



Gretna Chronicles

Gretna, Louisiana

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May, 2023

Tokens of Gratitude

Sylvia Schwarz, past president of GHS, was presented with gifts at the April meeting to thank her for her three year service from 2020 through 2022. Sylvia served for an extended time due to the pandemic. Holding general meetings was not possible, but it was the perfect time for the Board of Directors to handle very long-awaited housekeeping chores.

The most notable work was the study and adjustments to the GHS bylaws with the help of Sue McCletchie, the long-serving Parliamentarian. A side note, Sue and her husband, Mal McCletchie, who is a past president and a vital part of our Finance Committee & Grant Team, just moved to West Virginia. They will be sorely missed.

A volunteer extraordinaire, Sylvia is a longtime volunteer at the WWII Museum, a longtime teacher of adult computer classes and a worker at St. Joseph Church. She stepped up as did many GHS members to volunteer in Lafitte during the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

Sylvia, and her husband, Irvin are still very much a part of GHS leadership, with Sylvia now the Recording Secretary and Irvin, the sometime blacksmith and all-the-time volunteer.

Sylvia and Irvin follow in the footsteps of their "Mom," Elizabeth Schwarz, one of our beloved Golden Girls of GHS! Thanks again to Sylvia for her long service as our President!



Sylvia Schwarz, Judy LeBlanc, Monica Naquin volunteered in Lafitte after Hurricane Ida.



Past President Sylvia Schwarz, left, received gifts from President Lisa LaFrance.

Right: Sue McCletchie, longtime GHS Parliamentarian, resigns for move to West Virginia.



April Meeting guest speaker on Railroad Policing, Special Agent Joshua Fletcher, center, Michael Agee and Joe Poe.

Crawfish Boil Tickets

The deadline for Crawfish Boil tickets is Tuesday, May 9. The Crawfish Boil will be held in the GHS Complex backyard at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 11. Tickets are \$15 each, available at the Complex Office, Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DESSERTS, Please, for Crawfish Boil!

Members, please donate a dessert for the Crawfish Boil. You choose the dessert and bring it when you go to the event. Thanks, ALL!

The Outstanding Spring Tour of Homes

“Thank you to the Tour Hosts for sharing their lovely homes with us!”

The Spring Tour of Homes 2023 proved very successful. Kudos and thanks to Stephanie Dieterich, chairperson for the event.

The very savvy attendees gave excellent feedback after their tour. One guest, an architect, appreciated the different styles of architecture displayed in the homes selected for the tour, i.e., a Center Hall, shotgun and bungalow. Several people offered their homes for next year’s tour. Yeh! It was a lovely afternoon, well spent!



Stephanie Dieterich, Spring Tour of Homes chairperson.



216 Lafayette Street, home of Dr. Eeb Centanni.



Penthouse home of Joe and JoAnn Toomy.



1017 Washington Street, home of Richie and Laurie Tomblin.



Left: 301 Amelia Street, home of Anna Smith.



Left: Salem Lutheran Church, Pastor Larry and Grace Beane.



Right: 1014 Madison Street, home of Ryan LeJaune and Jason Fontenot.

CALENDAR

- May 11 @ 6 pm Crawfish Boil @ GHS Complex (Ticketed Event, Members Only)
 - June 8 @ 7 pm General Meeting at St. Joseph Gym
 - July 13 @ 7 pm General Meeting at St. Joseph Gym
- THERE IS NO REGULAR MAY MEETING**

Welcome New Members!

- Leon A. Ribaul Jr., Lisa & Rob Morrison,
- Ryan & Athena Lefort, Cary & Sylvia Coldwell, Craig & Missy Senner



Times Past —

By Stephanie Dieterich

A Blast From the Past!

Notice in this 1989 newsletter that the same events were being enjoyed by GHS members as today, 34 years later! Same Tour of Homes (the first ever presented by GHS), same Crawfish Boil, same dues owed! But, not the same as you check out the prices!



GHS NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY COMMUNICATION OF THE GRETNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 115, Gretna, Louisiana 70054



A P R I L , 1 9 8 9

FUN EVENTS ON THE HORIZON . . . Mark your calendars now for the next few months of fun . . .

APRIL 13. The next general membership meeting of the Gretna Historical Society will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 P. M., at the Louisiana State Fire Museum, 205 Lafayette St., Gretna. Be sure to be there to hear about the exciting events planned for the coming months.

APRIL 23. A "SPRING WALKING TOUR THROUGH HISTORIC GRETNA" will be sponsored by the Gretna Historical Society on Sunday, April 23. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased on the day of the event at the Depot on the corner of Fourth and Huey P. Long Avenue between 1:00 PM. and 3:00 PM. Continuous tours will begin at 1:00 P.M. from the Depot. Seven area homes will be showcased followed by refreshments. For more information, contact Tour Chair-lady Virgie Ott at 363-1505 (work) or 362-4409(home). You can call the Depot at 362-3854.

April 30. The German Heritage, Cultural and Genealogical Society has invited the Gretna Historical Society and friends to join together for a tour of the Islesno Center and Chalmette Battle Field. Both are units of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park. For further information, contact Sevilla Finley at 363-1580(work) or 368-8319(home).

May 5. Get ready for the GHS ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL. Crawfish, beer and softdrinks will be waiting for you and your guests at the Louisiana State Fire Museum on Friday, May 5 at 7:00 PM. Cost is \$6.00 per person. Make your reservations with Hazel Landry by calling her at 361-3778.

SPECIAL THANKS to Margie Falcone and her BUNCO COMMITTEE for another successful BUNCO Night. SPECIAL THANKS to Don Gomez and his MOVIE COMMITTEE for another successful Lash LaRue Night.

GRETNA FLAGS WILL BE WAVING SOON. Have you ordered your new Gretna Flag? Green and gold will soon be the order of the day, when Gretna's new flags are ready to fly. Anyone or any business interested in purchasing an official Gretna flag should contact Mary Curry at 736-6442 (work) or 834-2145(home). Fifty flags are currently on order. Flags will be sold at \$30.00 each. Checks can be made payable to the Gretna Historical Society and mailed to Mary Curry, 42 Beauregard Drive, Gretna, LA 70053.

FIRE MUSEUM DEDICATION is currently scheduled for early summer, if work on the final touches continues as expected.

MAJOR FUND AND FUN RAISER TAKES ON NEW IMAGE. For the first time in its 20-year history, the Gretna Historical Society will test its culinary skills in grandiose proportion. Would you believe the Gretna Historical Society will try its luck at "roasting" Gretna's veteran political figure B. H. Miller, Jr.? This TOP COP COOKOFF proves to be clearly one of the most interesting and fun events to be hosted on the West Bank in many a decade. Details later.

ARE YOUR 1989 DUES PAID? Have you checked your records lately? Have you paid your 1989 membership dues? At \$8.00 per person, membership in the Gretna Historical Society is still the best bargain in Gretna. Make your check payable to the Gretna Historical Society and be sure to enclose a note saying "1989 dues" along with your name, mailing address and telephone number. Gift memberships are also welcomed. There are no requirements for membership.

Gretna Chronicles succeeds the GHS Newsletter and the Gretna Historical Society Newsletter as the official source of news for the general membership of the Gretna Historical Society.

Gretna Historical Society

201-209 Lafayette Street
 P.O. Box 115
 Gretna, LA 70054-0115



Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex

1840s Strehle Family Cottage, 1859 David Crockett
 Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Station (now Louisiana Fire
 Museum), 1840s White Family Cottage

Gretna Chronicles

is published for the members and friends of GHS

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To submit articles, call Helen at 504.450.8481

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Gretna Historical Society

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- Judy LeBlanc.....Director of Facilities

ABOUT THE GHS AND HOW TO JOIN

The Gretna Historical Society was founded in Gretna, Louisiana, in 1969, by Lloyd E. Gomez (insurance man, volunteer firefighter, and community activist), who descended from Gretna pioneers, German immigrants Claudius and Catherine Nuss Strehle. The Society's articles of incorporation were drafted by Gretna attorney Everette F. Gauthreaux and signed in his law office on October 26, 1969. Today, the GHS operates the Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex at the corner of Lafayette Street at Second. It consists of three 19th century Creole cottages, a blacksmith shop, and the Louisiana Fire Museum. The GHS also owns and maintains the caboose and train depot on Huey P. Long Avenue at Fourth Street.

There are no requirements for membership in the GHS, other than the timely payment of annual membership dues of \$25 per person. Monthly meetings are held at the St. Joseph's Auditorium at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.