

# Police Jury Association of Louisiana Monthly Newsletter



VOLUME 6

MAY 25, 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Legislative Day Update
- Region Meeting Updates
- Member Spotlight
- OPAO Conference Info

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Legislative Day Update 1
- Legislative Efforts 1
- Inside Scoop 2
- Member Spotlight 2
- Calendar of Events 3
- OPAO Conference 3
- Inspirational Quote 4

## Legislative Day Update

The Police Jury Association's Annual Legislative Day was another informative event held at downtown Baton Rouge's Hilton Capitol Center on Wednesday, May 3, 2017!



The day was led by PJAL President Joe Bishop of Rapides Parish. Members were given a legislative update by our Executive Director, Roland Dartez, and other members of our legislative team. After reviewing the bills being closely monitored and acted upon, members were bussed to the Capitol to observe the current session in the various committee rooms. Attendees then invited members of the State Legislature to join them for lunch at the Hilton Capitol Center where they continued to ask for their support on the many different proposed bills that affect parish government.

It was a great day for all who attended! Your constituents are lucky to have such involved members with a yearning to make Louisiana the best it can be!



Our PJAL Legislative team is working hard to keep you informed on bills affecting local government

## Legislative Efforts

across the state. Please continue to contact your local Representatives and Senators when called to do so by our Association. Our successes are a direct result from the full participation of our members. United, we are a strong voice, and we thank you for continuing to be a part

of this important legislative process.

Thank you for your continued support! Please continue to read the updates sent by our Executive Director, Roland Dartez. Our team is doing great things at the capitol again this year—keep up the dedicated work!

# Inside Scoop: Region Meetings

Our 2017 host parishes are working very hard to make their upcoming region meetings a success! So far we have several region meeting dates confirmed. Please make every effort to attend! **Plaquemine, Assumption, DeSoto, Union, Tangipahoa, Acadia and Catahoula** parishes need to pay close attention at the meetings! You are our 2018 host parishes! Two members from your parish will be

elected as the 2018 President and Secretary/Treasurer. Your greatest resource for planning will come from attending the meeting and witnessing the process firsthand!



**Regions I & II- Orleans-TBA**  
**Region III- Iberia- TBA**  
**Region IV- Bienville- Sept. 14**  
**Region V- Franklin- Sept. 20**  
**Region VI-Washington- Sept. 18**  
**Region VII- Beauregard- Oct. 12**  
**Region VIII- Grant- Sept. 7**



Linda Duhon of  
Vermilion Parish



Jay Mitchell of  
Ouachita Parish

## Member Spotlight

This month, our Member Spotlight will shine light on Linda Duhon and Jay Mitchell!

Duhon will retire on June 5, 2017, from the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. She was hired in January of 1999. In her 18 years of service to Vermilion parish, she has had several positions such as Receptionist/Workers Compensation Clerk, Building Permit Clerk/Accounts Payable Clerk, Executive Secretary to the Secretary Treasurer and the position she is retiring from of Parish Administrator!

“My favorite moment [of my career] has been helping the residents of Vermilion Parish. I am so proud of all the accomplishments the Police Jury has made in the last 7 years moving forward,” Duhon said.

Duhon truly has a love for Vermilion Parish and local government. When speaking of Vermilion, she fondly refers to it as a place rich in natural beauty and resources with “beautiful prairie lands and winding bayous, coastal marshes...and unique cultural communities.” I am sure upon her retirement, you will find her frequenting all the amazing establishments Vermilion has to offer with friends and family.

“It has been a pleasure working for the Police Jury; I have made so many friends for life,” reflected Duhon.

Mitchell is equally as dedicated to his parish

of Ouachita. As of 2003, he was assigned to serve as Parish Attorney for the Ouachita Parish Police Jury.

“Without question, my favorite moment as a lawyer was when Judge Tucker Melancon agreed to amend the federal court’s desegregation order to allow the Ouachita Parish School Board to construct several new schools throughout the parish,” Mitchell stated. He and his partner later reflected that they would never again be involved in a ruling that affected so many people. A proud moment, indeed!

Mitchell and his wife have four grown children whom are all LSU graduates with his youngest child starting LSU Law School this fall.

When not working, you may see him working on his most recent hobby of “tinkering.” He says hobbies previously included hunting, fishing, and going to children’s ball-games, but now finds himself doing a list of projects or repairs at home, his camp or at his wife’s photography studio.

We are so thankful to both his and Duhon’s service to their parishes! We know Duhon will be missed by all who knew and has had the pleasure of working with her. May her retirement be the best years of her life!

Next month, we want to hear from you! Please nominate someone by sending their contact information to [sunny@lpgov.org](mailto:sunny@lpgov.org).

2017 JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 ★	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 ★	15	16	17
18 ★	19 ★	20	21 ★	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Upcoming Dates

- June 6  
D-Day
- June 14  
Flag Day
- June 18  
Father's Day
- June 19  
Juneteenth
- June 21  
Summer Solstice

# OPAO Conference



OPAO President Venita Chauvin of Terrebonne Parish and the OPAO Executive Board Members have been working hard to make the 63rd Annual OPAO Training Conference an informative and successful event for members across the state to network and learn! The conference will be held in Houma, LA, on August 23, 24, and 25, 2017. The OPAO event will be held at the Courtyard Marriott (142 Library Dr., Houma, LA 70360).

Registration Forms and information will be sent to all parishes in the near future. Once available, the form and information will be on the Events page of the PJAL website ([www.lpgov.org](http://www.lpgov.org)).

You won't want to miss this informative conference! Please make plans to attend--the OPAO is working diligently to have all 64 parishes attending this event!

We hope to see you there!

**"The best and most beautiful things  
in the world cannot be seen or even  
touched - they must be felt with the  
heart." --- Helen Keller**

**POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION  
OF LOUISIANA**

707 NORTH 7TH ST.  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
70802

Phone: 225-343-2835

Fax: 225-336-1344

Web: [www.lpgov.org](http://www.lpgov.org)



Joe Bishop, PJAL Pres., Rapides Parish  
Roland Dartez, PJAL Exec. Dir., Acadia Parish



**This newsletter is only possible with help from YOU. Please send all story ideas, news from your parish, and monthly photos to PJAL Contract Communications Director Sunny St. Romain via email [sunny@lpgov.org](mailto:sunny@lpgov.org).**

**If you would like to nominate a member for us to spotlight, please send in their name, parish, contact information, and why we should showcase them.**