



The APInion

“Equal Opportunity toe crusher”

Mayor C. Ray Nagin challenges oil and gas industry

New Orleans' Mayor C. Ray Nagin discussed his “View of New Orleans' Future” at a luncheon held on December 3 at the Fairmont hotel. “There is an opportunity to grow in the city, and we must seize it together. A bright future is planned by advocates, and creative thinkers; I am calling for oil and gas industry revolutionaries to step up to the plate, and meet the challenges to help build a bright future for the oil and gas industry, and our city,” the Mayor said.

Studies have shown that 17% of the workforce and 29% of the wages come from the oil and gas sector, and that employment in the industry has shrunk to half of the boom of the eighties. “A big opportunity closed to New Orleans in the early eighties, but new windows are opening. I understand the super majors' efforts to consolidate operations in Houston; this change is driven by the economics of scale,” the Mayor said. He thanked Shell and Chevron-Texaco: “Your economic impact and

community support is vital to the city and deeply appreciated.” He has been informed that the Chevron technology center in New Orleans will remain.

Mayor Nagin proposed the creation of an oil and gas training center of excellence funded by a public partnership that includes the industry, city, state and federal government. He said that seed money for such venture is under consideration. “An aging workforce poses a challenge that can be addressed by a training center of excellence.”

The Mayor wants to take advantage of the economic opportunity presented by the “valuable, unique organisms that live near oil and gas platforms.” He proposed to link the pharmaceutical, and the oil and gas industries for economic benefit. “There is a type of sponge that can be used to fight cancer which only lives near oil and gas platforms, for example; there is a natural synergy,” he explained. In mid August, 2004 New Orleans will host a symposium led

by MMS to address some of these issues.

Other windows of opportunity include the use of our strategic infrastructure to capture the emerging LNG business, and diversification into industries that can coexist with oil and gas. For example, businesses associated with wind driven turbines that can be placed in oil platforms may be attracted to the city.

“We must leverage New Orleans' strengths and provide resources to encourage growth. New Orleans has some very valuable real estate, and customized packages are offered to businesses that want to come to New Orleans. Our packages are competitive,” the Mayor said.

The Mayor acknowledged there are many challenges such as streamlining state legal processes to attract and facilitate new business operations, and problems with our education system. “The

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello, I hope the Holiday Season finds you and yours happy and healthy. This has been a good year for the API-Delta Chapter with the sellout of the Golf Tournament and the website advertising doing well. I would love credit for all of this, but the credit belongs elsewhere. I thank Michael del Papa for leaving the chapter in such excellent condition. Thanks to Leo Kerner and the golf committee for doing such an excellent job with the golf tournament. I thank Bart Walker and the website committee for their hard work with our website.



I look forward to a successful 2004 with the chapter fulfilling its charitable mission of rewarding excellence in public school teaching in the region. I look forward to top-notch speakers for our technical luncheon in August and our Joint Society meeting in November. Finally I am very happy to have Leo Kerner as our new 1st Vice Chairman and President Elect.

I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

*Richard L. Tucker
Chairman API-Delta Chapter*

*Be at war with your vices, at
peace with your neighbors, and
let every new year find you a
better man.*

— Benjamin Franklin

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API CHRISTMAS PARTY

“PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO COMPETE WITH PRIVATE SCHOOLS”



Tony Amato shares his vision at the December 12 Christmas Party

NAGIN (continued from page 1)

job is not easy, but I am not afraid to step on toes to get things done.” “I am an equal opportunity toe crusher,” he added, with humor.

“New Orleans, the Mecca of the early 20th century, can be revived, but the momentum must be seized,” he concluded.

Follow up meetings are planned, and the Mayor challenged the leaders of the oil and gas industry to participate in building a prosperous future for the industry and for the city of New Orleans. The Mayor needs the involvement of all members of the oil and gas industry to help make his vision a reality.

“Orleans Parish schools now have national attention,” said Tony Amato at the big Christmas party at the Plimsoll Club, “and I plan for our public schools to compete head-to-head with the private schools.” Mr. Amato was featured speaker at the December party attended by API, SPE, LES, ASCE and ASME.

Tony was refreshingly blunt; he refused to gloss over the problems of the school system; he refused to dis-

avow that politics was a big problem; and he refused to agree that the system was “unfixable.” He already has in place a “signature” school where 3-year-old pre-K kids play the violin in concert. He plans 10 more.

The failing schools – 13 of them are “middle” schools where 1000 teenagers assemble in one place and, each day as expected, chaos results. Amato anticipates incorporating them into old style primary schools for pre-K thru 8th grade, and assembling 400 kids in a unit, where kids learn in small groups (sometimes special kiosks where groups learn by doing and directed to a specific science objective). They propose their own questions and they find answers to the questions. Tony advised that in trials of

the system in NYC and Hartford, he obtained “turnaround” in 1 year and the girls out-performed the boys, defying conventional wisdom.

For math, Tony has instituted “I Can Learn” where students learn with interactive computers. For the first time, they enjoy math!

Statistics show that only 60% of Orleans Parish seniors now graduate because many lack some item in the required standards. Tony meets that with his S.O.S. program, meaning “Save Our Seniors.” Deficiencies are detected early in the senior year, and the seniors “buy back” extra days during holidays and otherwise in order to make up for the pending deficiencies. Each kid plans his own strategy!

What about the problem of “negative peer pressure?” Mr. Amato meets it by celebrating individual accomplishments in math, science, or English through engagement in robotics competitions, Math Counts, and similar programs, with those succeeding becoming school heroes, not “acting white.”

Parent apathy? Tony plans Parent Empowerment, whereby the parents discover the joy of learning, which they impart to the kids.

If this guy is for real, we may truly see a spectacular turnaround in this area’s public schools!

2003 API Golf Tournament Sponsors & Winners

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Magnum Mud Equipment Co.	2 T box	Closest to hole	F&D	BOB MOORE	LEO KERNER
Wood Group Logging Services	3 T box	Longest drive		DENIS PAPADOPOULOS	DOUG STIMPSON
Turbo Chem	4 T box	Longest drive	F&D	STEVE FREEMAN	PHILHERRINGTON
Halliburton Energy Services	5 T box		F&D		
Schlumberger Oil Field Services	5 Green	Closest to hole 2nd shot	F&D	STEVE BOUDREAUX	JOHN ROBERTS
Quality Energy Services	6 T box	Longest drive		PAT FRATTER	GENE RUSSELL
Workstrings / Whitetail Rentals	6 Green	Longest putt		BOB MILLER	LOUIS BOUTTE
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Petro Com	8 Green	Closest to hole		SCOTT COSTNER	CHARLIE HICMAN
FMC Energy	9 T box	Longest drive	F&D	BART WALKER	CHICK HORTON
Pro-T Co.	9 Green	Longest putt		SCOTT DESSELL	MIKE BRELAND
Patterson Rentals	10 T box		D		
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Helmer Directional Drilling Co.	11 Green	Closest to hole		HOWARD WHIDDON	JASON SAVOIE
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Newpark Drilling Fluids	12 Green	Longest putt		KEN MAGNUM	RON BLANTON
Louisiana Valve Source	13 T box	Longest drive	F&D	JEFF DAY	BERNADETTE ALANIZ
Quality Preheat and Pressure Washers	14 T box	Longest drive	F&D	BRENDA REILLY	ANNE DOYLE
Oiltools DWM / Derrick Equipment	14 Green	Longest putt	F&D	REARD FALCON	FRANCIS DE BLANC
BJ Services	15 Green	Closest to hole 2nd shot		JIMMY MARSHALL	DOUG KOEBBE
Dailey / Weatherford	16 Green	Longest putt	F&D	HAROLD GUIDRY	GEORGE GRIFFIN
Mi / Smith	17 T box	Closest to hole	F&D	JERRY MOLLERE	TONY TATARSKI
Baker Hughes	18 Green		F&D		
Gulfstream Services, Inc.	18 T box	Longest drive		BOB PEARL	RA TOUPS

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2003 API Golf Tournament



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Golf Tournament Pictures

Thanks to Billy Chilton,
additional pictures have been
posted on the website.

The link is:
chilton-info.com/2003apigolf.html

Further pictures are at
api-delta.org.



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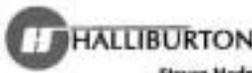
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MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

The combined oil and gas organizations that make up our Greater New Orleans Joint Societies are in the process of selecting one or more recipients of the year's meritorious Service Awards.

All societies participate in nominating appropriate recipients as a combined unit. It is astounding how many individuals in the New Orleans oil and gas community have made outstanding contributions to the industry, the city, the learning institutions and the well-being of the citizens of New Orleans.

Watch for the nominees to be selected in early 2004!



**Happy Holidays and
A Prosperous New Year!**



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