



**WE SERVE!**

## CALENDAR

Feb. 12—Board meeting  
at Cajun Catfish

Feb 15-16—District  
Lions Forum at the Best  
Western in Alexandria

## SPEAKERS

Jan 30—Lions Forum for  
our club

## BIRTHDAYS

Marion Chaney	1/22
Edward Morrison	1/24
Billy Hughes	1/27

# THE LIONS TALE

**Alexandria Lions Club**

*P.O. Box 13*

*Alexandria, Louisiana 71309*

*318.640.5020*

*www.alexlions.com*

**January 23, 2008**

**Lion Chuck Tosten** led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn** led in prayer.

The **2 Card Draw** grew once again. **Lion Bill Bush** drew for himself and **Lion Bob Hollingsworth**, but couldn't find the joker.

**Lion Amy McGinity** missed out on the \$80 door prize, so the amount rises to \$85.

**Guests today** were Rebecca Morris, guest of Lion President James Ballard, Laura Bryan, guest of Lion Donna Vilar, Marie Masson, guest of Lion Henry, and new Police Juror Richard Vanderlick, guest of Lion Emile Belgard.

### Announcements:

We wish the best for **Lion Harmon** as he had additional surgery today. We'll start missing **Lion Susan** as she has surgery scheduled.

**Lion President James Ballard** proudly displayed a generous check for \$1500 for the Lions Camp donated by **Lion Amy McGinity** and her husband. Each holiday season, the McGinitys donate to the Camp in lieu of gifts to their business associates.

**Lion Chuck Tosten** announced that the Lions Eye Foundation Sugar Bowl raffle grossed more than \$124,000. They expect the net proceeds to exceed \$100,000.

There will be a Lions Forum at the Best Western in Alexandria on Feb. 15-16. See Lion Aaron if you'd like to attend. The Club will pay your fees.

Our meetings will now be held at the Econo Lodge. **No, we aren't moving**, but the hotel is changing its name. Don't let new signs cause any confusion.



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## 2007-08 Lion Board

### President

**James Ballard**

### 1st Vice-President

**Bob Hollingsworth**

### 2nd Vice-President

**Viola Britt**

### 3rd Vice-President

**Dave Perry**

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Aaron McAllister**

**PDG**

### Tail Twister

**Joe Wolf, PDG**

### Lion Tamer

**Susan Ballard**

### Membership Chair

**Sam Echols**

### Ex-Officio

**Kermit Pharris**

### Board Members

**Andy Juneau**

**Joe Daniels**

**Jared Hicks**

**Hank Smart**

**Beverly Price**

**Patrick Cunningham**

### Editor

**Viola Britt**

**308-2077**

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Lion Viola introduced our speaker, Johnny Martin of the Roy O Martin companies. He is on the Board of Blueprint Louisiana.

Blueprint Louisiana began after three friends in Lafayette started talking about what it would take to make real changes in Louisiana. People all over the state are tired of ranking last in everything and seeing new plants go to neighboring states.

Meetings were held in the 9 major metro areas of the state. At the end of the process, 5 key goals were set as the agenda for Blueprint. Because so much of the Legislature was up for election due to term limits, the state had a unique opportunity to effect some real change.

Ethics was identified as the #1 priority. The special session of the Legislature that is about to begin will deal primarily with this. Gov. Jindal is seeking to set the bar even higher than Blueprint does. The proposed ethics reform deals with financial disclosures and rules on lobbyists.

The second agenda item is preparing students for lifetime success. We need to be sure that money going to education is being well spent. A key area for this is the LA 4 preschool program. One goal is to be sure that every child in Louisiana is offered this preschool education. Another part of this is changing the high school curriculum to recognize that not all students plan to attend college. Instead of forcing kids to drop out who can't take the college prep to drop out, prepare them for work. The Technical College system also needs improvement. The system is not training for today's jobs. Workers need critical thinking skills.

Third is workforce development. One reason the steel mill located in Alabama rather than Louisiana was lack of skilled workers. This ties back to the improvement in education.

Fourth and most controversial is healthcare. The money needs to follow the patients rather than maintaining hospital beds. Redefining LSU as the medical education provider is part of this. Under the current charity hospital system LSU receives money for both teaching hospitals and indigent care. But if patients go to a private hospital, the indigent care money does not pay for services. The system works well in Shreveport because of the public/private partnership. Central Louisiana's system needs improvement. No one in Blueprint believes Big Charity needs to be rebuilt. Fifth is to develop a superior transportation system.

For more information, go to [www.blueprintlouisiana.org](http://www.blueprintlouisiana.org)