



THE LIONS TALE

Alexandria Lions Club

P.O. Box 13

Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

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www.alexions.com

WE SERVE!

CALENDAR

Installation Banquet on Tuesday, July 1 in the evening, by request of the membership. Stay tuned for details.

June 10—Board meeting at 6 p.m. Location TBA

SPEAKERS

May 28 --Richard Billings President, Rapides Police Jury.

June 4- Mayor Clarence Fields, Pineville

June 11 Steve Rogge, Rapides Parish Library

June 18 - Bob Upton, Investments

June 25 - Lions Forum

BIRTHDAYS

Hank Smart 5/17

Henry Masson 5/21

Stephanie Ellett 5/27

May 21, 2008

Your editor left immediately after the May 14 meeting to go to Baton Rouge, thus there was no newsletter.

This week, **Lion Chuck Tosten** led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn** led in prayer. Last week, it was Lion Bob Hollingsworth and Lion Mike Monceaux.

Guest Ben Caplan drew granddad David's tickets TWICE in the 2-card draw last week, but **Lion David** couldn't find the joker. But this week, **Lion Michael Kearney** found the joker before **Lion Bob Hollingsworth** took a turn at the **2 Card Draw**. So next week we'll start with a new deck, including the jokers.

The Door Prize was \$10 and goes to \$15 next week since **Lion Mike Monceaux** was absent today and **Lion Lee Fine** missed last week.

Announcements:

- **The Golf Tournament** was a great success. The final accounts aren't in, but it looks like we netted about \$4200.
- In honor of Memorial Day, we listened to Red Skelton's famous speech on the Pledge of Allegiance. It seems that we recited with more vigor than usual after the inspiration.
- Lion Harmon Dungan passed along some information regarding "CapTel" a web captioned telephone for those with hearing loss. This service requires NO special equipment. All that is required is an internet connection and a computer with a standard web browser. As the two parties speak, their words are captioned (similar to the closed captions on the TV). So a person with hearing loss can read the conversation. This is a FREE service. Go to www.hamiltoncaptel.com for more information.

Last week was our monthly Lions Forum. We had a good discussion of fundraising ideas and the "year in review" evaluation. Many Lions may not be aware that our Club sponsors many children to the Camp each summer. If you know children who would benefit, talk to one of the officers. We also discussed the need for better PR and earlier "set up" of PR for our events. We also heard from the membership that they prefer an evening installation banquet, so the date has been changed and arrangements are pending.



2007-08 Lion Board

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Lion Joe Daniels introduced our speaker, **Dale Genius** of the La History Museum, located across 5th St from the downtown Library. He called it "Alexandria's best kept secret."

The original settlement of Alexandria was probably on the Pineville side of the river. The Post du Rapides was grew due to the rapids which blocked river traffic. Canoes and boats had to portage the falls. The exact location is unknown. There were two sets of rapids, one near the site of the OK Allen bridge and the other near the Rapides Hospital. The Louisiana Purchase was considered by many to be a foolish investment. The Museum has a copy of the New York Journal which has the LA Purchase story on page 2. In 1800-1805, Alexander Fulton established a trading post, probably around where the Art Museum is located. The plat of the City was laid out in 1805. The city center is where the History Museum is located. That square is dedicated for public use.

Alexandria was the site of the first railroad west of the Mississippi River, and the second commercial RR in the US. We are missing an opportunity for tourism by not publicizing this. It was established by Ralph Smith Smith (not a typo). It ran from the dock downtown out to Lecompte.

The Civil War actually started over cotton, not slavery. Cotton was gold. The south was known as "Dixie" because of the dix, a \$10 coin backed by cotton. It was the most popular currency. Alexandria has lots of Civil War history. Bailey's Dam was an engineering marvel of the war. Because Alexandria was burned, we have few records. The Cathedral was not burned. The priest was a former Prussian soldier. He stood guard over the building and told the soldiers that if they burned the church, both he and the soldier would be in hell. The Daig family kept good records and that is the source of most prewar documents at the Museum. There is a 1873 map of the Reconstruction of Alexandria. Most residents don't know that there was a racetrack, located near our meeting site.

During WWII, the population of Alexandria swelled to 200,000. The first jeep was tested at Camp Beauregard. The Bentley Hotel was host to many famous persons during the war years. It was built in 1905 by Joseph Bentley, who had been refused service at another hotel due to his lack of a jacket.

It takes 1 ½ hours for a guided tour of the Museum. Individuals or groups can make a reservation for a tour.