



# Gretna Chronicles



Gretna, Louisiana

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November, 2024

## Honoring Senior Birthdays!



At the October meeting at the museum complex, it was nice to have our members enjoy the treasures there. Most members were familiar with the White House and the Gretna Green Blacksmith Shop because of the celebrated Valentine Day Weddings, but the Louisiana State Fire Museum, the Kitty Strehle House and the newly updated Ignatius Strehle House were new to many.

The evening began with great barbeque for dinner and ended with the cutting of a huge birthday cake celebrating the birthday of Gretna Historical Society and GHS members in attendance who have reached 85 years and older! Those members include: left to right, sitting, Judy Lotz 86, Freda (Tina) Hutchinson

85, Rev. Francis (Fr. Frank) Carabello 88, Judge Joseph Grefer 94 and, standing, Marjorie Kraus 85, Barbara Daigle 86, Marlin Manuel 95, Dirk Hepting 89, Don Olsen 86, Margaret Spahr 85 and Emile Cloutet 87.

## Ignatius Strehle House Opening!

The soft opening of the Ignatius Strehle House was enjoyed by all. The circa 1860 Creole cottage is located in the rear of the complex and houses historical memorabilia featuring church, school, military, police and mayors of Gretna. The newly redone presentation is pleasantly appealing, with more to come.

We are short of artifacts and photos from some of the wars

that are featured in the Heroes Room, especially the Korean, Vietnam and Afghanistan Wars. We have limited space, but would appreciate help filling this shortage. If you can help, text or call Lisa LaFrance at 504-912-6718. See more photos on page 2 & 3!







GHS members had a great time on a bus trip arranged by Val Coles to the Regional Military Museum in Houma. The 24 members who attended enjoyed lunch together at Spahr's.

## Strehle House ...



## CALENDAR

**Nov 14** @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St Joseph Gym.

**Dec 12** @ 6 pm Christmas Party at St Joseph Gym.

**Jan 9** @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St Joseph Gym.

## NOMINATIONS

November is the month when GHS addresses officers and board of directors for the next year. There was a motion by the Board to nominate the following to serve on the 2025 GHS Board. The decision was unanimous.

<b>President - Val Coles</b>	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms - Judy LeBlanc</b>
<b>Vice President - Blaine Daigle</b>	<b>Parliamentarian - Lisa LaFrance</b>
<b>Recording Secretary - Sylvia Schwarz</b>	<b>Board Member/Editor &amp; Publicity - M. Helen Williams</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary - Holly Williams</b>	<b>Board Member/Hospitality &amp; Programs - Paul Coles</b>
<b>Treasurer - Sarah Daigle</b>	<b>Board Member - Dwight Maness</b>
<b>Historian/Archivist - Stephanie Dieterich</b>	<b>Board Member - Joe Miller</b>

We currently have 12 board members and consider this a complete board. However, as a GHS member, if you choose to run for one of these positions, the following by-laws must be observed:

1. The name of any member in good standing may be placed in nomination for election to the Board of Directors by a petition of ten (10) members in good standing of this organization providing that member has given written acceptance of the nomination.
2. All nominating petitions must be filed with the Secretary of this organization at least ten days prior to the date of the election of Board members by the membership.

(Note: Filing Date Deadline: 11/4/24. Call Recording Secretary Sylvia Schwarz at 504-427-7177 asap to let her know your intention)

If you are interested in serving on the GHS Board of Directors or in getting more involved in volunteering for events, monthly meetings or annual special events, please contact Lisa LaFrance 504-912-6718 asap.

We pride ourselves on preservation, education, and community in everything we do in the Gretna Historical Society. We look forward to strengthening our organization with your participation.



**More  
Strehle House  
Displays**



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS!**

.....  
Cindy Johnson

Vincent LeBlanc



*Gretna Chronicles succeeds the GHS Newsletter and the Gretna Historical Society Newsletter as the official source of news for the general membership of the Gretna Historical Society.*

## **Gretna Historical Society**

201-209 Lafayette Street  
 P.O. Box 115  
 Gretna, LA 70054-0115



### **Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex**

1840s Strehle Family Cottage, 1859 David Crockett  
 Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Station (now Louisiana Fire  
 Museum), 1840s White Family Cottage

## **Gretna Chronicles**

is published for the members and friends of GHS

M. Helen Williams, Editor

To submit articles, call Helen at 504.450.8481

(or e-mail [mhw500@cox.net](mailto:mhw500@cox.net))

### **ABOUT THE GHS AND HOW TO JOIN**

The Gretna Historical Society was founded in Gretna, Louisiana, in 1969, by Lloyd E. Gomez (insurance man, volunteer firefighter, and community activist), who descended from Gretna pioneers, German immigrants Claudius and Catherine Nuss Strehle. The Society's articles of incorporation were drafted by Gretna attorney Everett F. Gauthreaux and signed in his law office on October 26, 1969. Today, the GHS operates the Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex at the corner of Lafayette Street at Second. It consists of three 19th century Creole cottages, a blacksmith shop, and the Louisiana Fire Museum. The GHS also owns and maintains the caboose and train depot on Huey P. Long Avenue at Fourth Street.

There are no requirements for membership in the GHS, other than the timely payment of annual membership dues of \$25 per person. Monthly meetings are held at the St. Joseph Complex Gym at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.

## **Gretna Historical Society**

<https://www.gretnahistoricalsociety.org/>

P.O. Box 115, Gretna, LA 70054-0115

Phone: 504.362.3854

Email: [directoroffacilities@gretnahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:directoroffacilities@gretnahistoricalsociety.org)

Facebook: @GHSGretnaLA

- Lisa LaFrance.....President**
- Ray Markase.....Vice President**
- Sylvia Schwarz.....Recording Secretary**
- Holly Williams.....Corresponding Secretary**
- Sarah Daigle.....Treasurer**
- Stephanie Dieterich.....Historian and Archivist**
- Blaine Daigle.....Sergeant-at-Arms**
- Val Coles.....Parliamentarian**
- M. Helen Williams.....Board Member/Publicity**
- Paul Coles.....Board /Hospitality Director**
- Cheryl Amacker .....Board Member/Membership**
- Monica Naquin.....Board Member at Large**
- Judy LeBlanc.....Director of Facilities**