



Words from Our President  
Frank P. Gallagher, III, P.E., CIH

We are looking forward to a different meeting approach this month. Greg Varble, an experienced Refineries Process Engineer with the URS New Orleans Office will facilitate and **discuss the Chemical Safety Board's Presentation on the 2005 British Petroleum Texas City Refinery catastrophic explosion.** We will be meeting at my office, the URS Metairie location. As our meal will be catered by a local eatery, we will see quite a break on the meal charge.



Frank Gallagher, P.E. CIH  
President NOLES

There has been a new development since our last newsletter. Our Chapter will be assisting NSPE with a post Katrina recovery tour following their Winter Board Meeting here in January, 2010. I am working with the New Orleans District US Army **Corps of Engineers' Public Affairs Office which will provide tour guides and arrange for the tour coverage.** The nominees for the seven categories of LES annual honors and awards have been confirmed.

Please consider supporting us again this program year by encouraging membership, stepping up to take an officer position, attending meetings, advertising in the news letter and with Math Counts in February. Our organization is all about being of service, providing assistance to students, and promoting our profession.

Hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Frank P. Gallagher, III, P.E., CIH  
NOLES Chapter President

October Speaker - Gregg Varble, PE, Process Engineering Department Head, URS New Orleans Process & Energy Group.

Gregg has over twenty-four years of experience in the petroleum refining industry, working for Marathon Petroleum, Fina Oil and Chemical, Citgo Petroleum and TransAmerican Refining before joining URS Corporation.

October 5, 2009

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Our 21 October 2009, the New Orleans LES Chapter meeting will address the **Chemical Safety Board's Anatomy of a Disaster**, a presentation on a massive explosion which killed 15, the majority of which were consulting engineers, at the Texas City refinery in 2005. The accident cost BP billions of dollars and resulted in a major overhaul of BP's Process Safety Management program. **Gregg Varble, PE, Process Engineering Department Head, URS New Orleans Process & Energy Group, will facilitate this presentation.**

Join Us: [10th floor offices of the URS Metairie, 3500 North Causeway Blvd](#) 21 October 2009 7:00 PM



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After the deadline of Noon, 19 October, your reservation cannot be guaranteed.

1 PDH

LES Members: Click here sends to [Pam at Mahl and Associates](#) "pjwilliams @ mahlengr.com" your attendance confirmation.

Non LES Members: E-mail reservations to [John](#) at "jlawrence @ cmaaccess.com". Select your choice at the meeting. It's buffet style.



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URS METAIRIE

Meal catered by [MR. ROOS](#)

\$20 Members by deadline

\$25 nonmembers and members after deadline

\$15 Students

Our Meal will be Buffet:

Salad with House Dressing

Shrimp Fettuccini

Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya

Dessert Assortment.

6:30PM Networking

7:00PM Dinner

8:00PM Presentation

9:00 Adjourn



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Time during the meeting will be allowed for a discussion.

The meeting location will be the 10th floor offices of the URS Metairie, 3500 North Causeway Blvd and accessed via a west turn off the N. Causeway on Melville Dewey (at the Jeff Parish Fire Station). All Visitors must sign in at the guard station before attending the meeting.

A restaurant catered meal will be served prior to the presentation.

One professional development hour will be awarded attendees.

The advertisers listed here provide support to our chapter in helping offset the costs for this newsletter and our web. Thank YOU! If you would like to help - see me, [Bill Collins](#).

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER RECAP

Our guest speaker for September was Michael Dum – a Financial Advisor and Wealth Coach from [Rhino Investments, LLC](#) in Mandeville. Michael's presentation called **Planning Early for Retirement in Today's Economy** was well received by those members in attendance. He gave a detailed look at inflation, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), and Long Term Care and the impact they each have on your retirement.

Do you know how much you will need to retire? The amount you need to save could be staggering just to meet your basic needs. It is crucial to start your savings plan early. In a 2008 survey of American Workers vs. Recently Retired Workers, expectations were far different than actual numbers. The survey showed that 53% of current workers expected to retire at age 65 or older. However, 72% of those surveyed actually retired *BEFORE* the age of 65. The reasons were many, but health problems, disability, and company downsizing or closure led the list. Your retirement can be dramatically impacted because you may not have nearly as much time as you might think to prepare yourself for retirement.

**Inflation's Impact on Your Savings.** Inflation is one of the biggest killers of financial plans. People are retiring earlier and living longer than ever before. A couple needing \$5,000/mo. today in retirement will need a staggering \$12,135/month in 30 years just to have the same buying power at a 3% inflation rate.

**Long Term Care.** Another area people put little thought into until it is too late is long term care. Approximately 70% of those Americans who reach the age of retirement will need long term care during their lifetime. **That is 7 out of every 10 people. You don't have to plan for the future, but you do have to experience it!** Michael discussed several ways to pay the costs of long term care.

**Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).** The topic that had the most questions and interest was the topic of IRAs. More specifically Roth IRAs. Michael indicated that 2010 is an important year for IRAs. Currently, only individuals or couples with income below \$100,000 can convert their traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. However, in 2010 the income restriction is lifted. In addition, if you convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010 you will have the opportunity to spread the taxes due over 2011 and 2012. Why would you want to convert now? Although you will have to pay the taxes now, the new Roth IRA becomes tax free on both your principal and any future earnings. Tax-Deferred is good, but **Tax-Free is better! If you don't convert, you may end up paying many times more in taxes for that IRA account.** Another big advantage of considering it now is that IRA account values are down because of the declining market. So if you convert now you may be paying tax on a much smaller amount. Our speaker went on to say that a conversion was not necessarily right for everyone, but it is certainly worth exploring whether or not it makes sense for you.

Michael Dum instructs an adult education course called [Retirement Planning Today](#) conducted at the University of New Orleans beginning in November. To find out more about the above topics or to learn more about his course go to the Rhino Investments website at [www.MyRhinoInvestments.com](http://www.MyRhinoInvestments.com) and click on the Financial Education section under the Events tab. Members of the Louisiana Engineering Society will receive a 40% discount off of the \$49 course fee just for being a member.



Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

### Proclamation

WHEREAS, distracted driving is anything that diverts the driver's attention from the primary tasks of navigating the vehicle and responding to critical events; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving includes taking your eyes off the road, taking your mind off the road, and taking your hands off the wheel; and

WHEREAS, safe driving behaviors such as buckling up, driving sober, obeying traffic signs and laws, focusing completely on navigating your vehicle, and responding to conditions and other roadway users would dramatically reduce the number of traffic-related crashes, injuries, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, October 10, 2009 is the Ninth Annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.

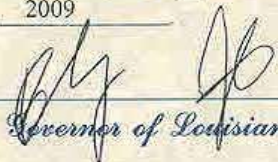
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2009 as

**PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY®**  
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

*In Witness Whereof, I have herunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October A. D., 2009*

  
Governor of Louisiana

  
Secretary of State