison is CEO of Crest Industries located in Pineville. Deborah Sternberg is President of Life Division, Starmount Life Insurance located in Baton Rouge. Drew Tessier is director of public affairs of Union Pacific Railroad located in Baton Rouge.

The PAR membership also re-elected the following directors to serve another three-year term ending in 2016. They are: J.H. Campbell, Jr., president/CEO, Associated Grocers, Baton Rouge; Duane Cowart, government affairs consultant, The Cowart Group, Baton Rouge; John Finan, president/CEO, FMOL Health System, Baton Rouge; Trey Hill, public affairs manager, Atmos Entergy, Lafayette; Glenn Kinsey, president, Kinsey Interests, Shreveport; Ashton Phelps, New Orleans; Sean Reilly, CEO, Lamar Corporation, Baton Rouge; Julian Rodrigue, attorney, Rodrigue & Rodrigue, Covington; Virginia Rowan, New Orleans and Bill Scheffy, Baton Rouge.
Legacy Giving

Kinsey Challenge Grant

PAR has received an extraordinarily generous challenge grant to support its work from the estate of Norman Kinsey. The late Mr. Kinsey served with distinction as chairman of PAR’s Board of Directors from 1978 to 1980 and remained involved in PAR’s work throughout his life. We are pleased that the Kinsey family’s long standing commitment to PAR’s mission now continues through the Kinsey Challenge Grant. This grant will match dollar for dollar donations to support PAR’s research. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan Mintz Kantrow at (225) 921-8414, ext. 217 or susan@parlouisiana.org

There are a number of options to include PAR in your will or estate plans:

► Wills: You can include PAR in your will. If you have done so, please let us know.

► IRA Rollover: An extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover allows those age 70 ½ and over to direct up to $100,000 of traditional IRA funds to PAR, tax-free. These distributions count towards your minimum distribution; however, they are not tax deductible. The rollover lasts only through December 2013, meaning donors have a limited time to take advantage of this opportunity.

► Contingency Beneficiary: You may list PAR as a contingency beneficiary of an amount in your will. Making PAR a contingency beneficiary guarantees that if the primary beneficiary of your assets is unable to receive them, they will still be put to good use in the form of a charitable donation to PAR.

If you are interested in knowing how to include PAR in your will/estate plans, please contact Susan Mintz Kantrow at (225) 926-8414, ext. 217 or susan@parlouisiana.org.

PAR Wins GRA “Most Effective Education” Project

During the Governmental Research Association annual conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, PAR was announced as the winner of the “Most Effective Education” Project for its Sunshine Headquarters. The Most Effective Education Award recognizes research and educational activities that are designed to educate the public and public officials on governmental matters.

The Sunshine Headquarters educates citizens on the Open Meetings Law, Public Records Law and Campaign Finance Law in Louisiana. The Sunshine Headquarters provides a variety of tools, including educational materials, publications, interactive quizzes and current news related to sunshine laws.

This award is among the 37 PAR has received from the GRA for its research since the 1950s.
PAR Thanks Leadership Gift Donors

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Save the Date
2014 PAR Conference
April 11, 2014

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