

General Meeting for Women for a Better Louisiana
Wednesday, November 15, 2011
Lake Marina Towers, 300 Lake Marina Drive, New Orleans, LA
(REVISED MINUTES)

The following members and guests were at attendance:

Deana Bulot	Judy Fosco	Lois Lanier
Judy Callaway	Miriam Harris	Rose Mogabgab
Alicia Davis	Francois Hocevar	Joan Policastro
Myrtle Dubea	Phyllis Hudson	Margaret Ransone
Ann Duffy	Linda Kraus	Nancy Simoneaux
Maria Falco	Barbara LaNasa	Christine Trevett
Charlotte Felt	Joyce LaNasa	

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am. Minutes of the last board meeting, held on September 11th, were accepted as distributed by Myrtle Dubea and seconded by Lois Lanier. Myrtle Dubea read the Treasurer's report. The treasury has a current balance of \$13,481.91.

The following topics were discussed:

Child Advocacy: Nancy displayed information for members to review. Southeast Louisiana Hospital appealed to WBL for a donation to purchase Christmas presents for the children. Members agreed to donate \$300 (an increase from last year). Nancy provided business cards for members to utilize. NOCAC "Prevent Now" course has been offered to members of WBL. Members agreed to wait until after the New Year to attend. Nancy received a thank you letter from "The Roots of Music" for our donation.

Science Fair: Members were advised the Science Fair will be February 28-29 and March 1, 2012.

Area Beautification: Myrtle Dubea displayed pictures of WBL past projects. She also brought prior year calendars that were developed utilizing pictures submitted by school-aged children. The children drew pictures that represented awareness of environmental issues. Myrtle had obtained an application from the Louisiana State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), made copies and distributed to local schools. The children would submit their picture to DEQ who would judge and determine which pictures would be utilized for the calendar. Several members were very interested in resurrecting this project.

Communications: Barbara LaNasa asked members to send her information for the newsletter.
Treasurer's Audit: An audit was performed on the treasurer's documentation dated January 1, 2008 through August 18, 2011. The results of the audit noted that several vouchers were missing receipts and some checks did not match the totals on the vouchers. Some vouchers had numerous receipts attached which made it difficult to understand the total. Other times, the receipt had faded and amount was unreadable. It was recommended the treasurer write the amount of the check on the voucher or receipt. In cases where reimbursement of postage is requested on an ongoing basis, it was recommended that a book of 100 stamps be purchased and utilized rather than request individually.

Members were reminded the importance of maintaining receipts. Reimbursement should not be provided unless there is accompanied documentation. The review noted how difficult it must be for the treasurer to accurately calculate the reimbursement for some of the vouchers. Considering the account is relatively small, her task should not be that complicated. There must be some cooperation between her and the member requesting the reimbursement. Documentation provided should be minimally simple, but accurate.

December Tea: The tea will be held at Chateau Golf and Country Club on Sunday, December 4, 2011, starting at 2:00 pm, in the Grand Salon. The Tea Package includes finger sandwiches, assorted scones, fresh fruit, mini desserts and tea. The cost, including gratuity and taxes, will be \$32.00 per person. Members were asked to mail their check to Myrtle Dubea, 1909 Colony Drive, Metairie, LA 70003. Members were encouraged to invite guests. Flower arrangements for the tables will be donated and created by several members. The arrangements will be auctioned at the tea.

Membership Rosters: Distributed at the meeting. The remaining rosters will be mailed to those members not in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 pm. Members were invited to enjoy the refreshments provided. The guest speaker, Allen Dejan from “The Roots of Music”, arrived at 12:10 pm. Allen Dejan is an instructor with the ROOTS OF MUSIC brass band for at risk youth 9--14 years old .It is a non-profit, tuition-free, year round music education and academic education city-wide program. Women for a Better Louisiana donated \$656.00 this year towards purchasing a hand-made tool kit to repair some of the instruments and bought extra pairs of drum sticks and straps. Mr. Dejan discussed the program and members had many questions and enjoyed the discussion. The group has an interesting website: www.therootsofmusic.com and members were offered to visit this site to learn more about this worthwhile organization.

The following is not part of the meeting minutes:

I would like to stress the importance that members wishing to attend the General Meetings RSVP as expeditiously as possible. The members who volunteer their time to provide refreshments need at least a week before the meeting to plan and buy the food. Your cooperation to this matter will be greatly appreciated.