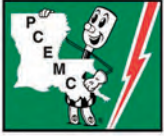


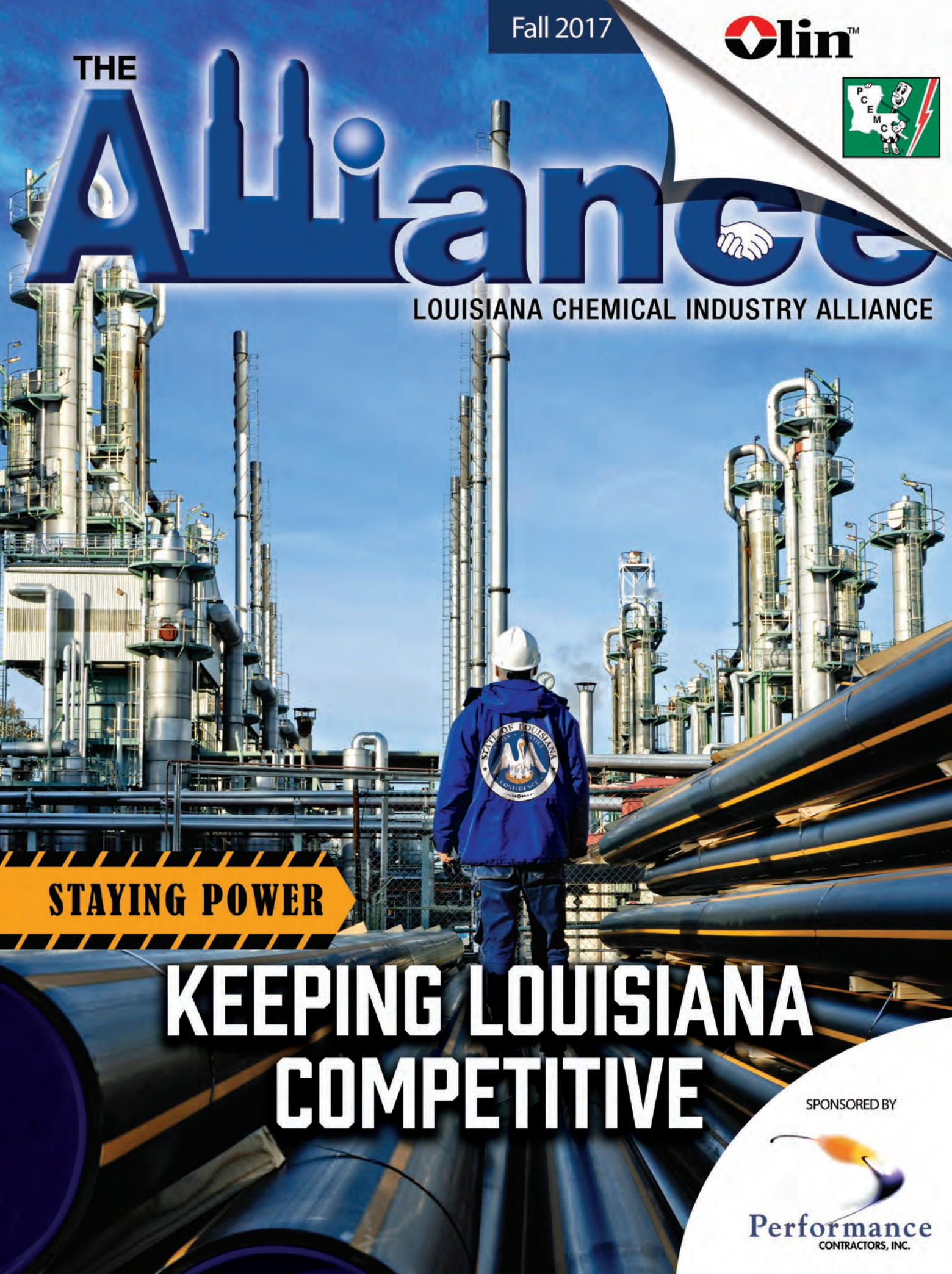
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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2017 fall edition of the Alliance Magazine! As always, we would like to take some time to thank our many members and advertisers for their tireless support in making this magazine, and our organization, a success year after year. We are grateful for your participation in this year's meeting and we ask our readers to please reciprocate those efforts and support our advertisers.

As for things in Louisiana, the more things change the more they stay the same. In what seems like an unfunny remake of Bill Murray's Groundhog Day, Louisiana is once again waking up, looking at the clock and realizing it is facing the prospect of a \$1 billion deficit in funding for next year's budget.

For those unfamiliar with the classic film, Murray's character is a curmudgeonly news anchor on assignment covering Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pa. After a blizzard forces him to spend an extra night in the small town, he arises to find he is stuck repeating the same day over and over again until he finally lives the day correctly and to the fullest.

Louisiana has spent much of the past decade impersonating Murray's character. Each year it faces the same budget issues and each year has failed to choose positive, substantial changes to put Louisiana on the right track.

Some projections for the coming year suggest the revenue shortfall will far exceed the billion dollar amount and may end up being as much as \$1.5 billion.

While the State must find a way to address its pending fiscal challenges, we must also stay away from decisions that will make Louisiana uncompetitive with respect to attacking additional business growth. Past decisions to raise billions of dollars in taxes on the backs of the business community have made some reevaluate their decision to do business, or make future expansions, in Louisiana.

As the legislative process plays out in Louisiana, LCA and LCIA will work with our members to advocate for ideas that will promote job growth and economic competitiveness in Louisiana. Our state has been the recipient of massive manufacturing growth in recent years and there is no reason bad tax policy should cause that growth to end.

Your input will help guide the LCA team at the Capitol to promote a solid tax structure for your business and for our state. Louisiana must fix its fiscal issues and fix them now. If LCA can play an active role in how the Governor and Legislature solves issues such as our infrastructure, public education and economic competitiveness, Louisianans will finally be able to wake up and realize we are no longer stuck reliving Groundhog Day and can look toward a brighter, more competitive future.



Gregory M. Bowser
President
Louisiana Chemical Association
Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance



Gregory M. Bowser



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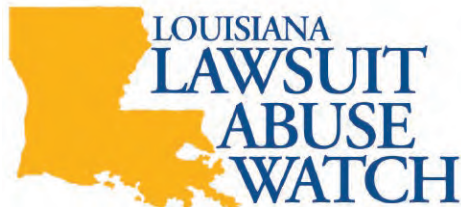
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LOUISIANA'S LEGAL CLIMATE REACHES AN ALL-TIME LOW

Melissa Landry
Louisiana Lawsuit Abuse Watch

Louisiana's lawsuit climate has hit rock bottom. Due to a perceived lack of fairness, abusive and excessive litigation and ongoing concerns about judicial integrity, our state courts are now nationally known as the worst place in the country to be sued.



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According to the latest 2017 Lawsuit Climate Survey: Ranking the States, a biennial assessment of state liability systems conducted by Harris Interactive and released by the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (ILR), Louisiana ranks 50th out of 50 states.

Unfortunately, the survey results did not come as a surprise. Litigation is a growing industry in Louisiana. From problematic venue laws, to widespread judicial misconduct, a lack of transparency in asbestos litigation and trust claims, broad misuse of consumer protection laws, and the highest jury trial threshold in the nation—there are many troubling aspects of our legal system that contribute

to the perception that it is difficult, if not impossible, for some to get a fair shake in our courts

Louisiana ranked dead last in seven of the 10 categories in the survey, including for its judges' competence and impartiality, the fairness of its juries, and the quality of its appeals process.

New Orleans/Orleans Parish also ranked as the fourth worst lawsuit jurisdiction in the nation.

“Considering that over 70% of the world’s lawyers live and practice in the United States, this unfortunate reputation may essentially make us one of the

most hostile legal climates in the world in terms of investment and economic development,” said Louisiana Association of Business and Industry President Stephen Waguespack. “Considering we need every private sector job we can get these days, that can’t be good.”

Indeed, the current legal system is sucking the life out of Louisiana’s economy, which has lost more than 20,000 jobs over the last two years.

“The state’s long history of litigation abuse and the questionable integrity of its courts hurts everyone by holding back more robust job growth and investment,” said ILR President Lisa A. Rickard.

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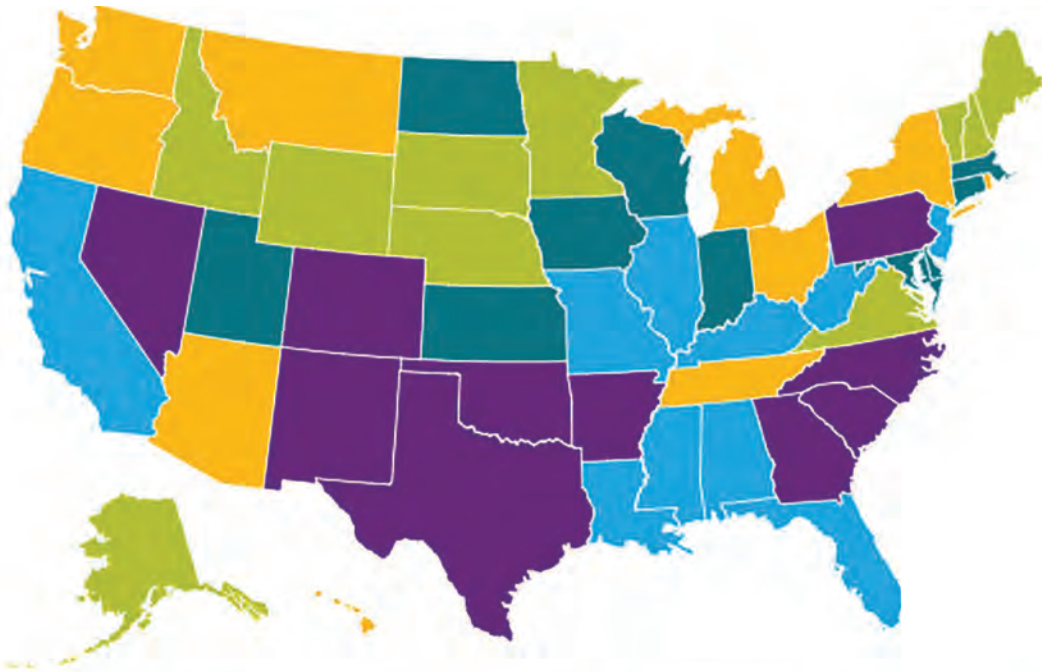
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2017 Ranking of State Liability Systems



1—10	11—20	21—30	31—40	41—50
1. South Dakota	11. Delaware	21. Oregon	31. Oklahoma	41. New Jersey
2. Vermont	12. Utah	22. Michigan	32. New Mexico	42. Kentucky
3. Idaho	13. Iowa	23. Hawaii	33. North Carolina	43. Alabama
4. Minnesota	14. Massachusetts	24. Rhode Island	34. South Carolina	44. Mississippi
5. New Hampshire	15. Indiana	25. Arizona	35. Colorado	45. West Virginia
6. Alaska	16. Connecticut	26. Ohio	36. Arkansas	46. Florida
7. Nebraska	17. North Dakota	27. Montana	37. Nevada	47. California
8. Wyoming	18. Kansas	28. Washington	38. Pennsylvania	48. Illinois
9. Maine	19. Maryland	29. New York	39. Texas	49. Missouri
10. Virginia	20. Wisconsin	30. Tennessee	40. Georgia	50. Louisiana

Louisiana has languished near the bottom of the legal climate rankings since ILR and Harris began conducting the survey nearly a decade ago.

In addition, the Manhattan Institute's Center for Legal Policy has labeled Louisiana as a "magnet for mass tort lawyers" while the American Tort Reform Association has consistently described the state as a hotbed of lawsuit abuse.

"The silver lining is that this data is black and white," said National Federation of Independent Business State Director Dawn Starns. "It gives the business community a way to illustrate why we must begin to pass reform measures. The upcoming legislative session is a general subject one where potential reforms could be passed. We would love to see some of our pro-small-business-friendly legislators take up the torch of legal reform."

Indeed, it is imperative that the Louisiana Legislature take a comprehensive look at fixing the broken lawsuit system.

"When it comes to abusive litigation and plaintiff-friendly judges, Louisiana has had a terrible reputation for decades, and it has only gotten worse in recent years," said Coalition for Common Sense Director Jim Harris. "We cannot continue to ignore this problem and hope it goes away. Until the governor and state lawmakers tackle these issues head on and enact meaningful legal reform, we will continue to be pegged as a judicial hellhole and new business, job growth and economic opportunities will continue to pass us by."

The full survey is available online at <http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/uploads/pdfs/Harris-2017-Executive-Summary-FINAL.pdf>.

Louisiana Lawsuit Abuse Watch is a high-impact watchdog group dedicated to fixing Louisiana's broken legal system through transparency, accountability and lawsuit reform. Learn more at: www.llaw.org.



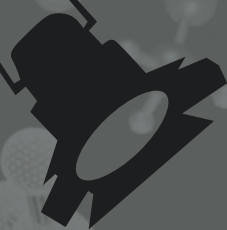
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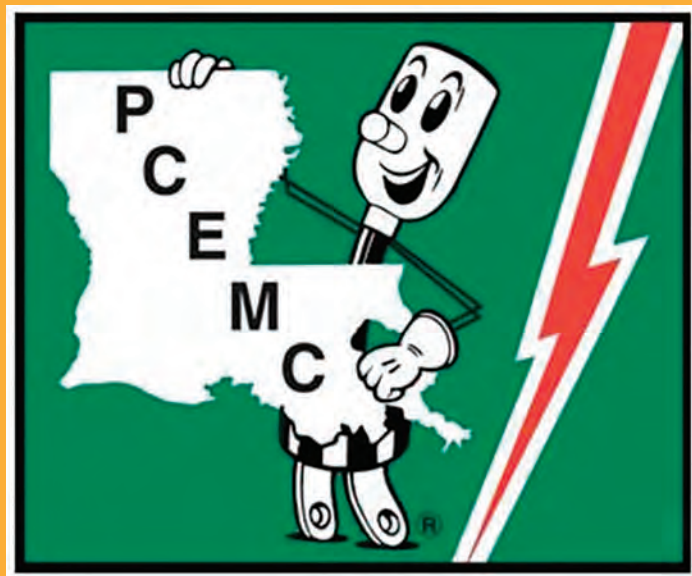
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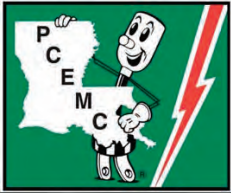
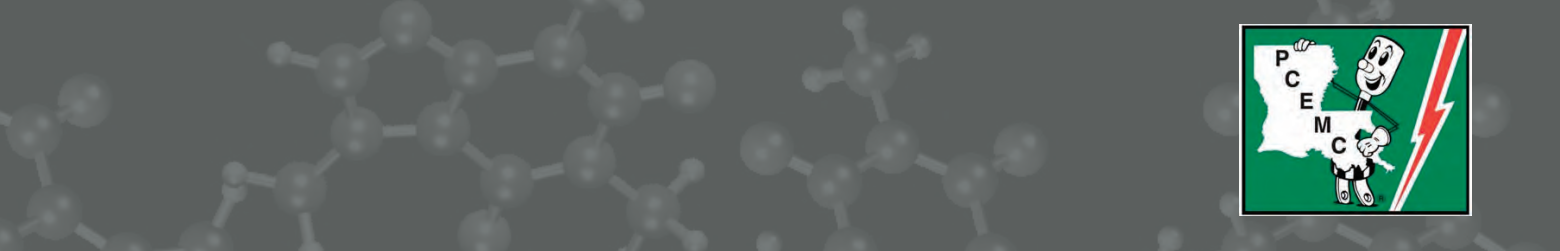


MEMBER **SPOTLIGHT:**



POINTE COUPEE ELECTRIC

In the early 1930s, nine out of 10 rural homes were without electric service. The farmer milked his cows by hand in the dim light of a kerosene lantern, as his wife stood over the wood range and washboard. The unavailability of electricity in rural areas kept economies entirely and exclusively dependent on agriculture. Factories and businesses preferred to locate in cities where electric power was easy to acquire. For many years, power companies ignored the rural areas of the nation.





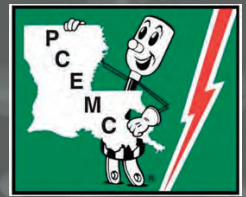
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



In May of 1933 came the first official action of the federal government pointing the way to the present rural electrification program with the passage of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Act. This act authorized the TVA Board to construct transmission lines to serve “farms and small villages that are not otherwise supplied with electricity at reasonable rates.”

The idea of providing federal assistance to accomplish rural electrification gained ground rapidly when President Roosevelt took office in 1933. On May 11, 1935, Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 7037 establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Within months, it became evident to REA officials that established investor-owned utilities were not interested in using





federal loan funds to serve sparsely populated rural areas, but loan applications from farmer-based cooperatives poured in, and REA soon realized electric cooperatives would be the entities to make rural electrification a reality.

In 1937, the REA drafted the Electric Cooperative Corporation Act, a model law that states could adopt to enable the formation and operation of not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives.

Within four years following the close of the World War II, the number of rural electric systems in operation doubled, the number of consumers connected more than tripled and the miles of energized line grew more than five-fold. By 1953, more than 90 percent of U.S. farms had electricity. Today, about 99 percent of the nation's farms have electric service. Most rural electrification is the product of locally owned rural electric cooperatives that got their start by borrowing funds from REA to build lines and provide service on a not-for-profit basis. Today, there are over 1,000 electric co-ops throughout the United States, with 11 located here in Louisiana.

Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation organized and received its state charter on September 15, 1938, serving Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. As of today, PCE serves more than 7800 members and has over 10,000 meters and over 1,000 miles of electric lines.

In an effort to diversify its membership and grow in order to keep utility rates low, in July of 2016, the Board of Directors for Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation announced the appointment of Myron A. Lambert, originally from Lusher, Louisiana, as their new General Manager.

Myron is only the third person in 75 years to assume the responsibilities of GM for this Co-op. With Myron serving several years as a senior account executive in economic development at Entergy, Louisiana with responsibilities including business development, including retention and



expansion statewide, this hire would mark the beginning of a new direction for this rural co-op.

Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation organized and received its state charter on September 15, 1938, serving Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. As of today, PCE serves more than 7800 members and has over 10,000 meters and over 1,000 miles of electric lines.

“Myron’s exceptional leadership and knowledge of community, coupled with his diversified, comprehensive experience in the utility industry, make him uniquely qualified to lead PCE to new heights. His strategic planning experience, ability to build and lead teams, drive performance and lead in difficult and even disastrous circumstances, bring a necessary skill set needed and expected for the role of the General Manager,” James J. “Jimmy” Ewing, Jr., Chair, Board of Directors.

In a little over a year, PCE has grown its membership base through economic development opportunities in and around Pointe Coupee Parish, including West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes. By joining other rural cooperatives throughout the state, PCE has been able to present utility options to Louisiana businesses both big and small that have not been available in year’s past.

In addition to offering competition in the areas that have traditionally been served by PCE, the co-op is also branching out to other parishes in an attempt to offer more options and bring in competition to lower utility rates for all consumers. By early in 2018 PCE will undergo a branding change with a new logo and renewed excitement about our future in Pointe Coupee as well as other South Louisiana Parishes.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



OLIN CORPORATION LOUISIANA OPERATIONS: STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

In the ever-changing world of company mergers, buyouts, and name changes, Olin stands out as a chemical leader in Louisiana. Following its 2015 acquisition of Dow Chemical Company's U.S. Gulf Coast chlor alkali and vinyl, global chlorinated organics, and global epoxy businesses, the new Olin became the world's largest chlor-alkali producer. But that's only part of the Olin story in Louisiana. With deep roots here that date back more than 60 years, today's Olin is focused on delivering innovative products, while operating safely and investing in the community.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



FROM THE BEGINNING

Olin operates three facilities in Plaquemine, St. Gabriel, and Grand Bayou – each contributing to a different piece of the chlorine and chlorinated products business, which is the staple of the company’s Louisiana operations. The Plaquemine and Grand Bayou facilities opened in the mid-1950s and are now combined into an integrated site that produces chlorine, caustic, ethylene dichloride, and chlorinated organic products. The Plaquemine facility is also the home of the world’s single largest chlorine facility.

The St. Gabriel facility, which opened in 1970 with its primary products being chlorine and caustic, recently completed a large modernization project and was re-certified as an Occupational Safety & Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star site. VPP recognizes employers and workers in the private industry and federal agencies who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury and illness rates



below national Bureau of Labor Statistics averages for their respective industries.

Combined, Olin’s Louisiana operations employ approximately 500 Olin employees and contractors and can produce over 6 billion pounds of products per year. The products play an important role in the global economy and contribute to the manufacture of everything from disinfectants, cleaners, building materials, coatings and refrigerants.

Steve Ledoux, a Louisiana native, leads Olin’s Louisiana operations. Ledoux, who grew up in Baton Rouge, took over in May 2016 as the company began

combining the previous Olin operations with the Dow operations acquired in the transaction.

Ledoux says a successful Olin is the result of its products and people. “A world without chlorinated products would be very different from the one we know and enjoy today,” said Ledoux. “The products from our Louisiana plants make our lives better by fighting diseases, protecting and strengthening our homes, cars, and industrial equipment. That’s something all our employees can get behind and be very proud of as Olin has taken on its new leadership role in the global chemicals industry.”



THE “OLIN WAY”

A key component to the company’s success is the “Olin Way,” which is shorthand for every team member’s commitment to continuous improvement in all areas, from process management to safety.

As an example, Ledoux and his team have been integrating the operations of the three Louisiana plants into a single management system, creating opportunities to do things better and smarter. “We’re sharing the best practices from each facility and leveraging them across all of our operations to continuously improve our work processes. This has been a great way to engage our employees at the three plants and help us all come together as a team.”

Olin’s Louisiana locations have significant industry advantages because of their access to low-cost raw materials, power, and transportation that includes the Mississippi River, rail, and truck capabilities.

“My goal is for our Louisiana operations to be the most profitable of Olin’s production sites,” Ledoux emphasized. “We have a dedicated, talented workforce and cost-efficient assets that will get us there.”

COMMITTED TO LOUISIANA

Olin is also showing its commitment to the state by making some big investments. Over \$50 million dollars in plant upgrades and new facilities are planned over the next three years. Most of the investments will go towards projects aimed at expanding the company’s ability to grow its chlor-alkali business and provide products at competitive prices. Ledoux says the investments are a vote of confidence by the company that Louisiana is good place to do business.



“These investments will ensure our presence in the community for many years to come as we improve the efficiencies and capabilities of our facilities,” Ledoux said. “We want to continue to expand the uses of chlorine, so this is a win for our teams.”

SAFETY IS JOB 1

While Olin is increasing its investment in Louisiana, one thing that will not be changing is the company’s focus on safety, which Ledoux says is always top priority. “We start every day with safety reminders from our leaders to their teams across the facilities. Our goal is zero safety incidents, and our team members work hard every day to ensure that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Olin’s “Goal to Zero” safety culture is built on peer-to-peer engagement that encourages employees to speak up and ask questions. Ledoux notes that this process never ends and includes a combination of employee education, process improvements, and the use of personal protective equipment.

This laser-focused approach on safety is delivering results. The company was a 2016 recipient of the Louisiana Chemical Association’s Class 2 (101-200 employees) Best in Louisiana SAFE Award. “One injury is one too many, and we’re on the right track and will continue our pursuit of zero,” said Ledoux.

GIVING BACK

As a long-time business in the area, Olin is dedicated to supporting the local community. The company contributes more than \$50,000 annually, participating in such activities as the Capital Area United Way campaign and the March of Dimes’ Walk for Babies. Olin’s St. Gabriel facility supports East Iberville Inc., an organization with a mission to improve the lives and opportunities of people in the East Iberville Parish.

“We’re very active in our communities,” said Ledoux who serves on the board of directors of the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance. “Our people are involved with community action panels, chambers of commerce, and the Louisiana Chemical Association. Many of us, including me, are from Louisiana, and we’re proud of this company’s history of taking an active role in our local communities, and we want to carry on that tradition.”

With Olin’s strong commitment to innovation, economic investments and the community, Ledoux says he is optimistic about the company’s future in Louisiana. “We’re doing the right things – innovating and improving our processes so we can compete globally. We’re striving for excellence in everything we do, now and into the future.”



DÉJÀ VU

ALL OVER AGAIN

Jim Harris
Louisiana Ammonia Producers

IN MANY WAYS, THE INACTION OF THE
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WILL BE
REENACTED IN 2018.

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

The 2017 Regular Legislative Session convened April 10 and adjourned June 8. The session was fiscal in nature, and legislators could only introduce five non-fiscal bills. The sticking point was how much, if any, money to reserve for use in mitigating midyear budget deficits; the House wanted to reserve some, but the Senate and administration wanted to spend it all. The session adjourned without the Legislature's passing a budget. The House blamed the Senate and the administration, the Senate blamed the House, and the administration blamed a small group of House Republicans

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The session was supposed to be about “tax reform.” Early proposals included: a Commercial Activity Tax (tax on gross receipts for all corporations); the Louisiana Business Activity tax (another way of taxing gross receipts for all corporations); a sales tax on services (would have included sales taxes on real estate services, resulting in double taxation on immovable property); and the elimination of many tax credits, deductions, exemptions and exclusions including an effort to make permanent the temporary suspensions. No real additional tax impact will be felt in the corporate or personal tax arenas.

Gov. John Bel Edwards issued the call for a special session even before the end of the regular session. The Legislature came back into session 30 minutes after adjournment of the regular session and adjourned eight days later. The budget passed with \$60 million reserved from agencies to address potential midyear budget deficits. The budget also fully funds TOPS, gives 2 percent pay raises to 38,000 state workers, shields prisons, state police, public colleges and child welfare agencies from cuts and assists flood-impacted areas.

Beyond the taxes mentioned above, industry was in the crosshairs of several issues that did not pass:

- Legislation to eliminate the exemption of school millages from all Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program contracts.
- Additional taxes on the oil, gas and pipeline industries.
- Attempts to eliminate the inventory tax credit while not addressing the onerous underlying tax.
- Attempted elimination or reduction of various tax credits, exemptions, exclusions and deductions.

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

No tax issues can be introduced in the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, which runs from March 12 to June 4. Gov. Edwards has indicated he will call a special legislative session to deal with the termination of the temporary “fifth penny” of the sales tax and the temporary elimination or reduction of tax credits, deductions, exemptions and exclusions. If left unresolved, these items will result in a \$1 billion-plus “fiscal cliff” in the state budget in July 2018. Due to lower-than-projected revenue estimates, the state has already faced 15 consecutive midyear budget cuts over the past nine years. This special session could be as early as February or as late as the last part of June. Fiscal issues must be resolved by June 30, when the current fiscal year ends.

All of the tax measures discussed before will likely be discussed again in the special session, including extension of part or all of the temporary “fifth penny,” which would result in solving close to \$1 billion of the “fiscal cliff” problem. Some version of a tax on gross receipts for all corporations will probably be introduced again. All iterations of this tax (gross receipts, Commercial Activity Tax, Louisiana Business Activity Tax, etc.) were easily defeated last year. There is talk that a sales tax on services modeled after the Texas plan will be introduced again. This was another tax that failed miserably last year. There will inevitably be some version of an oil and gas processing tax/fee introduced for discussion.

LOOKING FORWARD

Gov. Edwards continues to hold various business roundtable meetings to discuss the upcoming shortfall, but

has not rolled out any kind of state government financing plan. However, apparently the recommendations of the special budget and tax task force dealing with longer term transitions of the state financial structure have been the subject of discussion in the meetings. The governor has also said he is “almost agnostic” about how Louisiana solves its looming budget gap, as long as the state comes up with some way to stabilize finances over the long term, but indicates a “cuts-only” approach will not work to close the shortfall. He said he would prefer to keep the reductions passed on some personal and business tax credits and rebates on the books; if those are restored due to inaction by the Legislature, they will add to the already \$1 billion-plus budget shortfall.

In the meantime, there are several groups of legislators working to develop consensus on handling the state’s budget shortfall next fiscal year. Speaker Taylor Barras, Democratic Caucus Chair Gene Reynolds and Republican Caucus Chair Lance Harris are meeting with various House leadership. Additionally, a small bipartisan group of members, calling themselves the Centrist Caucus and made up of Reps. Reynolds, Rob Shadoin and Julie Stokes, among others, have coalesced to try to discuss possible solutions to the state’s financial problems.

Chances are, the governor and the Legislature in the end will extend at least a portion of the fifth penny of the sales tax, since it is one of the few sources of immediate revenue generation the state has at its disposal. Beyond that, at this time, other solutions are uncertain. Unfortunately, the business community could very well end up being the main target for tax increase attempts next year. We will need to keep our eyes open and prepare to make certain whatever ends up being passed is fair and equitable all around. ❁

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SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE: THERE TO LEND A HELPING HAND

Alexis Sclatre, Solutions Through Science Executive Director

August and September were marked by three of the largest hurricanes the United States has seen since Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The damage from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria are widespread throughout Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean, leaving thousands of people out of their homes and businesses disrupted for weeks.

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The chlor-alkali industry was significantly impacted due to facility shut-downs all along the Texas Gulf Coast. While the industry worked swiftly to get production back on-line, the first priority was to take care of the families and help them rebuild their homes.

At a time when division and hostility have been commonplace in the public forum, it is heartening to hear stories of people traveling thousands of miles to help folks rebuild. Louisiana's own Cajun Navy joined in as dozens of private boat owners loaded up their rigs with supplies and headed toward the destruction. Similar efforts have been waged by organizations and businesses throughout the country, including many of the chlor-alkali manufacturers and producers who have rallied around their families and surrounding communities in both Texas and Florida.

Occidental Chemical Corporation estimates that nearly 400 of its employees were affected by the hurricanes. It immediately put together assistance programs to help those in need, including a Disaster Relief Program, providing up to \$5,000 in tax-free reimbursements, a corporate-matching Employee Relief Fund, and interest-free loans of up to \$10,000. Additional supplies, such as generators, dehumidifiers and food, were donated, along with temporary housing, short-term transportation, and thousands of employee volunteer hours.

Judith Nordgren, Chairman of Solutions Through Science and Managing Director of the American Chemistry Council's Chlorine Chemistry Division (CCD), said these efforts are part of what makes the environment at these facilities so familial.

"It's part of the nature of plant work to train and prepare for these types of events because safety is always the number one concern," she said. "So, when communities are in need, it is natural for the facilities and their employees to step in to help."

Olin Corporation directly put to use the chlorine it manufactures by donating 15,000 gallons of bleach and \$250,000 to the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, which represents Brazoria County where its Freeport operations are located. Many of the company's Freeport and Houston employees were personally impacted by the hurricane and flooding. There are countless stories of employees who stepped up, helped out and simply got the job done – both in facilities and in the communities – during incredibly difficult circumstances. Olin also delivered essentials, such as food, water, dehumidifiers, generators and, of course, bleach to each of them.

In a similar vein, the American Chemistry Council's CCD worked with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Mayor's Office of the City of Houston to distribute 18,400 gallons of bleach to citizens throughout the greater Houston area. Additionally, they are partnering with World Vision, a global humanitarian organization, to donate 13,000 gallons of bleach to help with relief efforts in the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. These donations will help those hit by Maria in Puerto Rico, Irma in Florida, as well as those still in need in Texas following Harvey.

BASF Corporation gave a significant financial contribution to help with disaster relief across Texas, donating

\$500,000 which was distributed to local non-profits involved in the rebuilding efforts. It also established a relief fund where BASF employees could make donations to coworkers or local organizations that were matched by the corporation up to \$500,000. In addition, BASF provided employees with financial support, temporary housing and numerous supplies.

Outside of the U.S., the devastation from Irma in Haiti has resulted in the Southeast Clean Water Project's calcium hypochlorite tablets to be diverted to emergency relief efforts, instead of sustaining clean drinking water systems recently established in the country. To replenish the depleted supply, Lonza has agreed to donate 6,100 pounds of calcium hypochlorite tablets.

"We are proud of how our industry has responded both to its employee families and the communities at large," Nordgren said. "We expect these efforts will continue until the last vestiges of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are mended. It demonstrates, yet again, the caring relationship we have with the people we live and work alongside."

Alexis Schlatre is the executive director for Solutions Through Science (STS). STS is a partnership of the chlor-alkali producers and users in the state of Louisiana. Its mission is to promote the benefits of chlorine chemistry and its many products through educational outreach and issues management. ❖



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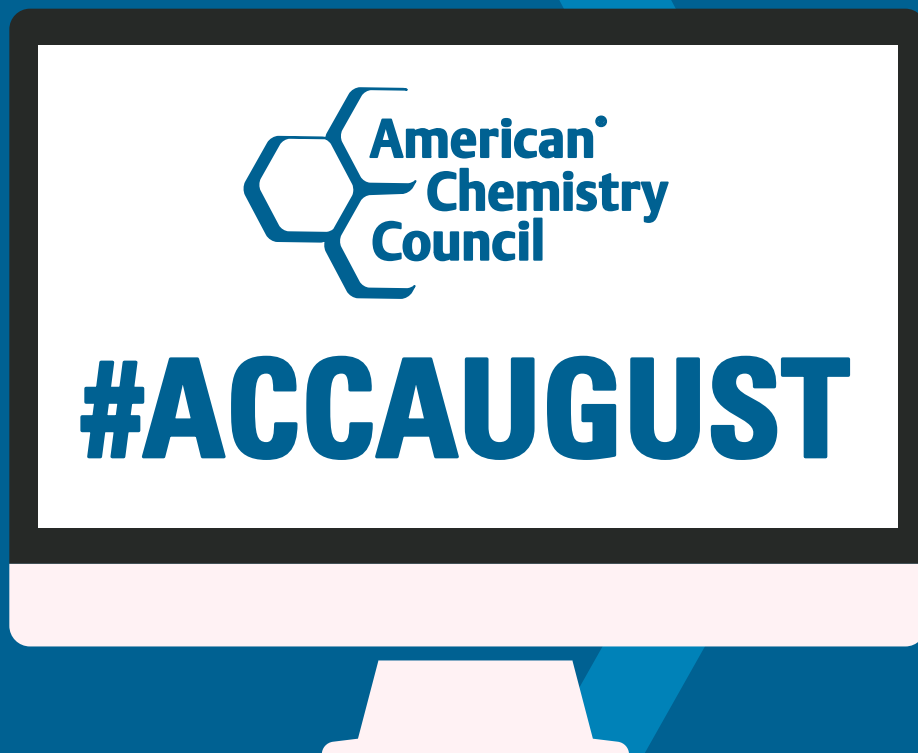
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Sydney Rubin, Manager, Political Mobilization



As you may remember, the American Chemistry Council created the #ACCAugust campaign to digitally document the in-district engagements during the month-long August recess. The campaign created ChemistryMatters, an online grassroots community, which has experienced substantial growth due to expanded digital and social media promotion since its inception last year. Spanning the country, ACC staff, member company employees, and state Chemical Industry Councils used the hashtags #ACCAugust and #ChemistryMatters to engage with the legislators and promote the business of chemistry.

The creation of ChemistryMatters and usage of its respective hashtag has

proven very successful, as we saw both members of Congress, state legislators, and other elected officials engage with the program and include the hashtags in their own digital media. On a tour with Congressman Garret Graves, he even agreed to film a quick pro-industry video and encourage people to get involved in #ACCAugust and use #ChemistryMatters. Can't ask for much more than that. Gotta love Congressman Graves!

This year's #ACCAugust consisted of 52 total events (an increase of five from last year) with 50 total elected officials and 30 member companies engaged. We held events in 19 states with 35 congressmen and five senators. Four of these events occurred in the

great state of Louisiana where we had the pleasure of visiting with three of your esteemed federal representatives. Congressman Garret Graves visited two sites: Hexion and BASF in Geismar. Congressman Clay Higgins had a great tour of LyondellBasell in Lake Charles, and Congressman Mike Johnson visited Cabot in Ville Platte. We even got Congressman Johnson to agree to take a selfie! Additionally, we kept Congressman Johnson well-informed by including an industry roundtable thanks to the support of various Louisiana trade associations: the Louisiana Chemical Association, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, and Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

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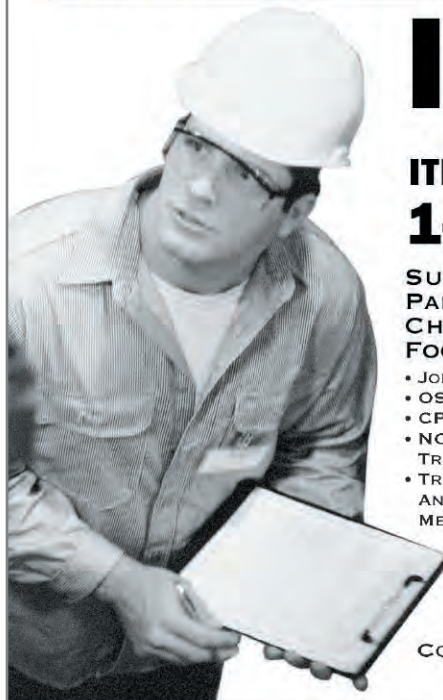
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What started as a small idea to tell more of a story documenting these events has blossomed into something much bigger and has continued to grow every year. We are so grateful for the support of the Louisiana Chemical Association and our member companies who jump onboard the August festivities year after year. This initiative certainly would not be possible without that partnership. Thank you to the LCA staff who attend these events and to the member company employees who join in the fun and engage on social media with us by using the hashtags #ACCAugust and #ChemistryMatters. There is great value in hosting legislators at manufacturing sites and educating them on good, sound science, and we are thankful for your support of and participation in these events.

Interested in seeing more selfies and pictures from other #ACCAugust activities? Please follow our Twitter handle @AmChemMatters, our Facebook page @Impact Chemistry, and sign up at ChemistryMatters.com. ChemistryMatters is a great educational resource with relevant and fun blog posts at LabNotes.com. Also, rumor has it we do regular giveaways of fun swag and t-shirts.

Thank you again to the Louisiana Chemical Association and our member companies who make #ACCAugust not only possible but increasingly more successful. ❁

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LOUISIANA MISO UPDATE

Jennifer Vosburg, NRG

On December 19, 2013, Louisiana's power sector fundamentally and profoundly changed. Many of the utilities and power generators in Louisiana joined Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), a quasi-public organization stretching from Metairie, LA to Manitoba, Canada, that is now responsible for the management of the transmission grid and operation of an organized power market. The word "independent" in MISO's name is important. Having an independent third party oversee the planning and operation of the transmission grid provides a new level of transparency into market pricing, and provides a more level playing field in Louisiana. This, in turn, allows those companies making new investment in the state to have more choices in electric providers and energy services.

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To be clear, not everything changed. For example, the local utilities still own and maintain their transmission lines. The transmission system is still subject to the FERC Open Access Transmission Tariff, which mandates that transmission owners give equal access to their transmission lines to other market participants in exchange for FERC-approved transmission charges. But now, MISO administers the tariff instead of the individual transmission line owners, and upgrades to the transmission system are determined through an annual planning process that allows market stakeholders to provide input. The electric cooperatives, investor owned utilities and municipal

negotiated directly between parties (bilaterally), and it was necessary to arrange to “physically” move that power, over a specific transmission path, from point A to point B. Often, transmission studies showed the physical transmission path was too congested to allow the power to flow unrestricted, resulting in (1) an inefficient use of the transmission system; (2) expensive system upgrades, that created a barrier to parties wishing to contract; and (3) restricted options for many industrials with onsite excess generation, who had limited ability to move their power, other than to rely on selling excess power back to the local investor owned utility at avoided cost pursuant to PURPA.

PURPA obligations have been removed for the largest investor owned utility in Louisiana. Now, cogeneration facilities can directly participate and sell their power into the MISO Market, and have access to real time market prices known as the locational marginal price or LMP.

Under the pre-MISO market, wholesale prices were negotiated bilaterally. While bilateral contracting is still prominent in the MISO market, MISO operates our organized wholesale market where load serving entities can purchase power, and generation owners can sell their power, all at transparent pricing that is publicly available online. Today, industrials with excess on-site

Since joining MISO, transmission investment is increasing.

utilities still provide power directly to the retail customer. But, having a robust transmission system overseen by an independent party is essential to providing consumers with economical and competitive electric service.

There is still no competitive retail choice in Louisiana as it exists in ERCOT in Texas, where electric consumers can switch providers. However, a company locating a new plant or expanding its facilities in Louisiana may have the right to choose its electric provider under Louisiana’s “300 Foot Rule,” if the new point of connection for electric service is located more than 300 feet from an existing utility electric line or point of connection.

Prior to the utilities joining MISO, Louisiana had a physical, bilateral wholesale power market, meaning contracts for power generation were

Since joining MISO, transmission investment is increasing. A utility and a customer wishing to enter into a contract no longer need to arrange for point to point transmission service. This does not mean all the congestion on the transmission system is gone or that the transmission system no longer is a barrier to contracting parties. But, the increased transparency in the transmission planning process provides parties with a greater ability to determine what system problems should be addressed, both in terms of reliability and what makes sense economically.

The move to MISO has also brought transparency to wholesale electric prices. Those same industrial customers who had limited options, other than to sell excess power subject to PURPA, were often paid a price that was unknown until a month or more after the power had been sold. Since joining MISO,

generation can make informed business decisions on operations based on day ahead and real time pricing and not have to wait months to find out if they made the right decision based on prices paid under PURPA.

This new market visibility has also driven interest in new market products that can allow larger customers with market sophistication to take greater control of their energy needs. For example, pending before the Louisiana Public Service Commission is Docket No. S-34426 In Re: Status of Electric Rates in Louisiana: Where are We and Where are We Going? In that docket, the Louisiana Energy Users Group (LEUG) (an association representing a group of industrial consumers of electricity in Louisiana, www.laenergyusersgroup.org) has proposed a new real-time pricing rider option with pricing options for hourly rates based

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on the MISO LMP pricing. LEUG suggests that by allowing industrials the options to adjust production based upon the energy pricing, they not only save money in producing their products but also benefit the system by reducing the overall system peak, thereby reducing the need and costs associated with building new generation. LEUG actually takes it one step further in its filing with the LPSC to propose an industrial customer market option that would allow certain large retail customers to self-supply or purchase all of its energy needs through

direct access to the bilateral wholesale power market and the MISO markets. The LPSC has scheduled a technical conference on Friday, October 13, 2017 to hear responses to LEUG's proposals.

The move to MISO, while still a work in progress, has helped to level the playing field, allowing new players and products to be offered to customers looking to locate or expand in Louisiana. Again, while existing retail customers do not have the opportunity to change retail providers, it is important to understand

the options that do exist in Louisiana.

Energy costs are a key component to most industrial projects. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Louisiana Chemical Association and its affiliate entities include energy policy development in its Five Point plan. Competitive and sound energy policy is critical to the continued growth of the state's chemical industry and its related businesses and to ensure Louisiana companies remain competitive in a global market. ❁

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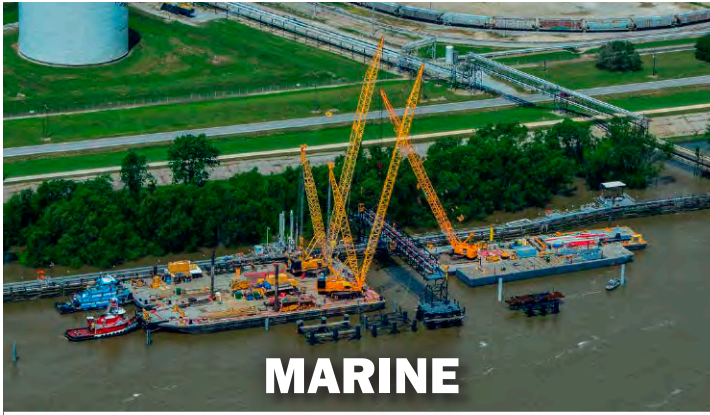
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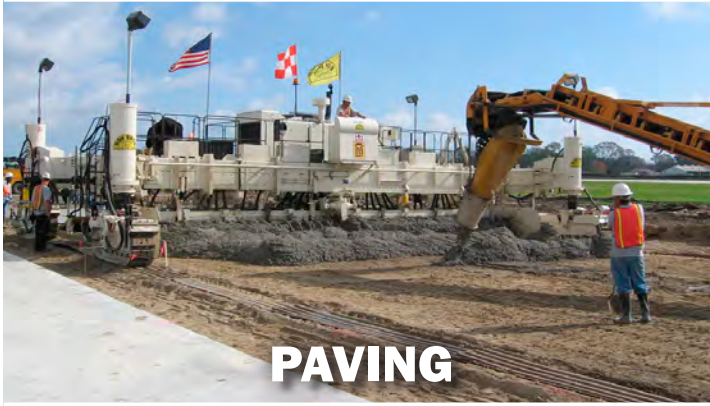
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Michelle Moor, National World War II Museum

One of the most exciting challenges for schools and institutions is to build educational programs and platforms that bridge the lessons of history with the opportunities for innovation in today's world. More than ever, Louisiana universities and employers require elementary and high school students who are prepared to advance their education to be armed with high levels of knowledge in key areas such as math, science, technology and the language arts. It will benefit each student individually, but collectively, it will help industries and businesses progress with a new generation of ideas.



WORLD WAR II AMBULANCE / A Shipping Model
This ambulance was used to transport wounded soldiers from the battlefield to the rear echelon.

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WORLD WAR II AMBULANCE / A Shipping Model
This ambulance was used to transport wounded soldiers from the battlefield to the rear echelon.



Since 2012, The National WWII Museum has incorporated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) into its K-12 curriculum. With an overarching theme of solving real WWII problems through innovation, the STEM Innovation Gallery, housed in the Museum's John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, provides a vibrant educational space for students and teachers alike.

The Museum engages students and teachers through educational programs that target history and STEM topics together, offering cross-curricular learning opportunities that demonstrate, through historical examples, the real world applications of scientific discoveries and their lasting impact. Serving as a model for any institution seeking to advance scientific learning in informal learning environments, the Museum's STEM programs use tactile experiments to demonstrate real wartime challenges and technological solutions, teach contemporary relevance and improve 21st century skills.

"We developed STEM programs as a way to supplement classroom instruction delivered by teachers, and to show students, in a hands-on format, that new ways to look at challenges can change the future," said Rob Wallace, STEM

Education Specialist at The National WWII Museum. "Every business and industry needs leaders in varying fields and this offers experiences students wouldn't normally have. The goal is to expose them to interests and career paths they may not have considered previously."

The Museum's STEM gallery uses participatory experiments and authentic WWII-era macro-artifacts to show how science, technology, engineering and math contributed—and advanced—in World War II. Building on the Museum's successful STEM line of student programming, the gallery also gives visitors the opportunity to engage in tactile learning and exploration—from the casual walk-up Museum guest who wants to learn how planes fly, to science and engineering students investigating fundamental laws of physics.

Activities in the STEM Innovation Gallery include making your own landing craft (from clay), making a (paper) helicopter, investigating the properties of a polymer that conducts electricity (play dough), or separating plasma from whole blood (tomato juice). These short experiences help flesh out the stories of innovation and creation that are part of the story of World War II.

"History teaches such valuable learning lessons, and so often people forget that today's innovations would not be possible without the problem-solving abilities of those who paved the way for us," said Wallace. "Particularly in World War II, as a country we needed to rapidly figure out how to do things such as mass manufacture supplies, build new weapons and be able to produce modern planes, ships and tanks to keep up with the demands of our military. Accomplishing this clearly showed that the basis for innovation starts with these core education principles."

For more information on the STEM Innovation Gallery or other educational programs hosted by The National WWII Museum, visit www.nationalww2museum.org.

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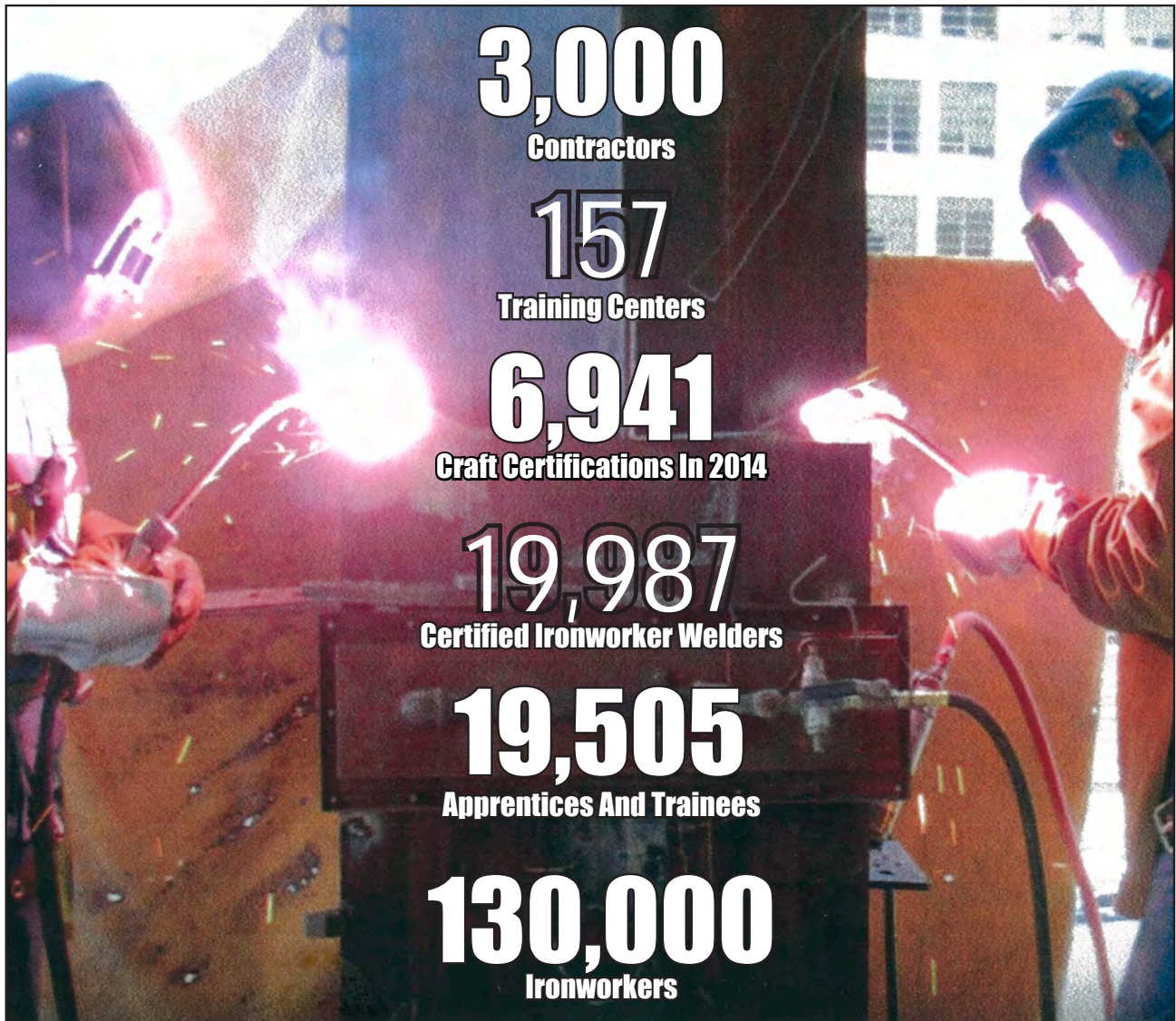
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PORT REPORT



More projects, more ship calls, equals more jobs.

Recent, multi-million dollar projects at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge have resulted in more ship calls, diversification of operations, and increased efficiencies.



Houston-based **Genesis Energy L.P.**, which constructed a \$150 million oil storage and import/export terminal on 91 acres at the Port, has plans to expand its docking capacity. An estimated thirty-three million barrels of crude oil or other petroleum products are run annually through Genesis's Port terminal each year, which has added significantly to the increased ship calls at the Port's Mississippi River docks.



While supporting area timber farmers, **Drax Biomass** has invested about \$150 million in each of its pellet mills and \$50 million at the Port. Both mills produce about half a million tons of wood pellets, resulting in an additional 15-20 ship calls a year at the Port.



Louis Dreyfus Commodities' (LDC) \$200 million modernization of the grain elevator has made it the most efficient deep draft export grain elevator on the Mississippi River. Today the company has increased annual ship calls at the grain dock from 15 to about 120.



**PORT OF GREATER
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