



Louisiana Restaurant Association

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LRA CENLA CHAPTER PRESENTS "TASTE OF MARDI GRAS"

METAIRIE, La.—The Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) Cenla Chapter's annual Carnival party, "Taste of Mardi Gras," will be held Friday, February 17, 2012 at the Alexandria Riverfront Center, 7-9 p.m.

A party not to be missed, it will feature "tastes" of the best restaurants in central Louisiana, a silent auction and entertainment by the Baton Rouge band, "Stormy."

"Taste of Mardi Gras has become one of Alexandria's most anticipated events," said LRA Cenla Chapter President Johnny Scalisi, managing partner of Texas Roadhouse in Alexandria. "It is a wonderful party the whole family can enjoy, with fantastic food and entertainment, all for a great cause."

Last year's event boasted 40 restaurants and vendors and more than 2,500 revelers in attendance.

A portion of the proceeds from "Taste of Mardi Gras" go toward the Children's Miracle Network and the LRA Cenla Chapter's annual LRA Education Foundation (LRAEF) goal. The LRAEF, in turn, will use monies raised to further promote the restaurant industry as a career choice through its ProStart[®] program and continue to educate industry professionals about safe food-handling techniques and responsible alcohol vendor training.

The LRA Cenla Chapter would like to thank its generous sponsors for this year's event: Gold- Republic National Distributing Company; Silver- Southwest Beverage Company and Bronze- I.E.S.I.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 years and younger. They can be purchased online at www.LRA.org or at the following locations in Alexandria:

- Alexandria/Pineville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 707 Second Street
- Atwood's Bakery, 1125 MacArthur Drive
- Critic's Choice, 415 Murray Street

At the door the night of the event, tickets increase to \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.

Tables are also available for \$400, which includes reserved seating for eight, a complementary bottle of champagne and 6 p.m. admittance. For more information, please contact LRA Cenla Chapter Regional Director Julie Salisbury at (225) 802-3002.

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The Louisiana Restaurant Association is one of the largest business organizations in the state, representing restaurant operations and related businesses. The restaurant industry in Louisiana is one the state's largest private employer, providing jobs to 182,200 residents.