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Executive Board

Sylvia Scineaux-Richard,
President

Romona Baudy,
1st Vice President

Brenda Jackson,
2nd Vice President

Lydia Leon,
Secretary

Karol Sanders,
Treasurer

Joan Heisser,
Member-At-Large

Carroll Denesse,
Member-At-Large

Arthur Busby,
Member-At-Large

Message from the President

The November election to fill upcoming vacancies for East New Orleans (ENO) political representation is fast approaching. In the recent past, emphasis has been placed on getting the vote out, since voter turnout among ENO residents has been shamefully low. But there is another critical piece that you should be cognizant of when you pull the lever to vote your choice.

When determining who will get your vote, it should be an informed decision. You should use the same or better process you would use to select any provider of selective services, i.e., doctor, lawyer, etc. In a political representative you look for an individual to be knowledgeable, honest, fair-dealing and possess experience working with neighborhood stakeholders. That person should possess personal and professional skills to fit the needs of our community.

We must be confident that they will be loyal to their constituents, and have displayed an interest and involvement with residents prior to their decision to run for office. Additionally, it is essential they are open-minded, which is necessary for the “**give and take**” to find common ground and build consensus.

We must remember, their decisions are central to the success of our community and ultimately to our overall quality of life. We must vote with a great sense of care and commitment.

“Vote like your life depended on it.”

Best Regards,

Sylvia Scineaux-Richard,
President

ENONAC Executive Board Sworn In

At ENONAC's General Meeting held on February 10, 2015, the Commission Advisory Board (CAB) voted for the officers to serve on the Executive Board. They submitted their nominations the month before to be considered to serve for a two year period. Once a quorum was established, the election was started and conducted by Mr. Royce Duplessis, an attorney and resident of ENO. Each office was filled as follows:

- **President: Sylvia Scineaux-Richard** - Incumbent, unopposed, unanimous vote
- **1st Vice President: Romona Baudy** - No election needed, term does not expire until 2016
- **2nd Vice President: Dr. Brenda Jackson** - Incumbent, unopposed, unanimous vote
- **Secretary: Lydia Leon** - Incumbent, unopposed, unanimous vote
- **Treasurer: Karol Sanders** - Incumbent, unopposed, unanimous vote
- **Member at Large: Joan Heisser** - Incumbent, unopposed, unanimous vote
- **Member at Large: Carroll Denesse** - Unopposed, unanimous vote
- **Parliamentarian: Arthur Busby** - Angelo Kingvalsky received 11 votes; Arthur Busby received 15 votes.

The swearing in of the newly elected Executive Board and certified CAB Commissioners was activated with reciting their respective oaths. They were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott. The new Commissioners took their proper places and the business of the Commission continued.



Pictured from left to right:
Karol Sanders, Treasurer
Lydia Leon, Secretary
Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, President
Dr. Brenda Jackson, 2nd Vice President
Carol Denesse, Member at Large
Joan Heisser, Member at Large

Not pictured:
Romona Baudy, 1st Vice President

Neighborhood Leaders Roundtable Held

This, the first quarterly Community Roundtable of 2015, addressed the important topic of public safety. This was a chance for over 200 neighborhood stakeholders to address their concerns and to engage in meaningful discussions with the two top public safety officials. It was held on a sunny Saturday morning, January 31, 2015 on Lafitte Avenue. The available tools, departmental vision and strategies of the police and fire departments were explained to the attendees by Chief Michael Harrison of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and Chief Timothy McConnell of the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD).

For instance, Chief Connell explained the newly established policy of **AIM** which stands for Access, Identify and Mitigate. This is an innovative process which is intended to help speed up the process of eradicating blighted property due to it being identified as a fire hazard. He also reiterated the policy of placing free fire alarms in the homes of residents who don't have one. He stated that there were no fire alarm detectors in the homes of all the recent deaths due to fire.

There was ample time given to ask questions and get answers. After the presentations, neighborhood leaders continued the discussions in groups of 12. These community members worked together to identify preventive measures, share information and develop partnerships to address their safety concerns.

NoraAnn Winbush, Senior Liaison, City of New Orleans Neighborhood Engagement Office, encouraged all who have quality of life and safety concerns to participate in the Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB) in their respective NOPD districts to stay on top of these issues.

ENONAC Commissioners Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, Ed Blouin, Ellen Penny, Maxine Weaver, Karol Sanders and ENO resident Octave Rainey, were in attendance.

Written by Sylvia Scineaux-Richard



ENOBDD Hosts Workshop on Retrofitting Suburbs

On a windy afternoon on March 5, 2015 at the New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH) Conference Room, Terrel Broussard, Chairman of the East New Orleans Business Development District (ENOBDD) and ENOBDD members assembled a panel of local architecture professionals, key public and private leaders, and guest speaker, Ellen Dunham-Jones, architecture professor at Georgia Tech and author of “Retrofitting Suburbs” to discuss steps to revitalize the suburbs of ENO. This workshop focused on the neighborhood around NOEH and positioning the hospital as a center of health and wellness, sustainability and a magnet for top medical talent, employees, clients and investment.

The workshop provided an informative session on a “Town Center” concept proposed by Manning Architects and Waggoner Ball in the context of best practices for suburban redevelopment around the country. Ms. Jones stated “Suburban planners are turning to urban renewal practices that revived cities, replacing dying retail centers with businesses, facilities and green spaces that meet the need of the community.” (Times Picayune)

The participants broke up into groups each with an architect/planner. Some of the thoughts of our group were to encourage frontage of retail along Lake Forest Blvd., large big box retail closer to I-10, and smaller retail closer to Lake Forest. ENONAC Commissioners in attendance were Dawn Hebert and Sylvia Scineaux-Richard.

Written Scineaux-Richard



Pictured left to right: Henry Henisee, Manning Architects; Louis Lauricella, Lauricella Land; Lori Conkerton, Audubon Institute; David Waggonner, Waggoner Ball; Georgia Tech Student Intern; Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, ENONAC



Pictured left to right: Ellen Dunham-Jones, architecture professor at Georgia Tech; and Barbara Johnson, Principal of The Johnson Group

East New Orleans Welcomes Grand Opening of FilmWorks

New Orleans East is now part of the Hollywood South movement with the grand opening of the FilmWorks facility on Jourdan Avenue (previously the MacFrugal Building). The ribbon cutting of FilmWorks on March 10, 2015 heralded the opening of one of the region's newest and largest film/motion production studios.

The facility offers 37 acres of flexible indoor/outdoor space, including 20,000 sq. ft. of stage, 406,000 sq. ft. of backlot, two floors of 92,000 sq. ft. millwork space and extra storage.

George Steiner, president of FilmWorks New Orleans said, "FilmWorks flexible studio space will help ensure that we continue to draw major film projects to the area."

Councilman James Gray, Michael Hecht of Greater New Orleans, native New Orleanian actor Bryan Batt, and Will French of the Louisiana Film & Entertainment Association all gathered for the ceremony. ENONAC Commissioners attending the opening were Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, Joan Heisser, Mattie Womble and Dawn Hebert.



Pictured left to right: NOPD Officer Eddie Dema, Grand Opening Participant, ENONAC At Large Member Joan Heisser, Actor Bryan Batt, ENONAC President Sylvia Scineaux-Richard and ENO resident Dawn Hebert



East New Orleans residents and FilmWorks representatives take part in the company's grand opening

Standing Room Only for State Legislative Town Hall

East New Orleans residents took advantage of the opportunity to see and speak with their legislators. Voters East of the Industrial Canal (VEOTIC) hosted a Legislative Town Hall meeting on Saturday morning, March 14, 2014 at New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH). The panel of legislators consisted of State Senator J.P. Morrell, and State Representatives Austin Badon (District 100) and Wesley Bishop (District 99).

Royce Duplessis, as moderator, gave each of the legislators an opportunity to explain how their office works, what bills they currently are working on, and what bills are they planning to introduce this upcoming session. The legislators explained there are some issues over which they have no legislative control but they would still be willing to assist if contacted. They gave out their contact numbers to the attendees.

There was a very brisk question and answer period. Many questions referenced the budget, our education system, economic recovery, healthcare, foreclosure mitigation etc. Corinne Villavaso, VEOTIC President, stated that their mission is to continue to hold meetings to increase responsible, informed voters. Other VEOTIC officers/members are: Felice Simien-Hill, Arthur Busby, Kim Ford, Barbara Hornsby, Cliff Robertson, Wilfred Norris and Dawn Hebert, who is also an ENONAC Commissioner. ENONAC Commissioners who volunteered their services for the meeting were Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, Dr. Brenda Jackson, and Romona Baudy.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. **John Brown Sr.**, a resident of Warwick East and retired New Orleans Public School administrator, has been selected to serve the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) as representative of District 1 for the next 7 months. He was appointed on Friday, March 27, 2015 after the School Board deadlocked 3 times on March 17. For more info, go to nola.com.
2. **Einstein Charter School** is adding 500 Students for 2015-16 School Years in Grades Pre-K-8; school to expand middle school on Sarah T. Reed Campus. Applications being accepted now in grades Pre-K-8! Go to einsteincharter.org
3. **The New Orleans Fire Department** is offering to install smoke detectors free of charge to its citizens. Smoke detectors save lives. To find out how to request the NOFD to install a smoke detector in your Orleans Parish home, click [here](#).

Neighborhood Meeting with Councilman-At-Large Jason Williams

There was a meeting with ENO community stakeholders held at the home of Dr. Beverly Wright on February 2, 2015 with Councilman Jason Williams. The intent was to allow an opportunity to discuss East New Orleans (ENO) community concerns, especially the increase in crime. This discussion took place after the meeting with the members of African American Women of Purpose and Power (AAWPP). ENONAC Commissioners at that discussion were Joan Heisser, Dawn Hebert, Sylvia Scineaux-Richard and Greg Hamilton.

Attendees discussed a few common sense actions that the council could take immediately that would have tangible impact on reducing crime in New Orleans East and across our city. These are actions that require very little expenditure by the city, either to initiate or enforce.

One idea that has been requested for years with no success deals with the persistent problem of the explosion of Alcohol Beverage Outlets (ABOs), despite the established link to crime. In order to add fairness and logic to the process of granting licenses, and preventing the problem of concentration we have requested that **the criteria for granting a license include the proximity to existing ABOs. Nothing has come of this request.**

Another idea that was promoted for years concerns multifamily housing. ENONAC opposes poor quality, low amenity, highly concentrated, no security, and poorly managed multifamily housing. The vast majority of crime related problems in neighborhoods that stem from multifamily housing are the result of management failures. The few multifamily housing developments that have good management and good security do not have significant problems with criminal activity. **The Council should enact an ordinance requiring multifamily developments of 50 units or more to have some form of ingress and egress security along with on-site security, and hire a 'certified property manager'.** This is no more than what tenants deserve. Development owners will object that they cannot afford the additional expenses. The counter to that assertion is that the increases are not prohibitive and will reduce expenses associated with crime, turnover, property damage, and lowered occupancy rate.

Additionally, attention was called to the **urgent need to dredge the drainage canals in New Orleans East.** Although several steps have been taken to draw attention to this looming tragedy, there has been no success, but there are still options, and hope remains that one of our three representatives on the Council will soon address this issue.

Written by Greg Hamilton

Community Info

Michoud Farmers Market is now serving the New Orleans East Community

The Michoud Farmers Market gathers bi-weekly on Wednesdays offering a variety of fruits, vegetables, jellies, jams, seafood and popcorn. The prepared items are all fresh and produced locally. The market is open to the general public and offers free parking, indoor restroom facilities, as well as, warm and courteous staff.

The market operates bi-weekly on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the west side of Building 350, NASA Michoud Facility, 13800 Old Gentilly Road, New Orleans, LA.

For more information you may contact Michelle Evans, the Coordinator for the Michoud Farmers Market at (504) 426-0264 or michelle.evans@nfc.usda.gov.

The Hampton Inn is coming to Levy Drive in New Orleans East!

There is a plan to purchase a 2-acre parcel of land located on Levy Drive directly behind the Burger King, Blockbuster and Cajun Seafood on Bullard Avenue to develop a Hampton Inn hotel. The hotel would be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The front entrance to the hotel would be facing Bullard Avenue. Construction of the hotel would start in August 2015 with completion around September 2016.



The East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC) holds its **GENERAL MEETINGS on the second Tuesday of each month**. The Commission Advisory Board (CAB) of ENONAC holds a planning session on the **last** Tuesday of each month. Executive Board meetings are held every other month. Meetings are usually held at 6:00pm at St. Maria Goretti Community Center, 7300 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127. All meetings are open to the Public. Meeting notices are posted on ENONAC's office door at 7100 Read Blvd., Suite 201, New Orleans, LA 70127.

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Join Us on our mission to make New Orleans East the most desired community in which to live, work and play