



Summer 2012

# Newsletter

*Member Update of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana*

## PAR 2012-2013 Board of Directors

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**R. Hunter Pierson**  
*Chairman*

**Richard B. "Dick" Crowell**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Jacob Giardina, Jr.**  
*Secretary*

**Allan Bissinger**  
*Treasurer*

### Board Members

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Bill Scheffy  
Roland Touns  
W. Foster Walker, III  
Kristin Wall  
Donald Washington  
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*\*Past Chairmen Serve as  
Ex-Officio Board Members*

## PAR's 2012 conference another resounding success

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana marked its 62nd year with an enormously successful annual conference April 27 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. The luncheon brought an audience of more than 600 people to hear NPR Congressional Correspondent Andrea Seabrook deliver the keynote speech. An award-winning journalist, Seabrook has covered Congress for NPR since 2003. Her insightful reporting explains the complexities of legislation and reveals long-range trends in American politics with a critical eye. Her speech at the PAR luncheon addressed the influence of money in national politics.



Andrea Seabrook, NPR

The presenting sponsors of the event were **All Star Automotive Group, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Chevron, Cox Communications, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, LUBA Workers' Comp and Pierson Investments.** Almost 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 **Sen. Jack Donahue**, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, **Sen. Sharon Weston Broome**, Senate President Pro Tempore, **Rep. Walt Leger III**, House Speaker Pro Tempore and LaPolitics Weekly columnist **John Maginnis**. The discussion was moderated by **Shauna Sanford** of Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

Special thanks to the conference co-chairs, **David Eustis** and **Ben Miller**.



*Clockwise from top: Sen. Sharon Weston Broome, John Maginnis, Rep. Walt Leger III, Sen. Jack Donahue. Middle: Shauna Sanford*

## PAR elects new board

The PAR Board re-elected the following officers to serve a term of one year: Chairman of the board is **R. Hunter Pierson** of New Orleans; Vice Chairman is **Richard B. Crowell** of Alexandria; Secretary is **Jacob Giardina, Jr.**; and Treasurer is **Allan Bissinger** of Metairie.

The PAR membership elected the following directors to serve a three-year term ending in 2015. **Dr. Phillip Rozeman**, a cardiologist and founder of Education's Next Horizon located in Shreveport. **Roland Toups** is president & CEO of Turner Industries located in Baton Rouge. **Kristin Wall** is president & CEO of Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation located in Baton Rouge.

The PAR membership also re-elected the following directors to serve another three-year term ending in 2015. They are: **Charlotte Brent**, SCO road & rail operations leader, Union Carbide Corporation, Hahnville; **Greg Cotter**, Baton Rouge; **Fran Gladden**, vice president of governmental and public affairs, Cox Communications, Baton Rouge; **Ann Knapp**, senior financial advisor, Merrill Lynch, Lake Charles; **Ben Miller, Jr.**, of counsel, Kean Miller, LLP, Baton Rouge; **Ralph Miller**, vice president of state government relations, Freeport-McMoRan, New Orleans; and **W. Foster Walker, III**, president, Walker Automotive, Alexandria.



From left: (standing) **Paul Pratt**, Chesapeake; **Ben Miller**, Kean Miller, event co-chair; **Buddy Wells**, All Star; **Hunter Pierson**, Pierson Investments, PAR board chair; **David Eustis**, event co-chair; (seated) **Troy Prevot**, LUBA; **Andrea Seabrook**, NPR; **Jacqui Vines**, Cox; and **Deborah Ford**, FMOL.



From left: **Robert Travis Scott**, PAR President; **Andrea Seabrook**, NPR; **Dan Bevan**, Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation; **Stephanie Cargile**, ExxonMobil, PAR board member; **Ben Miller**, Kean Miller, event co-chair.



**Layne McDaniel**, Noesis Data, Past PAR board member; **Donna Saurage**, Past PAR Chair; **Jay Campbell**, Associated Grocers, PAR board member.



**Dr. Jimmy Peltier**, Past PAR chair; **Ann Peltier**.



# PAR mourns the passing of committed board members

PAR celebrates the life, leadership and commitment of ...

Norman Kinsey, who served as chairman of PAR from 1979 to 1980. He remained committed to PAR's work throughout his life and was always willing to offer advice, and PAR called on him often. Mr. Kinsey often said that his work with PAR was one means of meeting his public responsibilities. PAR is grateful to Norman's son Glenn for continuing the family's service to PAR.

Edward "Eddie" Stauss served as chairman of PAR from 1971 to 1972 and continued to be active after his chairmanship. Mr. Stauss said, "PAR is the finest organization in Louisiana. It has more influence on state government than any other agency." PAR is fortunate to have benefitted from Mr. Stauss' numerous leadership positions within the organization.

Art Thiel first joined PAR in 1959 as a researcher and served as president from 1975 to 1984. Over the course of 25 years, Mr. Thiel earned both the respect and the wrath of state leaders. During his time at PAR, he oversaw the restructuring of the executive budget process under Gov. John McKeithen, helped to redraw the state's legislative district lines after the 1970 Census, and assisted residents in several Louisiana cities set up home rule charters. Mr. Thiel left an indelible mark on PAR and on the state of Louisiana. His passion for reform will be missed.

Mr. Pierson asked the luncheon participants to observe a moment of silence in memory of these three outstanding individuals who so positively impacted PAR.

**Save the Date**  
**2013 PAR Conference**  
**April 19, 2013**

## Leadership Gift Donors

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 Turner Industries Group  
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 Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

Leadership gifts are \$5,000 and above  
 received as of April 13, 2012

## 2012 Annual Conference and Luncheon Presenting Sponsors



### Gold Table Sponsors

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Louisiana Machinery  
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Thibodaux Regional Medical Center  
University of New Orleans

**Please remember PAR in your  
will or estate planning.**

For more information, contact  
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