

## Terrebonne Sheriff and Emergency Director Give Advice on Emergency Planning

Excerpts from *The Courier, Tri-Parish Times* as edited by Jane Arnette

Business owners in Terrebonne Parish were urged at the South Central Industrial Association's March meeting to obtain reentry badges allowing access back into the parish following hurricane evacuations. Businesses should find out if they are eligible for special re-entry passes and be prepared for hurricanes and other disasters before they hit, local emergency officials said last week. Terrebonne Parish Emergency Preparedness Director Earl Eues and Sheriff Vernon Bourgeois shared views on the issue during the monthly meeting.



There were not any specific provisions for businesses in Terrebonne's hurricane plan for Gustav and Ike, Bourgeois said. Plans used for re-entry in the past, he said, had not been successful. After Gustav hit on Sept. 1 the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, the parish's economic-development group, began issuing business its own re-entry passes.

After the storms, TEDA continued with the badge program by collecting applications for this year's hurricane season. The passes, called "Tier 1" badges, are designed for utility and repair contractors, operators of essential services like

grocery stores and gas stations and major oil-and-gas operations.

No passes have been granted yet, but the officials have been working to explain the program and answer questions. Procedures are in place now to ensure that passes are known and honored by State Police, as well as authorities in the eight-parish area surrounding Lafourche and Terrebonne. "We asked them to please let them through," he said. "It will work well in our eight parishes. It is good for us. We have to go through (other parishes) to get in."

Eues wants a Terrebonne Parish sheriff's deputy placed at all National Guard roadblocks/checkpoints in the parish following evacuations and for reentry because deputies are familiar with the area. If a businessperson runs into difficulty, Eues said, a call to the parish emergency preparedness office is recommended.

Eues told business owners to submit forms to the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority to receive the badges, which cost \$5 apiece.

The passes, Eues said, are still not a guarantee for re-entry. A police officer or member of the National Guard could turn a businessperson away if conditions are deemed unsafe. That call, he said, is ultimately up to each parish, Eues said. "There will be some times when we will have roadblocks and there will be some issues," he said. "All I ask you is please be patient."

Each person returning to the parish needs a badge, and they will be issued to only small numbers of key employees. Eues said some businesses had requested as many as 20 passes, but in his opinion only five or six are appropriate.



continued page 11

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...



Your SCIA continues to monitor the proposed controversial legislation "Employee Free Choice Act," also known as the "Card Check Legislation." This proposed legislation would, among other things, eliminate the secret ballot voting process that is currently in place for employees to vote for union representation. SCIA is working with our federal delegation to address our

issues and concerns. A sub-committee of the Infrastructure and Governmental Affairs committee held a meeting with Senator Landrieu's staff discussing our concerns and the potential impacts of this legislation. I want to thank those who participated for bringing a wealth of information to the table.

Also of great concern is the list of repealed tax deductions and incentives directly related to oil and gas exploration, manufacturing and production in the Obama Administration's 2010 proposed budget. The SCIA participated in the Oil & Gas Issues Conference Call with Senator Landrieu to document our concerns and get the latest information regarding these issues. Your SCIA will continue to work on issues that will negatively impact our industrial members and their employees.

Your SCIA, with the support of several member firms, established the SCIA Memorial Endowed Professorship in memory of Otis T. Logue and Leland Robichaux at Fletcher Technical Community College. This endowment is the first in

the school's history. I want to recognize and thank SCIA past president Mr. Kenny Smith for his outstanding leadership and dedication in making this a reality. I also want to thank all the member firms whose donations made this possible and Jane Arnette for all of her assistance with this project.

Below are important SCIA dates and reminders:

- There are just a few tickets left for the spring SCIA crawfish boil, which will be held at Southdown Plantation on April 16. Contact the SCIA office to secure your tickets if you have not done so.
- The South Central Industrial Association is accepting applications for the Otis T. Logue and Aimee Celeste Lagarde scholarship program. These are one-time \$1,000 scholarships. To learn more and receive an application, please contact the SCIA office. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2009.

The SCIA has relocated its office to the Houma Atrium on Tunnel Boulevard. The office is located on the 5th floor Suite # 500B. All of the contact information is still the same.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on April 21, 2009 and our scheduled guest speaker is Dr. Denise Reed. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Don't forget to visit our website at [www.sciaonline.net](http://www.sciaonline.net) for information and updates.

Sincerely,

**Anthony (Tony) Boudreaux**  
SCIA PRESIDENT

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### SCIA

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# Corporate Office Park is First of its Kind to Open in Houma



Henry J. Richard, owner of Richard Development, recently announced a new office park development and is currently pre-leasing. Corporate Office Park features professional Class "A" office space for lease or sale and is located in the heart of the new Houma Business District at 435 Corporate Drive. The New Orleans French Quarter style architecture office park will be composed of up to six buildings with over 40,000 sq. ft. of lease space available in a variety of sizes from 1,200 sq. ft. up to 13,000 sq. ft.+.

The park will be built in phases, with Building Number 1 ready for April 1, 2009 and the other buildings to follow demand. Building # 1 is 5,200 sq. ft., Building # 2 will be 13,672 sq. ft. while Buildings 3 and 4 will be 4,155 square feet each. Additional lots have been added to accommodate 2 more buildings on a "build to suit basis" for investors seeking to own a piece of this development.

Elevations of 9'0+, flood zone C, new IBC building codes, ceiling heights of 10' and 12', ample parking, ground floor entry, hurricane rated shutters and doors, energy efficient design, maintenance proof, sound attenuation blanket in all walls, parabolic lighting and more.

Corporate Office Park is located on South Hollywood Road and Corporate Drive on what will be a beautifully landscaped, manicured, maintained professional business atmosphere. Richard has expanded his business ventures that include Richard's Restaurant Supply to real estate and business development. This brings another new dimension to the growth and development of Terrebonne Parish, enhancing the entire bayou region. For additional information, you may contact Mr. Richard at 985-223-6012, ext 227 or [henry@richarddevelopment.com](mailto:henry@richarddevelopment.com). 

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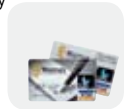
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# SCIA Meets with Landrieu Staffers to Discuss Employee Free Choice Act

By: Jane Arnette, Executive Director

A small group of SCIA business leaders met with Senator Landrieu's state director, T. Bradley Keith and Wes Kungel, the area rep, during a luncheon meeting held at the new offices of Gulf Island Fabrication. The two-hour meeting was to discuss specific issues and how card check would effect the oil and gas industry as it relates to the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, the SCIA Board of Directors issued the following statement through a letter to Senators Landrieu and Vitter.

Dear Senators Landrieu and Vitter:


*The South Central Industrial Association, representing more than 200 member companies with over 40,000 employees, many of which are engaged in servicing the oil and gas operations in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and around the world, is no stranger to you. We have requested and received your assistance on numerous occasions as a champion of our causes and as our shepherd for the democratic process. Once again, we implore you to listen to our concerns.*

*No issue in recently memory has unified businesses and concerned citizens more than the proposed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). It is clear that this bill as written will take away a worker's right to a federally supervised private ballot when deciding whether or not to join a union. Our industrial-based members strongly believe the successful passage of this bill would expose the worker to potential pressure, threats and retaliation. With documented cases of pressure, harassment, trickery and intimidation, our entire industry would be in great jeopardy. We further believe there has been too little discussion on an issue which will have dramatic consequences and negative effects on business in Louisiana, will increase operating costs during an already uncertain economic period and in fact will operate to provide employees less freedom rather than more in the voting process.*

*Within our many government processes is the "cloture" procedure implemented and honored by Congress. We are requesting that you vote "No" for cloture when the EFCA is introduced in the U.S. Senate, as well as "No" for the Act. Our members and many concerned citizens in the region are greatly opposed to many of the new provision of this Act, most notably the "card check" component. Our organization and its members wholeheartedly supports improving the working and living conditions of those critical employees working in the marine, manufacturing and fabrication industries, but there are more just and fair ways to achieve that result than a bill which would expose our workforce to potential threats, intimidation and even humiliation.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, as it directly affects the prosperous industries of South Louisiana.*

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) Boudreaux, SCIA President 

If you would like to send letters, the addresses are listed:

## LOUISIANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

### **U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, (D)**

724 Hart Senate Office Building United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5824 • Fax: 202-224-9735  
Email: <http://landrieu.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

### **U.S. Senator David Vitter, (R)**

516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1803  
Phone: 202-224-4623 • Fax: 202-228-5061  
Email: <http://vitter.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>

### **U.S. Representative, District 1 Steve Scalise, (R)**

429 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-3015 • Fax: 202-226-0386  
Email: [http://www.scalise.house.gov/contactform\\_zipcheck.shtml](http://www.scalise.house.gov/contactform_zipcheck.shtml)

### **U.S. Representative, District 2 Anh Joseph Cao, (R)**

2113 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1802  
Phone: 202-225-6636 • Fax: 202-226-1988  
Email: <https://forms.house.gov/josephcao/contact-form.shtml>

### **U.S. Representative, District 3 Charlie Melancon, (D)**

404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4031 • Fax: 202-226-3944  
Email: [http://www.melancon.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=205](http://www.melancon.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=205)

### **U.S. Representative, District 4 John Fleming, (R)**

1023 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2777 • Fax: 202-225-8039  
Email: <https://forms.house.gov/fleming/contact-form.shtml>

### **U.S. Representative, District 5 Rodney Alexander, (R)**

316 Cannon House Office Building.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-8490 • Fax: 205-225-5639  
Email: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

### **U.S. Representative, District 6 Bill Cassidy, (R)**

506 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-3901 • Fax: 202-225-7313  
Email: <https://forms.house.gov/cassidy/contact-form.shtml>

### **U.S. Representative, District 7 Charles Boustany, Jr., (R)**

1117 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2031 • Fax: 202-225-5724  
Email: <http://boustany.house.gov/ContactCharles.asp>

# Entergy Earns Top 10 Distinction as Best Corporate Citizens

*Two organizations recognize company's standout environmental and social performance*

New Orleans, La. – Corporate Responsibility Officer magazine today named Entergy Corporation (NYSE: ETR) as one of the top ten corporate citizens in the United States. For the second time in three years, Entergy was the highest-ranking utility company on CRO's honored list.

CRO publisher Jay Whitehead announced the magazine's 10th annual 100 Best Corporate Citizens List during a news conference in New York City. First published in 2000 by Business Ethics Magazine, the Citizens List is the most-recognized corporate responsibility ranking of Russell 1000 companies. It is based on publicly available information that is used to rank performance in seven key areas: environment, climate change, human rights, philanthropy, employee relations, financial and governance.

"Social and environmental responsibility is embedded in our corporate DNA," said J. Wayne Leonard, Entergy's chairman and chief executive officer. "Recognition as a top corporate citizen is a very special and important achievement for us as we continue to aggressively pursue smart carbon policy for a sustainable future."


The 100 Best Corporate Citizens List was compiled for CRO by IW Financial, a leading provider of socially responsible investment rankings to institutional investors. The final designation of the 100 best companies was determined by averaging the ranks within the seven categories. Entergy has now appeared on the CRO Best Corporate Citizens List for three consecutive years.

"In today's deep recession, human capital and financial capital seek safety — and companies on the 100 Best Corporate Citizens List are today's safest harbors," Whitehead said.

A complete list of CRO's Best Corporate Citizens is available on the CRO Web site ([www.thecro.com](http://www.thecro.com)).

In another recently announced list, Entergy was honored as Best in Class for environmental and social performance by Storebrand, a SRI financial services company. Storebrand's ranking is based on an analysis of 53 companies worldwide that represent the electric utilities industry, independent power producers and energy traders.

The main indicators for analysis included climate change, environmental management and governance. Companies that ranked in the top 30 percentile of environmental and social performance qualified for investment by Storebrand's Best in Class funds. Only 14 companies were chosen as Best in Class for the 2009 analysis with Entergy being one of only two U.S.-based companies included on the list.

Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, and it is the second-largest nuclear generator in the United States. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.7 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of more than \$13 billion and approximately 14,300 employees. 



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## Performance Energy Services Announce Expansion In Houma

Gov. Bobby Jindal joined Performance Energy Services LLC to announce an expansion of the company's facility in Houma. The company will develop five acres at the Port of Terrebonne, which will be used as a topside deck and marine repair yard. This project represents a \$26 million capital investment that will retain 800 jobs and create 350 new jobs within five years at an average salary of over \$55,000 plus benefits.

Jindal said, "Louisiana's recent economic success is a result of our efforts to retain and expand such existing businesses as Performance Energy Services. Today's announcement highlights our state's ability to attract investment as tough economic times sweep across the nation."

Construction on the facility is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2009 and to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2010. The company has applied for Louisiana Economic Development's Enterprise Zone program and Economic Development Awards Program to help finance the project.

"We are proud to have the state of Louisiana partner with us in Houma for our most recent expansion project," said Ricky LaGrange, chief executive officer of Performance Energy Services. "We have worked on this project with many local and state officials and are very pleased to see all of the hard work result in a positive change in Louisiana, creating more jobs and helping the local and state economy. We could never imagine a time in which Performance Energy Services would not want to call Terrebonne Parish home."

Established in June 2000, Performance Energy Services has headquarters and facilities in Houma. The company specializes in onshore spool piping, structural fabrication, sandblasting and painting, and offshore installations. In addition to its South Louisiana operations, Performance Energy has a location in Ingleside, Texas, which serves the oil and gas industry throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

## SCIA Issues Several Resolutions


At its recent board meeting, SCIA B directors passed several resolutions. You may find copies of the resolutions online at [sciaonline.net](http://sciaonline.net) Menu item: Resolutions

1. In support of surplus funds for Morganza to the Gulf and South Lafourche Levee District.
2. In support of assistance with State and Federal Permit Processing for both Terrebonne and Lafourche parish projects
3. In support of Terrebonne CDBG fund for structures for Morganza to the Gulf
4. Against the FY2010 federal budget that taxes the oil and gas industry.

## Oil States Opens New Machine Shop

Oil States Industries today celebrated opening a new 20,000 square-foot, climate-controlled machine shop. "We're proud we're still expanding in the current economic conditions," said Bobby Nelson, vice president at the company, which manufactures crane and winch equipment used mainly for deepwater oil and gas production. The \$2.4 million shop will help specialized computer equipment function better, as well as creating more pleasant conditions for workers, company executives said. They hosted a lunch and ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday with company employees and local business groups. Oil States Skagit Smatco is the local office of the Houston-based Oil States International.





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# SCIA Donates To Fletcher Foundation

By: Elmy Savoie, FTCC

South Central Industrial Association (SCIA) recently donated \$40,000 to Fletcher Technical Community College Foundation, Inc. (Fletcher Foundation) to establish the Foundation's first endowed professorship, which will be matched with \$60,000 by the Louisiana Board of Regents Endowed Professorship program. The SCIA Memorial Endowed Professorship is in honor of two loyal and dedicated SCIA members who passed away this past year- Otis Logue and Leland Robichaux.

"This professorship is a way for SCIA to honor them and keep their efforts alive in our community," said Kenneth Smith, SCIA Board Member. "The purpose of the Professorship is to recruit top-quality new faculty members at Fletcher Technical Community College. One of the main focuses of SCIA is workforce development, and this dedicated Professorship is a great opportunity to train the workforce that we need for our region," Smith continued.

"On behalf of Fletcher Technical Community College, I would like to thank SCIA and its members for their generous donation to the Fletcher Foundation and ultimately the college," commented Fletcher Chancellor F. Travis Lavigne, Jr. "Through the support and commitment of SCIA, Fletcher can continue to fulfill its mission of workforce development and addressing industry needs in these challenging economic times."


"SCIA has donated \$17,900 from funds collected through Logue and Robichaux memorials and through SCIA fundraising activities," said SCIA Executive Director, Jane Arnette. SCIA President, Tony Boudreaux also thanked other contributors who stepped up to the plate to make up the difference for the \$40,000 contribution to the Fletcher Technical Community College Foundation. "As we understand," said Boudreaux, "this is the first endowment for the newly formed foundation. In addition to the SCIA funds, those companies helping with the funding are T. Baker Smith (TBS), Chet Morrison Contractors, Edison Chouest




Foundation Member Danny Walker, LCTCS Chair Stevie Smith and Chancellor Travis Lavigne are presented a check by SCIA President Tony Boudreaux.

Offshore, Buquet Distributing, William Clifford Smith, John Deere Thibodaux, Superior Labor Services, Surbo Tubular Services, Anthony J. Alford Insurance Corporation, Morrison Terrebonne Lumber and Authur J. Gallagher of Louisiana (A Sternfels Agency).

About Board of Regents Endowed Professorship  
The Board of Regents established the Endowed Professorships to recruit superior new faculty and/or retain faculty whose research, teaching, and/or public service have uniquely contributed to the missions of their departments and institutions. The revenue generated from the investment of the endowed professorship will be directed exclusively toward support and enhancement of one or more technical programs.

Normally, to create a \$100,000 Endowed Professorship, it requires a foundation to secure a \$60,000 base of private dollars, and the Board of Regents will match \$40,000. Until March 2009, SCIA can create a \$100,000 professorship with only \$40,000 of private money, and the Board of Regents will match the remaining \$60,000. 

## ES & H Report TWIC Enrollment Deadline Near

There is less than a month left until the April 15th TWIC enrollment deadline for anyone requiring unescorted access to secure areas of maritime facilities and vessels regulated by MSTA. Individuals not requiring unescorted access can still be allowed in secure areas of MSTA regulated vessels, facilities, and OCS facilities without a TWIC card as long as they have a TWIC card holder acting as an escort who has met specific training requirements. ES&H TWIC card holders do meet these requirements and can serve as TWIC escorts. For more information on this service, please contact ES&H at 1-877-437-2634 or via email at [info@esandh.com](mailto:info@esandh.com). 



SCIA President Tony Boudreaux and Director Kenny Smith make a presentation to LCTCS at the State board meeting.

# TOFCO Delivers Latest Success with the Completion of the EOG Toucan Deck

By: Dawn Lopez, *Chet Morrison Contractors, Inc.*

In January 2009, Trinidad Offshore Fabricators Unlimited (TOFCO) successfully delivered the EOG Toucan Deck. This is the second EOG deck built at TOFCO's facility in La Brea, Trinidad. Previously, TOFCO completed Oilbird which was similar in size and dimension to Toucan.

The Toucan deck is a conventional deck module with a structure designed to support a drill rig, gas processing system and manned operations with an overall weight of 1,800 tons. The structure has a vent boom with boom field installed and three levels -Main deck (89' elevation), Production deck (64' elevation) and the Cellar deck (45' elevation)-and provides a total grated surface of approximately 32,000 square feet.

The Toucan Deck module includes a helipad facility with a 144' elevation which was pre-installed onshore by TOFCO, a utility and power generation system to support the facility, a pneumatic instrument control system to safely control and monitor the hydrocarbon processing and utility systems, and living and office accommodations to support a manned facility of up to 14 personnel.

EOG Toucan is located in 433 feet of water 43 miles east of Trinidad. EOG currently has eight platforms located offshore of Trinidad with Toucan being the largest.

"We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to EOG for allowing us another opportunity to showcase our

abilities. The Toucan project was constructed safely within international industry standard controls and forms part of the seven (7) successive major offshore construction projects that we have delivered since the beginning of our company in 2003" stated Ryan Sahadeo, Engineering Manager of TOFCO. 🇺🇸



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# Houma Has Lowest U.S. jobless rate; BR 15th

Excerpt from Baton Rouge Advocate

Houma, insulated by a bustling shipbuilding and oil and gas infrastructure, touts the lowest unemployment rate for any of the 372 metropolitan areas in the United States, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported this morning.

Houma's jobless rate stood at 3.7 percent in January, while Baton Rouge's rate ranks as the 15th-best in the U.S. at 5.4 percent.

"We continue to see indications that we're riding out this recession very well," said Mike Odom, senior vice president of marketing and operations at the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

In January, Houston had the largest annual job increase in the nation at 17,200, followed by Oklahoma City at 7,000 and Austin, Texas, at 6,600. Baton Rouge ranked 20th in that category with a 2,000-job annual increase. 🇺🇸

# WORK IT! LOUISIANA

By: Jane Arnette, SCIA Director

Cameron International speaks at Franklin High School.



## SCIA Donates to TFAE



Yolanda Trahan, TFAE Executive Director accepts check from SCIA President Tony Boudreaux.



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## T. Baker Smith Opens New Office in Thibodaux

By: Paula Schouest, TBS Marketing Director

T. Baker Smith recently opened a new office in Thibodaux on South Acadia, located across from Thibodaux Regional Medical Center.

For the past seven years, T. Baker Smith rented office space in Thibodaux on East 2nd Street, where office space was limited to three people. The new 5,500 square foot two story office includes workspace for 23 people.

Jimmy Ledet, the manager of the Thibodaux office said, "I believe that our new office gives us a stronger presence and shows that we are committed to the Thibodaux and Lafourche parish communities. T. Baker Smith is here to stay."



"The Thibodaux office is an example of how we give our existing people the resources needed to grow and develop professionally. With the space in this office, we will be able to hire more people interested in being a part of what we are building at T. Baker Smith," said Kenny Smith, President/CEO of T. Baker Smith.

Headquartered in Houma for almost a century, T. Baker Smith provides surveying, engineering, environmental, geophysical, marine positioning and construction management services to clients across the gulf south and beyond.

Thibodaux Mayor Charles Caillouet said, "We are happy to have a well established company like T. Baker Smith as part of our community."

T. Baker Smith also has offices in Houma, Baton Rouge and Lafayette, LA and Houston, TX.

The Acadian style office building was designed by Gossen Holloway and Associates and constructed by BET Construction, a Byron Talbot company.

**SCIA Annual Banquet**  
**June 3, 2009**  
**Call 985-851-2201**  
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## According to the Louisiana Insurance Commissioner

By: Philip "Phe" McMahon, Vice President, Paul's Insurance

Home owners may be able to receive tax deductions for the 2008 year for the following items.

- Any surcharge or assessment on your policy for the Louisiana Citizens Insurance Fund
- Automatic 7% credit on your premium for your state return
- Proof of any claim or portion of your claim(deductible) that was not reimbursed. A good example would be fencing, debris removal...

Please mention these items to your accountant when they are preparing your return.

I would also make a copy of your homeowners declaration page (the first page that shows the effective date of coverage and premiums) from your policy and a copy of the deductible endorsement. Most home owners policy have a separate wind/ hurricane based on a % of the home value from 2% - 5%. You would also have to show the insurable value of the home. Again, that figure should be reflected on your declaration page.

Good luck 🇺🇸

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# Terrebonne Sheriff and Emergency Director Advice – cont.

“The pass gets you back in town to look at your operations, to preserve your business until they let you back in the parish,” he said. “It allows you to grab records and do what you have to do.”

Eues said parish officials cannot provide shelter and sustenance to business owners. “You’re responsible for sustaining yourself,” he said.

He said the parish’s decision to bar residents from coming back into the parish for a week following Hurricane Gustav allowed electricity crews to work unhindered by traffic, thus getting the parish operational more quickly. This may be the case for future emergency events.

In addition, he said, all of those coming back need to be prepared for hardship. Food, water and supplies, electric power, plumbing and other services could still be a long time in coming to a storm-ravaged area. While some services or generators might be available, the parish cannot be counted on to provide these, he said.

Bourgeois acknowledged the importance of the business community, calling it “the heartbeat of the parish” and said his office will strive to make the recovery process run smoothly. “We’re learning from our mistakes,” he said. “We want to go forward.”

Kenny Smith, CEO of the T. Baker Smith engineering and environmental firm, said after Hurricane Gustav that he was deeply frustrated about the lack of information coming from the parish, leaving him hard-pressed to make decisions about how to proceed with his business. But he said he was “encouraged” by what he heard. “There’s a lot of thought going on,” he said. “There’s more of a formalized plan.”


The program permits owners of businesses critical to

recovery and top management to come back into the parish to assess damage and determine what needs to be done to restart operations, said Katherine Gilbert, TEDA business retention and expansion director.

Eues offered several suggestions to business owners to help continue operating after hurricanes. Owners should get alternate phone numbers for their shippers and ask them how they plan to maintain supplies following hurricanes. Alternate locations for operations need to be identified and owners should develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities. Besides having phone numbers of employees, secure message boards can be easily set up to allow employees to contact the companies.

Owners should designate three people to succeed each manager. Checklists need to be made and standard operating procedures made available. “Please be prepared,” Eues said. “It’s going to happen. You’ll be in a situation where you can’t get back into your office.”

The program’s application form can be downloaded from the TEDA Web site at [www.tpeda.org](http://www.tpeda.org). After completing the form, it can be dropped off at the TEDA office at 496 Corporate Drive, Houma, La or mailed to PO Box 3209, Houma, LA 70361, or you may call Sheila at 985-873-6890. An appointment will be scheduled. TEDA will determine the business personnel receiving the credentials, called Tier 1 access.

You may also access this through the SCIA Website at [www.sciaonline.net](http://www.sciaonline.net) under the menu item Business Reentry. You may also download a template to develop a plan for your business. 

## Organizations Meet About I-49



**A group of SCIA members, Houma Chamber members and Thibodaux Chamber visited with a group of Lafayette Chamber members regarding efforts to develop I-49 from Lafayette to the West Bank of New Orleans. Representing SCIA were Jane Arnette and IGA Sub chairs, Mart Black (Providence Engineering & Environmental Group and Troy Cloutier (Mid South Bank.)**

## 2009 Leadership Louisiana



**Stevie Smith and Windell Curole entertained and informed the 2009 Leadership Louisiana class during a weekend visit to Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. LELA class participants this year are Jane Arnette, Chett Chaisson (Port Fourchon), Phyllis Peoples (TGMC), Gretchen Caillouet, and Mathew Block.**

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