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Our Inaugural Issue!

The Directors, Members and Staff of IDF are proud to present the very first issue of *Iberia Ink*, the "Official Newsletter" of the Iberia Industrial Development Foundation.

Iberia is a wonderful, vibrant and progressive place to live, work and do business and *Iberia Ink*

will endeavor to capture that spirit by providing helpful information about IDF and topics of interest that will help improve your bottom line and which affect our community and its economy.

Like our economy, *Iberia Ink* will always be a "Work in Progress", so we'll always welcome your

comments and suggestions on the information given here.

Together we can develop Iberia's economy to its fullest potential— That's what IDF and *Iberia Ink* are all about!

**Check out our next
Issue coming
Spring 2004**

IDF Announces 2004 Chairman Of The Board



Kyle Viator
2004 IDF
Chairman of the Board

January, succeeding Jimmy Shea, IDF's 2003 Chairman.

Kyle, a native and lifelong resident of New Iberia, is married to the former Madeline Louviere and they have two children, Kally 22 and Luke 15. Kyle has been involved with healthcare since accepting the position of Personnel Director at Dauterive Hospital in 1979 and has served as Chief Executive Officer of Dauterive Hospital in New Iberia since 1988. Kyle has served on numerous community and professional boards including the

Kyle J. Viator has been named 2004 Chairman of the Board of Directors. Kyle, who served as 2003 Vice Chairman, will officially "take the gavel" in

January, succeeding Jimmy Shea, IDF's 2003 Chairman.

Chairperson of the Louisiana Hospital Association (2001), Chairperson of the United Way of Iberia, Inc., (2001), and Chairman of the Board of the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce (1992).

"It's a real privilege to serve as Chairperson of the IDF and to work with our outstanding new President and CEO, Mike Tarantino, and the extraordinarily diverse and talented Board of Directors," says Viator. "My primary objective for 2004 is to continue to strengthen the role of IDF as the primary facilitator of economic development in Iberia Parish; in respect to both new business opportunities and the expansion of existing businesses." Viator mentions that "An initial focus will be to continue the work initiated by our current Chairperson, Jimmy Shea, in the areas of transportation (deep water channel and rail upgrades), housing availability for new workers and workforce development."

Viator foresees a more focused effort to increase the visibility of

IDF through Web Site enhancements and continuation of active participation in strategically selected trade shows. Viator indicates that "Efforts will also be made to determine the value and potential associated with developing a local "business cluster" strategy designed to build upon and compliment our existing economic strengths.

In addition, Kyle indicates that "supporting our existing business will continue to be a primary role for IDF. It's important for IDF to serve as a clearinghouse for the numerous resources available to the local business community as well as assisting them in accessing these resources. It is equally important for IDF to understand the needs and expectations of its members and the business community in order to better serve both. I encourage you to call Mike or I to give us your thoughts and ideas. The economic development opportunities for Iberia Parish are tremendous and I look forward to working with all of you in maximizing this potential."



From The Director

The mission of the IDF is to "Promote economic development by recruiting new businesses and helping existing businesses to grow and prosper", and 2003 has certainly "fit the bill" by shaping up to be a very productive year in just about every respect for IDF and Iberia as a whole.

From the start, our goal has been to use the input we gather to make a positive impact on our community and IDF facilitated a series of events this year which has helped our members and friends speak out on ways to improve our community and to

create and strengthen business opportunities.

In February, we sponsored our first Business Executives Round-table, an ongoing opportunity for a small, diverse group of the "movers and shakers" of our business community to discuss "The state of Iberia's economy". Issues discussed have led to meetings and focus groups on topics like "How can we improve housing opportunities in Iberia Parish"? and "How can we better educate our workforce"? We participated in discussions on the health care crisis facing our nation and our local businesses and continued in our strong support of Iberia Parish students through the efforts of the Education Industry and Business Council (EIB). Our Small Business Series of classes and seminars has made a difference in helping new and existing businesses take root and grow with ongoing opportunities to learn about

everything from starting a new business to learning how to win a government contract.

Membership (a group we call "Team Iberia"), continues to grow, and we encourage you to renew your annual membership if you haven't already done so. Please "Spread the word" about IDF to the folks you do business with. We'd love to have them as part of "Team Iberia" as well!

Special thanks go out to all public officials, members and friends of IDF for welcoming me into offices and businesses, convincing me once again that Iberia is definitely "takin' care of business".

2004 is looking bright as well, as we strive to continue to promote the unique business opportunities that Iberia and Acadiana provide. We're reaffirming our commitment to Iberia's economic well-being and we look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming year.



George Trappey, Mike Tarantino and Will Chapman discuss roundtable issues



Tune in to

**Teche Matters
On KANE 1240**

Fridays after
the IDF
Board
Meetings
To Hear
Mike Tarantino
Discuss
Economic
Development
Issues



Small Business Development Corner



Anne Dugas
IDF Small Business
Advisor

micro and small business enterprises in Iberia Parish. This was achieved by developing links to various federal, state and local agencies, create seminars and

The small business advisory program function was established to provide information and services needed by local entrepreneurs to create and operate

training sessions, provide brochures and checklists to assist with technical know-how and to handle various small business inquiries.

Referrals are now received from various governmental agencies and organizations as well as individuals and banks with over 325 individuals and small business owners utilizing the service.

Over 25 agencies on the federal, state, and local level are now available to provide technical assistance on an individual basis and local seminars offered on a bi-monthly basis on a variety of subjects.

If you are interested in this program,

please contact us at (337) 367-0834.

**Did you know that
America's 25 million
small businesses:**

- **Employ more than 58 percent of the private workforce**
- **Generate more than 51 percent of the nation's gross domestic product?**

IDF Partner Profile

IDF Note: This section entitled IDF Partner Profile endeavors to showcase for our readers all of the resources that are available through the various agencies and groups the IDF works with on a daily basis. We work with many diverse groups and a new Partner will be profiled in each future issue. We're certain that by learning more about our Partners you'll know more about the resources and services available for your business.



The Louisiana Department of Labor's premier Louisiana Works One Stop Center, located in downtown New Iberia, provides a wide range of services for local businesses. Through the leadership of its Director, Greg Declouet

and his dedicated staff, the New Iberia One Stop Center provides cutting edge business services such as placement services, training services, safety consulting, DOL tax credit programs and assessment/testing. "These services are provided at no-charge to business", said Declouet. "We reach out to employers in an effort to foster employment opportunities by assisting employers in understanding all of the resources that are available."

Recently, the Louisiana Works New Iberia Office of Workforce Development in conjunction with the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce and the IDF compiled a Wage and Benefits Survey of Iberia Parish employees. A total of 215 of the most commonly used occupations were surveyed. Of the 1060 employees who were contacted to participate in the survey 225 responded.

The data compiled in The Wage & Benefits Survey provide extremely helpful reference information to existing and prospective employers. A copy of the survey can be obtained by calling the New Iberia One Stop Center.

The One Stop Center works closely with both new and existing businesses and can provide resources for new hiring. "We've worked closely with two new area employers recently, Days Inn and Waffle House, in their recruitment of applicants and by providing interviewing/testing space" said Declouet.

In addition, businesses are advised that recent changes have been made in areas concerning minor labor laws. For more information call the New Iberia One Stop Center, call (337) 373-0010 or visit www.laworks.net.



Power Saving Tips

Cleco offers the following conservation tips to help businesses save money:

Change existing lighting to energy-efficient fluorescent T-8 lamps and electronic ballasts, tungsten halogen lamps, compact fluorescent or metal halide. This can reduce your costs by up to 30 percent.

Be sure to turn off computers, printers, copiers and lights every night and weekends, if not in use. Some electronic devices use nearly as much power on standby as they do when working at full capacity.

Have your air conditioning unit serviced professionally to maximize efficiency.

Install quality energy-efficient replacement parts when making repairs or performing maintenance on equipment.

To obtain a copy of the Cleco guide for businesses called "How To Reduce Your Energy Costs"

Contact Lanie Borel at
(337) 369-8281
Or by email
Lanie.Borel@cleco.com

Industrial Park Updates

Port of Iberia Update



Roy Pontiff, Port of Iberia Executive Director

The future of the deep water access at the Port of Iberia is gaining speed again after a short delay to lack of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding. The feasibility study currently being conducted by the Corps was recently modified and will aim for a completion date of July 31, 2004. This date is only 30 days later than the original completion date and is still in time for Congressional authorization as part of the Water Resource Development Act of fiscal year 2004. According to Port

Executive Director, Roy Pontiff, "We have been in intense discussions with Senator Mary Landrieu's office and the Corps regional office in New Orleans as well as Corps headquarters in Washington D.C. Basically, the Corps revisited their budget and the number of tasks that need to be done to complete the study."

The Port's proposal is for dredging an existing 12' deep channel to a depth of 20' through Freshwater Bayou to the Gulf of Mexico. "With deeper water, our fabricators will be able to build and ship projects across the world," said Pontiff

Acadiana Regional Airport Update



Robert Mouton
ARA Interim
Airport Director

Airport Authority Names Interim Director

The Iberia Parish Airport Authority has named Robert E. "Bobby" Mouton as the new Interim Airport Director for Acadiana Regional Airport succeeding Rock Lasserre, who retired in June. Mouton returns to Acadiana Regional Airport having previously served as Director from 1972 to 1979.

The Authority has also hired Jenny Bienvenu as Executive Secretary succeeding Ms. Gladys Landry who also retired in June after 21 years of service.

Fred Wesley, Chairman of the Iberia Parish Airport Authority, made the announcement at the March Board meeting. "We're happy to have Bobby on board as the Interim Director", said Wesley, "and we wish Rock and Gladys well in their retirement. We're looking forward to continued success managing a world-class General Aviation Airport facility and Industrial Park Complex."

For more information on business opportunities at the Acadiana Regional Airport, contact Bobby Mouton at (337) 365-7202.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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Iberia Industrial Development Foundation



Chairman's Report



Jimmy Shea,
2003 IDF
Chairman
of the
Board and
Managing
Partner of
The Bayou
Companies

LLC, sums up 2003 as "a smooth continuation of IDF's ongoing mission to recruit new business to Iberia Parish and help existing business grow and prosper". We hit the ground running with a new Executive Director in January and our efforts never skipped a beat.", said Shea. "I'd like to thank our Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their support and guidance throughout the year. I'm very pleased with what we've accomplished and by the input we've received from our Board of Directors, members and

area business. We've taken that input and facilitated discussions on how to build on the strengths of Iberia's economy and improve housing, infrastructure and work-force development opportunities through education. The sky's the limit for Iberia's economic growth and diversity and I'm excited about all the potential Iberia has for the future."

As Jimmy moves on to serve as Past Chairman, the IDF would like to thank him for his undying support and leadership over many years and as Chairman. Jimmy and The Bayou Companies have been and continue to be important partners in the IDF's efforts to make our economic community better and we appreciate his ongoing contributions.

**EXTRA!!
CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!**

**Encourage the people you do business
with to join "Team Iberia".**

**It's fast, it's easy, and it's good for Iberia!
Call (337) 367-0834
for more information**

**The IDF would like to welcome the most
Recent members of "Team Iberia"!**

**LeBlanc Oil Company
Days Inn Hotel and Suites
Antique Roseville
Regions Bank**

**For a complete member list visit
our website at
www.iberiaparishidf.org**

**When doing business.....
Think Iberia First!**