

# Acadiana

## LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION



Acadiana Lagniappe



Spring, 2008

## Delegation Discussion



### Overview

The Acadiana Delegation welcomed 20 new members to the Delegation for the 2008-2012 term. Of the three new senators in the Delegation, all have previously served as members of the House of Representatives.

Delegation member, Senator Joel Chaisson, II has been elected by his senate colleagues to serve as Senate President for the 2008-2012 term.

Thirteen members of the Delegation have been appointed as committee chairs to the standing committees in the House or Senate respectfully.

#### House Chairs:

*Criminal Justice* – Rep. Ernest Wooten

*Education* – Rep. Don Trahan

*Insurance* – Rep. Chuck Kleckley

*Natural Resources* – Rep. Gordon Dove

*Retirement* – Rep. Joel Robideaux

#### Senate Chairs:

*Environment Quality* – Sen. Troy Hebert

*Finance* – Sen. Mike Michot

*Health and Welfare* – Sen. Willie Mount

*Insurance* – Sen. Don Cravins

*Judiciary C* – Sen. Jody Amedee

*Natural Resources* – Sen. Reggie Dupre

*Retirement* – Sen. D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux

*Revenue & Fiscal Affairs* – Sen. Rob Marionneau



### 2008-09 Officers

During the Delegation's Annual Meeting in February, the following members were elected as officers for 2008-2009:

#### Officers:

*Chair* – Rep. Jonathan Perry

*Vice-Chair* – Rep. Simone Champagne

*Secretary/Treasurer* – Rep. Regina Barrow

The following members were appointed to the Executive Committee by Chairman Perry:

#### Executive Committee:

Senator Reggie Dupre

Senator Mike Michot

Representative Bobby Badon

Representative Elbert Guillory

Representative Chuck Kleckley

Representative Karen St. Germain



### 2008 Acadiana Day

The Acadiana Delegation held its annual Acadiana Day Crawfish Boil to honor the work of its legislative assistants on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. The festive event was held at Long-View and featured the band, Lost Bayou Ramblers from Broussard.

This year's sponsors included the Acadiana Delegation legislators, Randy Haynie and Associates, Beer Industry League of Louisiana, and the LA Soft Drink Association. Zydeclaws provided catering services.

Acadiana Legislative Delegation

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### Legislative Issues

"Enough is Enough" Rep. Joel Robideaux and Rep. Fred Mills, Jr. have teamed together to author legislation which establishes the Enough is Enough Fund. Under HB1160, any excess revenues recognized for FY2007-08 by the Revenue Estimating Conference would be given back to citizens in the form of rebates.

This legislation is also being co-authored by four other Delegation members including: Rep. Page Cortez, Rep. Taylor Barras, Rep. Jonathan Perry, and Rep. Simone Champagne.

Sen. Troy Hebert has also authored the same legislation on the Senate side.

"Ask Before You Eat" Under Rep. Fred Mill's HB266 and co-authored by many Delegation members, no owner or manager of a restaurant that sells imported crawfish or shrimp shall misrepresent to the public, either verbally, on a menu, or on signs displayed on the premises, that the crawfish or shrimp is domestic. This instrument now moves to the Senate. Several Delegation members have sponsored similar legislation. Others who offered similar legislation include Sen. Blade Morrish and Rep. Truck Gisclair.



### Hot Bills

- **HB199: WEAPONS/FIREARMS** - Authorizes concealed handgun permit holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses
- **HB852: MTR VEHICLE/VIOLATIONS** - Prohibits the use of a wireless telephone or electronic communications device while driving
- **SB87: TAX/INCOME/PERSONAL** - Phases out the tax on incomes of individuals, estates, and trusts over a 10-year period at 10% per year beginning in 2008, and provides that certain refundable credits are still refundable even if there is little or no individual income tax. (gov sig) (RE - \$278,000,000 GF RV See Note)



### Members in the News

CONGRATULATIONS CONGRESSMAN CAZAYOUX!!

Rep. Don Cazayoux, New Roads was elected as the new congressman from Louisiana's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District left vacant by the resignation of Congressman Richard Baker.

Cazayoux defeated Republican Woody Jenkins, a former member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

CORTEZ & PERRY APPOINTED TO SERVE ON ENERGY COUNCIL

Reps. Page Cortez and Jonathan Perry have been appointed by Louisiana House Speaker Jim Tucker to represent the state on the Energy Council. The Energy Council is a legislative organization of 11 energy producing states which stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. These states produce the bulk of the U.S. oil and gas output as well coal, uranium, and renewable energy.



### Did you know?

#### LOUISIANA SALES TAX HOLIDAY FOR HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Louisiana residents can purchase needed items free of sales tax as they prepare for the 2008 hurricane season.

The 2008 Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday takes place on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. During the two-day holiday, tax-free purchases are allowed for the first \$1,500 of the sales price on each of the following items:

- Self-powered light sources, such as flashlights and candles;
- Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, and weather-band radios;
- Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting;
- Ground anchor systems or tie-down kits;
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks;
- Batteries – AAA, AA, C, D, 6-volt, or 9-volt (automobile batteries and boat batteries are not eligible);
- Cellular phone batteries and chargers;
- Non-electric food storage coolers;
- Portable generators;
- Storm shutter devices – Materials and products manufactured, rated, and marketed specifically for the purposes of preventing window damage from storms (La. R.S. 47:305.58).

The sales tax holiday does not extend to hurricane-preparedness items or supplies purchased at any airport, public lodging establishment or hotel, convenience store, or entertainment complex.

The 2008 Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 25.



### Legislator Spotlight

#### Rep. Jack Montoucet



**Hometown:** Scott  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Occupation:** Alligator Processor

#### 5 Questions with Jack Montoucet

1. **Three people you would like to meet:**
  - "The Pope, Colin Powell, and I would like to have met Jacqueline Kennedy."
2. **Ford or Chevy?**
  - "Chevy."
3. **What is the best thing about Crowley?**
  - "The people."
4. **Best gift you have ever received:**
  - "My grandchildren."
5. **Do you zydeco?**
  - "I'm a Cajun...what you think?"