



**WE SERVE!**

**CALENDAR**

Tailgate party at the Lions Camp in Leesville on June 26

Installation Banquet at the Conference Center at the Greens on June 30

**June BIRTHDAYS**

Paul Blaise	6/2
Mike Monceaux	6/6
John Paul Adams	6/8
Kermit Pharris	6/8
Amy McGinity	6/9
Kathleen Dunlap	6/10
Scott Brame	6/12
Gary Van Horn	6/18
Tommy Williams	6/24
Roy O. Martin III	6/29

# THE LIONS TALE

**Alexandria Lions Club**

*P.O. Box 13*

*Alexandria, Louisiana 71309*

*318.640.5020*

*www.alexions.com*

**June 17, 2009**

Plan now to join your fellow Lions and their families on a trip to the Lions Camp in Leesville on **Friday, June 26**. We'll meet at the Coliseum parking lot about 5:15 and caravan to the camp for a tailgating party before the closing ceremony of the handicapped camp. This is a wonderful opportunity for your family and friends (children are welcome) to see the camp and understand what Lions Club is all about. If you've been thinking of inviting a friend to join our Club, this is a great introduction. Sign up at the Wed meeting (June 24) or email your editor.

Our Installation Banquet is Tuesday, **June 30**, 2009 at the Conference Center at the Greens. We'll have a social time (cash bar) at 6 p.m. and the buffet will open at 6:30. We have started a sign-up sheet, but Wednesday, June 24 is our last day for reservations. You can e-mail me at [vvbritt@gmail.com](mailto:vvbritt@gmail.com) if you'd like to make a reservation for you and a guest.

Your president-elect is honored to have PDG Lion Joe Wolf agree to conduct our Installation of officers. Each year, the incoming president chooses a District Governor or Past District Governor to install the new officers. Lion Joe has been an important part of our club and is very dear to me. Lion President Bob Hollingsworth has invited our new District Governor to attend as his special guest. It should be a very special evening.

Guests today were David Schilling of Nissan, guest of Lion Mike Monceaux who doesn't want his dealership to shrink, and the lovely Noreen Caplan, guest of Lion David.

The Colonels tried for the jokers in 2-card Draw, but failed. We're starting to build up some money to give away!



---

## 2008-09 Lion Board

### President

**Bob Hollingsworth**

### 1st Vice-President

**Viola Britt**

### 2nd Vice-President

**Dave Perry**

### 3rd Vice-President

**Hank Smart**

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Aaron McAllister**

**PDG**

### Tail Twister

**Susan Ballard**

### Lion Tamer

**Joe Daniels**

### Membership Chair

**Michael Kearney**

### Ex-Officio

**James Ballard**

### Board Members

**Paul Blaise**

**Bill Bush**

**Joe Crouch**

**Beverly Price**

**Mary Wilmore**

**Pam Wunderlich**

### Editor

**Viola Britt**

**308-2077**

**vvbritt@gmail.com**

©2009 - All rights reserved.  
Reproduction of any part prohibited  
without permission

The speaker today was Steve Berry, member of the Rapides Parish School Board. Many in the parish don't realize what a large employer the school Board is with 3444 employees. About half are directly involved with students (teachers, aids, etc). There are about 13,000 students in the system, and 3384 are considered special ed (which includes gifted). The General Fund budget is \$173 million and about 87-88% is personnel costs (salary and retirement). An additional \$8 million in Title I and Special Ed funds of \$20 million add to the economic impact. The system serves 3.2 million lunches per year in addition to breakfast.

The thrust of Mr. Berry's talk concerned the accountability standards and the Aiken Optional School. This is what has been in the news recently.

Rapides Parish as a whole scores better than the state average on the accountability scores. Most of our schools are doing well. But we have some schools in the system that have fallen below 60 for several years and are in danger of state takeover, or have a Memorandum of Understanding with the state for school improvement.

Aiken Optional has a score of 18.2. It will never meet the state goal of 100. The accountability score is a mix of factors from test scores to days of absence to graduation within 4 years. By its very existence, Aiken will fail. There are 3 criteria for admission to Aiken and students must meet one of them: 1-2 grades behind; pregnant or a parent; extenuating circumstances. Most Aiken students have dropped out of a traditional school and are working. Many of the pregnant students return to their home school after giving birth, although many remain at Aiken because of the child care available. Students work at their own pace on an individualized plan. Most do not attend school daily because of work or family schedules. And most won't graduate within 4 years of their freshman year.

There were many questions for Mr. Berry and the Club asked for information on how to contact the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. That address is: P.O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064.