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**2020 Convention a Success**

The Police Jury Association hosted its 96th Annual State Convention at the Shreveport Convention Center in Shreveport, LA, on February 12-14, 2020. Governor John Bel Edwards was the guest speaker during Friday’s luncheon during which he signed an executive order to help Louisiana’s rural communities take on numerous challenges from clean water to high-speed internet. The executive order formally establishes the Governor’s Advisory Council on Rural Revitalization with former Senator Ben Nevers as Chairman. “We are extremely excited that Governor Edwards chose our luncheon to sign the executive order creating this advisory council which is very important to local government. Rural communities are faced with unique challenges on a daily basis. We hope that the actions of this group will aid those parishes who are working hard every day to provide services to their citizens,” said Guy Cormier, PJAL Executive Director.

PJAL Committee members met on a wide range of topics. Additionally, during the three-day event, there were two educational sessions which consisted of Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training. Also, the newly formed Women In Politics group met and hosted former LA Representative Julie Stokes as the guest speaker. The meeting was well attended and was a great networking opportunity for women throughout Louisiana.

Elected and appointed officials including Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain, DEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown, GOHSEP Director James Waskom, DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson, National Association of Counties John Losh, and more addressed the local government leaders during committee meetings.

President Glenn Benton of Bossier Parish hosted the convention for members of the Association. During the Friday luncheon, he spoke to members in the crowd thanking them for a great year always answering calls to action and praised the Police Jury Association for diligently working to improve and assist all 64 parish government entities during the 2019-2020 year. He passed the gavel to incoming President Scotty Robinson of Ouachita Parish after he and the other members of the Executive Board were sworn in. 2020 President Scotty Robinson acknowledged the exceptional job done by Benton and pledged his commitment to continue moving forward by working together with members statewide. “I am honored to represent Ouachita Parish and the Police Jury Association. I have always looked to the Executive Board members for guidance and look forward to working alongside them to move our parishes forward for the advancement of our state and our constituents,” said 2020 President Robinson.

Attendees visited with over 90 interest groups related to the day-to-day operations of parish government at this year’s convention.
Getting To Know Our New President:
Scotty Robinson of Ouachita Parish

We want to give a warm welcome to our new PJAL President Scotty Robinson of Ouachita Parish! We wanted you to get to know him with a rapid-fire question and answer session:

Q: What do you most look forward to as PJAL President?
A: Meeting people from all over the State and learning what their needs are and how they approach them. We are all in local government and can learn from each other.

Q: What is your proudest moment as a public servant?
A: My proudest moment occurred as Parish President in 2016 during the March flood. I was able to work with people all over the parish to help those most affected by the flood. Seeing the community come together and work hand-in-hand to help each other was inspiring.

Q: What is your proudest moment in life?
A: This is a tough one. I have three wonderful kids that I am very proud of. The proudest part of life for me is that I am married to my high school sweet heart. We have been married for 12 years and been together for 18 years. She is my best friend and is always there for me and the kids no matter what. She puts everyone ahead of herself and I am one lucky man to have her!

Q: When not at work, what is your favorite thing to do?
A: Eat! We get together as a family (parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles etc..) and eat together. Sometimes we cook, sometimes we go out, but we ALWAYS have a great time!

Q: Anything else you want people to know about you?
A: I love Public Service but don’t love politics. As an elected official I strive to work with and for EVERYONE. Potholes aren’t democrat or republican...What we do on a local level is work for the people, not worry about political parties. I am running for Congress this fall for the 5th district of Louisiana, and I will represent ALL of the people. My Number is 318-235-0672. Anyone can call me anytime.

Please join us in welcoming PJAL President Scotty Robinson! We know he will do a fabulous job!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

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♦ February 29-March 4
NACo Leg. Conference
(in Washington D.C.)

♦ March 8
Daylight Savings Time

♦ March 17
St. Patrick’s Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

♦ May 13
Legislative Day
Legislative Day

Legislative Day is just around the corner! Wednesday, May 13, the Baton Rouge Hilton Capitol Center will be the place to be in Baton Rouge! We will have a legislative update presented to you by your PJAL Lobbying Team. Following the update, you will be transported to the State Capitol to listen/participate in committee meetings during the legislative session. While there, please invite your legislators to join us for lunch at the Hilton Capitol Center to continue discussing legislation affecting local government.

Registration will be open in mid-March, so keep checking our website for details! We will be hosting online registration for this event, as well. Hotel information will be available soon, also. We encourage you to take pictures with your legislators and submit to us to include in our newsletter. Looking forward to a great time with all of you!

Show Us Your Mardi Gras Pictures!

1st Vice President Tony Guillory enjoys Mardi Gras festivities with the Krewe DE Classique as he plays the saxophone in the bottom right photo. On the left, PJAL staff and Guillory enjoy the Bossier Parish Host Reception at convention where a Second Line happened in the Bossier Civic Center.

Make sure to send us your Mardi Gras photos to be included in our next newsletter!
St. Charles Parish has a new look with their parish council in the form of a majority... Actually, it’s a super majority! St. Charles Parish now has 6 female councilmembers on their 9-member council. Congratulations to the new members and those returning! We wish you all the best of luck and know you will all work together for the people of St. Charles! Thanks for sharing this photo and news with the PJAL!

Pictured from left to right: La Sandra Darenbourg Gordon - District I, Nicky Dufrene - District IV, Holly Fonseca - At Large, Division B, Bob Fisher - District VI, Mary K. Clulee - District II, Wendy Benedetto - At Large, Division A, Julia Fisher-Perrier - District VII, Marilyn B. Bellock - District V, and Dick Gibbs - Councilman, District III.
This newsletter is only possible with help from YOU. Please send all story ideas, news from your parish, and monthly photos to PJAL Contract Communications Director Sunny St. Romain via email sunny@lpgov.org.
If you would like to nominate a member for us to spotlight, please send in their name, parish, contact information, and why we should showcase them. Also, please send any newsworthy parish information! We would love to highlight your parish!

LOUISIANA PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER