

# Acadiana Lagniappe

*Acadiana Legislative Delegation Newsletter*

## Chairman's Corner



**Jonathan "JP" Perry**

Dear Friends,

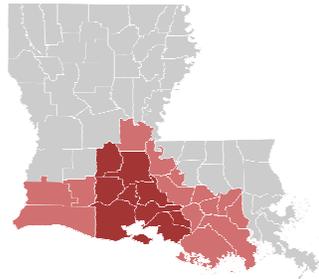
With the 2009 Regular Session a few weeks upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the priorities and legislation being put forth by the members of the Acadiana Legislative Delegation.

The 2009 session is considered to be fiscal in nature. As a result, we as legislators are limited to the number of legislative instruments we can propose as well as the scope of the legislation.

The Delegation is committed to working with our colleagues in the Legislature to best serve the needs of our constituents within the 22-parish Acadiana region.

God Bless,

JP



Acadia Ascension Assumption  
Avoyelles Calcasieu Cameron  
Evangeline Iberia Iberville  
Jefferson Davis Lafayette  
Lafourche Pointe Coupee  
St. Charles St. James  
St. John the Baptist  
St. Landry St. Martin  
St. Mary Terrebonne  
Vermillion West Baton Rouge

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## Delegation Welcomes Two New Members



**Nancy Landry**

**Representative Nancy Landry** (Lafayette) was elected to fill the vacancy in House District 31 upon former Representative Don Trahan's resignation. House Speaker Jim Tucker has appointed Landry to serve as a member of the committees on Civil Law and Procedure and Natural Resources and Environment. Landry represents parts of Lafayette and Vermillion parishes. She is a 1985 graduate of LSU with a degree in psychology and a graduate of LSU Law School. Nancy Landry is an award-winning family law counselor.



**Major Thibaut, Jr.**

**Representative Major Thibaut, Jr.** (New Roads) was elected to House District 18 which was vacated by former Congressman Don Cazayoux. Thibaut has been appointed by the Speaker to serve as a member of the committees on Commerce and Education. Representative Thibaut represents portions of Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana parishes. Thibaut is a LSU graduate and the owner of a New York Life Insurance investment planning business. He is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.



## MOVING FORWARD ON I-49 SOUTH

Several members of the Acadiana Delegation with districts along the I-49 South corridor held a press conference in Jefferson Island in January. Those legislators pledged to move forward on the proposed I-49 South project by aggressively pursuing state and federal funding.

The news conference was the first phase of a campaign to raise public awareness and garner grassroots support.

Three major issues are identified as the driving forces behind the I-49 South initiative:

- Enhanced public safety for motorists
- Economic development
- Necessity for a major traffic corridor to serve America's energy needs

Delegation members emphasized that the backing of the business community and the general public is essential to success.

*Senator Mike Michot answers questions during the I-49 press conference*



## 2009 Regular Session Draws Near

The Legislature will convene on Monday, April, 27, for the start of the 2009 Regular Session. This session is a "limited" or "fiscal" session. Sessions held in even-numbered years are considered to be "general." The length of the session is shortened to a maximum of 45 legislative days in a 60-day period during a "fiscal" session. During a "general" session, the length of a session is a maximum of 60 legislative days during an 85-day period.

For sessions falling during odd-numbered years, legislators are limited to the number of bills which may be filed in certain instances.

- A legislator may file an unlimited number of Class I bills (fiscal bills)
- A legislator may file an unlimited number of Class II bills (local bills)
- A legislator may prefile up to five Class III bills (general bills)

After the prefiling deadline of April 17, a legislator may introduce five additional bills, none of which can be Class III.



### HOT ISSUES

*The prefiled bills below by members of the Delegation have already created a buzz around the state...*



**HB84 by Rep. Simone Champagne** would provide term limits for all elected public officials.



**HB47 by Rep. Rickey Hardy** would require BESE to adopt a policy requiring at least a 2.0 grade point average for public school students in grades six through twelve to participate in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities.



**HB49 by Rep. Jerome "Dee" Richard** would require elected officials representing voting districts of fewer than 5,000 to file annual financial disclosure statements pursuant to tier 2.1 instead of tier 3 and removes tier 3 provisions.



**HB27 by Rep. Ernest Wooton** would authorize the carrying of handguns on college, university, or postsecondary vocational-technical school campuses by individuals who possess a concealed handgun permit.



**SB6 by Sen. Nick Gautreaux** would phase out the tax on incomes of individuals, estates, and trusts by reducing the tax collected under present law by 10% each calendar year, starting with tax years beginning during 2010, until no income tax is collected on such income for tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2019.

### DELEGATION ISSUES SUPPORT RESOLUTION FOR AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

During a March meeting of state agriculture officials and regional sugarcane farmers in Jeanerette, the Acadiana Delegation issued a resolution of support for the agriculture and forestry community in the wake of budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU Ag Center.

With statewide agencies facing funding cuts across-the-board, the Delegation recognizes the need for belt-tightening. We also see the need to fund those services and programs within the agriculture industry to a level that does not adversely impact the production and processing of our state's crops and food sources.

The Delegation is committed to working through the budgetary process for the interests of the agriculture and forestry industry.

Acadiana Delegation members pose with 2008 Grammy winner Terrance Simeon during the 2008 Regular Session



## Legislators Honored



Dan "Blade" Morrish

### Morrish and Smiley Honored by NFIB

Senator Dan "Blade" Morrish (Jennings) and Representative M.J. "Mert" Smiley, Jr. (Port Vincent) were recently honored with the Guardian of Small Business Award by the National Federation of Independent Business. Morrish serves the parishes of Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis. Smiley represents portions of Ascension and Livingston parishes.



Mert Smiley

### Firemen Honor St. Germain and Montoucet



Karen G. St. Germain

State Representative Karen St. Germain (Pierre Part) was honored as the 2008 Legislator of the Year at the annual banquet of the Louisiana State Fireman's Association. St. Germain represents portions of Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge parishes.

State Representative Jack Montoucet (Crowley) was recently honored as the 2008 Legislator of the Year by the Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana during the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual PFFA of LA State Convention. Montoucet serves portions of Acadia and Lafayette parishes.



Jack Montoucet

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Representative Joel Robideaux



Joel Robideaux

### 5 Questions with Representative Robideaux

**Q:** How long have you been a registered Independent?

**A:** Ever since I registered to vote back in College

**Q:** Boiled crawfish or boiled crabs?

**A:** Boiled crabs

**Q:** What is your favorite music band?

**A:** Bob Dylan and The Who

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about living in Lafayette?

**A:** The culture and the people

**Q:** Who was your childhood hero?

**A:** Sebastian Coe, sports; Richard Bach, author

**Hometown:** Lafayette  
**Party:** Independent  
**House District:** 45  
**Occupation:** CPA

## 2009-2010 Officers

Chair

**Representative  
Jonathan Perry**

Vice-Chair

**Representative  
Jack Montoucet**

Secretary-Treasurer

**Representative  
Simone Champagne**

## Executive Committee Members

**Senator Reggie Dupre**

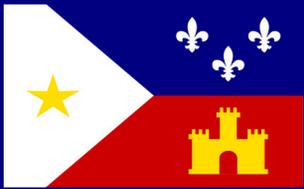
**Senator Mike Michot**

**Rep. Bobby Badon**

**Rep. Elbert Guillory**

**Rep. Mickey Guillory**

**Rep. Karen St. Germain**



## Upcoming Events

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### Senate District 24 Election

General Election - Saturday, May 2, 2009

### 2009 Regular Session

Convenes Monday, April 27, 2009/Adjourns Thursday, June 25, 2009

### 2009 Crawfish Day/Legislative Assistants' Crawfish Boil

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (By invitation only)



*Members of the Houma/Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce addressed the Delegation during the 2008 session.*

To find out more about the Louisiana Legislature and the 2009 Regular Session log on to [www.legis.state.la.us](http://www.legis.state.la.us)

## Acadiana Delegation



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