



WE SERVE!

CALENDAR

Installation Banquet on **Tuesday, July 1** at the Conference on the Greens. (on Harold Miles Dr off Hwy 1) Social begins at 6:30 (cash bar) and dinner at 7 p.m.

NO MEETING on July 2

June 10—Board meeting at 6 p.m. at the new First Federal Bank building on North Mall Drive

SPEAKERS

June 11 Bob Upton, Investments

June 18 - Steve Rogge, Rapides Parish Library

June 25 - Lions Forum

BIRTHDAYS

Paul Blais 6/2

Michael Monceaux 6/6

John Paul Adams 6/8

Kermit Pharris 6/8

Amy McGinity 6/9

Kathleen Dunlap 6/10

THE LIONS TALE

Alexandria Lions Club

P.O. Box 13

Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

318.640.5020

www.alexions.com

June 4, 2008

Your editor is too caught up in wedding plans and work. Sorry that we had no newsletter last week.

This week, **Lion Bill Bush** led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn** led in prayer. Last week, it was Lion Pam Wunderlick and Lion Henry Masson.

Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn had tickets TWICE in the 2-card draw this week, but couldn't find the joker. Last week, **Lion Bob Hollingsworth** and **Lion Henry Masson** had no better luck.

The Door Prize keeps growing. Last week, **Lion Markay Reeves** was still living in Oklahoma and not visiting us, and this week, **Lion Beverly Price** was uncharacteristically absent. Next week, we are up to \$25.

Announcements:

- The Installation Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1 at the Conference Center on the Greens (on Harold Miles Dr. off Hwy 1, just north of Airbase Road) Social begins at 6:30 PM with a cash bar, buffet meal at 7:00. Please make plans to attend. Reservations are needed for Lions and guests. Sign up at the meeting next week, or respond via e-mail (hit the reply button) PDG Cathy Comeaux will install the officers.
- The outgoing and incoming Boards will meet together at 6 p.m. at the new First Federal Bank building on North Mall Drive. Board members have received a copy of the proposed budget and should be prepared to discuss and vote. We also have heard some great ideas on fundraising for next year.



2007-08 Lion Board

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James Ballard

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Bob Hollingsworth

2nd Vice-President

Viola Britt

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Dave Perry

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Editor

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308-2077

rhhf@suddenlinkmail.com

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Lion Joe Wolf introduced our speaker, **Mayor Clarence Fields**, of Pineville. Lion Joe serves on the Finance Committee of Pineville. He introduced Mayor Fields as believing in low utility bills, low taxes and planning ahead. He is a good administrator according to Lion Joe.

Mayor Fields is proposing a \$12.4 million general fund budget for next year. This includes salary increases of perhaps 4% for all staff. There are also some police salary enhancements for recruiting purposes. The City's employee structure has been streamlined. Eight years ago there were 252 employees. Today there are 260, a small increase considering the growth of the City.

The utility system is in the black with some capacity for capital improvements. Our utility rates are midrange. The new budget is proposing 3 new firemen needed for the growth on Hwy 28#. We are ready for a new station near the million gallon water storage facility.

The Susek Dr project is on track. We are about to spend \$2.9 on 2 new water wells and the new sewer plant has 50% excess capacity. The Old Town Trail (by the river) is nearing completion, which is a \$1 million project. The \$4 million Ft Randolph /Ft Bulow project is underway. That will be the first state park in Cenla. Pineville is in good financial situation.

Last week's speaker was Police Jury President Richard Billings, who was accompanied by Tim Ware. He spoke on economic development in Rapides Parish. July 19th is the renewal of the tax which supports the health unit. That is a wonderful resource.

We have continuing upgrades to the road system around P & G. There was a \$850,000 capital outlay for a water tank to support Union Tank Car and the growth in that area. The Police Jury was the first political unit to support a 4 year LSU-A. They are trying to get a project to get Red River water for irrigation for the farms in Rapides.

Infrastructure, hospitals, churches, etc are all important to bringing in industry to the area. But the "bid" is most important and we need tax incentives for that. When asked about the School Board suit regarding the tax split, Billings and Ware emphasized the state law regarding business incentives and talked about the importance of incentives to bringing in business.