



WE SERVE!

CALENDAR

Board Meeting: 6 p.m.
October 14, First Federal
Bank

SPEAKERS

October 8 Bob Carroll,
Southern Forest Heritage
Museum

October 15 Lions Forum

October 22 Jam Downs,
Rapides Parish District
Attorney

October 29 Dr. John
Barnett, LSU Ag Center

BIRTHDAYS

There must not be a full moon.
We had no birthdays this week.

THE LIONS TALE

Alexandria Lions Club

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Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

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www.alexions.com

October 1, 2008

October is "Back to meetings" month at the Alexandria Lions Club. Club members with perfect attendance for the month of October will be eligible for a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Outback. Lion Aaron sent around an attendance sheet so that no mistakes will be made. Be sure to sign in each week!

Don't miss hearing from Bob Carroll of the Southern Forest Heritage Museum next week. The Museum has a new education coordinator and we'll hear what programs are available for children, families and everyone.

Lion Hank Smart introduced our speaker, Ken Guidry, Executive Director of The Red River Waterway Commission. His assistant, Bart Pugh, attended to help with the power point presentation.

If you want to see the river, the District is hosting **River Awareness Tours in October**. On the 27th is Coushatta, the 29th is Colfax and the 31st is Ben Routh. The tours are 8:30-11:30. Contact **Lion Hank** if you'd like to make a reservation.

The Red River Waterway District includes Caddo, Bossier, Red River Natchitoches, Grant, Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes. It is funded through an ad valorem tax which raises \$5.5-6 million per year. The millage decreased in 08 to 2.39 from 2.49. The five locks and dams make the river navigable. There also are several recreational areas along the river. The key mission is to represent the state of Louisiana in navigation projects funded in part by the Federal government. They are the "local sponsor" for water projects through the Corps of Engineers.

The economic impact of the Waterway is very valuable. LSU-S did a study under Dr. Loren Scott and discovered that for every \$1 invested, \$19 was returned in construction, \$35 in new sales and \$ 11 in jobs. Those numbers triple if gaming is included. The Alexandria Regional Port is the largest in tonnage over the past 3 years. One example is the barging in of citric acid from China for P & G.



2008-09 Lion Board

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There has been \$46 million spent on the 19 recreation sites which hosted 2 million visitors in 2007. The Ft Buhlow/Ft Randolph state historic site is under construction. That is a \$4.4 million construction project, without the interpretive elements included. A new recreation area is going in the Lock & Dam 2 (Poland). It's in the design phase and should be operational in summer 2009.

One large economic impact event is the BASS fishing tournaments. The Red River has been stocked with bass through a joint project with Wildlife and Fisheries. The next Tournament of Champions is Feb. 20-22, 2009 in Bossier. They anticipate a \$24 million economic impact.

- The 2 Card draw is growing since no one can find the jokers! This week **Lion Donna Villard** and **Lion Chuck Tosten** (for his table) were both "club" loyal in their draws (the 9 and 7). But no joker! Next week we're down to 24 cards!
- **Lion Chuck** proudly introduced his guest and prospective new member, Ron Hall of the Salvation Army. He is new to town and is the new administrator at the Salvation Army.
- Our "Cash for Gas" raffle ticket sales got off to a great start with \$900 in sales our first week. SuperOne in Pineville (28 E, the old Winn Dixie) is the site of sales this weekend on Friday and Saturday afternoon/evening. **Contact Lion Aaron or Lion Bob if you can help out.** Tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5. The cash prize is \$2500 and we'll draw on Dec. 3.
- **Lion Joe Daniels** missed the \$15 door prize. We're starting to get to enough for a meal out! Next week the door prize rises to \$20.
- We are in the midst of sales for our \$15,000 raffle. **Lion Susan** has the tickets. Grand prize is \$10,000 with 2nd place getting \$3,000 and 3rd place receiving \$2,000. This is a great opportunity for our Club to earn lots of money for our projects. Don't forget that you can sell parts of a ticket. Example: 5 \$20 shares.
- Lion Bob distributed a Cubsight schedule for the next month or so. We (Team C) go to Emmanuel Baptist on Oct 3 to screen 45 children, then on Monday, Oct 6, Lion Bob and Lion Donna will screen 12 at St. Frances Cabrini School. Team A is scheduled for Oct 9 at 1st Baptist Pineville and Team B is Oct 15 at Prompt Succor. Then it's Team C again at 1st UMC Alexandria on Oct 21. Calvary Baptist is our site on Nov 12 (Team A). If you can help out, don't worry about whether it's your team or not. You'll see what the project is all about by participating. Screenings start at 9:30 am.