

(CHAMBER CORNER)

RIVER REGION CHAMBER'S FIRST ANNUAL BANQUET IS A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Those of you who were unable to attend our First Annual Membership Banquet missed a very enjoyable, fun and relaxing evening. The more than 330 attendees at this premier event held on January 27 at San Francisco Plantation expressed those sentiments repeatedly. As guests arrived to the beautifully decorated facility they took advantage of the opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones. They then enjoyed a delicious candlelight dinner while being entertained by the soft sounds of "DJ Scott."

Conley Dutreix, Founding Chairman spoke about the development of the organization and the foundation upon which it was developed. In his remarks, he recognized all of those who had worked so diligently in the formation of the Chamber and those who have been so dedicated during its first 22 months as an active organization.

Presented gifts were Lily Galland, the Chair of the Transition Task Force and Chesley Cashio, the first Board Secretary, for her hard work during those first critical months. Blaise Gravois, 2006 Chairman presented the Chamber's 2006 Program of Work, introduced the 2006 Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Kent Gonsoulin, a renowned Cajun Humorist provided the evenings entertainment and had the crowd "rolling in the aisles."

We know that many of you were disappointed with the fact that our originally scheduled keynote speakers, Senator David Vitter and Senator Mary Landrenieu were unable to be present. We certainly shared in that disappointment and expressed it to them on your behalf. We do understand that unfortunately, such occurrences are beyond their control and certainly beyond ours. We were indeed looking forward to their remarks.

Please join us in thanking our sponsors. ROSE Sponsors: Port of South Louisiana, Valero, First American Bank, Marathon Ashland, River Parishes Hospital, Shell Chemical, Omni Bank, St. John Parish Public Schools, N.P. Stein, CPA and Whitener Snacks. HIBISCUS Sponsors: Bellsouth, Louisiana Federal Credit Union, Entergy, Occidental Petroleum Corporation and ASI Federal Credit Union.

LILY Sponsors: Time Warner Cable, IMTT, San Francisco Plantation, AM-PM Temporary Services, Workforce Alliance, Quality Janitorial and Factory Choice.

Special thanks also go to River Parish Tent Rentals, Cajun Grill & Catering, Gregg's Neighborhood Supermarket, St. John Sheriff's Office, and All Occasions.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Business Breakfast at Armand's Main Street Café in Gramercy on February 8, beginning at 7:45 am. Sponsors are St. James Parish Hospital and Armand's Main Street Café.

For more information on the River Region Chamber, call the Chamber at 985-359-9777, email to: info@riverregionchamber; or visit www.riverregionchamber.org. Location: 425 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. D, LaPlace, LA 70068