PAR @ WORK

If you’re in the business of providing an independent and objective voice in favor of responsible government, you’re going to be busy with requests for analysis, commentary, speeches, legislative testimony and media appearances. That was PAR this past year. We’ve had intensive input—often with meaningful results—with policymakers, the press, business, nonprofit groups and the general public.

Here’s some of what we’ve been up to:

► Providing leadership for open records legislation and government transparency initiatives
► Protecting ethics laws and enforcement
► Watch-dogging the state coastal fund
► Giving guidance for a future constitutional convention
► Promoting state retirement reform
► Encouraging better state spending practices
► Enlightening the next redistricting process
► Finding solutions for early childhood education
► Shaping the discussion about sales tax upheavals
► Researching state workforce solutions
► Analyzing online learning trends reshaping our education culture

A Note from the President

I’m pleased to report the demand for PAR’s insights and information is stronger than ever. It’s a tough environment out there for getting good things done, but the appetite for ideas and mature guidance is still abundantly evident. Whether it’s performing as a thought leader for a constitutional revision, a reformer for state pensions, or a protector of effective ethics and open records law, PAR is playing a valuable and respected role on many important policy matters.

After more than three decades in our old location, PAR’s move to a strategically designed space in downtown Baton Rouge in February was a significant step in our effort to connect with public policy stakeholders and to convene meetings and collaborations. We’d love to see our members come by for a visit! A huge thanks to all of you who make our work possible.

Robert Travis Scott
Quick Guide to the 2018 Constitutional Amendments

The full Guide will be released October 2018.

There are six constitutional amendments on the ballot for the November 6, 2018, election. As always, PAR will be publishing a non-partisan guide describing the amendments as well as arguments for and against adopting them. If adopted, the six proposed amendments would:

1. Prohibit a convicted felon from seeking or holding public office for five years after serving his sentence unless he is pardoned.
2. Require a unanimous jury verdict in all new noncapital felony cases.
3. Allow donations from one political subdivision to another for authorized activities.
4. Remove the authority to use money in the Transportation Trust Fund by state police for traffic control purposes.
5. Extend eligibility for certain special property tax treatments to property in trust.
6. Require that any reappraisal of the value of residential property by more than 50% be phased in over four years.

In addition to these six constitutional amendments, there will be a statewide ballot to authorize fantasy sports betting within each parish.

PAR Highlights Louisiana Coast

Earth Day celebrates the awesome natural beauty of our planet and brings our attention to what we can do to protect our environment. That date was the perfect time to reflect on the beauty and importance of Louisiana’s coast and our commitment to protect and restore it. PAR’s Earth Day six-part series, released in April, reviewed the state’s progress in meeting PAR’s coastal recommendations and looks ahead at what can be done better.

In 2016 PAR published The New Louisiana Purchase: Building Trust with Sound Coastal Investment Policies. The report made specific recommendations on how to improve governance and invest coastal funds wisely. The best way to improve Louisiana’s coast and the public’s confidence in coastal policy makers is to take action based on strong science and good engineering. PAR’s report focused on good management practices, financial responsibility, accountability and efficiency.

PAR will continue to serve as a watchdog over the coastal program. We will investigate the roadblocks that prevent projects from moving forward. PAR will issue recommendations on what should be done to remove these roadblocks and speed up progress.

Citizens should remain mindful of the responsibility of our state leaders to wisely invest coastal funding to protect and restore our coast and earn the public’s confidence. This requires recognizing the positive efforts that have been made. It also requires vigilance and constant review to ensure improvements continue. The work done by policy makers so far provides reasonable hope for the future.
A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

PAR sends a big thank you to our new and renewing members. Your support helps us to continue the work of being Louisiana’s voice, offering solutions for the betterment of our state in areas such as government transparency, education, economic development, infrastructure and health care. We are grateful for your partnership!

More than a Membership ... It’s a PARtnership

We encourage our members to share PAR’s educational resources with colleagues, friends and family. Thank you again for your support of PAR!

Guide to the Louisiana Legislature

The PAR Guide to the Legislature is the indispensible booklet for anyone dealing with state government. Whether you are a veteran lobbyist or a political novice, the Guide provides valuable information to make you better informed about state legislators, other elected officials, the congressional delegation and state agencies.

The Guide includes sources of income for legislators, committee assignments, contact information and much more.

Copies are $10 each and can be purchased online at www.parlouisiana.org or at the PAR office. PAR members receive a free copy annually.

The PAR Guide mobile app can now be downloaded for free on Apple and Android devices and provides additional access to important PAR reports and resources.

PAR thanks Entergy, Fishman Haygood, Ochsner Health System and Verizon for their underwriting support of the Guide.

Additional Guide resources are available for desktop and mobile devices. The 2018 e-Guide can be purchased for $45 online or by contacting the PAR office. This database is a valuable resource for nonprofits, businesses and other grassroots organizations that frequently interact with elected officials.

The 2019 Regular Legislative Session begins April 8, 2019. The 2019 PAR Guide to the Legislature will be available in late March.
Advancing conversations about what we can do to best move our state forward and sharing perspectives that eventually shape policy is what Gov. John Bel Edwards credits PAR with doing. He touched on the issues of budget, employment, education, health care and the industrial climate and believes that on the other side of those challenges is an era of prosperity.

Walter Isaacson, former president/CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, D.C., continued the conversation with how we’ll be successful as a state: “Bred into us as Louisianans is that we all like each other,” says Isaacson. “The coolness of our culture is diversity. We can all get along.” He reminded the crowd that most issues don’t have a partisan solution to them. Every day it’s up to us to know when to compromise and when to hold true to principle.

Isaacson related a great connection between the teachings of statesman Benjamin Franklin, our progress as a state and the mission of PAR. Franklin founded a club very much like PAR back in 1727: the Leather Apron Club. It challenged business people, artisans, shopkeepers and professionals to be more engaged in civic life to figure out the problems of a growing city.

At each meeting Franklin looked at public research issues of the times and tried to create policies not based on pure ideology or partisanship but on studies of what worked and what didn’t—much like PAR does today. He was guided by facts and even enforced a code of civility, fining members for being unnecessarily contentious.

As a tradesman, if Franklin had a joint of wood that wouldn’t quite fit together, he’d shave a little from each side until he had a joint that would hold together for centuries. So we, too—especially in Legislative sessions—must each part with some of our demands. Compromise makes great democracies. The genius of Ben Franklin, Isaacson contends, is this: He learned that the pretense of humility is just as valuable as the reality of it. It makes you listen to the person next to you; it makes you find the common ground.
Leadership and Common Ground was the theme of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana’s annual meeting on April 6 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge.

PAR TALKS!
Four young legislators preview the future

PAR’s 2018 Annual Conference featured a segment of PAR Talks that highlighted perspectives of four legislators age 40 or under about the future of our state. PAR Talks was sponsored by Covalent Logic and the media company LaPolitics, which featured each presentation as its own episode in a four-part series of the LaPolitics Lowdown.

Click the link in each photo below to watch each PAR Talk episode on LaPolitics Lowdown!

Rep. Julie Emerson
The Meaning of Place
Emerson is from Carencro and serves as State Representative for House District 39 in Lafayette and St. Landry parishes. She focuses on the meaning of place and how it can influence job creation and quality of life.

Rep. Ted James
Failure, Assumptions & Compassion
James is a Baton Rouge native who serves as State Representative for House District 10. He concentrates on the meaning of failure, assumptions about race and the need for more compassion in everything we do.

Rep. Helena Moreno
Effective Advocacy
Moreno is a former state representative who has transitioned into her new role on the New Orleans City Council. She gives her top tips for successfully passing a bill through the Legislature—without having to run for office.

Rep. John Stefanski
Community
Stefanski is the freshman representative for House District 42 from Crowley. He talks about community—both at home and online—and the effect social media has had on government transparency, voting and keeping in touch with his district.

1. Walter Isaacson gives the keynote speech at the 2018 Annual Conference Luncheon.
2. PAR’s staff Cree Matlock, Julie Mascarella, Susan Mintz Kantrow and Connie McClendon
3. PAR Policy Director Steven Procopio and Rep. John Stefanski
4. PAR 2017-18 interns Haley Grieshaber, Sarah Dai and Clarence Sutton III
5. Gov. John Bel Edwards addresses PAR supporters at the 2018 Annual Conference Luncheon.
6. Top: Hunter Pierson, Karl Landreneau, Ralph Bender, Jude Melville; Bottom: Toby Craig, Peggy Scott, April Brumfield, Fran Gladden
7. Rep. Ted James shares his perspective with PAR President Robert Travis Scott at the morning session of the 2018 Annual Conference.
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*Ex-officio

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**PAR Renews Board Members**

The PAR board has re-elected officers for 2018-2019 to serve a final term in their current roles (officers may serve two terms).

From left to right:  
Secretary Kristin Wall,  
Vice Chairman Scott Hensgens, Treasurer S. Dennis Blunt and Chairman Allan Bissinger with PAR President Robert Travis Scott

The PAR membership re-elected the following directors to serve another three-year term ending in 2020:

- **Greg Cotter**—Retired, Baton Rouge
- **Fran Gladden**—VP, Governmental and Public Affairs, Cox, Baton Rouge
- **Ed Hardin Jr.**—Partner, Kean Miller, Baton Rouge
- **Ann Knapp**—Retired, Lake Charles
- **Rob Ratcliff Jr.**—President, Ratcliff Construction, Alexandria
- **Dr. Phillip Rozeman**—Founder, Education’s Next Horizon, Shreveport
- **Roland Toups**—Chairman and CEO, Turner Industries, Baton Rouge
Join or Renew Your Membership

As a new or renewing member of PAR, you will receive all the benefits of membership:

✓ PAR Insights digital publication
✓ Special reduced price to annual conference and luncheon
✓ FREE Annual PAR Guide(s) to the Louisiana Legislature
✓ All PAR reports, analyses and other publications
✓ Networking opportunities
✓ Participation in the nominating process for future research topics
✓ Award-winning research reports and publications on high-priority issues
✓ The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to make Louisiana a better place

PAR has suggested dues requirements for individuals, businesses and other organizations based on their size and type. Please view the membership scale below.

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<th>Package</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>(Full time/30 years old or younger)</td>
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<td>Retirees</td>
<td>Sustainer</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<td>Benefactor</td>
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<td>Small Businesses/Nonprofits</td>
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<td>Benefactor</td>
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Your membership dues support the operations of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. You may join online at parlouisiana.org/join-par/.

PAR’s mission is to be Louisiana’s independent voice offering solutions to crucial issues for the betterment of our state through accurate, objective research and focusing public attention on those solutions.

PAR Staff

Robert Travis Scott, President
Steven Procopio, Policy Director
Cree Matlock, Research Projects Director
Stacey Emick Howell, Director of Development
Julie Mascarella, Office Manager
Connie McClendon, Administrative Assistant