



President: Jan Lemaire
Secretary: Gloria Brady-Cross
Muster Master:
Newsletter Editor: Gloria Brady-Cross

Vice President: Bob Comeaux
Treasurer: Anita James
Historian: Denny Olvany
Webmaster: Charley LeBlanc

President Jan Lemaire's Message: As many of you know, we just completed a magnificent muster at Sun Roamers in Picayune. There was so much laughter. I learned some new games—Bourre' and they tell me that I will love it AFTER I replenish my stash of quarters! Hmmm! Think they saw me coming? Seriously, it was so great. We had two sets of guests both of whom joined SMART and then the Magnolias as a result of the time spent together. Mike and Rose Kennedy from Broussard, LA, and Lynn and Dennis Steed who recently moved to our area from Colorado. Both of these new couples were recruited by members of our group, and thanks to the work of our members in getting the word out, we have experienced wonderful growth this past year. Our musters now regularly have 20 or more rigs and there are so many ways to enjoy all that the chapter has to offer. Thanks to all of you for helping us grow.

One last thing before I close: I just paid my SMART National dues for the coming year. IF it is time to pay yours, please do so promptly. I got an email telling me it was time and there was a link to make it easier. I did it all on line. Our next muster is a no host no fee muster in Bay St. Louis at Hollywood Casino RV Park. I will be sending out a note about this in the coming week or so. The dates are April 8-13th. I sure hope to see you there!

Jan Lemaire, President

Newsletter Editor Message: You missed a good time by all who did make it (about 41 people). I received some pictures from various members who documented our meals, crafts, games, guest speaker Mayor Jim Luke, chapter member Warren Kelly singing sea chanteys, etc. The group picture was fun to make. There was a lot of laughter and comradery shared by all. Thanks to all who helped in making this newsletter. Hope to see all of you further down the road at more musters!

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Anita James reported at the business meeting that the chapter treasury had a current balance as of Feb 1 2024 of **\$3555.86** and the Fisher House reserve is **\$1190.50** of that balance which leaves **\$2365.36** as the available balance. The amount that was collected for the 50/25/25 Raffle was \$150 and the Silent Auction was \$90 at this muster. Other donations for Fisher House were also collected but not totaled before this newsletter.

Health and Wellness Update of MS Magnolia Members

John and Nancy Arce finally got their RV back and they are on the road again with their most recent trip to Stone Mountain, Georgia to visit family and see the sights.

Francis and Lynette Arceneaux finally were able to make it to this muster and they made the best chicken and sausage gumbo for our Thursday night dinner. Lots were carried back to many RVs.

The also brought Mike and Rose Kennedy as guests to this muster. The Kennedys said they were definitely joining SMART and the MS Magnolias as members once they returned home.

Joe and Shelly Battaglia have sold their Class C RV and cancelled their SMART membership due to some family issues that have been happening lately. We did get to see them one day but their chapter membership is greatly missed. The Muster Master Membership will be filled at a future muster.

Ken and Kitty Buckner still are unable to RV yet. Kitty's last medical procedure caused an infected wound and she is dealing with wound management. Ken needs to have hip surgery.

Elaine and Bob Comeaux were able to attend the muster, but Bob was not feeling well enough to join all of the activities due to stomach issues.

Frank and Linda Coates introduced a new couple as guests, Dennis and Lynn Steed who enjoyed their visit so much they plan to join us in the future.

Alan and Claudia Esterly were on a cruise at the time of the muster.

Ron and Patsy Erieg joined our crowd, with Ron helping the Breakfast Crew every morning and Patsy preparing some homemade desserts that were to die for!

Mary Ferguson brought some of her patriotic Skipbo boards for sale at the muster. She also brought a baseball board which was sold at this muster. Her peanut brittle was greatly appreciated.

Lou Finkle and Diane Thompson arrived Monday afternoon because Diane is still volunteering to help veterans prepare their income tax, but they jumped right into helping in the kitchen, doing the Poker Walk, setting up for Baseball game, calling the Card Bingo game and the MS trivia game. Thanks for helping me when my voice gave out during the muster.

Warren Kelly and Kathryn returned from their Florida campground early to be with us. They said it was colder than expected in Florida, but they are back to residing in St. Francisville, LA again. The crowd sure loved his sea chanteys speech and his singing.

Frank and Pauline Krenkel are considering selling their RV, but plan to continue as members.

Jesse and Anita James brought many materials from the SMART HQ and gave some away as free items and others were sold by Anita in a SMART Store. Jesse had some Afib problems Thursday, but he did provide many pictures for this muster. Anita took a tumble once they got back at home, stumbling on their steps and bruising herself enough to have difficulty walking. She says she is recuperating but moving slowly.

Charley LeBlanc brought some of his woodworking projects which he sold and donated the money to Fisher House. He is also the muster master for the joint muster in Foley, AL with the White Sands/Panhandlers chapter. Watch the emails for that muster and registered on the website.

Jan and Dave Lemaire's home is still not completely finished with the process of it being raised about 18 feet into the air to prevent future flooding. They say the elevator can't come soon enough!

Jim Martin has moved from his Lake Charles home to the Veterans Home in Biloxi, MS as of the last few days. He will be selling his home and his RV.

Denny and Ann Olvany joined us for a few days and then had to return home. Denny was diagnosed with Melanoma in the lungs and the tumor was found close to his heart. He had his first infusion Tuesday and he said all went well that day. More are scheduled for the future and he plans to live his life as usual and take it as it comes.

Judy and Bob Theriot had prior commitments and missed the muster, except Bob did make it to golf Wednesday with the guys.

Nita Taylor is scheduled for Reverse Shoulder replacement surgery on March 13th. I think she would rather have been in her RV with Phil traveling to chapter musters in her Region.

Jack and Cathy Vandevender have been helping the Coates recruit new members while traveling with their other RV groups. Cathy is learning how to play the Hand and Foot and Skipbo games according to the SMART rules but she requested Mexican Train to be tried at the next musters.

Don Vardel and Carol have not been able to travel lately due to some surgical procedures for Don.

Bob Zeller said he has a calendar full of various SMART chapter musters for the next several months but he plans to come to the joint muster in Foley, AL in May.

Richard and Lisa Collins declined to renew their chapter membership, but they do belong to a Florida chapter in the Tampa area where they have another home. Maybe they will rejoin us again.

I hope everyone else is doing well. Hopefully, some of you will send updates after receiving this newsletter.

Rest in Peace, Lee Fontenot!

Long time member Paul Lee. Aka Lee Fontenot passed away Feb 29, 2029, at the Maison de Fleur Assisted Living Home where he was sharing an apartment with wife Irene. Funeral arrangements made by his daughter, Lee Ann Fontenot, is scheduled at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Denham Springs for Mar 22, 2024 at 2:00 pm with interment of his cremains afterwards in the Port Hudson National Cemetery in Zachary, LA.

Irene, who has a form of dementia and can no longer live in the assisted living home by herself, will be moved to a granddaughter's home. Cards may be sent to 38780 Harvest Grove Ave, Walker, LA, 70785.

He had a great sense of humor; was a hilarious Cajun joke teller; loved to play Bourre'; was a fantastic seafood gumbo cook along with many other meals. **He will be missed so much!**



Musters of the MS Magnolias

Apr 8-13, 2024 at Hollywood Casino RV Park in Bay St. Louis, MS. It is a no-host and no-muster fees muster. Use the code to make reservations at campground.

May 6-11, 2024 at Anchors Aweigh RV Resort in Foley, AL. Muster Master is Charley LeBlanc. We will be in a joint muster with the Florida White Sands Panhandlers Chapter. Costs is \$15/pp and the agenda has already been sent out by Charley by email. Be sure to register on website.

Sep 16-21 2024, South Carolina, SMART National Muster. All info on SMART website. There are two separate groups of chapter members who plan on doing a traveling muster to the National Muster. Anyone interested can contact Charley LeBlanc or Frank Coates.

Oct 20-25, 2024, at Parker's Landing RV Park on Woolmarket exit, MS.(Biloxi) to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of MS Magnolias Chapter. Hosts are the Lemaire and costs are \$20/pp. Be sure to register on website.

Nov 10-16 2024 at Sun Outdoors RV Park and Resort, Robert, LA., Central Regional Muster. Hosted by Smart Cajuns, all info about the Regional Muster is on the website. President Jan Lemaire during the Business Meeting stressed the importance of attending and participating in the Regional and National Musters.

Dec 8-12, 2024 with departure on Dec 13. Christmas Muster at Sun Roamers RV Park and Resort, Picayune, MS: Cohosts are Linda and Frank Coates with Bob and Elaine Comeaux. This is a free muster for all MS Magnolia members. Guests must pay \$20/pp. We will have our Dirty Santa Game as usual. Check out the website for more info and registration forms.

Winners of Games

Hand and Foot Tournament: Winners: Pauline Krenkel, Gloria Brady-Cross,(Booby) Juanita Glazier

Skipbo Tournament: Team Lou Finkle and Diane Thompson; Bob Glazier and Gloria Brady-Cross

Cornhole Tournament: Team of Frank Coates and Lou Finkle; John Arce and Rose Kennedy

Poker Walker: Nancy Arce, Jan Lemaire, and Gloria Brady-Cross

Card Bingo: Jesse James, Anita James, Bob Zeller, Patsy Erieg, Francis Arceneaux

50/25/25 Raffle: Lynette Arceneaux, Charley LeBlanc, and Juanita Glazier

Door Prize from Picayune MS Mayor Jim Luke: Frank and Linda Coates received one of his books.

Left: Rose Kennedy and Lou Finkle in Corn Hole Tournament (Center) Winners Lou and Frank (Right) Jesse James throwing his best.



Left: Card Bingo Game Winner Bob Zeller (Center) Winners Patsy Erieg, Jesse and Anita James (Left) Francis Arceneaux.



Crafters being taught by Nancy Arce how to make Gnome candy containers.



Left: Guest speaker Picayune Mayor Jim Luke (Center): Listening to the Mayor (Right) Warren Kelly singing sea chantys to the chapter members.



Left: Kitchen helpers for breakfast (Center) Francis and Mike Kennedy (Right: Lynette Arceneaux cooking a huge pot of gumbo.



Left: Baseball Team Blue (Center): Baseball Team Red who were the winners. (Right: Anita James heading for third base in Baseball Game.



LEFT: Hand and Foot players. (Center Left :Diane T. preparing cards for Poker Walk. (Center Left: Puzzlers Lynn, Kathie and Patsy. (Center Right ; Skipbo Game.



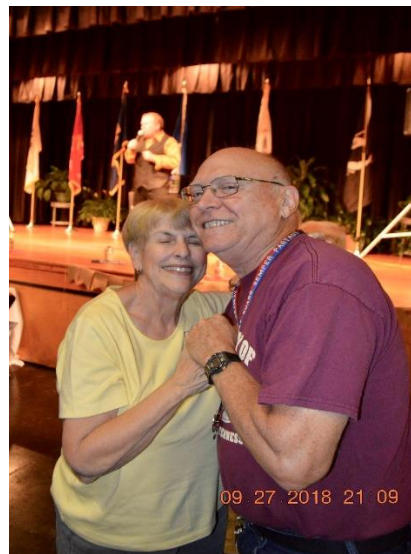
Left: Pauline and Diane T. (Center) Pauline wanted more peanut brittle from Mary. (Right): Dave and Elaine getting ready to pull the 50/25/25 winners.



Life Time Members of MS Magnolias: Denny and Ann Olvany

Denny and Ann Olvany, charter members of MS Magnolias chapter since 2004 have been an invaluable asset to the chapter for 20 years. They have filled many, many positions in the chapter and have hosted many musters and/or cooked many meals for us to eat. Last year, Denny was Muster Master of our Regional in Foley, AL.

Congratulations!!!



Future new members of SMART and MS Magnolias.

Left: Lynn and Dennis Steed, (Right): Rose and Mike Kennedy.



MS Magnolias Group Picture (36 of the 41 attendees)



SMART is a not-for-profit 501(C)19 Veterans Organizations all Donations are Tax Deductible

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