



LAFAYETTE COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN



DECEMBER 2009

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2009 Commission Members

Germaine R Breaux,
President

Tahanna Francis
Treasurer

Sandra L. Moore,
Secretary/Liaison

Judith Derise Perez
Parliamentarian

Carol Coreil
Historian

Paula Duncan
Member at Large

Tonya Bolden-Ball
Past President

Linda Armstrong
Marguerita Auguillard
Twana Benoit
Rose Hoffman Cormier
Paula Duncan
Amy Fuselier
Billi LaCombe
Lisa LeBlanc
Linda Miller
Tracy Mouton
Ola Prejean
LaKisha Varner
Sharon Wright

Commission's Purpose:

The purpose of the Commission, as established by Section 7-90 of the City Charter, shall be to facilitate an awareness of the status and needs of women in the city, parish and state; to provide input at the local level regarding the concerns of women in the community; to make recommendations for policies that affect the needs of women; to evaluate and improve the role of women in the community and in the state; to promote programs to meet these needs; and to serve as a clearing house for information and services available to women in the community.

President's Message:



Germaine R. Breaux, President

I am both honored & humbled to be elected President of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. It seems like only yesterday I was appointed to this great organization, and to be trusted with its leadership by such inspiring women is truly an honor! I was also pleasantly surprised in March 2009 when I was named one of the Women of Wisdom's Heart of A Servant honoree for dedication to their mentoring program. My life has been truly blessed and I am eternally grateful!

We have the great opportunity to ensure that issues which are important to women are addressed. As President of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, it is a privilege to serve the Commission as well as recognize the 33rd year of the Commission's existence. The Commission has a long and productive history of activity. Projects that the Commission has been involved in over the years have benefited the women of the city and parish of Lafayette. The Commission endorsed the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, introduced a listing of qualified women for appointed and elected positions in the city and parish in the Talent Bank, assisted in the establishment of the Sexual Abuse Response Center, and supported the concept of and the need for a shelter for battered women, now known as Faith House. Recent projects the Commission has been involved with include hosting a forum, "Run Girl, Run! – The ABC's of Running for Political Office and the ABC's of Family Law – What Every Woman Needs to Know. We continue to publish the Resource Directory for Women and Children and recognize outstanding women for their service to our community at the Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon. As a Commission, we will have opportunities to accomplish more and increase the visibility of the Commission in the community. We will continue to find ways to remain committed to our Mission Statement. I hope to see everyone continue doing their part and lend their support to see that we accomplish all of our tasks.

LCNW Talent Bank of Women

Operating independently of any existing talent bank, the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women is designed to increase the number of women considered for and appointed to local Boards and Commissions. Serving as a registry for women interested in, and qualified to serve, on various Boards and Commissions, the talent bank will identify and recommend qualified women to Boards and Commissions in our city and parish. Any registered voter residing in Lafayette Parish is eligible to register with the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women. If you would like additional information about the Lafayette Talent Bank of Women, contact the LCNW at 337-291-8447.

Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon 2009

- On Friday, October 8, 2010, The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women in conjunction with *The Daily Advertiser* and The Woman's Foundation will host the 16th annual **Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon**. The ceremony honors women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of our citizens. The luncheon will be held at the *Frem Boustany* Center Lafayette, LA



The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, *Woman's Foundation, Inc.* and *The Daily Advertiser* were proud to sponsor this year's 15th Annual Women of Excellence Awards. The awards luncheon was held on Fri., Oct. 9, 11:00am - 1:00pm, at the beautiful River Oaks Conference and Reception Center, 520 E. Kaliste Saloom Road, Lafayette, La. For fifteen years, the Commission has honored women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact upon the lives of our citizens. Mrs. Rebekah R. Huggins, Esq. and President of Lafayette Bar Association was this year's keynote speaker. Her presentation was "Power, No One Gives it to Us We Just Take It" – educating attendees on the difficulties a female faces in male dominated careers and the power we exude when we are able to succeed in this arena, and encourages other women and young ladies to emulate women in non-traditional roles. Ms Huggins, through a generous donation, allowed the Girl Scouts of La. Pines to the Gulf, to experience the awards banquet to encourage our youth to become future Women of Excellence. Those honored were: Marcelle F. Citron, Andree' (Andy) Begnaud, R. Josseline Belizaire, M.D., Sharon A. Jones, Dalta L. Gary, Deborah M. Johnson, M.D., Dianne B. LeBlanc, Martha Guidry Bryant, Thetis Cusimano and Porsha Evans. Each year Ms Shann Comeaux, a local artist presents a special painting to our Founder's Award winner, to show her appreciation of the resounding contributions of the Founder's Award recipient. Each of the winners also received a gift certificate for spa treatments at Royal Day Spa and Salon and Spa Mizan.

Woman's Foundation, Inc. also presented its 8th annual Care and Concern For Women & Families Award. This honor is given annually to a non-profit organization that has dedicated itself to improving the lives of women and families in our community. This year's recipient was Healing House; they are committed to providing support & education for grieving children, their caregivers and the Acadiana community. Healing House primarily focuses on helping children ages 4-18 with grief issues but also offers a place for parents to talk and share feelings with others in their situation. Their vision is no child shall grieve alone. For the 2009 Care and Concern Award Ange Riehl designed a beautiful intricate woven beaded tapestry.

Coming Soon

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

- The History of the Commission will be on display at ULL's Edith Garland Dupre Library during March 2010 Women's History Month.
- **Take Your Daughter/Son to Work Day:** The Commission supports the event and will send letters to the editor, school board and LCG. This event is scheduled in April 2010.

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women

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We're on the Web!

lafayettela.gov/lcnw.asp

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women is a member of the National Association of Commissions for Women.



The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of member commissions and serving as their national voice.

Quotable, "Quotes" Women of Excellence Awards 2009

"This was great, I really enjoyed the program and the honor, and how can I become a member of LCNW."
Martha Guidry Bryant, honoree

"It was beautiful, thanks so much I sincerely appreciate it!"
Marcelle Fortier Citron, honoree

"I feel like I have come full circle now, I used to serve on the Talent Bank Committee, beautiful job!"
Sharon A. Jones, honoree

"This is awesome, and so moving, I thoroughly enjoyed it,"
Sharon L. Wright, member

"What a beautiful venue for such a wonderful occasion!"
Dianna Leger, Executive Director Woman's Foundation

2009 Run Girls, Run! Educate, Empower, Enhance



The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women and the Lafayette Parish Bar Association, sponsored the third annual series of interactive Forums, Run, Girl, Run, with the theme:

ABC's of Family Law: What Every Woman Needs to Know!

The forum's purpose was to provide information to educate, empower, and enhance the quality of life of women in our community. A panel discussion presented by local attorneys, Ms. Susan Theall & Mr. Andre Douget, covered topics on divorce, child custody, and protective orders.

Hat's Off To Ms. Sandra L. Moore!



LCNW 's Secretary/Liaison Ms Sandra L. Moore stepped up to the plate when a vacancy arose with the National Association of Commissions For Women, she has been appointed and will serve on the National Commission! Thanks Ms Sandra for always doing your part! We look forward to news from the Nationals.

2009 HOLIDAY SPOTLIGHT



2010 Officers



A joyous time was had by all who attended the 2009 Holiday Spotlight on December 3, 2009 at *Prejean's Restaurant*. Pictured above the 2010 officers were sworn in from left: Billi LaCombe, President Elect; Germaine Breaux, President; Lisa LeBlanc, Member at Large; Sharon L Wright, Treasurer; Tahanna Francis, Historian; Sandra L. Moore, Sec./Liaison; Twana G. Benoit, Parliamentarian(not pictured). We were saddened to say goodbye to Ms Linda Miller (bottom left) who has completed her nine year term on the Commission! We were elated to give a donation to Visions Community Services Center; (bottom right) located at 1800 Louisiana Ave. Lafayette La. They provide after school tutoring, reading enrichment, and computer skills to the community to volunteer or make a donation please contact, Sessil Trepagnier, Sr. at 337-504-5462 or visit their website: visions@vcs.brcoxmail.com

2009 LCNW MEMBERS



The 2009 Members of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women seated from left: Tahanna Francis, Ola Prejean, Tonya Bolden-Ball, Germaine R. Breaux, Sandra L. Moore, Linda K. Miller, (standing from left) Carol Coreil, Judith D. Perez, Amy Fuselier, Paula Duncan, Twana G. Benoit, Sharon L. Wright, Rose Hoffman Cormier. Members not pictured: Marguerita Auguillard, LaKisha Varner, Lisa LeBlanc, Billi LaCombe, Linda Armstrong, & Tracy Mouton.



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