

Women for a Better Louisiana
Minutes October 17, 2012

Women for a Better Louisiana General Meeting was called to order by President Maria Falco at 10:09 AM.

Those in attendance were:

Maria Falco
Christine Trevett
Harriet Aguiar-Netto
Nancy Simoneaux
Myrtle Dubea
Margaret Ransome
Linda Kraus
Diana Bulot
Lois Lanier
Rose Mogabgab
Pamela Rogers
Lorrie Brennan
Barbara LaNasa

The President led a short discussion regarding what questions any members would like to ask our *Speaker Leslie Jacobs*, Architect of Louisiana's Accountability Reform of our Schools and Teachers.

After a short discussion of Ms. Jacob's biography, members decided they would like to hear her presentation and then decide what questions they still needed answered.

Treasurer Myrtle Dubea handed out a Treasurer's Report for May thru October 2012. Copy attached with a Balance of 5,705.74 for the General Fund, \$6898.23 for Child Advocacy and \$470.67 for Hospitality.

Rose Mogabgab, Chairlady for this year's December Tea reported ---
Tea will be held on Sunday Dec. 9, 2012, at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie, from 1 till 3 PM.

Charge will be \$35.00.

Service will include Tea Sandwiches, Canapés, Assorted Pasties, and Chocolate Dipped Fruit.

Business meeting was put on hold to welcome our Speaker.

After being introduced by *President Maria*, Ms. Jacobs spoke on *State of Public Education in New Orleans Today*---composed of Charter Schools, Recovery School District Schools and Traditional Public Schools.

Some of the highlights of her discussion were:

Currently, there are 44,000 students publically funded. We had 55,000 before Katrina and 82,000 twenty years ago.

Public money follows the student and Governor holds Charter Schools to performance, otherwise they lose their Charter.

Improvement has been Dramatic—the most impressive in the State since Katrina.

Before Katrina (2004), New Orleans was dead last in the State for educating Blacks.

In 2011 New Orleans moved to first.

Only 43% of Voucher System Students perform proficiently. Some schools do phenomenal jobs, but not all.

RSD Schools had a 52% proficiency rating.

After some questions and discussions we thanked our Speaker for her outstanding presentation and broke for Lunch.

After lunch we continued with our business meeting:

- Nancy Simoneaux gave a Child Advocacy Committee Report. Copy attached with a Balance of \$6,842.64.
- A motion was made by *Barbara LaNasa* that we make a donation to the *Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation* to help furnish the restored New Basin Canal Lighthouse. Motion seconded by *Judy Fosco*. After a short discussion motion was passed that we *buy a \$1000 Brick*.
- *Margaret Ransone* recommended that we make a donation to the *Metropolitan Crime Commission* to help them with expenses in these hard times when contributions are down. It was moved and passed that we *donate \$1000*, and Margaret would investigate if we should just donate the money outright or whether we would send some members to the Fundraiser.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by 1:30 PM

Submitted by Barbara LaNasa 11/28/12