

OANA General Meeting Minutes 11-15-2023

Due to the unavailability of the Maumus Center, the November 2023 General Meeting was held at the Community Center of St. Bernard, 7143 St. Claude Ave. Around 20 people attended the meeting — bad weather, holiday activities and illness being factors for low turnout — which was called to order at 6:10 pm. There was no slideshow presentation.

There was no guest speaker, but a representative from Dominos will come in January. Members should watch for a member survey coming soon; responses are used to plan speakers and events for the coming year. Members will also be able to sign up for committees and volunteer for events.

OANA sponsored several successful fall festivities:

- Sugar Fest — a big shout out went to a list of sponsors, who donated a total of \$21,750; the day of the event raised \$7500; there was positive feedback from vendors, and the kids' area was very popular
- Night Out Against Crime — the annual event was well attended by neighbors and law enforcement officers alike
- Trick-or-Treat Map — about 54 households signed up; turnout of trick-or-treaters was a bit lower than other recent years due to cold & windy weather
- Sugar Soirée — thanks went out to Chris Ryan for the generous use of his space, to Arabi Food Store for catering, and to Gay Parvazi for flowers; around 51 patrons and volunteers attended

Upcoming Events:

- OANA Holiday Party — Wednesday December 6th, 6-9 pm at the Kitchen Table Café; food, soft drinks and adult punch provided, cash bar; music by Christian Serpas
- General Meeting — Wednesday January 17th 6 pm, probably at the Community Center since the Maumus Center can no longer guarantee reserved dates; guest speakers Liz Mendonca, Dominos Plant Manager, and a representative of RealCycle, offering paid recycling services to Arabi

Around the Neighborhood:

- Dog Park is officially open! — needs a bag station
- Holiday Committee — looking for volunteers to organize neutral ground decorating on November 26th and community caroling on December 18th or 19th; planning meeting scheduled for Monday November 20th, 6 pm at the Cossé residence
- Crystalline Benefit — Saturday December 2nd, 5:30 pm at Sama Yoga Studio; OANA is a sponsor
- Whiskey Bayou — Christmas Party Thursday December 14th
- OAB — Christmas Party Saturday December 16th, 8 pm
- Green House — Black Friday sale on November 24th; Garden and Art Market Saturday December 9th, 10-4
- Second Saturdays — gallery openings up and down St. Claude Ave., shuttle

- available
- Reminder — lock your car doors! Several incidents of theft from unlocked vehicles lately

Around the Parish:

- Reminder to VOTE! — Election day is November 18th
- Big Treesy tree giveaway — Saturday November 18th, 8 am at Docville Farm
- St. Bernard Holiday Home and Community Showcase — highlighting houses for sale, Sunday November 19th, 10 am-2 pm
- Shop Small St. Bernard — Saturday November 25th
- Christmas at the Complex — Parish tree lighting, Friday December 1st, 5-8 pm
- Isleños Christmas Bonfire — Saturday December 2nd, 4-7:30 pm

Member News & Notables:

- Yard-of-the-Month decorating contests — Halloween winner 534 Friscoville, Steve Liuzza and Gregory Campo; Christmas winner TBA on December 15th; Mardi Gras winner TBA on February 1st
- Condolences — OANA Board Member and beloved neighbor Deb Lavender passed away unexpectedly; Will Schneider lost his father, Louis, known to many in the neighborhood
- Celebrations — Patrice Cusimano handily won the District A Council seat (currently away on a well-deserved vacation!)

Announcements & Introductions:

- Next OANA Board Meeting — Thursday December 7th, 5:30 pm at Barrios Real Estate Office
- Blood Drive for Kendi Portier — Troy organized a very successful event at the Community Center on November 6th, where 42 pints of blood were collected and \$1363 was raised with a raffle and food sales; thanks to donors and volunteers; there's still a GoFundMe for Kendi, and blood can be donated any time in her name

Door prizes were awarded, and attendees were thanked for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.