



**WE SERVE!**

## CALENDAR

*Membership Blitz Training  
Oct. 25-26, 2008  
Best Western Hotel in Alex*

*Zone meeting and 8-l  
Cabinet meeting  
Nov. 1, 10a.m-2 p.m. at  
Kees Park.*

## SPEAKERS

October 29 Dr. John  
Barnett, LSU Ag Center

## BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Jeanfreau 10/24

Karen Hamilton 10/26

## In the hospital

Debbie Mafouz—due  
home on Thursday

## Door Prize

**Lion Bill Bush** not only  
is out for the  
attendance drawing,  
but he missed the \$5  
door prize. It goes to  
\$10 next week.

# THE LIONS TALE

**Alexandria Lions Club**

*P.O. Box 13*

*Alexandria, Louisiana 71309*

*318.640.5020*

*www.alexliions.com*

**October 22, 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. The perfect people keep dropping—we now are down to 17. Our president has already confessed he’ll miss next week. So our odds are improving!

There are still 50 or 60 “unclaimed” tickets for the \$15,000 raffle. Lion James encourages us all to sell portions of a ticket—find four or five people who can put up \$20 or \$25 each to split the ticket.

There will be a Membership Blitz Training presented by Lions International on Oct. 25-26 at the Best Western in Alexandria. Contact **Lion Bob** if you can attend. The Saturday training is on how to recruit members and the Sunday training is on how to be a Guiding Lion for a new club. **Lion James** reports that previous trainings on this have been excellent.

Cubsight had a screening yesterday. Our total for the year is 912 children screened. Our next date is Nov. 12 at Calvary Baptist. Lion Bob is getting additional locations for us so that more children can be served.

Lion Bob reminded the Club that he is meeting with other Club Presidents tomorrow to get the \$100 gift cards for those who have “fallen between the cracks” after the hurricanes. This might be for those who flooded and had inadequate insurance, or who FEMA wasn’t able to help. Get names to him NOW if you know someone who needs help.

The 2 Card draw started over without a winner. Lion Gary Van Horn and Lion James Ballard couldn’t find the jokers

Our “Cash for Gas” raffle ticket sales had another great weekend. But we are taking a break. Our next sales date is Nov 14-15 at the WalMart in Pineville. We were given a second weekend since the parking lot repaving took us down to one door.



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## 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**

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Our speaker was Rapides Parish DA, Jam Downs. He was unopposed in the recent election. The District Attorney's office has 3 divisions. It basically is a "law firm" whose lawyers represent Rapides Parish. Only the Gold firm is larger in our area. The Criminal Division handles all prosecutions. There are 15 lawyers. The Civil Division represents 58 separate bodies of parish government, such as the School Board, the Police Jury, the library, the various fire districts, etc. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division is the Child Support Collection. This operates on a contract with the State of Louisiana Dept of Social Services. They establish paternity, collect back due child support, enforce visitation, etc. They collect about \$7 million each year in judgment payments.

Prosecution of worthless checks is part of the Criminal Division. A business or victim must first send a certified letter to the address on the returned check. The check writer has 15 days to make it good. Then the DA's office writes a letter threatening prosecution. About 50% pay after getting that letter. There is a \$25 merchant's fee to reimburse for the bank charge and a sliding scale to reimburse the DA's office. They collect about 5,000 checks worth \$600,000. The commercial check collectors such as TeleCheck have reduced the load on the DA by about half. The Criminal Division handles about 6,000 felony cases and 6,000 misdemeanors. They also prosecute about 20-25,000 traffic violations. These numbers are relatively constant from year to year.

Non-violent 1<sup>st</sup> offenders are eligible for pre-trial diversion. This has a great success rate. Often the offender will choose to join the military. The training and discipline has a very high success rate. But about half of the drug offenders don't even respond to the initial letter. Drugs are very difficult to stop. Other crimes increase as the drug use increases. Incarceration isn't a good option, but it's the only one we have right now. Crystal meth is much more addictive and leads to more violence than crack cocaine. Meth is more rural than urban.

Rapides Parish is a pilot site for a MacArthur Foundation grant on juvenile justice. We were selected since our various systems work so well together.

Many drivers stopped for DWI refuse to take a blood test. The law provides for immediate loss of license, which doesn't always happen. Four judges have agreed to have dedicated fax lines to their homes. Officers can get a search warrant to force a blood test. About 10% are exonerated. The program is highly effective.