

# Recycling, poverty, and local projects topics for Alliance

The Tensas Revitalization Alliance general meeting was held January 26, 2010 at the Tensas Community Center on Highway 65.

Mr. Sidney McLemore, Chairman of the Board of Directors welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the speakers for the meeting, Jane Netterville of the Police Jury, Dr. Cynthia Pilcher with the Southern Rural Development Center, Ms. Miriam Russell, District 8 Director for Louisiana Economic Development and James Hendrix with the LSU AgCenter.

Mrs. Netterville updated everyone on Police Jury projects. The walking trail has been completed around the Court House Square. The Courthouse has been completed. She mentioned that the offices of Family Services have closed. Families will have to go out of the parish to apply for services. Winter Quarters in Newellton has also closed. New dental offices are in the works.

Doctor Pilcher spoke to the members about the program *Turning the Tide on Poverty, Creating Vibrant Communities Together*. This program is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center. Tensas Parish is one of the eight parishes and counties

chosen to participate in a pilot program that is being conducted in five states. All sites have 2% or greater poverty. The goal of this project is to try to develop a clear community action plan that would help address the issues of poverty. Dr. Pilcher invited Alliance members to join in the Study Circles meetings, which will be held once a week (Mondays) in two-hour sessions for five weeks of guided conversations. The sessions will be lead by trained facilitators. For more information, contact James Hendrix, LSU AgCenter, Parish Chair/County Agent, 318-766-3320 or Dr. Cynthia Pilcher 318-435-2903.

Miriam Russell, Northeast Louisiana Regional Director of Louisiana Economic Development spoke to the members about projects that include Tensas Parish. She

mentioned the detention center in Newellton. One project she mentioned was getting people in poverty areas to get their GED. We need to encourage older people, not just high school dropouts, to work on their GEDs.

James Hendrix LSU AgCenter Parish Chair/County Agent, gave a very informative presentation on recycling. He distributed handouts about Resin

Identification codes. This handout explained what type of plastic products can be recycled. He had examples of the different types of plastics. He also spoke on how hard it is to recycle in small communities.

Sidney McLemore closed the meeting and encouraged everyone to enjoy the refreshments provided by Dr. Pilcher and the Lees of Southern Cooking of St. Joseph.