

## OANA General Meeting Minutes — 9/14/17

The meeting, held at the Maumus Center, was called to order at 7:05 with the pledge of allegiance.

Quite a few topics were covered, aided by a comprehensive slide show so that everyone could follow along.

Kudos were given to our hospitality chair, Kelly McCartney, for a successful Summer Social/Hurricane Party on August 29 at The Valiant Lounge, with delicious food provided by Arabi Food Store and The Kitchen Table Cafe', and drink specials at the bar (photos from the event were shown).

Sheriff update: following traffic safety concerns voiced at our last meeting, President Barry Lemoine spoke to Sheriff Pohlmann, who was very open to providing help. Barry outlined the issues in a letter ([will post on the website](#)), and we have since seen digital speed signs on our streets. Domino's employees may be the worst offenders, but some are our neighbors, it was pointed out. There was also a recent robbery at the VFW hall on Friscoville. Members were urged to bring all concerns to Night Out Against Crime next month, and reminded to call the Sheriff's Office anytime to report suspicious activity. Constable Mitchell Perkins urged residents with home security cameras to notify the Sheriff, so that if anything happens in the vicinity officers can check camera footage.

Katherine Lemoine announced the upcoming Sippin' in the Sunset at the Aycock Barn on Thursday, Sept. 21st, 6-9 p.m. It coincides with the International Day of Peace, so tie-dye & peacenik attire is welcomed. Postcard-size notices with Sippin' info on one side and the Sugar Fest schedule on the other are available for distribution. Katherine also showed photos of the presentation of our Mitchell Smith Culinary Scholarship to Hailey Bauman, a recent Chalmette HS graduate who wouldn't have been able to attend a program without it. She will receive \$1000 per semester as long as she's in the Nunez program.

Debbie Smith then spoke about her emotional decision to sell Arabi Food Store to the Landry family, who took over on September 1st. They are keeping the same staff and menu, and Debbie is helping with the transition.

"Sugar" Ray Lauga, Sugar Fest chair, said folks can sign up with him for bar shifts; the event is Saturday, October 14th, 12-7 p.m. at the Aycock Barn. The schedule is printed on the aforementioned postcards; anyone interested in submitting an item for the 2:00 Dessert Contest can do so until Cypress Pop Trio finishes playing at 1:45. Other popular highlights are the Donut Eating Contest at 4 p.m. and Historical Narrated Trolley Tours of the neighborhood departing all

day between 12 and 5.

For the beautification committee, Linda Van Aman reported that equipment has been ordered for Kathy Hall's cleanup sub-committee, which will enlist neighborhood children as volunteers. They will start patrolling the neighborhood as soon as the weather cools off a bit, and will be able to separate out recyclables from the trash they collect. Troy Barrios, beautification chair, announced a gathering at the Community Garden on October 8th at 5 p.m. OANA is helping to find funds to build a fence at the Garden.

Other brief committee reports: Jenifer Heintz asked members to enter their birthdays and anniversaries on the membership roster so she can send cards & spread Sunshine. Kelly McCartney will soon begin planning a Holiday Party for early December. Sal Cusimano is working on steps to revise our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Membership has increased to 65 households under Charlie LeSage's leadership as chair, and the October Night Out Against Crime, on Tuesday the 17th, will be promoted as a membership drive. Treasurer Alison Barrios gave a quick summary of expenses and income, and as a realtor, plans to compile data on property values and sales for the next General Meeting in November.

Various local businesses and events were highlighted, with slides:

- This year's Startup St. Bernard winner, TopoBox, has moved its headquarters to Studio Arabi.
- 40 Arpent Brewery has closed, reportedly because terms of a lease renewal could not be agreed upon.
- Night Out Against Crime will be on Tuesday, October 17, probably at the Arabi Food Store courtyard and adjacent street.
- House of Nails is now open in The Front shopping mall. Walk-ins are accepted, appointments encouraged.
- Local actor Christine Tonry has opened ACT Studio, an actor's training center in the St. Claude building formerly occupied by Gypsy Soul Sisters.
- Studio Inferno has a new exhibit, running from September 5th through October 7th.
- Whiskey Bayou will host Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 30th, 6-midnight, and has karaoke every Wednesday night, all with food from Bratz Y'all!
- Old Arabi Marketplace just held its 2nd Anniversary Party. Congratulations to them, and condolences for the loss of one of the owners.
- Serignan's will celebrate their 90th Anniversary of family ownership tomorrow, Friday the 15th.
- The Planetarium has a Fall show schedule, and will be open during Sugar

Fest.

- Blues Brews & BBQ is Saturday, October 7th, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Docville Farm, with proceeds benefitting Leadership St. Bernard. Postcards with information were also available.
- Old Arabi Bar will host “Who Dats in Jolly Old Arabi” for the Saints game in London, Sunday, October 1st, starting at 7:30 a.m. Free breakfast and \$1 drinks until kickoff at 8:30.
- Canseco’s Supermarket is planning to be open at The Front by November 1st.

Members were repeatedly encouraged to SHOP LOCALLY and support our neighborhood businesses, where great gift items, excellent services, and delicious food & drink can be found.

Three door prizes were awarded, and three new households signed up as new members tonight.

The meeting was adjourned around 8 p.m.