



**WE SERVE!**

## CALENDAR

Board meeting is April 7  
(a MONDAY) this month

The Past Presidents  
meeting is Tuesday, April  
8 at Tunks.

April 24—Outback  
Fundraiser

## SPEAKERS

March 26—FBI agent Randy  
Deaton

## BIRTHDAYS

Markay Dunn Reeves  
3/24

We miss seeing you  
Lion Markay! Happy  
Birthday!

# THE LIONS TALE

**Alexandria Lions Club**

*P.O. Box 13*

*Alexandria, Louisiana 71309*

*318.640.5020*

*www.alexions.com*

**March 19, 2008**

**Lion Henry Masson** led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn** led in prayer.

The **2 Card Draw** was missed by **Lion Dave Perry** (drawing for his table) and **Lion Lamar Joffrion**. The pot keeps growing and we are at 22 cards!

The door prize grew yet again. **Lion Beverly Price**, who never misses a meeting, missed a big door prize of \$120.

### Announcements:

- **Lion Sam** thanked the 21 Lions who worked the Shotgun Raffle at the Nursery Festival. We netted \$1600 after expenses. The winner was Darlene Lowe of Glenmora
- Although Lion Beverly was out, don't forget our Spring Social, a trip to Natchitoches for the Cane River Rhythm & Blues Festival. She passed around sign up sheets for Lions to carpool to Mariner's for dinner on April 5. Carpools can go early or stay late to enjoy music on the river.
- **Lion Susan Ballard** announced she has tickets for the Outback fundraiser on Thursday, April 24. Different tickets are available for each of the two seatings or for take-out. Tickets also indicate whether chicken or steak is ordered. Start contacting businesses now to see if they are interested for their Administrative Professionals. Tickets are \$20 each (club makes about \$8)
- Don't forget to submit suggestions for Lion of the Year and the Melvin Jones Award to Lion President James
- **The Golf Tournament is May 19. NOTE THE DATE CHANGE** Lion Bill needs help selling Hole Sponsorships. You can contact Lion Mike Kearney at 445-9328 if you can help. The Team Entry Forms are available now.
- We begin **Cubsight** at Calvary Baptist this week. Team A is Wed 3/26, Team B is Thurs 3/27, Team C is Fri 3/28. Each is at 9:30



## 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 Jared Hicks** introduced our speaker, Martin Johnson, president of the Chamber of Commerce. They work together at Capitol One Bank. He spoke about economic development in Central Louisiana.

The Chamber has two primary Economic Development project priorities. The first is the completion of LA 28 W to Ft. Polk. Many citizens don't realize that Ft. Polk has a \$1.4 billion impact on the area. Mr. Johnson was pleased that our government officials have made the four-laning project a priority as well. The \$60 million passenger facility for the military was also just completed at England Air Park. The Joint Readiness Force is the largest tenant at the Air Park. The 28 W project shows the area's commitment to the military. The Chamber keeps in touch with both state and federal delegations to update them and lobby.

The second priority is the infrastructure in the Proctor and Gamble area. We now have Calvary Industries, Plastipak and others who support P&G. By locating nearby, they save on transportation costs. We need improved roads and infrastructure to continue attracting business to the area.

The Chamber assists in marketing the Air Park. The airport is the fastest growing in the state, except for NO which is still adding from the hurricanes. Lake Charles has only one airline, compared to our 4. The England Authority is in the process of developing a master plan. UTLX is built on land purchased with funds from Cleco and the City. There is space for additional growth by suppliers, once the infrastructure is done. The good news is that UTLX is meeting their goals with fewer than expected workers. The quality of the workforce is high. They will need to return some of the state incentive money since there are fewer jobs.

The area still faces 4 major challenges: 1) a qualified workforce. We have a 4% unemployment rate. 2) aggressive recruitment to the area 3) a shortage of industrial sites 4) the need for all the economic development groups to work together.

There was some questioning regarding the proposed TIF. He believes that the TIF is NOT designed for the Bentley, but to create development on the riverfront.

He recommended a book, *Talk of the Town*, a history of Alexandria and the Town Talk. Your editor correctly answered a question (after a hint) and won a copy of the book.