

Jefferson Business Council

General Membership Meeting

March 19, 2014

Attendance: Tony Ligi, Buck Barkley, Eric Bosch, Bobby Brannon, Barry Breaux, Dann Cahoon, Laney Chouest, , Melissa Gibbs, Lee Giorgio, Mike Hollis, Jim Hudson, Pat LeBlanc, Todd Matherne, Stan Salathe, Henry Shane, Frank Stewart, Robert Weinmann, Bert Wilson

Guests: Vincent Palomo

I. Opening Remarks Bert Wilson

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker, Jefferson Parish President, John Young.

II. Parish President John Young

President Young spoke on the importance of the millage renewal. He then took questions from the membership.

III. Financial Report

Tony Ligi reported that to date we have 46 paying members with 4 outstanding with all other finances in order.

IV. Old Business

Membership Committee

Robert Weinmann reported that he referred 10 potential members by the Executive committee which their names were approved. Mr. Weinmann read the names of the 10 names they wish to extended membership to. Mr.

Weinmann asked if there are any issues with these candidates to please contact Tony Liggi or Bert Wilson.

Jefferson Parish Public Schools Poll – Byron LeBlanc

Mr. Ligi reported that Mr. Byron Leblanc attended the Executive meeting and discussed the outcome of the polls. The polls suggested that most people were not aware of the accomplishments in the Jefferson Parish Public School system over the last year. Mr. Ligi also discussed the need for LABI to be engaged in the reform and the continued support of the business community to support our school board members financially.

Poll re: Jefferson Parish Public School System

There was a motion by Jim Garvey and a second by Buck Barkley to finance \$2,600 to fund the poll. The poll will supply us with information on where the strengths and weaknesses are in the system

V. New Business

Discussion of Tort Reform Bills (LABI)

Mr. Ligi reported that Stephen Waguespack, President of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), said, “The business community is united to address the need for lawsuit reform.

2014 Legislative Agenda

Attached to the minutes is a list from GNO, Inc. outlining the Priority Bill List for the 2014 Legislative Session.

VI. Reports

Occupational License collection

Mr. Ligi reported that he and Dave Sherman will meet with the parish attorney.

VII. Upcoming Events

- 3/21 (2pm) Southeast Coalition of Business Councils meeting re 2014 legislative session (Iberia Bank)
- 3/21 (7:30pm) Jefferson Chamber Gala featuring Jefferson Community Foundation Award to Henry Shane (Saints facility)
- 3/25 (8:30 am) GNO, Inc. investor meeting re workforce development in energy sector at GNO, Inc. office

- 3/28 (8:30 am.) Jefferson Community Foundation meeting (Iberia Bank)
- 3/28 (7pm) Delgado “Roast of the Town” Honoree Dr. Joe May at Harrah’s New Orleans Theatre
- 4/1 GNO, Inc. Day at the Legislature
- 4/2 (5 pm) JP School Board meeting
- 4/9 (10 am) Jefferson Parish Council Meeting
- 4/16 (7:30 am.) Jefferson Business Council General Membership meeting
- 4/17 (7:30 am.) Fundraiser for School Bd member Mark Morgan at Andrea’s
- 4/29 (noon) Jefferson Chamber/Jefferson Business Council legislative luncheon at Capital (Ellender Room)
- 5/20 Melinda Bourgeois Fundraiser (School Bd Candidate)

VIII. Adjournment

Bert Wilson

2014 State Legislative Session

Priority Bill List

1. **International Flight Attraction**
 - a. Advocate for \$5- \$7.5M (x 2 years) to support international flight package
Amend budget bills: HB1 or supplemental appropriation (identify fiscal agent)
 - b. International Flight Incentive
Researching applicability to general session through Sen. Martiny staff
2. **MediFund Investment** – Secure \$5+M investment in the MediFund (Act 320 of 2013)
Amend budget bills: HB1 or supplemental appropriation (Regents fiscal agent)
3. **Workforce Solutions** – Collaborate with statewide coalition to advocate for policies that build training capacity, close workforce gaps, and recruit for demand positions.
 - a. Enable Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) training eligibility for TOPSTech and TOPSTech Early Start funding – *Support and amend SB126 Nevers*
 - b. DOE Jump Start/Career Diploma for high school career paths – *Support HB944 Fannin*
4. **Higher Education** – Support policies that strengthen the higher education delivery system.
 - a. WISE Fund (competitive pool for high demand professions) – *Support SB526 Alario*
 - b. Ensure self generated tuition dollars stay in higher education – *Support HB222 Leger*
 - c. Raise TOPS standards, combined with tuition authority – *Support SB520/343 Donahue*
5. **Tort Reform** – Support rationale changes to the state’s tort laws in order to improve Louisiana’s regulatory environment for business entry and expansion (*research*)
 - a. LABI-led package addresses jury threshold, “judge shopping,” and excessive litigation by public bodies.
 - b. Chairman Abramson also filed bills for class action suits, pre-emption, expedited trials, and summary judgment.
 - c. Oil and Gas Industry backing: Adley and Allain package
6. **Criminal Justice Reforms** – Support the “Smart on Crime” package to be led by the Pelican Institute to revise sentencing, parole, and re-entry statutes to create efficiencies in the criminal justice system that will curb incarceration rates and expenses, while focusing law enforcement and public resources on violent crime. Part of national movement, modeled after recent Texas reforms. (*Needs further research and due diligence*)

Major Bills of Concern:

SB520 Donahue – subjects exemptions and incentives to the appropriations process

SB325 Murray – indemnification of environmental damage

SB46 Dorsey – establishes state minimum wage at \$10/hour (federal level \$7.25)

SB345 Crowe – allocated \$300 million from Oil Spill fines to classroom technology