

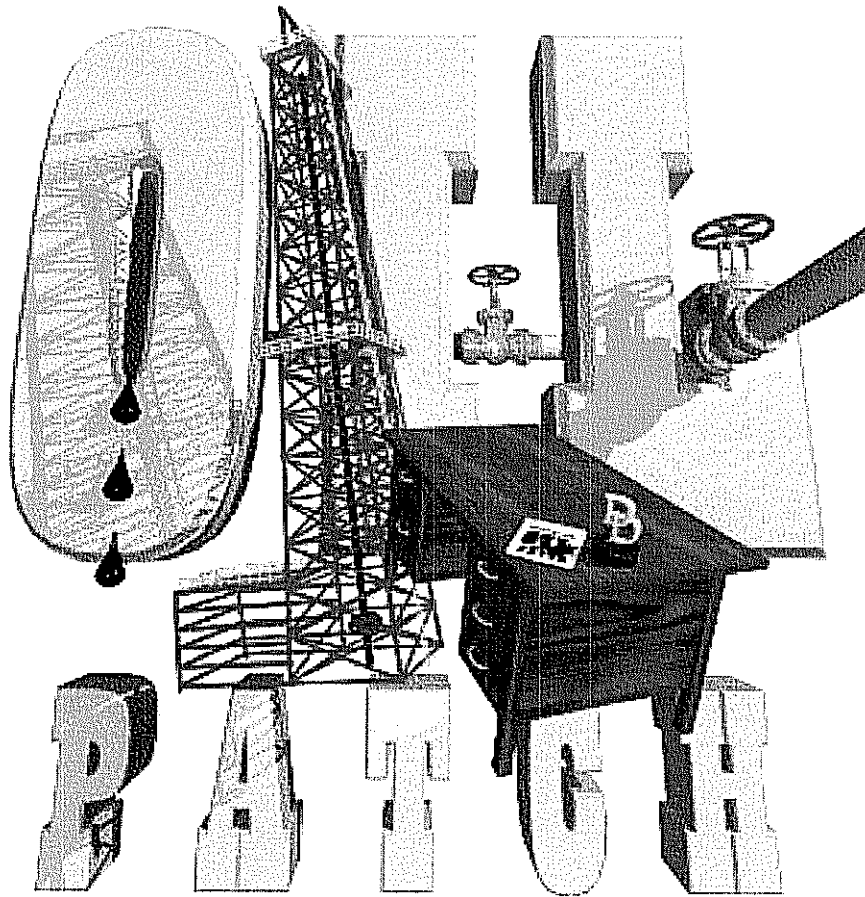
DESK & BERRICK CLUB of the WESTBANK

Volume 35

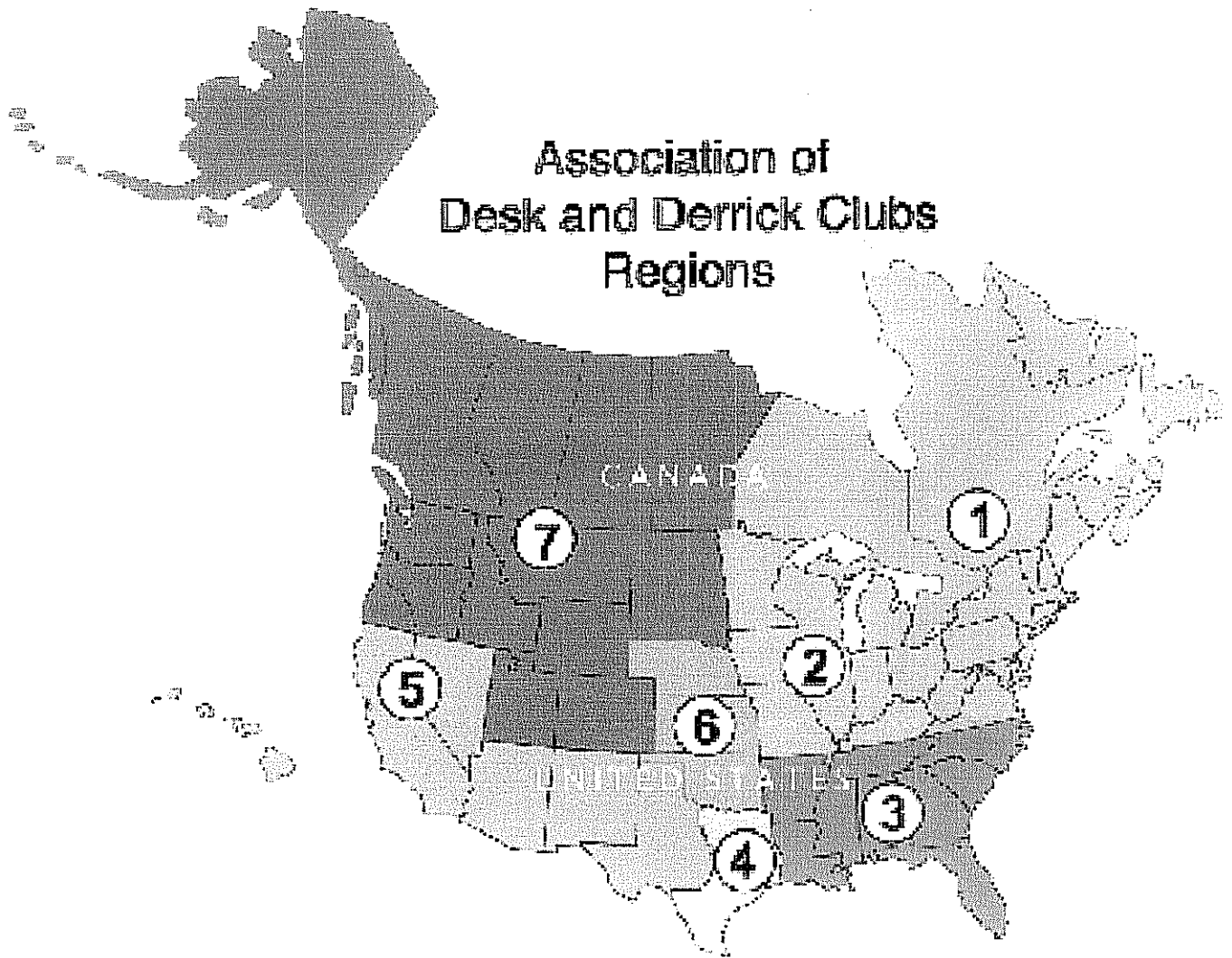
November 2011

Number 11

WESTBANK



Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs Regions



ADDC President

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Motto

Greater Knowledge - Greater Service

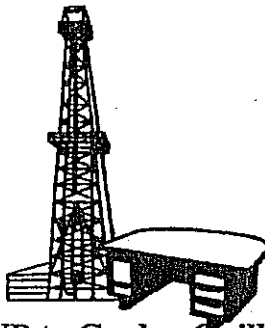
CLUB PURPOSE

The purpose of this club shall be to promote the education and professional development of individuals employed in or affiliated with the petroleum, energy, and allied industries.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the club is to enhance and foster a positive image to the global community by promoting the contribution of the petroleum, energy and allied industries through education by using all resources available.

**Monthly General Membership Meeting held
the fourth Wednesday of each month at
The Four Columns, 3711 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, Louisiana
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.**

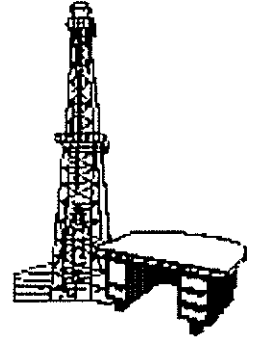


**RSVP to Gaylen Guillory
(504) 301-8809 or gagui811@cox.net**

**The Westbank Oil Patch is published monthly.
Submit articles or items of interest to
Desk & Derrick Club of the Westbank
P. O. Box 2875
Gretna, La. 70054-2875**

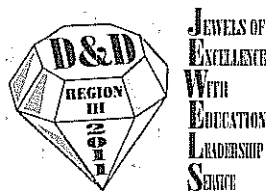
**Club web site: <http://www.westbankdandd.org>
Cover artwork by Superior Software Design**

Westbank Desk & Derrick Guide to Knowledge
November 2011



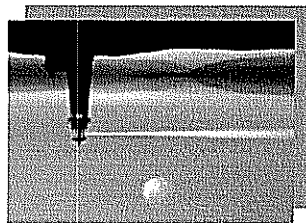
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Association Information



President's Newsletter



Angie Duplessis
ADDC President
angie.a.duplessis@conocophillips.com

November 2011

Dear Members,

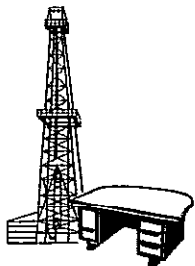
WOW – what can I say! Thank you, thank you, thank you. The clubs of Region II – Bay Area, Heartland, Little Egypt, and Olney did an outstanding job in the planning and execution of the 60th Annual ADDC Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. I want to thank all the General Arrangements Committee members who participated in making sure everything went smoothly. You may have not been able to attend convention, but contributed in some way to make this meeting a success. I also want to thank you, the members, for your participation in attending. Registration was 282, with 54 clubs being represented.

Wednesday and Thursday field trips and seminars provided many opportunities to expand our knowledge. The Drilling Certification class had 40 attendees. The Thursday evening Trivia Show presented by Dave Lewis was well attended and a lot of fun was had by all. Our Industry Luncheon attendees were inspired by Doug Collins who shared stories about those individuals who had motivated him throughout his life and his quest in achieving his dream. The Energy Symposium, sponsored by the ADDC Foundation, featured speakers who shared new ideas on "Alternative and Green Energy Initiatives." Friday evening was open for members to enjoy dinner while cruising down the Mississippi, attend a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game, or just have a quiet dinner around town.

The 2014 convention site will be Lafayette, Louisiana. There were no amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules, but members spoke about networking and social media during the Open Forum on Friday afternoon. The Member Recognition Luncheon was exciting as we cheered the AIMEE winners and learned which Winning Image Photo entries would take home the prizes. The ADDC Special Achievement Award was presented to the Desk and Derrick Club of Liberal for their successful efforts using media and community service to take a club on the brink of disbanding to increasing their membership by 60%.

The 2012 ADDC Convention will be held in Oklahoma City, OK hosted by the Red Earth Club, Region VI. I am honored to be serving as the 2011 Immediate Past President with the members of the 2012 Board of Directors:

President	Judi Adams
President Elect	Marilyn Carter
Vice President	Linda Clark
Secretary	Connie Harrison
Treasurer	Lori Landry
Region I Director	Maggi Franks
Region II Director	Linda Welty
Region III Director	Kathy Denley
Region IV Director	Judy Lile
Region V Director	Melissa Spencer
Region VI Director	Mark Loch
Region VII Director	Gerry Rasmussen

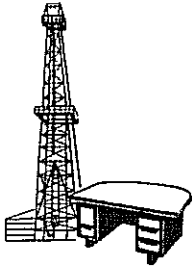


**ASSOCIATION OF
DESK AND DERRICK
CLUBS**

Convention provides us the opportunity to network with our fellow members and industry leaders. It also offers an opportunity to increase our knowledge of our industry and develop professionally. I want to encourage all members who were unable to attend convention this year to visit the web site and look for the October 20th mailing for details of our activities. The Public Relations Committee will be issuing a Convention Information Kit which will include highlights of the various activities held throughout the week.

I hope everyone increased their knowledge during their journey through the **Gateway to Growth and Opportunity** – thanks once again to Region II for hosting a fabulous convention. I look forward to seeing everyone next year when we meet at the **Crossroads of Energy**.

Angie



**ASSOCIATION OF
DESK AND DERRICK
CLUBS**

Board of Directors

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Angie Duplessis
ConocoPhillips

PRESIDENT ELECT
Judi Adams
Shell Exploration

VICE PRESIDENT
Marilyn Carter
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SECRETARY
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REGION V DIRECTOR
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REGION VII DIRECTOR
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Weatherford Wellhead Systems

Ieasha Stewart
Public Relations

Enduro Resource Partners
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Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 847-9200 O
(817) 915-6004 C

ladystewart@sbcglobal.net (o)

November 10, 2011

Public Relations Review

Clubs around the Association work hard to bring new members into their clubs. This is a great start, but it's only the beginning. Once you have members, how do you deliver on your promises? And how do you keep them coming back when their needs change? Retaining your Member's takes greater effort than recruiting them, and it all begins with the club experience.

The first thing to remember for a successful meeting is to keep it fun and respectful for all participants. Learning should be fun! While most members join to improve their speaking and leadership skills, they will grow more rapidly if they're enjoying their time spent in a club. Encourage speeches that share humorous stories, and make sure that observations always recognize what people do well.

Some members hesitate to try PR because they're afraid of being rejected by a member of the news media. But getting the buzz started means the member needs to step out of that comfort zone and contact people — especially those who don't know about Desk and Derrick — such as reporters and bloggers. News happens fast and the news media is always looking for a good story. Reporters and editors don't always have the resources to find you, so you need to help them. This is especially true of your local press. Offer them your club website or our association website.

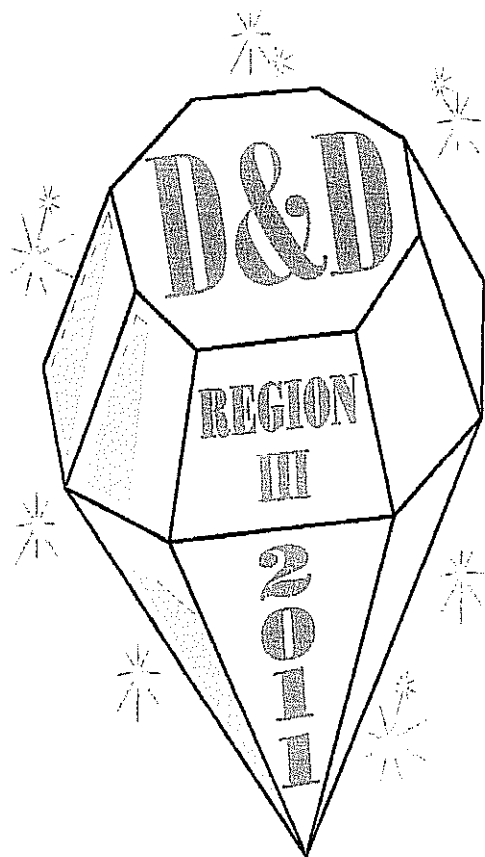
One of the top reasons members don't renew their membership in any season is lack of time. It's important to be sensitive to your members' needs. For example, are members having trouble with the meeting time or duration? Does the meeting run too long? Are members unable to get to work on time after a meeting? Are they having trouble with evening hours or lunchtime on Tuesdays? Or is it something else? Find out and consider adjusting the club's schedule or tone accordingly if necessary. Of course, you can't please everyone, but if you're losing a lot of members, it's important to take note and act.

Remember to focus your club's educational program on meeting the members' needs. Those who benefit from an optimal experience in the club will return to build more skills, enjoy the camaraderie and find the success you all deserve.

I wish you all the best!

Ieasha Stewart
ADDC Public Relations Committee Chairman

Region III Information



JEWELS OF
EXCELLENCE
WITH
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE

Region III Director's Newsletter



JEWELS OF
EXCELLENCE
WITH
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE

Lori L. Landry
Region III Director

llandry@beanresources.com

November 2011

Dear Region III Members:

Citrine, is the birthstone for November. A gift of Citrine is symbolic for **HOPE** and **STRENGTH**. Therefore, this entire letter will be devoted to Hope and Strength.

I Hope all of you are enjoying this wonderful fall weather and have the Strength to rake up all of those leaves.

I Hope that those of you that attended Convention in St. Louis had as much fun as I did and had the Strength to do all of the unpacking and washing when you arrived home. Speaking of Convention, a special congratulations to the El Dorado, Lafayette, New Orleans and Westbank Clubs for placing in the AIMEEs at the Saturday Awards Luncheon. El Dorado and Westbank placed 3rd in their respective categories and Lafayette and New Orleans placed 1st! All of you should be proud of your accomplishments and I Hope the Clubs in Region III work diligently on their submissions to be presented at 2012 Region III Meeting.

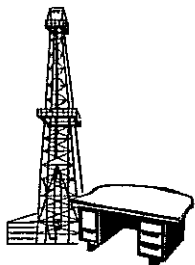
Our 2012 ADDC President, Judi Adams as well as Kathy Denley are in the process of filling committee chair and regional representative positions for next year. This is a great opportunity to learn more about your Region and Association. I Hope all of you will give this some consideration and contact Judi Adams and/or Kathy Denley to let them know which position you would be willing to Chair or Represent.

Our Region III Clubs will hold elections of officers for 2012 in the coming weeks. I Hope that you will give this much consideration and take that next step to get more involved in your Clubs. Our Clubs, Region and Association need to continue to grow and Strengthen. All of you have wonderful qualities and abilities and look forward to seeing some new faces sitting on your Club's Boards.

I Hope all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday spent with family and friends and have the Strength to move after all of the delicious dinners and desserts.

Keep on Shining!!

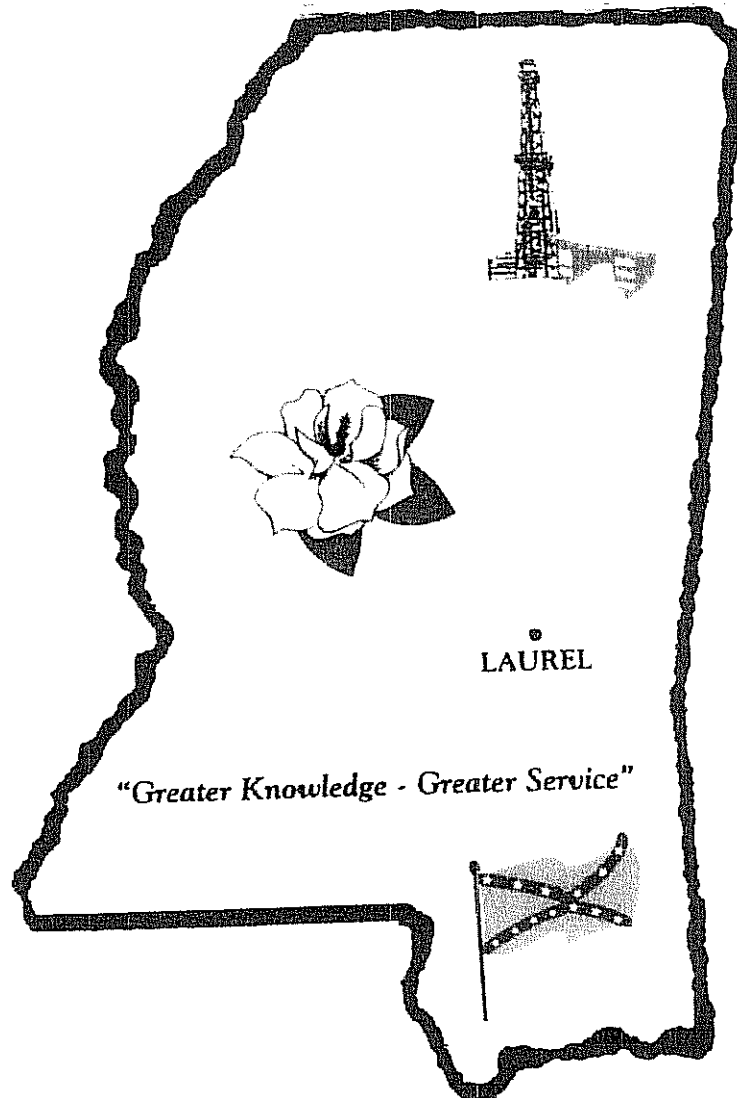
Lori



ASSOCIATION OF
DESK AND DERRICK
CLUBS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

2012 REGION III meeting 3RD 28 – 3RD 31



**DESK AND DERRICK CLUB
OF
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI**

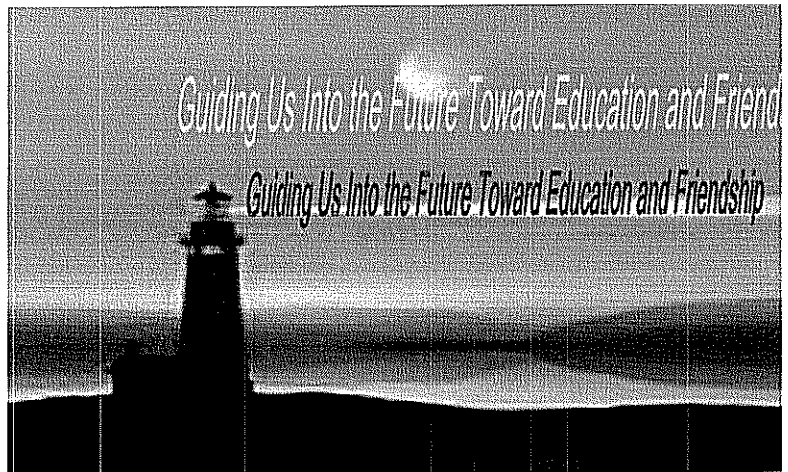
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Westbank 2011 Information

*Guiding Us Into The Future Toward Education and
Friendship*



Dawn Goode
2011 Westbank President



November 2011 President Letter

Fall has arrived and is a welcomed guest. Along with colder temperatures, fall brings election and changes in your board. I want to congratulate the 2012 board members on their win in our October election. I look forward to being the past president and working with everyone. I am excited to Appreciate Yesterday, Educate Today and Advocate Tomorrow with Theresa in 2012.

Elaine presented an educational and fun orientation at the October meeting; it was great to see everyone enjoying the game show orientation. IAN is this month and Alice has been hard at work putting together a great IAN meeting to show appreciation to our monthly speakers and the companies that support us, so please try to attend.

While my year as president of the Westbank club is coming to a close, I have enjoyed "Guiding Us into the Future toward Education and Friendship." I have learned so much from this experience. How it really takes a "village" to guide our club into the future. Without the help of our members and my board, this year would not have been so successful. This year we have had a few obstacles in our way, but with the help of everyone, we were able to navigate through them and come out the other side stronger than ever. The members of the Desk and Derrick Clubs have become more than just friends, they are now my Desk and Derrick family and I look forward to many more years of being part of D&D.

Until next month, I will leave you with a quote:

**"Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."
H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

Dawn Goode
2011 Westbank President

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
DESK & DERRICK CLUB OF WESTBANK
THE COURT OF TWO SISTERS

**613 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

**DECEMBER 11, 2011
11:00 A.M.
COST \$37.00**

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS
NOVEMBER 27, 2011**

**ALICE GROS - 236-4058
nolandoss@bellsouth.net
2629 Vulcan Street
Harvey, LA 70058
Or
Susan Miller
908-6131 Cell**

**MENU
JAZZ BRUNCH
SOUP
EGG STATION
SEAFOOD STATION
SPECIALTY SALADS
HOT ENTREES
BISCUITS
DESSERT & FRESH FRUITS
COFFEE, TEA & JUICES**

**BRING \$10.00 GIFT FOR GAME
OPTIONAL**

ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Article By Dottie Ancona

Inspired by the “Decade Trivia Game Show Road Show” at the Thursday Night Function at convention in St. Louis, Elaine Lesnak put together her own version to serve as the Westbank Orientation Program: “The Desk and Derrick Quiz Bowl.”

There were three rounds with three contestants per round, each round representing the local or club level, Regional level, and Association level. Each contestant had their own scorekeeper and there was one referee per round to break any ties.

The club round was won by Zelda Gillan with Angie Duplessis winning the Region round and Susan Miller winning the Association round.

It was a fun program even without the bells, whistles, and music as was at convention.

Orientation programs can get a little stale each year, repeating the same history of Desk and Derrick that most of our members have already heard.

By putting this into a game show format, there was 100 percent participation from everyone in attendance, with everyone being a player of some sort, and all eager to win and share their knowledge of Desk and Derrick history. It allowed our new members to learn, and allowed our seasoned members to “strut their stuff.”

THE DESK AND DERRICK QUIZ BOWL

By Elaine Lesnak

Membership/Orientation Chairman

Welcome contestants to the Desk and Derrick Quiz Bowl

As you signed in today you were asked to pick a card out of the basket. Each card represents a segment of Desk and Derrick. There are three segments, Association, Region and the Westbank Club.

If you have a card that has Dawn's logo and the word Contestant, well you will be answering questions, please come up to the front. Good Luck. If you have a card with Dawn's logo and the letters SC you are the score keeper, please come up. If you have a card with Dawn's logo and the letter REF, you will be the referee and will indicate who rang the bell first.

Club Questions:

1. What year was the Westbank chartered?

1976

2. What were the names of the 5 ladies who organized an interest meeting?

Vonette Edwards, Dean Mehle, Dottie Moore, Ann Billie, and
Jo Ann Brown

3. Just to see if you are listening – how many active members do we have and how many are honorary?

33 and 2

4. How many members of the Westbank are men and what are their names?

Charles Miller and Garrell Adam

5. Can a member receive our Scholarship?

Yes

The next segment of the game involves the Region.

If you have a card that has Lori's logo and the word Contestant, SC and REF, come on up.

Region Questions:

1. What 9 clubs make up Region III?
Baton Rouge, El Dorado, Houma, Lafayette, Laurel, Morgan City,
New Orleans, Red River and Westbank.
2. We have had 8 members of our club serve as Regional Director, who are they?
Dottie Moore, Vera Ledet, Alice Gros, Theresa Adams, Jo Ann Brown,
Judi Adams, Angie Duplessis and Elaine Lesnak
3. Where will the Region III meeting be held in 2012?
Laurel, Mississippi
4. Who was our first male Regional Director, and where was he from?
Keith Atkins, El Dorado, AK.
5. What portion of our \$60.00 dues goes to region?
\$2.00

The next segment of the game involves the Association.

If you have a card that has Angie's logo and the word Contestant, SC and REF, come on up.

Association Questions:

1. Who is the Association only paid employee?
Andre' Martin
2. We have had 2 members of our club serve as Association President, who are they?
Theresa Adams and Angie Duplessis
3. What offices comprise the Association?
President, President Elect, Vice President, Recording Secretary,
Treasurer, each of the 7 Regional Directors and the Immediate Past
President.
4. When were gentlemen first admitted to the Association?
1988
5. What portion of our \$60.00 dues goes to the Association?
\$45.00

MINES AND MORE

By Theresa Adams

At 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, forty-eight Desk and Derrick members departed the St. Louis Hyatt Regency Hotel on a tour bus to begin an exciting and educational trip.

Our first destination - The Bussen Quarry, a 600 acre site at Jefferson Barracks outside of St. Louis, Missouri. This site is more than a limestone quarry. It is home to the company's headquarters, river terminals and an underground storage facility.

The company began mining limestone at Jefferson Barracks in 1882. Today, as one of the midwest's largest limestone producers, Bussen Quarries supplies crushed limestone to the greater St. Louis area from one of three limestone quarries - the Jefferson Barracks Plant, the Antire Plant or the Trautman Plant.

If a company needs to move bulk commodities, metals or cargo through St. Louis, the Bussen Terminal can unload, store and reload product with care and efficiency at any of their four Mississippi River deep water docks, with railroad service (UP) and/or convenient interstate highway access.

However, the most amazing feature of Bussen, is their underground storage facility. As the bus drove through the warehouse facility, we counted no less than fifteen 18-wheelers loading and/or unloading at various businesses located underground. This underground warehouse provides climate control and utility savings for comfortable working conditions year round. There is over 140,000 square feet of buildout space currently available.

We left the Bussen site and continued our journey to our second destination - the Missouri Mines State Historic Site, located within the eastern Ozarks. This area is known as the Old Lead Belt and was a major source of lead metal for more than 60 years. It is part of the great Southeast Missouri lead district - the premier lead mining district of the world.

Small-scale mining for lead began in Southeast Missouri about 1720. A large demand for lead during the 19th century brought major corporate enterprises to the Old Lead Belt. More than 1,000 miles of abandoned multilevel mine tunnels with 300 miles of underground railroad tracks are a testimony to 108 years of persistent big company mining operations in this area.

The St. Joseph Lead Co. dominated ore production and became the heart of the Old Lead Belt, continuing operations until 1972. In 1975, the company donated the 25 buildings of their largest mine-mill complex and the surrounding land to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. These properties became the Missouri Mines State Historic Site and St. Joe State Park.

The mine-mill powerhouse has been developed into a large museum that interprets Missouri's mining history and displays old mining machinery and a fabulous mineral collection. After viewing a film depicting underground mining and the ore milling process, we were on our own to view various machines used to extract lead ore.

The state guide then introduced a miner that had worked in the mine. He worked at chipping away the overhead rock that could be dangerous to miners following a blast. He is now ninety-one years old and he told us that when he was in his twenties, he had fallen from the harness one day when he was chipping – he fell about 100 feet and broke his legs, his arms, fingers and his back. He was hospitalized for over three months – but, he returned to work in six months. He also told us that life was hard as a miner but he enjoyed telling his story to the museum visitors.

After eating a brown-bag lunch, we continued our journey to our final destination - the Bonne Terre Mine which is the world's largest man-made caverns. As the bus turned off the highway into the streets of Bonne Terre, Missouri, we saw no signs of a mine. The town is not large and streets were narrow; but, we saw no mine. After a couple of phone calls, our guide directed the driver to the mine. The entrance to the mine actually sits right off the main street in a small parking lot with a store and a few pieces of equipment from the mine. It amazed me that the largest lead mine in the world has such an insignificant entrance.

We entered the mine through the old mule entrance, walking down an incline and 65 steps to the first level. The air in the mine is a comfortable 62 degrees year round. We walked through gigantic rooms with huge pillars - pillars that were left to hold up the formations as surrounding rock was removed. There are five levels to this mine which encompasses 80 square miles of caverns. The size of the various rooms was overwhelming! And, as we walked down to other levels, we noticed stalagmites and stalactites were forming. Because this is a man-made cavern, we were allowed to touch some of these formations.

Mining began here at the end of the Civil War. In the peak of lead production, 5000 miners worked this huge mine. How did they do it? A hand-driven drill began the process and when they hit lead – they drilled a hole – wider and wider until a man with a lantern could go down and begin digging a tunnel using pick axe and shovel. As the process developed, mules were lowered into the chambers to assist in bringing up the product; and then, of course, mechanical equipment was developed to make extraction of the ore easier. Due to the emerging known dangers of lead which was used in numerous items, such as paints and glass, demand dwindled and it closed in 1960.

But, the story of this mine did not end there! During production, pumps were used to keep the lower levels dry so that the workers could mine. Once production ceased, the three lowest levels flooded. A huge lake was formed with 17 miles of navigable shoreline reaching depths to 120 feet. Limestone within the caverns filters out the lead and helps keep the waters crystal clear. And, thus a new life was born for this mine. Diving!!!

We were taken on the lake via a pontoon boat; and looking into the water, we could see some of the tools, rails, and even an ore bucket on the track. We saw the remains of the elevator shaft that once housed the elevator which took the miners to the lower levels. There was a "city" created on the lowest level. This city housed a cafeteria, laboratory, offices and repair shop - all facilities necessary to keep the miners from having to go up to the surface more than once in a 12-hour shift. Our guide told us that the rooms we walked through on the first two levels were small in comparison to the rooms created below us. There are more than 1500 stadium-sized rooms within this mine.

As we returned to the dock, I wondered at the sites below us that we could not see. It must be a magnificent adventure to dive to the deepest depths and see the marvels of an underground city. Walking back to the surface, our guide told us that Jacques Cousteau and his team had been there and filmed their dives. The film was aired on national TV. The week following our visit, the History Channel was scheduled to film at the mine.

As we boarded the bus to return to St. Louis, I thought about how unique this journey had been. Who would have thought that in one day, we could drive through a huge underground warehouse, talk to a surviving lead miner, and learn that one could go deep-water diving in a land-locked state?? Amazing!!

Salazar Announces Western Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale – December 14, 2011

Final Notice of Sale Outlines Lease Terms That Will Promote Safe and Responsible Development of Gulf Energy Resources

11/10/2011

Contact: Adam Fetcher (DOI) 202-208-6416
John Filostrat (BOEM) 504-731-7815

WASHINGTON — Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau today announced that BOEM will hold the first oil and natural gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico since the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion and oil spill. This announcement is consistent with steps President Obama announced in May, 2011 to expand domestic oil and gas production safely and responsibly.

This sale follows BOEM's completion of a supplemental environmental impact statement analyzing the effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* spill on the Western Gulf of Mexico. Lease Sale 218 will be held in the Louisiana Superdome in downtown New Orleans on Dec. 14, 2011. The sale will include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf Planning Area offshore Texas.

"This sale is an important step toward a secure energy future that includes safe, environmentally-sound development of our domestic energy resources that will continue to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create jobs here at home," Secretary Salazar said. "Since the *Deepwater Horizon* spill, we have strengthened oversight at every stage of the oil and gas development process, including deepwater drilling safety, subsea blowout containment, and spill response capability. Exploration and development of our Western Gulf's vital energy resources will continue to help power our nation and drive our economy."

"BOEM was established to oversee the responsible development of the nation's offshore resources and to ensure a fair return for the American taxpayer through lease sales," said Director Beaudreau. "We are committed to balanced decision-making by ensuring that appropriate consideration of the environment is given in every case. The decision to hold this sale was made after careful analysis of the best scientific information available regarding the effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill."

Lease Sale 218, the last remaining Western Gulf Planning Area sale scheduled in the 2007-2012 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program, encompasses 3,913 unleased blocks covering more than 21 million acres. The blocks are

located from nine to about 250 miles offshore, in water depths ranging from 16 to more than 10,975 feet (5 to 3,346 meters). BOEM estimates the lease sale could result in the production of 222 to 423 million barrels of oil and 1.49 to 2.65 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) gives the lease terms and economic conditions for this particular sale. It includes an increase in the minimum bid amount for blocks in water depths of 1,312 feet (400 meters) and greater from \$37.50 to \$100 per acre. The minimum bid amount for leases in the shallower water depths will remain at \$25 per acre.

This change is based on a rigorous historical analysis of the last 15 years of lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico. The analysis, adjusted for energy prices at time of each sale, demonstrates that leases that received high bids of less than \$100 per acre have experienced virtually no exploration and development activities. Raising the minimum bid will discourage companies from inventorying offshore acreage that they are unlikely to explore during the lease term.

The lease sale package also includes environmental stipulations requiring that operators protect biologically sensitive features, as well as marine mammals and sea turtles. These stipulations will require trained observers to ensure compliance and restrict operations when conditions warrant.

All terms and conditions for Western Sale 218 are detailed in the FNOS information package, which is available at: <http://boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Leasing/Regional-Leasing/Gulf-of-Mexico-Region/Lease-Sales/218/Proposed-Notice-of-Sale-218-Package.aspx>. Copies can also be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The FNOS can be viewed today in the Federal Register at: [http://www.ofr.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(jbdorpwoct2r0qdmnbo1nxyv\)\)/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-29340_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/(X(1)S(jbdorpwoct2r0qdmnbo1nxyv))/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-29340_PI.pdf)

Submitted by Charles Miller

REGION III GOES TO COLLEGE

By Gaylen Guilory

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, twenty members of Region III put on their walking shoes and boarded a bus headed for Nunez Community College in Chalmette, Louisiana. The purpose of the field trip was to tour the Technology Department of the college and learn about the P-Tech program.

P-Tech or Process Technology is a two year Associates Degree Program offered by Nunez College. It is designed to provide industry with qualified process technician candidates. The program combines both classroom study and skills training. The success of P-Tech is a credit to the intense hands-on training the students receive. Nunez works with some of the major companies offering a three month internship that benefits both the company and the student. The students gain first-hand knowledge in the work place environment and the company gets the chance to observe the student as a potential future employee.

Upon arrival at Nunez, the group was greeted by Keith Tolleson, head of the P-Tech Department. Keith welcomed everyone and introduced two of the instructors, Ray Frey and Javier Guerrero. Next, Keith explained the outline and the objectives of the P-Tech program.

Nunez teaches the students about safety and how to identify and follow procedures. Everything done in a refinery is highly regulated and requires a permit. Employees must be willing to follow proper procedures to avoid problems such as accidents, downtime or environmental incidents.

Keith stated that communication is vital to the program. Every processing step in the refinery must be closely monitored. Problems should be communicated and addressed immediately in order to prevent them from escalating into unsafe situations. Women who enroll in and complete the program do very well because they generally have better communication skills than men. Women also have an advantage when it comes to computer and clerical skills.

There are two methods used in refining. The first one is known as batch operations. This is when you put everything all together -- similar to baking. Put it all in a batch, make a product, take the batch out, clean everything and then start a new batch. The second method is continuous operations. This is when the product moves through the different phases and continues flowing throughout the operation. It does not start and stop.

Our group was brought into the training lab which contains miniature replicas of equipment used in petrochemical refineries. We were given a demonstration of the processes involved in petro-chemical refining and told about many of the variables that affect the refineries. We learned that there are basically three processes in refining. The first process is that the raw material (crude oil) comes into the refinery and needs to be separated into various components. Next, additives are cut into the raw materials and the new product is subjected to other processes within the refinery. Finally, the finished product goes out.

We learned that it takes 25 barrels of water to refine one barrel of crude. Sweet crude flows easily but sour crude is much heavier. Crude has to be cut with something to remove kerosene, diesel, gas, etc. in order to process it and turn it into the final product. Refineries utilize seasonal refining. More gasoline is produced in the summer due to the increased demand and more heating oil is produced in the winter.

Crude coming into the refinery or product going out of the refinery is stored in a tank. Tanks are only used for storage purposes. The tanks have floating tops which help keep gases to a minimum.

We observed a heat exchanger which is a device used to exchange heat from one substance to another without contacting the product directly. The exchange is done by the use of tubes. A cool product passes through a hot tube and it warms; a warm product passes through a condenser coil and it cools down.

The product then goes into a desalter which uses electricity to remove salt and silt. Once this is complete, the product goes to a distillation tower which is also known as a fractionator. A heating system or boiler is used to heat the crude. This causes the mixture to separate into different types of hydrocarbons according to weight and boiling points. Vapors go up because they have a lower boiling point while liquids fall down due to a higher boiling point. Petrol and liquid petroleum gas is light and rises to the top. Kerosene and diesel oil stay in the middle of the tower and heavier oils such as lubricants and grease settle at the bottom.

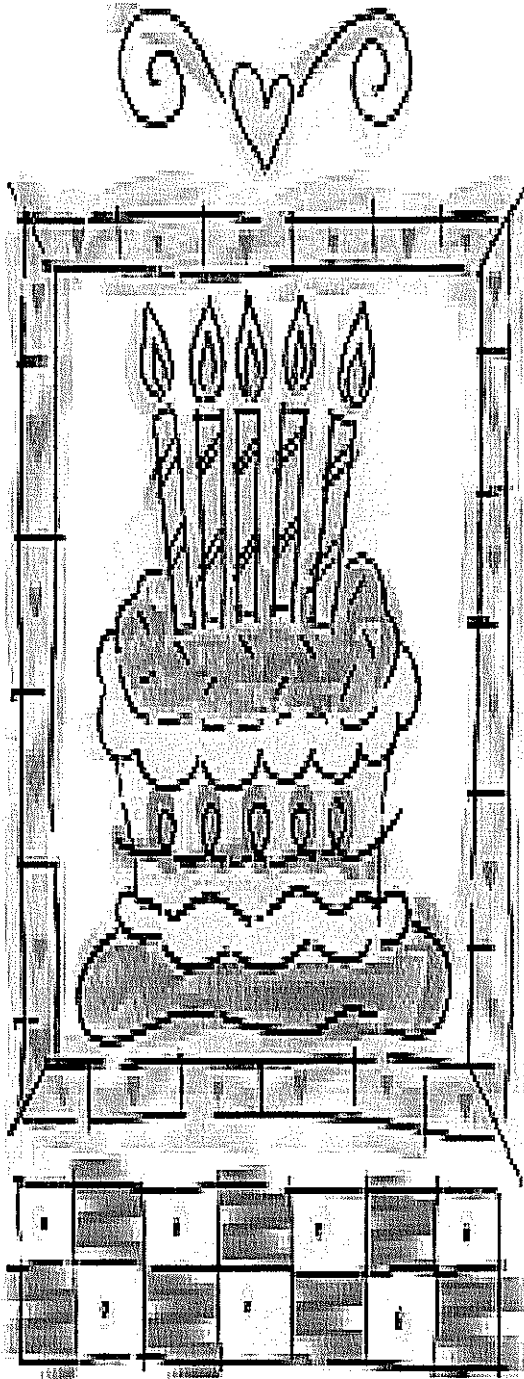
The next step is cracking the oil. This is the step that converts the crude into a usable product. The “cat-cracker” is the biggest money maker in a refinery. It uses intense heat, low pressure and a catalyst to “crack” heavy hydrocarbon molecules into lighter ones. A catalyst is a powder or liquid used to cause a chemical reaction that changes a raw material into a different product. Cracking is the basic petrol or gasoline producing process. After the molecules are cracked, the catalyst is then considered used or spent. The spent catalyst is sent to a regenerator so it can be cleaned and recycled.

The last step involves blending, purifying, and improving products to meet specific requirements. Sulfur and sulfur compounds are removed. Different additives may be added to produce various grades of gasoline or kerosene. The finished products are stored in tanks until they leave the refinery,

Once the demonstration was finished, we were taken outside where we were able to walk through and view the newest development in the P-Tech Department at Nunez -- a mini refinery, complete with control room and equipment. This hands-on experience allowed us to see the machinery as it is configured in a refinery and offered a better understanding of the complexity of the refining process.

The instructors believe this will enable the students to experience the actual environment in a refinery well in advance of their internship. The control room will allow them to simulate real life situations which will aid in training their students to become valuable employees in the petrochemical industry.

Keith, Ray, and Javier joined us for lunch at Rocky & Carlos Restaurant. This restaurant is famous for home style cooking, HUGE portions and a casual atmosphere. We had great food and a great time. It was an exciting way to end a very educational and fun filled trip.



happy BIRTHDAY

TO
our members
BORN in
november

elaine iesnak

11♥1

garrell adam

11♥09

mabelle cheramie

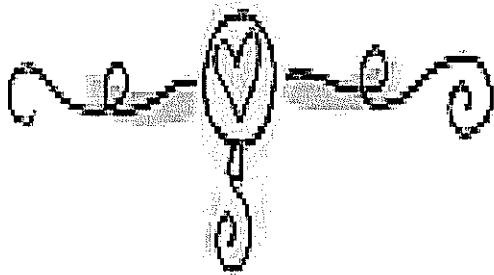
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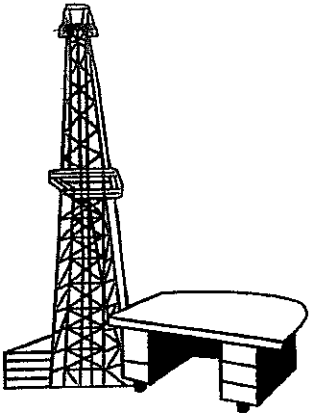
Denise bourg

11♥16

Kori allemand

11♥24





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