



# LAFAYETTE COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN



*Serving the Lafayette Community Since 1976*

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## 2006 Commission Members

Ola Prejean,  
*President*

Rose Hoffman Cormier,  
*President-elect*

Sandra Moore,  
*Secretary/Liaison*

Nancy Henke,  
*Treasurer*

Linda Armstrong,  
*Parliamentarian*

Billi LaCombe,  
*Historian*

Tonya Bolden-Ball,  
*Member at Large*

Linda Boudreaux,  
*Past President*

Lupe L. Acosta  
Libby Angelle  
Marguerita Auguillard  
Twana Benoit  
Germaine Breaux  
Paula Duncan  
Lynette Francisco  
LaKeta Glenn  
Carolyn Huval  
Melodi Marchiafava  
Linda Miller  
LaKisha Varner

## 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:**

### ***Ola Prejean***

As president of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women, I am pleased to have an opportunity to share some thoughts in the inaugural issue of our newsletter. It is very fitting that our newsletter is making its debut in March, Women's History Month. Individually and collectively, women have made great contributions to our world, internationally, nationally and locally.

The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women is no exception. The year 2006 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of the Commission. The Commission has a long and fruitful history of activity. Over the past 30 years, the Commission has been involved in many projects, which have benefited the women of Lafayette city and parish. The Commission assisted in the establishment of the Sexual Abuse Response Center. We have supported the concept and development of various programs designed to enhance the quality of life for women in Lafayette. Annually, we publish the Women and Children's Resource Directory, recognize outstanding women for their service to our community at the Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon, and facilitate the participation of women's appointment to city-parish boards and commissions through our Talent Bank. However, our job is not finished, as many challenges remain to be addressed.

In June 2005, we participated in the Louisiana Women's Leadership Conference and listened to the voices of women expressing frustration over gender gaps in wages and the need for actions to facilitate entrepreneurship growth for women. Domestic violence still plagues our community and women want more shelters and safe havens, harsher penalties for those who commit domestic violence offenses, and new laws to protect women from abusers. As a Commission, over the next year and in the years to come, we will continue to focus our collective energies and resources toward promoting programs and activities that improve the quality of life for women in our community. I invite you to join us in our efforts.

## **Women in History:**

### ***Coretta Scott King***

Mrs. King rose from rural poverty in Heiberger, Ala., to become an international symbol of the civil rights revolution of the 1960's and a tireless advocate for social and political issues ranging from women's rights to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa that followed in its wake. She was studying music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 1952 when she met a young graduate student in philosophy, who on their first date told her: "The four things that I look for in a wife are character, personality, intelligence and beauty. And you have them all." A year later, she and Dr. King were married, beginning a remarkable partnership that ended with his assassination in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Mrs. King did not hesitate to pick up Dr. King's mantle, marching, even before her husband was buried, at the head of the striking garbage workers that he had gone to Memphis to champion. She then went on to lead the effort for a national holiday in his honor and to found the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, dedicated both to scholarship and to activism.



## LCNW History

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. States as well as cities followed his lead by establishing state and local commissions.

Because of the efforts of five women, Dr. Sarah Brabant, Dr. Doris Bentley, Isabel Gant, Margaret Gimbrede, and Jessie Livingston Taylor, Lafayette became the second city in Louisiana to establish a commission. They were instrumental in leading the steering committee that drafted a proposal for the commission, with assistance from the State Governor's Commission and the support of Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen, which was presented to the City Council.

As a result of their efforts, in 1976, the City Council concurring with the Mayor's recommendation passed a resolution establishing the Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women now known as the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. Past administrations have supported the Commission throughout the years. The Commission maintains twenty members on its board. The members are appointed by the City-Parish President on recommendations from the Executive Committee of the Commission.

## Commission Spotlight:



### **Sandra Moore**

Sandra Moore, Secretary of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women and Liaison between the Commission and the Lafayette Consolidated Government, is the first woman President of the Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Inc. Moore has worked 26 years for Lafayette Consolidated Government. She serves as Human Services Manager, which includes local Senior Centers, the Neighborhood Counseling Program and the Neighborhood Pride Program. She is also president of the Louisiana Federation of Housing Counselors.

## Commission News:

- The Lafayette Talent Bank of Women is sponsored by the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. At the March 15, 2005, City-Parish Council meeting, the Legislative/Legal Committee of LCNW presented to the council and Mayor-president the Talent Bank brochure application and fact sheet that will be made available to women in Lafayette City/Parish.

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.

- Rose Hoffman Cormier was highlighted in the March 4, 2006, issue of *The Daily Advertiser* as one of the *31 Women you Need to Know*. Rose is the coordinator of the Woman's Foundation's Health Information Center, President-elect of LCNW and the mother of two children.
- Linda K. Miller was chosen to be the 2006 Mardi Gras queen for Affiliated Blind of Louisiana.
- Welcome to the three new 2006 LCNW members: Lupe L. Acosta, Germaine Breaux and LaKisha Varner.

## Upcoming Events:

The LCNW has one vacancy on the board. Inquiries regarding requirements for board consideration may be addressed by Sandra Moore at 337-291-8447. If interested, submit your resume today. Resumes are considered at least twice a year to fill vacancies.

The LCNW will be participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Saturday, March 18, 2006.

For information and online registration go to [www.komenacadiana.org](http://www.komenacadiana.org)

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 Thursday, April 27, 2006.

Be a Heart Starter! Free Bystander CPR Training will be held Saturday, April 8, at the Cajundome. Register today by calling 877-242-4277 or online at [www.heartstarter.org](http://www.heartstarter.org)

Many thanks to Claire Lowry at Lowry's Printing for her guidance and hard work in helping the newsletter committee members layout the premier edition of the LCNW newsletter.

- Friday, September 29, 2006, has been set for the 2006 Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon. Once again, the luncheon will be held at the City Club at River Ranch. Additional information and nomination forms will be made available to the public at a later date.
- The Public Relations committee will soon begin a media campaign to promote the Talent Bank brochure, the Resource Directory for Women and Children and LCNW's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.
- Special thanks to the newsletter committee members: Rose Hoffman Cormier, Laketa Glenn and Melodi Marchiafava.

## Community News:

- The Zonta Club of the Lafayette Area will recognize Linda Boudreaux, Executive Director of The Extra Mile, Region IV, Inc., as the 2005 Woman of Achievement at a banquet to be held Thursday, March 30, 2006, at the Best Western Hotel Acadiana and Conference Center, 1801W. Pinhook Rd., Lafayette, LA. Cash bar and silent auction from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Zonta scholarship recipients will also be recognized at the banquet. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. RSVP by March 23, 2006. Make check payable to Zonta Club of Lafayette and mail to The Zonta Club of the Lafayette Area, 152 Inez Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506. Contacts for additional information: Kim Hitt at 277-9555; Karen Lestelle at 277-0014 or Paulette Yandle at 988-3152. Proceeds are used for scholarships and area service projects which are aimed at advancing the status of women. Additional information regarding Zonta can be located at the following websites: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org); [www.zontadistrict10.org](http://www.zontadistrict10.org); and [www.zontalafayette.org](http://www.zontalafayette.org).
- The NACW (National Association of Commissions for Women) Conference will be held July 19-22, 2006 in Lincoln, NE. For more information, contact Bonnie Coffey at 402-441-7716 or [llwc@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:llwc@lincoln.ne.gov)
- FRAN the Van Family Literacy Program was the recipient of a \$15,000 donation from Kekst and Company of New York. The money was designated to purchase books for families in need, especially those displaced by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The FRAN program was chosen as a grassroots program that strives to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy through a unified family literacy program that includes: GED classes, an early education program, parenting classes, and parent and child together time. All classes are **free** and transportation is provided. For more information, contact Melodi Marchiafava at 232-3849 (Ext. 123).
- The Extra Mile will be hosting it's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, entitled "Empowering the Self in Mind, Body & Spirit by Exploring Your Creative Potential", March 11-12, 2006. For more information call 337-237-2090.

## Coming Soon

Be on the lookout for the updated *Resource Directory for Women and Children*. The directory was made possible through collaboration between LCNW and the Lafayette Consolidated Government.

The directory was originally based on a city and parish needs survey and includes information such as: *Resources for Women and Children*, *Child Care Centers*, and *Mother's Day Out Programs*. The most recent addition to the directory is *Physician Resources: Women in Medicine*.

Copies of the directory were distributed to City Council members at the March 7, 2006, council meeting. Contact Sandra Moore for additional information if you are interested in picking up copies of the directory. She can be reached at 337-291-8447.

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We're on the Web!  
Coming Soon!!!

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.



### 2005 Women of Excellence Recipients

The annual Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon is to honor women who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact upon the lives of our citizens.

Bottom (left to right): Donna B. Broussard, M.Ed., Stephanie Omigie, Je'Nelle Chargois, Michele Landry, RN-BSN, Katherine Staggs

Top (left to right): Angela Morrison, Dianne Mouton-Allen, Charlene Meaux-Menard, Paula P. Carson, Ph.D., Patricia Colbert-Cormier.



### 2005 Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women Members

Bottom (left to right): Sandra L. Moore, Nancy Henke, Linda Boudreaux, Ola Prejean, Tonya Bolden-Ball

Top (left to right): Libby Angelle, Rose Hoffman Cormier, Lynn A. Francisco, Twana G. Benoit, Paula Duncan, LaKeta Glenn, Billi LaCombe.

Not Pictured: Linda Armstrong, Marguerita Auguillard, Carolyn Huval, Melodi Marchiafava, Linda K. Miller