Fall 2014

NEWSLETTER

Member Update of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

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** Past Chairmen Serve as Ex-Officio Board Members*

President's Letter

Robert Travis Scott, PAR President

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana is performing valuable work as an independent and nonpartisan voice for responsible government. The new Sunshine Headquarters recently won a national award as a public education service. PAR has been at the forefront of objective analysis for the state's most significant and complex political issues, including health care, taxes, and fiscal reform. PAR's work on state finances and taxes was called a "must read" by one columnist. An editorial described PAR's report on charity hospital privatizations as "required reading." PAR has published more than a dozen policy and resource documents since January. The popular Guide to the Legislature is now available as a free mobile app for iPhone and Android devices. The new edition of PAR's Guide to the Constitutional Amendments promises to be an indispensable resource for the public and media. This year PAR has embarked on a project providing fiscal oversight of the state's spending on coastal restoration and protection. Major reports are forthcoming on workforce development, k-12 learning and university R&D practices. The foundation of PAR's accomplishments are its members, board of directors and supporters across the state. We invite those who care about good government in Louisiana to join our effort in sustaining a vibrant and effective organization.

From Left: Robert Travis Scott, Leonard Downie Jr., Jacqui Vines, Ben Miller

From Left Top: Steve Werner, Ben Miller, Don Washington, Paul Pratt, Robert Travis Scott, Roland Toups

From Left Bottom: Janice Downie, Leonard Downie Jr., Beck Crowell, Dick Crowell

PAR's 2014 Annual Conference and Luncheon

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana held the largest and most successful annual conference in its 64 year history on April 11 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. Special thanks to the conference co-chairs, David Eustis, Ben Miller, and Virginia Freeman Rowan. The luncheon was attended by more than 600 people, who gathered to support PAR and to hear the vice president at large and former executive editor of the Washington Post, Leonard Downie, Jr., deliver the keynote speech. During his 44 years in the Washington Post newsroom, he was also an investigative reporter, editor of the local and national news staffs, London correspondent, and, from 1984 to 1991, managing editor under then executive editor Ben Bradlee. His speech at the PAR luncheon was titled "Government Accountability and the Press in the Digital Age," which addressed the relationship between technology, the media and the government.

The premier sponsor of the event was Verizon. The presenting sponsors of the event were Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Chevron, Cleco, Cox Communications, Eagle Cove Investments, Jones Walker, LCMC Health, LUBA Workers' Comp, Pierson Investments, Ratcliff Companies and Turner Industries. More than 60 organizations, companies and individuals served as gold and silver table sponsors.

The morning panel featured an informative discussion about the 2014 legislative session as well as state policy changes beyond the leglislative session. The panelists were State Representative and Vice Chair of the House Appropriations committee Simone Champagne, State Representative and Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Katrina Jackson, State Treasurer John Kennedy and Editor of LaPolitics.com and LaPolitics Weekly Jeremy Alford. The discussion was moderated by Robert Travis Scott, PAR President.

Keynote Speaker **Leonard Downie Jr.** during his presentation - *Government Accountability and the Press in the Digital Age*

State Repesentative and Legislative Black Caucus Chairman, **Katrina Jackson**, during the panel discussion

State Treasurer, **John Kennedy**, answering questions during the panel discussion

From left: Editor of LaPolitics.com and LaPolitics Weekley, **Jeremy Alford**, and State Representative and Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, **Simone Champagne**, during the panel discussion

Legacy Giving

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

- Wills: You can include PAR in your will with a specific dollar amount or percentage. If you have already done so, please let us know.
- Contingency Beneficiary: You may consider listing PAR as a contingency beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA. Making PAR a contingency beneficiary guarantees that if the primary beneficiary of your assets is unable to receive these gifts, 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 Elects New Board

The PAR board has 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 has elected the following directors to serve a three-year term ending in 2016. **Darren Olagues** is the President of CLECO Power, located in Pineville. **Nancy Tower** is the Training and Communications manager at Sasol North America, located in Westlake.

The PAR membership also re-elected the following directors to serve another three-year term ending in 2017. They are: **Stephanie Cargile**, Manager of Public Relations of ExxonMobil, Baton Rouge; **Beth Courtney** President/CEO of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Baton Rouge; **Fred Loy,** President, Government Corporate consultants, Baton Rouge; **Freddie Pitcher Jr.,** Chancellor, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge; and **Donald Washington**, Partner, Jones Walker, Lafayette.

Save the Date
2015 PAR Conference
April 23, 2015

From Left: Kristin Wall, Roland Toups, Deborah Sternberg

From Left: Scott Hensgens, Virgina Freeman Rowan, Jacqui Vines, Donna Saurage, Jake Giardina, David Eustis

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