

HUMAN RELATIONS NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of the **LOUISIANA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS**
 incorporating **THE BATON ROUGE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS NEWSLETTER**

OCT/NOV/DEC 2005

SPEAKING OUT FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA SINCE 1964

VOL 42, NO. 1

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Fall Board Meeting Held in Baton Rouge

The fall meeting of the L.C.H.R. was hosted by Mrs. Eileen Shieber on Oct. 15th, at the Stanford Ave. home she shares with her husband Ben. Her reading nook was laden with coffee, juice and home-made muffins. She served a delicious spaghetti dinner. A special treat was her dark-chocolate kosher delight. It was a lovely day, and we relaxed and enjoyed the serene view of the shady backyard before we departed.

Secretary Pat Rickels reported on how the letter announcing LCHR opposition to the Iraq War and the absence of the LA National Guard was printed in several prominent newspapers. Dick Haymaker updated us on the status of Equity Now! Baton Rouge, which was approved to conduct some anti-racism projects under the wing of LCHR. John Mikell's motion to ask the Governor to appoint an independent commission to objectively evaluate what could have been done to have prevented some of massive problems associated with Hurricane Katrina was adopted.

A motion was adopted to permit Ben Shieber to reserve a room at LSU in the name of LCHR, for a meeting where a DVD on the Iraq war will be shown.

Following the meeting, Les and Eva Baham presented a computer slide-show of the damage their community of Slidell suffered as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Fortunately, their lot is raised and their home was not flooded, although it was by no means unscathed. The force of the winds did serious damage in the more commercial areas of Slidell. This was another reminder of how Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have irrevocably altered the face of Louisiana. Their effects will undoubtedly be felt far into the future.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Sat., Jan. 21st at 10:30 a.m., hosted by Dr. Pat Rickels, in Lafayette. Call:(337)984-8838 for more information.

DEATH PENALTY NEWS

The execution on Dec. 13th of Stanley "Tookie" Williams at California's San Quentin prison made national news and focused on the pros and cons of the death penalty. A thousand death penalty opponents gathered outside the prison, including singer Joan Baez and other well-known personalities. Some opponents believed Williams was innocent, others considered that he had been rehabilitated, and others opposed capital punishment on principle.

Since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1977 after a 10-year moratorium, 1,000 prisoners have been executed. Thirty-eight states have the death penalty, (cont. on p. 5)



AFTERMATH OF RITA MAJOR CONCERN FOR SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

For the coastal communities of Louisiana flooded by the storm surge of Hurricane Rita, rebuilding is a priority. Families have been there for generations and have a very strong sense of place.

In Pecan Island, a community of some 300 people, nearly every home was severely damaged or totally destroyed. The tidal surge was estimated to be up to 15 feet. Homes were lifted off foundations and debris strewn everywhere. However, spirits ran high among residents that they will have a much better year in 2006, as reported in the *Sunday Advertiser*. Many are living in FEMA-issued trailers as they seek to rebuild their homes. Others have moved away, but are expected to return by spring.

In nearby Esther, the St. James Catholic Chapel held a Christmas Day Mass, the first since the hurricane struck. The tidal surge had opened graves in the cemetery behind the church. The building was gutted down to the external brick and structural steel beams, and parishioners had to bring their own lawn-chairs for seating, but a Christmas creche and tree were nicely decorated. The pastor, Fr. Matthew Mallimanganam, urged the parishioners to keep coming, as the Bishop was undecided whether to close the rural churches which had been damaged. The green light for rebuilding would not be given until it was certain enough people would return to these areas to be able to support the churches.

Over in Delcambre, LA over 50 percent of the homes are unlivable. Local state senator Craig Romero is seeking help of the Congress-

sional delegation for federal funding, beyond the limited relief funding provided through FEMA. Many are elderly and live on fixed incomes and have no means to make the investment in rebuilding a home. They find the hurdles to getting help discouraging. With businesses closed and some of the population dispersed, the town of Delcambre has run out of money to pay the five city employees and six police officers. Without an infusion of outside dollars most will have to laid off.

Sen. Craig Romero is introducing legislation to set up a Southwest Louisiana Levee District, so as to protect communities in Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary Parishes from future flooding.

In Henry, LA, a rural hamlet south of Erath, the two public buildings, St. John's Catholic Church and Henry Elementary School have been rendered unusable. The force of the water lifted many homes off their foundations. Now these homes are scattered along the highway, a few with temporary trailers beside them, but most sitting bare and empty. School children are now bused into Abbeville, where they are taught in shifts, at schools that were already crowded. (from *The Advertiser* 12-29-05, 1-1-05, 1-3-05)



JUDGE EDWARDS ON GUARD DUTY

Judge Jules Edwards, who was a past recipient of the LCHR Oliver/Sigur Award, was recently featured in *The Advertiser*. The report was about his being called up for service in the Louisiana National Guard. Edwards, who holds the rank of Lt. Col. was sent into New Orleans to evacuate the Superdome and Convention Center. From his first-hand experience he says that "the reports of lawlessness in the Dome were exaggerated. The reports of harsh living conditions in the Dome were understated." Following the evacuation he was sent to Baton Rouge to help with legal questions. He serves as a judge advocate for the Louisiana National Guard and supervises a legal staff of 18 attorneys who provide legal services for those in the Guard.

While he was away from the bench, the Supreme Court appointed retired judges to hear his cases on an ad hoc basis. He also would return to his office several times a week to review and address matters that could be decided within court hearings.

Judge Edwards is a hard worker. He says that he lost 25 lbs. and only slept 4 hours nightly for the 1st 10 days of his post-Katrina Guard duty. For the next 15 he was working 18 hour days.

Now sleeping in his own bed at home, he still is involved, as 11 of his relatives, who had to evacuate, are at his house. They celebrated Christmas and Kwanzaa together.

JUSTICE MISCARRIED FOR N.O. PRISON EVACUEES

The Advertiser interviewed a number of evacuees from the New Orleans Parish Correctional Center who had been transported to the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center. They had endured a week of hell, but were not met by volunteers or local churches. They were hungry and clothed in soggy, muddy prison issue. They had endured fear and uncertainty as they were taken out of cellblocks already inundated by rising floodwaters.

Over 8,000 inmates were evacuated in the wake of Katrina. Many lost access to lawyers, to evidence, and information on when their cases will be heard. Some were held on minor charges, and should have been released, but their records were lost.

Austin Manning, age 19, received only a small helping of grits the morning after the storm, and then did not eat anything for four days. The prison was not accessible and without water, lights, or air, it turned into a fetid sauna. As the floodwater rose into cells, prisoners were crowded into little cells on upper floors, and the deputies retreated.

Eventually all of the inmates were moved by boat to an overpass on I-10. There they baked in the sun for two more days un-

til buses arrived to transport them to Hunt Correctional in St. Gabriel. There inmates were given a blanket, a peanut butter sandwich and water and crowded into a fenced-in yard open to the elements. There they were for another two days, standing in the mud and rain, like cattle. Hungry and angry prisoners began to turn on each other.

Finally busses broke up the great mass of humanity, as it transported them to state and parish prisons, including some out-of-state. Lafayette Parish accepted 150 in their already crowded facility.

Human Rights Watch, the global advocacy group, has been investigating the situation, and is concerned that 150 prisoners are unaccounted for. They want a full accounting, fearing that some could have drowned in their cells, or died during the ordeal. The U.S. Dept. of Justice is also looking into some allegations.



What is certain and not denied by the Dept. of Corrections, is that many of these prisoners ended up staying in custody well beyond the times for their release.

One such case was of James Mitchell. He was supposed to be released on a charge of trespassing. A mix-up was discovered by the *Advertiser* reporter in that someone else with a similar name was released, according to the records. He ended up serving a nightmarish 120 days, instead of the 20 days of his sentence.

Some dedicated attorneys, alerted to the mass confusion and perpetration of injustice, began working pro bono, filing writs of habeas corpus. This led to a judicial order for the release of many of the inmates who had petitioned the court.

Another aspect of the plight of the inmates was that they lost contact with their families, who had no idea where they had been sent to. The inmates also had no idea what had happened to family members. As far as they knew they could have been drowned. As it turned out, they were scattered in shelters around the state and country.



Another problem faced by the inmates is that when they are released from whatever prison they have been farmed out to, they will be far from home, and likely there will be no home to go back to. Thus, many of the 8,000 evacuees will enter the ranks of the homeless, further straining the thin level of homeless resources available around the state.

The Advertiser is to be commended for making known the plight of the 8,000 plus inmates who were evacuated from Orleans Parish. Their story deserves to be told in full. It sheds light on the disparity between our image as a land of liberty and justice for all, and the grossly inhuman conditions which inmates are often subjected to in this country. It indicates that the poor do not have equal access to legal services, and that the state system of indigent defense is broken, and must be fixed. (*The Advertiser*, 12-18, 19, 20-05)

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

CHARENTON.....The Chitimacha Health Care Clinic has made the front-page for garnering an award from the Indian Health Service, the federal agency which funds the tribal clinics.

The jump in quality of care is traced mainly to the dedication of Dr. Indira Gautam. She has a reputation of obsession with adherence to standards of care. As a result diabetic screenings have reached 100%, up from 26%. Mammograms are up from 42% to 72%, tobacco screenings from less than 10% to 70%, domestic violence screening from 6 % to 50 %, cholesterol testing for diabetics is at 95% and eye exams for these patients has gone from 6% to 58%. Kidney screenings are at 80%. The free care that was available just to tribal members is now extended to nontribal residents on the reservation, the town of Baldwin, and employees of Cypress Bayou Casino. While Native American tribes often languish in poverty and neglect, the fortunes of the Chitamacha Nation, here in Louisiana, have risen, and they are able to share their good fortune.

JERUSALEM.....responding to needs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Jewish Agency of Israel has offered a free semester of study to all qualified New Orleans students to continue their studies in Israel. The five major Israeli universities have agreed to expedite registration to these students. The offer is done in cooperation with Jewish agencies in America, and is extended

to include not only Jewish students but those of other religions as well. It includes a free semester of tuition, room, board and a round-trip ticket. For info: Jane Simmons (212)981-2529 x22.

JOHANNESBURG.....The Supreme Court of South Africa has ruled in favor of gay marriage, paving the way for South Africa to be the first nation on the African continent to legalize same-sex unions. South Africa included equality of rights for gay people in the constitution adopted following the end of apartheid. It thus became the first country to enshrine, within its constitution, prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In delivering the ruling, Judge Albie Sachs said that the current legal definitions of marriage as a union between a man and a woman “are inconsistent with sections....of the constitution to the extent that they make no provision for same-sex couples to enjoy the status, entitlements, and responsibilities they accord to heterosexual couples.” The court instructed parliament to extend the legal definition of marriage within a year, or else the courts would automatically do so.

South Africa joins Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain as nations that allow gay marriage nation-wide. Great Britain recently allowed civil unions kingdom-wide.

Last year Louisiana passed a referendum that does just the opposite of South Africa, enshrining inequality in the constitution. It is not surprising given the uphill and continuing struggle for racial equality, and the conservative religious background that prevails here.

ATLANTA, GA.....At the end of a losing battle during the past legislative session, Rep Alisha Thomas Morgan burst into the civil rights anthem *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around* to protest the passage of a law requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls. Morgan vowed to do whatever it takes in the coming session to repeal the law.

She and other black lawmakers are in for a battle, as Republican lawmakers stand determined to defend the law, which requires those voters without a driver's license to purchase a state-issued ID for as much as \$35— a fee critics say hurts the poor, the elderly, and minorities.

In October, a federal judge blocked Georgia from enforcing the law, saying the measure amounts to an unconstitutional poll tax. The Republican sponsor of the law says he is willing to amend the law in the next session, to make the state-issued ID's free for the asking.

Louisiana also requires that a photo ID be presented at the polls and this is rigorously enforced in Lafayette Parish.

LAFAYETTE.....100 volunteers recently took part in the Great Cajundome Flushoff. They flushed all 200 toilets and urinals in an effort to test the limits of the plumbing system after the stress of housing 17,000 hurricane evacuees in the fall. To the relief of Cajundome staff, no major problems were revealed in the massive flushing. FEMA funds were denied the Cajundome to professionally inspect the system, so this community volunteer effort had to suffice. The Flushoff made news around the country and on the world-wide web.

Death Penalty News (cont.)

including Louisiana. Illinois and New Jersey have formal moratoriums on capital punishment. Texas leads in executions; Harris county alone has executed 85 prisoners. In a way, the racist American death penalty is the 21st century version of slavery; 80 % of executions occur in the South.

The U.S. is the only industrialized nation which still executes prisoners. Although support for capital punishment is slowly diminishing, a poll in October showed that 64 % of Americans support the death penalty. However, many persons question whether it serves as a deterrent for crime and whether the government can be trusted not to execute innocent persons. It has become more and more evident that our criminal justice system makes serious mistakes.

Louisiana's famous death penalty opponent and author, Sr. Helen Prejean, spoke to a group at Southeastern Louisiana University in October. She pointed out that 121 wrongfully condemned inmates facing the death penalty have been released in the past few years because new evidence (mostly from DNA) proved they were not guilty. Other notable death penalty opponents are Susan Sarandon, the actress who played the role of Sr. Helen in the movie made from Prejean's book, *Dead Man Walking*, and Pope Benedict. LCHR has long opposed the death penalty, mainly on the ground that **it is morally wrong.**

ROSA PARKS 1913-2005

Rosa Parks, whose courageous act of civil disobedience sparked the historic 1955 Montgomery, AL Bus Boycott, died this past October 24th. A modest woman who in her life-time never sought the limelight, she was sent out in grand style with celebrity-laden celebrations of her life in Detroit and Washington D.C., where she lay in state in the Capitol.

Her historic refusal to yield her seat to a white passenger when ordered to do so by the bus-driver, has sometimes been distorted as an almost accidental occurrence, because she was exhausted after a long day at work. However, Rosa was actively engaged in activism for justice and social change, and was sick and tired of the degrading second-class treatment that the Southern system of segregation daily and unrelentingly imposed upon her and her people.

After Rosa Parks' calm and resolute refusal to obey the demands of the bus-driver, there was no turning back. Her arrest galvanized the Black citizens of Montgomery to walk and car-pool to work rather than participate in their own oppression by riding on the city buses.

A young articulate minister was eventually chosen to lead the boycott committee, and thus, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. rose to prominence. His leadership was inspiring, such that shadowy and evil forces saw to it that his life was cut short by an assassin's bullet, just 13 years later. Rosa Parks, on the other hand, had a long and good life. She and her husband had to leave Alabama for their own safety and survival. They joined the exodus of Southern blacks to Detroit, MI. She had a fulfilling career as a staff assistant to Rep. John Conyers, and always remained involved in and dedicated to the causes of civil rights, education, and community development.

In one tribute it was stated "Her enduring testimony is that God continues to use ordinary people, people like Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, the mother of a movement, to do extraordinary things for God's creation. Rosa kept her eyes fixed on the prize. She ran the race. She fought the good fight. May she rest in peace. Well done, good and faithful servant! "You can now take your seat, not in the black section, not in the white section, but in the section reserved for the saints of God in glory!" (the above quote from Sr. Anita Baird, DHM in *The Catholic Peace Voice* 12/05-1/06.)

MARCH FOR EVACUEES IN N.O.

A group of concerned New Orleans residents and supporters banded together to demand equality and fair treatment in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. On Dec. 10th, International Human Rights Day, about 200 people marched in New Orleans. About 15 people from Lafayette went to the march in a van, organized by activist Marie-Isabelle Pautz. The march was sponsored by Community Labor United, which has been involved in grass-roots organizing in N.O. for the past 8 years. Door-to-door surveys found that education and juvenile justice were issues which low-income New Orleanians cared deeply about. Pautz said Katrina magnified many of the city's pressing issues and prompted the formation of the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Reconstruction Coalition, which now has over 100 affiliates. They are working to address human rights violations which occurred in wake of the storm. Pautz said that the march was to call attention to these issues. They also are working to reunite displaced families, demand housing, and quality education for displaced students. (*The Advertiser* 12/11/05)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBIT

February is the month during which the historical and cultural contributions of African-Americans have traditionally been spotlighted. Doubtless, there will be many fine programs and displays. One which your editor and his partner have contributed to, is the exhibit at the Abbeville Historical and Cultural Alliance Center Museum and Gallery. The display is curated by LCHR member Tony Mayard, and consists of photo posters, enlarged documents, and other materials from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN., as well as the National Park Service's Birthplace of George Washington Carver Interpretive Center in Southwestern Missouri. An article describing the offerings of the National Civil Rights Museum was printed in the previous issue of *Human Relations News*.

The Black History exhibit will be on display from Jan. 9th through February 25th. The Gallery and Museum is located in the old library on Magdalen Square. It has limited hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mon.-Fri. and also may be opened by appointment. For info call: 337-898-4114 or 337-988-6564.



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Vol. 41
Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Human Relations Council
No. 1

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

A meeting was held Nov. 10th at the Baton Rouge Community College on "Race and Poverty Issues After Hurricane Katrina." It was sponsored by the Baton Rouge Council, the Baton Rouge Y.W.C.A., the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and Equity Now! Baton Rouge. Around 200 were in attendance.

Mayor-President Kip Holden commented on the federal government's slow response to the hurricane. The panel of speakers included Ms. Edith Jones of the New Orleans Urban League, who told of her personal experience of evacuating from the city as the hurricane moved toward landfall. She made the point that "Katrina blew the covers off racism in New Orleans and Louisiana for all the world to see". Danatus King, NAACP New Orleans Chapter President, said that people are suffering from denial if they don't believe that racism played a role in the slow response to Katrina.



VOLUNTEER FORUM

A volunteer Forum/Fair was held at the Instructional Resource Center of the Baton Rouge School Board. This meeting called for volunteers in public, private, and parochial schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. The theme was "Investing Yourself by Volunteering for a New Baton Rouge Community." Dr. Diola Bagayoko, professor at Southern University, and a member of the BRCHR Board of Directors, was a guest motivational speaker. He is a consultant, assisting Prescott Middle School, and his students have volunteered to help Scotlandville Middle School.

Information was presented regarding volunteer opportunities to serve displaced students, teachers, and parents, with emphasis on mentoring and emotional support. Each civic organization highlighted its community service. Flyers were taken to local trailer villages to inform evacuees about community services. DVDs made at the meeting were presented later to the speakers.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations and a host of civic organizations: Volunteers in Public Schools, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, National Association of University Women, Working Interfaith Network, Project 6, City at Peace, Community Association for the Welfare of School Children, Baton Rouge Parent University, Adult Literacy Advocates, Louisiana Technology Assistance Network, UpLIFTD/Women's Community Rehabilitation Center, and Kiwanis Clubs of Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE BUS FARES TO GO UP

Although, at the recommendation of Mayor-President Holden, the Metro Council shifted \$4000,000 from the general fund to help Capital Area Transit System, the bus system, beginning Jan. 1 has increased its fare from \$1.25 to \$1.75, much too high for low-income riders. While increasing the poor folks' expense, the CATS board raised the CEO's pay \$30,000 a year. Baton Rouge's public transit system tends to lag behind cities of similar size.

COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN FOR NBR REJECTED

Michael Brown, vice-chairman of Baton Rouge's Working Interfaith Network (WIN), presented a community policing plan to Baton Rouge Police Chief Jeff LeDuff and Greg Phares of the E.B.R. Parish Sheriff's Office at a North Baton Rouge community meeting on Dec. 13th. The plan proposed an independent community advisory board for the Fourth District (basically covering northern Baton Rouge). Phares and LeDuff said they could not agree to the plan, and Phares asked that WIN work to jointly develop a community policing plan.

It is more than high time that Baton Rouge leaders get serious about community policing. Thirteen years ago the Louisiana Council on Human Relations held a meeting in Baton Rouge, and Sgt. Michael Morris of the Baton Rouge Police Dept. made an excellent presentation on community policing. LCHR then adopted a position paper on Police-Community Relations (reaffirmed in 1997). Efforts at community policing in Baton Rouge have been feeble. Because Mayor Kip Holden is our first black mayor, and he controls the police chief, Baton Rouge expects him to establish excellent community policing.

RACISM IN LSU LAW SCHOOL IS OFFENSIVE

Jacob Gardener, President of the Student Bar Association of the LSU Law School, sent an e-mail Oct. 21st titled "Ghetto Spellin' Bee" Perhaps accidentally, it was forwarded to a member of

the Black Law Students Association, as well as several Law Center administrators. In the e-mail Gardener used an "ebonics" dialect to make fun of African-Americans. Law Center Chancellor

John Costonis stated that he is committed to make the Law Center a positive place for African-American law students. There is no doubt that Gardener's action has injured the reputation of the LSU law school.

ASST. EDITOR BURNS A BUSY PEACENIK

During the 4th quarter of 2005, Paul Burns, assistant editor of this newsletter, was very active in peace and justice matters. In October he went to the State Capitol for a candlelight vigil protesting American soldier deaths in the Iraq War. In November, he was invited to be a guest speaker at an LSU class on the Holocaust, taught by Rabbi Barry Weinstein. He spoke of his experiences as an American soldier going into Germany as it was collapsing at the end of World War II, and his learning of the horrors of the concentration camps, where 6,000,000 Jews perished. He told the class of 28 students, that the Holocaust should not be forgotten, and that we should make sure that it did not happen again. Burns was assist-

ing Rabbi Weinstein in arming his students against Holocaust deniers, such as the current Iranian President.

Burns's letter to *The Advocate* editor, recommending a timeline starting now, for an exit plan for American soldiers from Iraq, was published on December 9th. On the 13th, he joined with 12 others in a prayer vigil in front of Rep. Richard Baker's Baton Rouge office as part of a national "Protest Against an Immoral Budget." Congress is drastically reducing benefits for poor folks, as tax cuts are given away to the wealthy, and billions are funneled into the war in Iraq. Throughout the year, Burns frequently attended meetings of peace and justice organizations and lobbied politicians to vote favorably on peace and justice matters. He encourages our readers to engage in similar such actions.

CONFEDERATE FLAG

Some of the tail-gaters at L.S.U. home football games this fall have displayed a Confederate battle flag made with LSU's purple and gold colors. Many students have protested. Others claim this flag should be displayed because it represents their heritage. Because flying a flag is considered "free speech" LSU's Chancellor refused to forbid this practice on campus.

For us middle-aged and elderly human relations folks, the Confederate battle flag represents racism. It reminds us of slavery, the evil KKK, and the backward South. In the early 1960's in Baton Rouge, there was an election for District Attorney. The winner, Sargent Pitcher, campaigned in a truck carrying the Confederate battle flag and a loud recording of "Dixie." Pitcher's message was clear: "Elect me. I will preserve racial segregation." In those days, no black person could get elected to any office in the parish. Those of you who do not understand why flying the Confederate battle flag is very disturbing to some of us, should desist from this practice simply out of consideration for our feelings.

CATHY GESS RETIRES AS LA CURE EDITOR

For the past nine years, Cathy Gess has served as volunteer newsletter editor of for the Louisiana Chapter of CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants), a nonprofit organization, whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform. The quarterly newsletter is extremely well written; the illustrations are appropriate, and the news items are attractively displayed, and very informative. Tom Gess, her husband, is Co-Treasurer. Tom and Cathy are longtime members of the Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations, and they remain on the Louisiana CURE's Board. In 2000 they were recipients of the Wade Mackie Peacemaking

Award, given by Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice. If you are interest in joining Louisiana CURE, e-mail gesserve@aol.com. The basic dues are only \$10 per year for an individual. This organization is worthy of your support.



MASCOT CHANGE

Robert E. Lee High School is a public school established in 1959. When it opened, it was entirely white. The school is now 58% African-American. Until now, the students were designated as "Rebels," which carried connotations of Old South upholding of the Confederacy with its oppression of black people. Now the school has changed over to being known as the "Patriots." Lee reluctantly integrated in 1967 when Freya Anderson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dupuy Anderson, enrolled. A civic leader, the late Dr. Anderson received BRCHR's first Humanitarian Award in 1978. Ms. Inez Anderson continues as a loyal member of the Baton Rouge Council.



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Baton Rouge, LA 70808



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce has strengthened its non-discrimination policy. In an effort to encourage economic development, they have now adopted a policy which specifically prohibits bias on the basis of sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, citizenship, and veteran status. The Chamber encourages business groups to have similarly strong non-discrimination policies. We say "Nice work, Chamber!"

Links to other web sites
The Advocacy Coalition
Current and historical
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web site

www.brchr.org

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