



LOUISIANA BAYOU

Mission Statement:
To strengthen individuals,
families and communities
by Education, Leadership
And Action.

Volume 38 - Issue 3

Fall, 2011

President
Rena Labat
200 Kenney St.
Houma, LA 70364-1833
985-876-3521 (h)
985-852-2704 (w)
renalabat@att.net

VP for Program
Elaine Chatagnier
1142 Connie Rd.
Iota, LA 70543-4612
337-779-2226
topselaine@yahoo.com

VP for Public Policy
Janelle Bonvillian
4635 Bayou Black Dr.
Gibson, LA 70356-3311
985-575-3560

Recording Secretary
Sue Nelson
46207 Milton Rd.
Hammond, LA 70401-4829
225-567-9769
gradynelson@att.net

Treasurer
Linda McCord
305 Winfield Blvd.
Houma, LA 70360-2843
985-876-5711 (h)
985-688-2351 (c)
amomentbymoia@yahoo.com

Past President
Ethel Adcock
3526 Verot School Rd.
Youngsville, LA 70592-5340
337-856-5975 (h)
337-322-3369 ©
ectnetwork@cox.net

Parliamentarian
Martha Latimer
9510 Arnold Rd.
Denham Springs 70726-1505
225-665-8393 (h)
225-492-2252 (camp)
marthalatimer@cox.net

State Advisor Agent
Dr. Karen Overstreet
P. O. Box 25100
Baton Rouge, La 70894-5100
225-578-2284
koverstreet@agctr.lsu.edu

Area Directors
Pat Anderson - Area 1
Linda Loupe - Area 2
Jerre Hopfinger - Area 3
Letha Briggs - Area 4
Thellos Maxwell - Area 5

Editor - La Bayou
Rosie Trahan
274 Broadacres Dr.
Crowley, La 70526
337-783-0924 (h)
337-581-3449 (c)
rmtrahan@cox.net

LVFC President's Message Rena LaBat



Dear LVFC Members,

With the official months of summer rapidly coming to a close, I hope each of you had an enjoyable time as you experienced precious moments with you family and friends. Many of you do not meet during the summer months, but I know you will welcome the opportunity to see one another after being apart for some time.

The approach of fall is a reminder that clubs will again be meeting with their members to continue their focus on promoting the educational projects and programs of LVFC. Please continue to be aggressive and energized as you implement these in your local Communities.

The plans for the 2012 State LVFC Convention to be held in Lafayette are in the preliminary stages and are progressing nicely. Chairman Letha Briggs, Co-Chairman Elise Castille, and the members of Area 4 are busy planning an exciting, fun-filled and educational convention for your enjoyment. You will be in for a treat as we will be meeting in Lafayette, the Heart of Acadiana, April 17-19, 2012. Please stay abreast as additional information will be coming to your parish president and through the LA Bayou.

The Legislative Workshop, chaired by Maureen Felder, Legislative Chairman, and Janelle Bonvillian, Vice President for Public Policy, was a resounding success. Those who attended were able to gain 3 ½ hours of LLL training. The speakers from AARP, Louisiana Office of Financial Institution and the Louisiana Railroad Safety presented valuable information and materials that you will be able to use in your clubs as programs.

The reporting guidelines were revised and approved by the Executive Board at the April 2011 convention. By now, your parish president should have received the revised copy with the guidelines for making our reports less complicated and easier to compile.

Members, please continue to be Energized in your daily work as you "light the way as an empowered volunteer" promoting LVFC programs and projects.

As always, I take pride in serving as your LVFC President.

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2011

LVFC members visited Louisiana State Capitol on June 8, 2011



Top left is a beautiful shot of the entire group with our State Capitol in the background.

Maureen Felder, LVFC Legislative Issues Chairman, put together this two-day event which provided members with opportunities for **LEARNING AND LEADING**



Up there in the heart is Maureen (on the right) And Dr. Karen Overstreet, LVFC Advisor. (What would we do without her!?)



(Left) Nancy McPherson (center), Director, AARP LA, presented "AARP Liveable Communities" with Maureen and Janell Bonvillion, VP for Public Policy.

(Right) are Sue Nelson (left), LVFC Secretary, who helped Maxine Wilson, St. Bernard VFC member, in her Presentation on "Railroad Safety."



Another presentation was by Nancy Boudreaux (sorry no picture available); she presented "Fighting Investment Fraud." (check out her article below)

FREE State Services From OFI Could Reduce Investment Fraud

The Securities Division at the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions (OFI) offers FREE background checks, called *CRD Reports*, on investment professionals upon receiving written requests from Louisiana investors. For fastest response, email requests to complaints@ofi.la.gov or fax them to (225) 925-4511. Requests for CRD Reports can also be mailed to the Securities Division of the Office of Financial Institutions (OFI) at 8660 United Plaza Boulevard in Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Include either the investment professional's CRD Number, or the person's legal name, for OFI to search a nationwide data base called the Central Registration Depository (CRD). A CRD Number is an exclusive identifying number, much like a personal Social Security number, used for investment professionals. Investors should always feel free to ask for any investment professional's CRD Number, although there are exemptions to needing one. OFI can be contacted at (225) 925-4512 to verify details when an investment professional claims an exemption from needing a CRD Number.

A *CRD Report* includes valuable information such as: the person's background, certifications, pending arbitration, criminal history, and employment history (including terminations, disciplinary actions and customer complaints filed). In a 2007 Investment Fraud Risk Survey conducted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, 70 percent of fraud victims had never checked the broker's registration with their states. Many scams could be avoided if investors would start verifying the salesperson's credentials before investing.

OFI's web site offers a new Investor Education section at www.ofi.la.gov/SecuritiesInvestorEd.htm to access more details about requesting CRD Reports, read about new fraud schemes and tips on avoiding them, or use the *Investor Checklist* form to evaluate new investments. As new scams are uncovered, the web site will be updated with relevant articles every quarter.

Investor education is a powerful tool in the fight against investment fraud. That's why OFI now offers a FREE professional speaker with the hottest topics on avoiding investment fraud to groups, associations and conferences. Contact OFI's new Investor Education Trainer, Nancy Boudreaux, at (225) 925-4677 or nboudreaux@ofi.la.gov to check her availability to speak to your group about protecting investments from today's con artists.

AREA 3 REPORT
JERRY HOPFINGER
AREA 3 DIRECTOR

The summertime heat has not slowed down the Area 3 members. Ouachita VFC held their May council meeting at the home of Virginia Calhoun, mom of Extension Agent, Cynthia Stephens, in Oak Grove. Members looked at her antiques, which she restored, and walked through her yard to enjoy her spring plants and garden arrangements.

Debbie Pate of Modern Club was recognized with a plaque as outstanding member for the 2010 year. She was nominated by Jean Dalton and Shirley Burgess. Debbie has been a tremendous asset to her club and the parish council. In such a short time as a member, she has stepped up and accomplished many goals. Thanks Debbie, for a job well done!

Ouachita members volunteered at the Southern Fried Festival held earlier this spring in West Monroe.

Morehouse and Ouachita members are working on the Dresses for Haiti cause. They are making the dresses to send with local missionaries to Haiti orphanages. We all look forward to hearing one of the missionaries speak at the September Council meeting.

Baby items were donated to new moms at the Morehouse General Hospital in Bastrop during the month of May. Moms attending parenting classes received donated books to encourage reading to their young children.

Although the weather has been very dry, high waters along the Mississippi River caused much flooding. Morehouse members donated buckets filled with cleaning supplies to these victims. Not only does it help with cleaning costs, it reminds them that we are thinking of them during difficult times.



St. Bernard Stitch In Time VFC Club presented a check for the purchase of a taser to Colonel Chad Clark and Corporal Johnell Young of St. Bernard Sheriff's Department. SBVFC members pictures Are Lucy Ruffino, Treasurer; Cheryl Georgusis, President; and Vicki Cardon, Vice President.



CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKSHOP

St. Martin VFC members attending this Workshop in Lafayette were: (seated) Barbara Bird, Wildie Degeyter, Jeanette Perrio, Micky Chitty, Betty Frederick. (2nd row) Barbara Latiolais, Lovel Benoit, Elsie Castille, Gwen Miller, Dot Boutte, Iva Theriot, Jeanette M. Guidry. (back row) Jo Bruce, Lydia Melancon, Lucille Badeaux, Mavis Landry, Pris Breaux, Linda Lajaunie, and Janel Lasseigne.



St. Martin VFC members serving as judges for 4-H Achievement Day were (front) Lou Gravouilla, Barbara Bird, Norma Olivier; (back) Kim Gravouilla, Elsie Castille, Jo Bruce, Betty Guidry, Jessie Simmons And Ann Stoute.

Continuing from last issue, **MEMBERSHIP AWARDS** recipients at 2011 convention in Alexandria

45 YEARS

Rena Faul (Lafayette)
Peggy Bagala (Lafourche)
Brenda Compeaux (Lafourche)
Jeanette Terrebonne (Lafourche)
Betty Guidry (St. Martin)
Barbara Latiolais (St. Martin)

40 YEARS

Vergeline J. Clause (Jefferson)
Alice V. Navarre (Jefferson)
Carol S. Watkins (Jefferson)
Irene Trahan (Lafayette)
Betty Melancon (Lafourche)
Nora Egan (St. Bernard)
Delores Trosclair (St. Martin)
Sue Nelson (Tangipahoa)

35 YEARS

Charlotte Upadhyay (Jefferson)
Sara Morrow (Tangipahoa)
Margaret Graffeo (Vermilion)
Florence Vincent (Vermilion)

30 YEARS

Kathleen Kruger (Jefferson)
Kelly Johnson (Lafayette)
Tina Duet (Lafourche)
Jean Corne (St. Bernard)
Beverly McDougall (St. Bernard)
Delores Boudreaux (St. Martin)
Doris Champagne (St. Martin)
Millie Falgout (Tangipahoa)
Joyce Freeland (Vermilion)
Ella Harrington (Vermilion)

25 YEARS

Ilda (Lee) Weinert (Jefferson)
Audrey Calais (Lafourche)
Mary Franz (Lafourche)
Georgette Guidroz (Lafourche)
Anna Mae Guidry (Lafourche)
Linda M. Loupe (Lafourche)

25 YEARS

Doris Jane Pitre (Lafourche)
Loredia Terrebonne (Lafourche)
Carolyn Babin (St. Charles)
Florine McKinney (St. Charles)
Lorraine Cormier (St. Martin)
Joyce Bourliea (Tangipahoa)
Patricia Sisco (Tangipahoa)
Myrna Landry (Vermilion)
Thelma Simon (Vermilion)
Jane Touns (Vermilion)

20 YEARS

Ozelle Shockley (Beauregard)
Marguerite Duplechain (Jeff Davis)
Mary Fuqua (Lafayette)
Rachel Weldon (Lafayette)
Betty Boudreaux (Lafourche)
Barbara Plaisance (Lafourche)
Katherine Richardelle (Lafourche)
Betty Fuller (St. Bernard)
Betty Showalter (St. Bernard)
Beverly Angelle (St. Martin)
Anita Blanchard (St. Martin)

15 YEARS

Nita Brumley (Beauregard)
Della R. Barbee (Grant)
Lamourie B. Eaves (Grant)
Ethel Adcock (Lafayette)
Betty Jo Blakeney (Lafayette)
Dana Guidry (Lafayette)
Marguerite Pringle (Lafayette)
Susan Pitre (Lafourche)
Virginia Pitre (Lafourche)
Nadine Prejean (Lafourche)
Mazel Dwyer (St. Martin)
Eula Mae Landry (St. Martin)
Ann Bourliea (Tangipahoa)
Shirley LaCour (Tangipahoa)
Faith Landwehr (Tangipahoa)
Catherine Neyland (Tangipahoa)
Meceal H. Smith (Vermilion)

10 YEARS

Jeanne Daigle (Jeff Davis)
Louetta LeBlanc (Jeff Davis)
Pat Thevenot (Jefferson)
Bonnie Calhoun (Lafayette)
Mary Ann Miller (Lafayette)
Susan Danos (Lafourche)
Marian Bourgeois (St. Bernard)
Cheryl Geiger (St. Bernard)
Joy Lewis (St. Brnard)
Carolyn Little (St. Bernard)
Maxine Wilson (St. Bernard)
Doris Broussard (St. Martin)
Sue Hulin (St. Martin)
Lydia Thibodeaux (St. Martin)
Elise Verret (St. Martin)
Bobbie Farris (Tangipahoa)
May Stuckey (Tangipahoa)
Joycie Broussard (Vermilion)
Marsha Lequeux (Vermilion)
Mary Luquette (Vermilion)
Patsy Sarver (Vermilion)

5 YEARS

Jan Sheridan (Beauregard)
Marilyn Lacour (Jefferson)
Sally Hoffschwelle (Jefferson)
Rosalie Richardson (Lafayette)
Lola Chouest (Lafourche)
Tammy C. Loupe (Lafourche)
Maurice Loupe, Jr. (Lafourche)
Martha E. Griffith (Sabine)
Letha Alongi (St. Bernard)
June Duckert (St. Bernard)
Sylvia Tybussek (St. Bernard)
Anna Belle Borel (St. Martin)
Janet Lasseigne (St. Martin)
Gloria Mason (St. Martin)
Sylvia Porche (St. Martin)
Gloria Thevenot (St. Martin)
Barbara Gagliano (Tangipahoa)
Shelia Gagliano (Tangipahoa)
Linda Hoffman (Tangipahoa)
Julia Humphrey (Tangipahoa)
Sylvia La Dew (Tangipahoa)
Sandra Rogers (Tangipahoa)
Michele Veillon (Vermilion)

St. Martin VFC Collage of . . .

. . . Education, Leadership And ACTION!!!

Covering activities since March, SMVFC members were very busy (as you can see). Starting top left are the grandmothers of Wanda B. Landry Scholarship recipients: Mavis Fruge, grandmother of Katharine Domas; Dolores H. Mills, grandmother of Olivia Marie LeBlanc.

Then top right are Mavis Landry, Jeane Carmichael, guest speaker at International Day, and Barbara Bird. Brazil was the country featured and Carmichael told of Brazil's culture, education, clothing, foods and geography. Members decorated with Brazilian flags and Mardi Gras beads and served Brazilian foods.

Middle left, Betty Devillier, Janet Chitty, Barbara Bird and Jeanette LaPorte sort clothes for the Angel Wings and Heart Strings Program. Mavis Fruge, chairman of the group, is not in the picture. These clothes were given by the St. Therese Service Center.

Middle right, Becky Patin, with St. Martin Parish Clerk of Court, and Elsie Castille who introduced Patin at their April meeting. Patin covered the operations of her office in detail. Sixty-two members turned out to hear her talk. Can you imagine!?

Second to bottom: Shown are left to right Janelle Braquet, Jeanette Perrio, Rob Hollier and Rose Blanchard. Hollier is a pharmacist and was guest speaker at Breaux Bridge VFC meeting. He discussed strategies to avoid medication errors: Doctor/pharmacist communication, drug allergies, medical conditions, daily medications and changes in medications. Hollier stated that 73% of all medicines are generic. He stressed that we are in charge of our bodies meaning we must evaluate our own prescription plans every year.

Last: Barbara Bird (l) and Mavis Landry (r) make a donation to Hospice of Acadiana rep Sharon Wright



COME ON ... LET'S HAVE A LAUGH ON THAT OLD ECONOMY!!!



The economy is so bad, I went to my bank the other day and the teller handed me a note saying, "This is a robbery!"
The economy is so bad, a picture is now only worth 200 words.
The economy is so bad, my ATM gave me an IOU!
The economy is so bad that I saw a van full of legal immigrants illegally crossing the border to Mexico
It's so bad, I got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
It's so bad, I ordered a burger at McDonalds and the kid behind the counter asked, "Can you afford fries with that?"
It's so bad, the Lone Ranger sold his silver bullets on Ebay.
Why is there no gold at the end of the rainbow? Cause the Leprechan took it and sold it to Cash4Gold!
What Does AIG stand for? Answer: And It's Gone!

A mathematician, an accountant and an economist apply for the same job.

The interviewer calls in the mathematician and asks "What do two plus two equal?" The mathematician replies "Four."
The interviewer asks "Four, exactly?" The mathematician looks at the interviewer incredulously and says "Yes, four, exactly."
Then the interviewer calls in the accountant and asks the same question "What do two plus two equal?" The accountant says "On average, four - give or take ten percent, but on average, four."
Then the interviewer calls in the economist and poses the same question "What do two plus two equal?" The economist gets up, locks the door, closes the shade, sits down next to the interviewer and says, "What do you want it to equal?"



Educational Committee Reports should consist of Forms for numbers and a descriptive essay or story of parish activities for the year no more than 2 typed pages thus eliminating heavy books and expensive postage.

EACH PARISH ISSUES CHAIRMAN SHOULD SEND THEIR REPORTS BY JAN. 31, 2012

FAMILY LIFE (FORM 17-A) TO:

Judy Broussard
804 S. John M. Hardy Drive
Abbeville, LA 70510-7140

ENVIRONMENT (FORM 17-C) TO:

Maxine Wilson
53 W. Chalmette Circle
Chalmette, LA 70043-4325

LITERACY (FORM 17-B) TO:

Ann Reeves
1309 Apple Street
Metairie, LA 70001-3308

INTERNATIONAL (FORM 17-D) TO:

Betty Guilbeau
400 Cheyenne Drive
Houma, LA 70360-6053

MARKETING (PAGE 34 FORM) TO:

Cheryl Bradley
8126 Buras Avenue
Metairie, LA 70003-6504

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT (FORM 15 IN HANDBOOK) ARE DUE JAN. 31, 2012 AND SENT TO AREA DIRECTOR AND A COPY TO LVFC OFFICERS: PRESIDENT, VP FOR PROGRAMS, VP FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND LVFC ADVISOR.

OFFICERS' ADDRESSES ARE ON COVER PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.. LISTED BELOW ARE THE ADDRESSES FOR AREA DIRECTORS.

AREA 1 DIRECTOR

Pat Anderson (St. Charles)
540 Pine Street
Norco, LA 70079-2134

AREA 3 DIRECTOR

Jerre Hopfinger (Ouachita)
3001 Arkansas Road
W. Monroe, LA 71291-8625

AREA 2 DIRECTOR

Linda Loupe (Lafourche)
8784 Hwy. 1
Lockport, LA 70374-9708

AREA 4 DIRECTOR

Letha Briggs (Lafayette)
112 Grand Avenue
Lafayette, LA 70503-4637

AREA 5 DIRECTOR

Thellos Maxwell (Grant)
6969 Hwy. 8
Bentley, LA 71407-2930

PLEASE NOTE: Parish presidents send a few pictures/news articles of parish activities to area directors for the area poster display at convention. This is the only place pictures/news articles are involved in reporting now.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Parish Presidents - should have New President/Officers form

Parish Treasurers - Membership Drive - see Cheryl Bradley's message on outside of this newsletter

OCTOBER

1 LVFC Pacific Cruise 2011

30 Parish Officers - begin putting together info for annual reports due Jan 30

30 Parish Presidents - mail completed Parish Officers/Chairmen list - Include changes effective 2012 to Membership Chairman

OCTOBER 15
 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 National Safety Month
 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Tangipahoa VFC
 30th Annual
 Holiday Ideas Workshop
 Sept. 29, 2011
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

INVITATION

KATHY MAUTHE' (Guest Speaker)
 Food Preservation for the Holidays
 CRAFT DEMOS, GIFT BASKETS, CRAFTS BOOTHS,
 LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
 IDEAS TO BRIGHTEN and LIGHTEN YOUR HOLIDAY
 ADMISSION DONATION \$6.00

Ponchatoula Community Center
 300 N. Fifth Street
 Ponchatoula, LA

****COUPON****
 \$1 off admission donation
 TVFC 30th Holiday Ideas Workshop
 Ponchatoula Community Center
 Ponchatoula, La.
 September 29, 2011
 9 AM Registration--fun starts at 9:30
 (Make copies for your friends)

Editor's Notes Rosie Trahan, Editor

Summertime is winding down and schools are winding up. I had four great-nephews to graduate from high school and are now gearing up for college. I'm sure everyone feels the same as I do - Man! Seems just like yesterday, etc. etc. etc.

BUT September is just around the corner and THAT MEANS

BACK IN THE VFC SWING OF THINGS! AND THAT'S GOOD!

Hope you enjoy this issue. I went out and bought a new publishing program. Am I having fun or what? Always finding something new this program can do but I hope you notice some improvement because it's **JUST FOR YOU AND YOU AND YOU!**

Well, anyway, take note of Cheryl's message and also the update on those good old reports. Cutting back on work - that's always welcomed news. Come September - Happy VFCing!

The Louisiana Bayou is the official newsletter of Louisiana Volunteers for Family and Community, Inc. It is published four times a year:
 Spring - February 15 Summer - May 15
 Fall - August 15 Winter - November 15

Editor: Rosie Trahan
 274 Broadacres Dr.
 Crowley, LA 70526
 337-783-0924
 rmtrahan@cox.net

CREDITS:
 Advisors: Dr. Karen Overstreet, State VFC Advisor
 Adrienne Vidrine, Acadia VFC Advisor
 Proofed: Paula Stewart, Acadia Extension Secretary

NEXT ISSUE - WINTER ISSUE

ARTICLES ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 10 AND PUBLISHED BY NOVEMBER 15

CONTRIBUTORS FOR NEXT ISSUE

PRESIDENT	SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR
ADVISOR	FAMILY LIFE CHAIR
EDITORIAL	INTERNATIONAL CHAIR
SECRETARY	AREA 4 DIRECTOR
TREASURER	PARISH/CLUB NEWS

LOUISIANA BAYOU
Volunteers for Family and Community, Inc.
221 Human Ecology Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
BATON ROUGE
LA
PERMIT 363

Message from Cheryl

ENERGIZE . . . Your parish VFC!
RECRUIT . . . New members!

2012 Dues Collection packets are coming your way!

It's that time of year again when we renew our State and Parish memberships. **Parish Treasurers** will receive a packet and instruction letter this month reminding them to ask clubs to collect dues at their September or October club meetings. **Parish Treasurers** please remember to send clubs a dues form with your name and address on it so I will not receive dues from clubs!!

Members should bring their 2012 State (\$10) and Parish dues (amount varies by parish) to their club meeting and invite a friend to join!

Clubs please **verify** your members' information. **If there are any changes** to address, phone or email, please have the **member fill out and sign** a Membership Form with the NEW info and include that with your corrected **club list and ONE club check** made out to **your parish VFC**.

Parish Treasurers combine the clubs' information and send me the old **corrected (2011) parish list** (provided in your packet) with ONE CHECK made out to LVFC for State dues only. Treasurers please **KEEP** your PARISH dues and a copy of your parish membership list!!

Dues are accepted any time during the year, but only those I **receive by Nov. 30 deadline** will count toward the number of your parish's voting delegates at State Convention.

Cheryl Bradley, LVFC Membership Chair
8126 Buras Ave.
Metairie LA 70003-6504
504-733-0739
Jafce1@aol.com