



Louisiana Bayou

MISSION STATEMENT:

*To strengthen individuals,
families and communities
through Education,
Leadership and Action*

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Summer 2011

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MESSAGE FROM.....



Rena Labat

LVFC President 2011-2012

Dear LVFC Members,

What can I say but WOW! This really describes the 80th LVFC State Convention held recently in Alexandria with Caddo, Grant, and Sabine Parish members serving as our hostesses. My profound thanks to the convention chairmen and their committees for planning an event that was filled with educational programs, insightful workshops, guest speakers who gave points on honing our leadership skills, and, of course, Fun Night where we met famous celebrities! For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you.

My congratulations are extended to the Outstanding Spirit of LLL recipient and the Outstanding Heart of LVFC recipient. Also I would like to congratulate those members who have reached that 50 + years milestone in their volunteer work along with those who earned their various membership years.

Your club year will be ending soon as many of you will not be meeting during the summer. However, I would like for you to implement the programs and projects that have been made available for you to use in your communities once your club year resumes in the fall.

Just a reminder, please take advantage of attending the Legislative Workshop in Baton Rouge on June 7th and 8th. Maureen Felder, Legislative Chairman, has planned some exciting events and workshops for you to gain leadership hours as you learn more about state public affairs. Continue to be Energized in your daily work armed with the information you received throughout the year and as a result of our recent convention.

As always I take pride in serving as your LVFC President!

NEW LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP JUNE 7-8 2011

Live Fit - Taking Steps to be an Informed Citizen

Check with your VFC Council President for all the details and forms
Registration deadline is May 13 - no refunds after May 13
Hotel Reservations due May 10 - lodging at Cook Hotel
\$50 for members - For non-members \$65 - Includes dinner Tuesday evening
and lunch Wednesday morning plus bus, meeting rooms fees.
What a bargain!

A Message From

Janelle Bonvillain
Vice President for Public Policy

We had a wonderful convention this year. We were able to see our fellow LVFC members and enjoy visiting with them. I hope you were able to get ideas for programs that you can do in your community. Check your LLL certificates and see how many you have. Maybe with what you received at convention you have enough for your 30 hour L.L.L. certification.

I am excited that we will have Legislation Day again this year. Here is another chance to receive hours. A lot of time was put into planning this opportunity for you. Your parish president has more information and she has the registration forms.

I hope to see you all in Baton Rouge on June 7-8, 2011.



AREA 5 HOSTESSES
REAL HARD WORK
BUT A REAL GOOD JOB!
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

Back row from left:
Virginia Foster, Peggy Martin, Linda Duthile, Letha Carey, Lisa Talberg, Sharon Beauregard, Sandra Cline

Front row from Left:
Mary Talbot, Florence McKay, Mary Gregory, Ruth Gargle, Pat Durr, Karen Hardee, Pat Zuel, Charlotte Greer, Liz Spivey, Margaret Newton, Rosa Simmons, and Hazel Hilton.

Not pictured is Thellos Maxwell, Area Director and Co-Chair - she had to leave but she worked until she couldn't go no more! (sorry Thellos)



JACY FARALDO, helped open convention by leading "The Star Spangled Banner"
(A future VFC member?)

CONVENTION COVERAGE!!!

2011 LVFC 80TH CONVENTION
APRIL 11 - 14, 2011
Sai Convention Center, Alexandria, LA
(And what a grand place!)

LVFC - Louisiana Pride

Our LVFC President, Rena LaBat, opened the convention
- and, folks, when she lays down that gavel

BE ENERGIZED!



IN OPENING SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING (l-r) Sharon Beauregard, Convention Co-Chair, introduced guests; Rena Labat, LVFC President, presided over convention and gave her *energized* welcome; Keynote Speaker **MICHAEL PATE** energized us too with his words just perfect to kick off convention. He authored the book, *When Big Boys Tri.*



Greetings from Grant Parish and Central Louisiana given by Catahoula Ranger District.



Guess who Rena and Ranger Rhodes are eyeing? Yep! That's right! Special Guest SMOKEY THE BEAR! He and Virginia Foster promenade!



LLL BREAKFAST, SCOT A. LOYD, Public Speaker for Radio and Television host, was the guest speaker for this occasion. Pictured with Mr. Loyd is Spirit of LLL Award recipient Ethel Adcock, and Janelle Bonvillain, VP for Public Policy and in charge of LVFC Louisiana Leading and Learning program (LLL). Read about Ethel's achievements in another section.



BUCK VANDERSTEEN, Executive Director, LA. Forestry Assn., is flanked by Janelle Bonvillain and Maureen Felder. Mr. Vandersteen gave the LLL SESSION ON "WOMEN PROPERTY OWNERS IN LOUISIANA AND HEIR PROPERTY" - very interesting - quite a few savy questions were posed by VFC members. Forty-five minutes LLL credit were earned for this Wednesday morning session.

"Forestry is the number one agricultural commodity in the state. It covers over half the land in Louisiana. As that tree grows it is a living thing every day. Our forests are factories whereby it takes carbon dioxide (green house gases) out of the atmosphere, with light, sunlight and water mixing it in with the seedling's cellular makeup turns it into wood fiber; and in that process it releases oxygen for all of us. In harvesting, we capture all of that carbon - wood fiber - to make our homes, our furniture, our solid wood products, etc."

- Buck Vandersteen



BARBARA DELONY (in background) presided over AWARDS AND MEMORIAL LUNCHEON and MARY TALBOT lead the Memorial Service. Both are Caddo VFC. Guest speaker for this event, ERIC ESKEW, LA 4-H Foundation Executive Director, gave an informative talk about his organization. Rena presented a \$500 donation on behalf of LVFC to 4-H Foundation stating that this will be an annual donation. In the picture, Rena, Martha Latimer and Mary are making a presentation of the tree used in the memorial service to Eric along with a plaque for his office. In a very impressive ceremony Area Directors attached name tags of deceased members in their area onto a Dogwood tree. The tree is to be planted at Camp Grant Walker.



KELLY SPRINGER was LVFC Awards Breakfast speaker on Thursday morning. She said her husband is a former LSU baseball player and major league pitcher Russell Springer, but she was not going to talk about him but something more important. She is with Angel Boy Foundation and a board member of Speak Center and Families Helping Families. She and Russell are parents of a 12 year old son with Autism. Her testimony of care and love as a family and their growth as individuals is very inspirational. She opened her talk by reciting a poem, Heaven's Very Special Child. It is shown on the outside of Louisiana Bayou. Thank you, Kelly, for letting us into your life - we are all God's children!



CHERYL AND LEE COBES And Their Children, SCOTT, STEPHANIE AND ALLYSON

2011 GREAT LOUISIANA FAMILY

Cheryl belongs to Jefferson Parish DEB Homemaker Club in Metairie. Cheryl has been recognized for her volunteer spirit by several organizations: Volunteer Activist by St. Elizabeth Guild; as a Great Lady by the East Jefferson Hospital Guild; with the President's Award by the City Park Improvement Assn.; as Outstanding Graduate of Catholic Schools by the Archdiocese of New Orleans; and the Alum of the Year by Mt. Carmel Academy. Cheryl and Lee were named Sweetheart Couple by the Heart Ambassadors

and Volunteers of the Year by Friends of City Park. Cheryl is active at Mt. Carmel in the Alumna Assn. and with Development Board. Lee serves on the Alum Board and the Corporate Board of DeLaSalle High School.

Cheryl is involved in civic, religious and non-profit organizations in her community: St. Elizabeth Guild, St. Michael's Special School, D-Day Museum, Associated Catholic Charities, Council of Catholic Schools Cooperative Clubs, Cancer Crusaders, Friends of City Park, Mt. Carmel Academy Advisory Board, Archdiocesan School Board, City Park Improvement Assn., St. Clement of Rome Parents Club, WLAE TV Auction, Stanley Schott Cancer Center Board, DeLaSalle Gala Committee and, of course, DEB VFC Club of which she says, *"My homemaker club membership is the longest of any I have enjoyed. The friendships and experiences have been so very valuable. I have shared so much of what I have learned with so many."*

Cheryl and Lee were very supportive of their children in their schools and activities as they grew up. They were involved in the school parents' clubs, scouting, athletic and CYO programs. Being adult sponsors for their parish CYO and teaching CCD religious classes to high school students for five years were examples of service for their children. Scott is a graduate of LSU; Stephanie is a graduate of UNO; and Allyson attended Loyola University. Scott and Jill and Stephanie and Leo are the parents of their six grandchildren: Brandon, Alyssa, Scottie, Emily, Catie and Monica. They have shared good times and dealt with very difficult ones such as the near drowning of their granddaughter 13 years ago. Scottie and Jill's loving care of their daughter inspire many.

Stephanie is a kindergarten teacher at St. Charles School. She serves as mentoring extracurricular activities for students and is active in the Alumna Assn of Mt. Carmel. Her husband, Leo, volunteers as parent treasurer for their son's soccer league and travels with the team. Stephanie is a member of DEB Homemaker Club of which makes Cheryl very proud.

Allyson is the Corporate Sales Manager of Royal Sonesta Hotel. She has been with the hotel for 23 years, serves as director to promote international sales and is involved with New Orleans tourism as board member of NO Hospitality Industry. She is also active at her Alma Mater, Dominican High School.

Scott works with Lee as president of their business and two grandsons have worked with them for summer employment. They share many family gatherings. Cheryl says, "We are blessed that our family, parents, brothers and sisters, our children and grandchildren, all live here. Our prayer is that our role as parents and as involved, faith-filled adults have in some way contributed to their accomplishments, successes and happiness."



SPIRIT OF LLL..... ETHEL ADCOCK
(On the left)

Ethel has been a Lafayette VFC member for 16 years and has served in many capacities on club, parish and state levels. She received her 30 hour LLL Certification in 2003 and received her 60 hour LLL “Master Leadership Trainer” Award in 2006. She has taught many FCL/LLL classes over the years. Ethel has served on numerous advisory board for the AgCenter Extension Service. She volunteers to judge at 4-H Achievement Days. She was named to the Volunteer Hall of Fame in 2005. Ethel is our past president (2009-2010), attended CWC as a voting delegate for both years and attended the 2010 ACWW Triennial meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Ruby Barrios, her VFC club president said,

“Ethel has been and still is a hard worker for LVFC, always doing everything with a pleasant smile and accomplishing what she started out to do for the members. She has strengthened individuals, families and communities in leadership and education.” (And that’s the LLL Spirit!)

HEART OF LVFC..... RENA LABAT
(On the right)

Rena Labat epitomizes the true heart of VFC each and every day of her life. She is VFC in persona on the local, parish and state level; she speaks and acts from HER HEART! Rena represents LVFC on the State 4-H Advisory Board and is also on the LSU AgCenter Advisory Board which oversees the entire AgCenter system. Her leadership roles open doors to meet and converse with numerous LSU AgCenter personnel and administrators and she stays in touch with stakeholders to keep them informed about VFC and LSU AgCenter. She exemplified her stellar devotion to VFC by accepting a second term as President of LVFC organization. Rena’s heart is devoted to VFC.

(Whew, that’s energized!)



POETRY WINNER..... AGNES ROQUES
Jefferson VFC Little Farms Club

KATRINA MUSINGS

As I drive around my old home town,
Can’t help but cry as I look around—
Bits and pieces of peoples’ lives
Piled in mountains, seem to reach the skies.
A two-legged chair, a warped table,
A headless dolly and her rusty cradle,
Bookshelves with spilled, sodden books,
Old picture albums which have lost their looks;
Refrigerators with funny graffiti,
Rolls of carpet, no longer pretty;
Blue plastic FEMA roofs to catch the rain—
Flooded streets that just didn’t drain.
People meet and say “How’d you do?”
And we know they mean, “We flooded. Did you?”
“Did your roof blow off?”—“A tree fell on ours.”
“The insurance man came. Stayed less than an hour!”
A big white trailer sits in my drive—
I try to like it—am glad we’re alive!
I pray that soon my house will be done—
That folks that lost houses will have won
The right to rebuild on their own ground.
That we’ll all come back as good as new,
And that soon all our cares will be few!
Our Metro area will be as it was before;
“The Pearl of the South”, as in days of yore.

MABEL LORENZ
is this year’s
recipient of
HEART OF VFC
AWARD

along with Rena. On behalf of Mabel, Lina Miller, Beauregard VFC Council President, received her beautiful bowl gift from Rena. Mabel is a generous VFC member from Beauregard VFC. On two occasions, she has helped burned children by sending them supplies during their lengthy hospital stays. She helped five families, whose homes burned, to be sure that children had the things they needed. She sent supplies to Native American children and made dolls and sent them to children in Honduras. This caring lady gave her heart to 4-H as she judged 4-H Records, taught 4-H record keeping workshops in her home and teaching them 4-H youth life skills. She will be inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame this year. She has been a dedicated LVFC volunteer for forty plus years.



Jefferson VFC Triple H Club

Once upon a time, Sally met her love on top of the roof of her school. She was a senior in high school and he was a little older than her. His name was Jack and he was working on the school as a carpenter. Sally was introduced to Jack through her best friend, who walked to school with her every morning. Every morning, Sally would tell Jack hello. When Sally received her graduation ring, she showed it to Jack. Months later Jack asked Sally out. It was love at first sight. Later in the year, Jack asked Sally to marry him and she said yes. Sally made eighteen in March, graduated in May, and got married in July of the same year. Jack didn't make much money, so they rented a one bedroom, kitchen and bath apartment. Within two months after they were married, Sally got pregnant and the couple had baby number one. Six weeks later, Sally was pregnant with baby number two. The couple managed in their little apartment with second hand furniture, with a baby bed in the bedroom and one in the kitchen. Years later, they were able to buy a shot-gun house and had baby number three. The house was still a little tight, but the couple still managed. Years later, they were able to buy a lot and build. Jack built his own house and had a lot of friends who helped him. Sally and Jack moved into their new home, but there were a lot of empty rooms. When they could afford it, they furnished a room. They basically bought one thing at a time and paid it off. Later, they had baby number four.

Sally and Jack managed their money and spent it wisely, and were able to send all of the kids to Catholic school. Sally didn't work outside the home, but the family was able to live off of Jack's salary and later sent two of the children to college. Sally and Jack managed nicely, by loving one another, giving and sharing and not buying what they couldn't afford.

It takes time and patience to get what you want. Today, the husband and the wife often both have to work to support the family, but they also want everything new and big. That is why we have so many divorces. The younger generation who are now parents, were spoiled as kids and when they get married they have to learn what money is and how to control it. They also have to learn how to take care of one another when both are working. When the couple comes home from work, they should switch to their responsibilities at home and take care of the yard, handle house repairs, and also help with the kids. If the couple works together, shares responsibilities, and tries to agree on some things, their marriage will be more successful.

Sally didn't work out of her home for a company, but did take care of her husband's company books, because he was self-employed. Sally was still able to take care of her four children, cook, and care for her husband. Give, share, love, care...that's "50" years!

**THE AWARD FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER
OF MEMBERS INCREASED WENT TO**

ST. MARTIN VFC
with 22 MEMBERS INCREASED

Gussie DeLaHoussaye (St. Martin) 76 years
Melva Cressionie (Lafourche) 73 years
Adela Jardell (Jeff Davis) 71 years
Carmen Martin (Acadia) 70 years
Verna Cormier (Vermilion) 66 years
Velma Richard (Vermilion) 59 years
Lelia Babin (St. Martin) 57 years
Thellos Maxwell (Grant) 56 years
Rita Doize (St. Bernard) 55 years
Lovel Benoit (St. Martin) 55 years
Laura Melancon (St. Martin) 55 years
Joan Reed (Tangipahoa) 55 years
Rowena Deloach (Jefferson) 53 years
Gerry Waguespack (Jefferson) 53 years
Babbie Hataway (Grant) 52 years
Joyce Terrell (Iberia) 52 years
Ruby Barrios (Lafayette) 52 years
Bessie Prejean (Lafayette) 52 years
Anna Taylor (Lafourche) 52 years
Iva Theriot (St. Martin) 52 years
Loula Thomasee (St. Martin) 52 years
Catherine Fontenot (Jefferson) 51 years
Louella Mouton (Jefferson) 51 years
Pearl Bush (Lafayette) 51 years
Gerrie Dias (Lafayette) 51 years

A MARVELOUS TREASURE!

A total of 1,422 years!

50 Years

Marlene Warren (Iberia)
Jean Stewart (Jefferson)
Betty Gulliano (Lafourche)
Vivian Collet (St. Martin)
Betty Doucet (St. Martin)
Thelma Boudreaux (Tangipahoa)

**(Will catch up
on all other
years of membership
in next issue)**



FIRST TIMERS RECEPTION

What a wonderful group!

A total of 16 first timers

- and take a look at that "spread" Sabine VFC fixed . . . ummmm yummy!

Of course, LVFC officers were on hand to welcome them and let them know how special they are.



(L-R) Dawn Terre and Judy Hamilton, St. Bernard; James Warren, Iberia (Area 2 winner); Vernon and Marilyn Varnell, Caddo; Margery Daly (Area 1 winner) and Sandra Madere, Tangipahoa; Ann Pratt, Jefferson; Lisa Talberg, Peggy Martin, Leatha Carey, and Linda Duthile (Area 5 winner), Grant Parish. Other first timers but not in picture are: Carolyn Little, St. Bernard; Robert Beauregard, Donald Foster and Graham Hendricks, Grant.

And The Fun Begins ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ continues on next page!!!



AND THE WINNERS ARE:

MOST ORIGINAL - THE ANDREWS SISTERS
Mitzi Verbene Group
Rosanna Moleno - Laverne Andrews
Margery Daly - Patti Andrews
Maureen Verbene - Maxine Andrews

Rena
does
a
Drum
roll



FUNNIEST - DOLLY PARTON
Mary Lee LeBlanc

OUTSTANDING - POPEYE FAMILY
Popeye - Eleanor George
Olive Oil - Barbara Chaisson
Sweet Pea - Chris LeBoeuf
Wimpy - Patsy Champagne



MOST SPIRITED - MILITARY FATIGUES
Vicki Cardell
(Sorry Vicki - didn't get a picture)



BEST COSTUME FOR CHARACTER JUDGE JUDY
Judy Broussard





Can you guess each
celebrity?
Beyond Belief!!

LVFC TASK CALENDAR

AUGUST, 2011

- 15 2012 Membership Forms mailed to Parish Treasurers
New President/officers Form mailed to Parish Presidents

SEPTEMBER, 2011

- 1 Parish Treasurers -membership drive; collect dues and complete membership forms - due to state Nov. 30.

Editor's Notes..... Rosie Trahan, Editor

LVFC convention has left it's mark and can be regarded as a "never soon to be forgotten" one. For those who didn't get to attend, check out this issue and see what you missed. All events were exceptional, I thought - and so well planned. Thanks, Area 5 members - I know you all let out a sigh of relief when convention ended but your "Louisiana Pride" sure did us proud! And as always you all are such great hosts!

One workshop which is not cover in this issue is the one on Bullying....Don't Be A Target - Janell Bonvillain, Judy Broussard, Sue Nelson and Letha Briggs did an excellent presentation on this and each parish received a copy to present in their respective locales. It has important information. Members received one hour LLL credit.

Sorry, could not include parish pictures and news - this issue is "chock-a-block" full - will catch up in the next issue though, I promise. I just couldn't resist putting in the pin-ups.

Hope you enjoy this issue - gosh, it was fun putting it together. All of You are some piece of work! And I do mean that in a very, very good way. So since the last issue until the next Happy Easter - Happy Mother's Day - Happy Independence Day - Happy Father's Day - and congratulations to all of you Grads out there and God bless you!

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NEXT ISSUE FALL ISSUE

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**NON-PROFIT
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HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD. BY EDNA MASSIONILLA

**A MEETING WAS HELD QUITE FAR FROM EARTH!
IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR ANOTHER BIRTH.
SAID THE ANGELS TO THE LORD ABOVE,
THIS SPECIAL CHILD WILL NEED MUCH LOVE.**

**HIS PROGRESS MAY BE VERY SLOW,
ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE MAY NOT SHOW.
AND HE'LL REQUIRE EXTRA CARE
FROM THE FOLKS HE MEETS DOWN THERE.**

**HE MAY NOT RUN OR LAUGH OR PLAY,
HIS THOUGHTS MAY SEEM QUITE FAR AWAY,
IN MANY WAYS HE WON'T ADAPT,
AND HE'LL BE KNOWN AS HANDICAPPED.**

**SO LET'S BE CAREFUL WHERE HE'S SENT,
WE WANT HIS LIFE TO BE CONTENT.
PLEASE LORD, FIND THE PARENTS WHO
WILL DO A SPECIAL JOB FOR YOU.**

**THEY WILL NOT REALIZE RIGHT AWAY
THE LEADING ROLE THEY'RE ASKED TO PLAY,
BUT WITH THIS CHILD SENT FROM ABOVE
COMES STRONGER FAITH AND RICHER LOVE.**

**AND SOON THEY'LL KNOW THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN
IN CARING FOR THEIR GIFT FROM HEAVEN.
THEIR PRECIOUS CHARGE, SO MEEK AND MILD,
IS HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD.**