



Gretna Chronicles

Gretna, Louisiana



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GHS November Meeting Sets Record

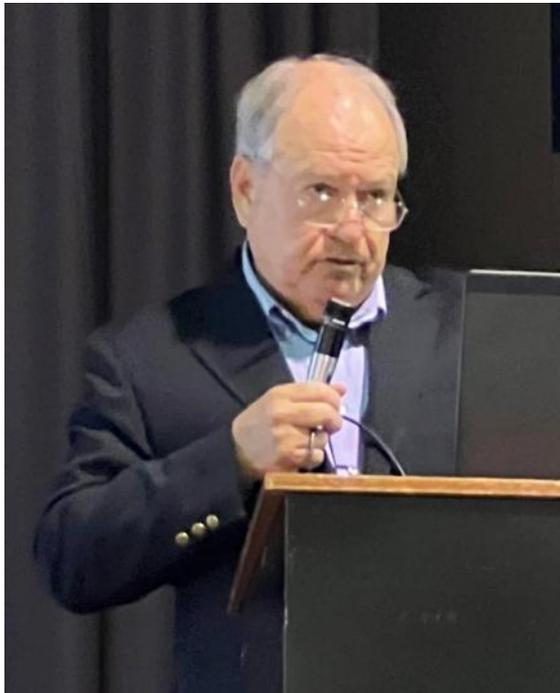
A new record for the Gretna Historical Society was set for the highest attendance ever at a membership meeting as 170 people attended the November meeting! That night the annual Memorial for Deceased Members was held, but the biggest reason for such a crowd was to welcome back Gretna's former mayor

Ronnie C. Harris who was Guest Speaker. Harris served as mayor for 28 years, 7 terms in office from 1985 until 2013.

He spoke about the evolution of the deteriorating of the business side of Gretna when he became mayor to what it has become. He was Gretna's first preservationist and at one time was president of GHS.

Harris was involved in the process of getting Gretna on the National Register of Historic Places. He spoke of the first benefit of preservation with the relocating of the old train depot, now the Gretna Marketplace Office.

He and his wife, Donna, were welcomed back by members and local political figures alike.



Our Members' Memorial

The November meeting is always the time when deceased GHS members are remembered and honored. GiGi Bergeron, Cheryl Amacker and Corresponding Secretary Holly Williams arranged the memorial program in which family members are always invited to participate.

This year's ceremony included the remembrance of Lois Wilson Warner, Kenneth "Ken" Pellegrin, Frank Maness Jr., Hazel Tauzin Maness, James "Jim" Hunter, and Jack DiFranco, deceased members of this past year.



**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

**Peter Gondrella Jr.
Courtney Kattengell
Marynell Nolan-
Wheatley**



CALENDAR

Dec. 11 @ 6 pm Christmas Party at St. Joseph Gym.

Jan. 8 @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym.

Feb. 12 @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym.

Feb. 14 Blacksmith Shop Valentine Weddings.

NOTE: "Dues are Due" effective January 1 for year 2026. Dues are \$30 annually. You can pay at the December meeting or drop in at the GHS office.



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

M. Helen Williams, Editor

To submit articles, call Helen at 504.450.8481

(or e-mail mhw500@cox.net)

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 \$30 per person. Monthly meetings are held at the St. Joseph Complex Gym at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.

Gretna Historical Society

<https://www.gretnahistoricalsociety.org/>

P.O. Box 115, Gretna, LA 70054-0115

Phone: 504.362.3854

Email: directoroffacilities@gretnahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: @GHSGretnaLA

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