



Écoutez

WEST
BATON
ROUGE
MUSEUM

January - March, 2016

Volume XLVIII, No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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"The purpose of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association shall be to foster interest in history, particularly that of West Baton Rouge Parish, and to encourage and pursue research, collection and preservation of materials illustrating past or present activities of the parish."



2016 WBRHA Board Members – Current board members shown following the January 21st Board Meeting from left are: Wilhemenia DeCuir, Glen DeMourelle, Babs Babin, Kim Callegan, Mary Bennett, Joyce Barbier, Janice Hebert, Ellis Gauthier, Jane Brou, Dorene Mayeux, and Janet Simoneaux. Other board members not pictured include: Jessamy Charette, Garry Hubble, Elisa Tubbs, Jason Hammack, Lorry Trotter, David Couvillon, Brian Falcon, and Evva Wilson.

WBR Historical Association Holds 48th Annual Meeting

On January 11, 2016 members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association gathered for the group's 48th Annual Meeting at the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen. Ellis Gauthier, president, presided.

Officers and board members for the 2016 year were elected. Ellis Gauthier was re-elected President of the organization while Kim Callegan was named Vice President, Mary Bennett was elected Secretary, and Janice Hebert was named Treasurer.

New board members elected to serve 3-year terms were Babs Babin, Dorene Mayeux, Janet Simoneaux, and Evva L. Z. Wilson.

Continuing as WBRHA board members were Joyce Barbier, Jane Brou, Kim Callegan, Jessamy Charette, Ellis Gauthier, Garry

Hubble, Elisa Tubbs, Wilhemenia DeCuir, Jason Hammack, Janice Hebert, Lorry Trotter, David Couvillon, Brian Falcon, and Glen deMourelle.

Committee reports were presented and fundraising activities for the year were highlighted. Following the annual meeting attendees enjoyed refreshments. See more photos on page 3.



"Christmas in July" Card Party Set for July 25

"Try your luck at bridge, hand and foot canasta, Shanghi rummy, sequence, bouree and other games at the 11th annual "Christmas in July" Card Party," invites Lorry Trotter, Card Party Chairman. The fundraiser is set for July 25 at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen. The West Baton Rouge Historical Association has sponsored this annual fundraiser since 2005.

Beginning as a bridge party, the event grew to include various other card games and attracts participants from throughout the Baton Rouge area as well as the west side. The Card Party was first held in the Brick Gallery of the West Baton Rouge Museum with a couple of tables extending into the breezeway. As more and more card players learned of this event which features lunch and snacks throughout the day, card tables extended throughout every spare spot in the Museum. The need for a larger venue was evident and the Card Party Committee selected the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen as the right spot for the event to grow.



Ellis Gauthier
WBR Historical Association
Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

As we begin our 48th year as a parish wide organization we reflect on the many people through the years that have made the West Baton Rouge Historical Association a success. We owe them our continued support and hard work to keep this tradition going. Our Friends members are showing an increase in numbers but our Patrons, Regular Members, and Student Members could stand to grow as well. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.



To the many of you who diligently work with us, we extend our gracious thanks. We are always looking for more volunteers to assist us with our annual fundraisers. These include the Christmas in July Card Party which will be held on Monday, July 25th at the West Baton Rouge Community Center; the Plantation Dinner and Sweets Booth at the Museum's Sugar Fest on Sunday, October 2. As these activities grow, we find ourselves needing more and more volunteers. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come out and give us a hand.

We continue to accept donations of West Baton Rouge historical

items to be placed in our WBRHA Permanent and Education Collections. Your donations help to keep our parish history alive. These items are stored in a safe manner and used throughout the year in various exhibits. At this time we are soliciting many items relating to the now inactive Port Allen Boy Scout Troop 38.

A warm welcome is extended to new board member Dorene Mayeux, and Babs Babin, Janet Simoneaux, and Evva Wilson as they return as WBRHA Board members after sitting out a year as required by the organization's bylaws.

The Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture in the fall is the highlight of our activities. We are soliciting someone to work with Jeannie Lockett for the selection of our speaker for this occasion. Our Hospitality Committee does an excellent job of helping to host this and other events throughout the year.

We encourage you to recruit new HA members and volunteers to assist with our activities. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member or volunteering with us, please call Alice LeBlanc at 225/336-2422, Ext. 10.

I look forward to seeing you at our activities this year!

Sincerely,

Ellis

Ellis Gauthier

Where history has a name.



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



Julie Rose
West Baton Rouge

From Our Director



Greetings,

The West Baton Rouge Museum is fast approaching our 50th anniversary in 2018. It is not too early to start planning and reflecting on all that has been accomplished over the past five decades. I feel honored to be a part of the museum for the past ten years. I am grateful for our predecessors' foresight in planning this regional history museum and for subsequent generations of museum workers

and volunteers for always aiming for best practice.

Anniversaries are wonderful benchmarks for historians. The museum's exhibits in 2016 are focused on the 75th anniversary of the Great Depression, (1929-1941). From April 2 to June 12, 2016, the museum presents "Angela Gregory: From Paris to Port Allen" with a look at the Louisiana sculptor's accomplishments including artwork for the new state capitol. Then from May 7 to September 4, 2016 the exhibit "Huey Long and the Noble Experiment: Prohibition in Louisiana" will complement the major exhibition "Spirited: Prohibition in America", which opens on June 25, 2016. The summer camp theme this year is "Have a Roaring Good Time" with fun built around pop culture from the

'20s and 30's including gum shoe detectives, comic book heroes, and flappers. Registration opened in March.

The first quarter of 2016 saw the successful opening of "Cohn High School: How We Love Thee," the annual Student Art Show, and "Go Love Africa" exhibits. We truly appreciate the communities' partnerships for all three of these exhibitions. The museum's annual volunteer appreciation event this year will be a Barn Dance to be held April 3rd from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The 2015 volunteers of the year will be announced at the dance. We love all of our volunteers!

Remember, history happens all around us, not just in the museum! Look forward to the release of the new three-volume sequel to the West Baton Rouge Families book published by the West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society. The books will be available in the museum's gift shop. And congratulate all 200 hundred local students who participated in the 2016 Regional National History Day competition on March 19, 2016 at the museum.

Gotta love history!

See you at the museum.

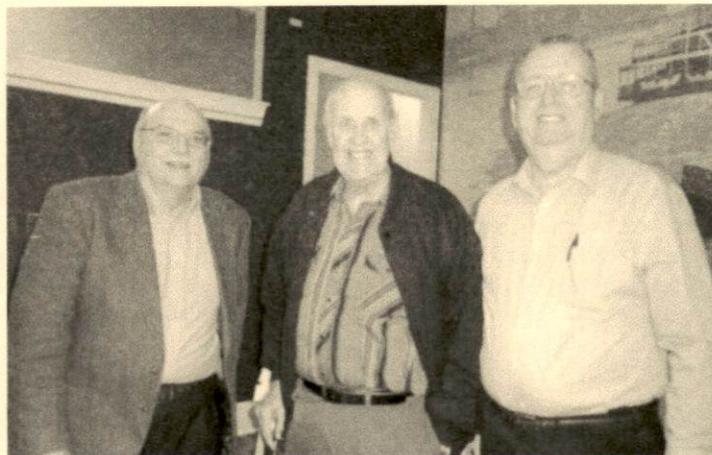
Julie

Julie Rose, Ph.D.





Brian Falcon and Wilhemenia DeCuir discuss the Cohn High School Exhibit.



Garry Hubble, Jim Charleville, and Ellis Gauthier visit at the reception.



Eleanor Favrot, Joyce Millard, Jeannie Lockett, and Linda Collins enjoy refreshments.



Alice LeBlanc, Dorene Mayeux, Mary Bennett, and Fannie Easterly visit at the reception.



Janice Hebert, Jane Brou and Jo Busse discuss future projects.



Kim Callegan, Jeannie Lockett, and Evva Wilson discuss future plans.

2016 Historical Association Board of Directors

Babs Babin	Jason Hammack	2016 Officers
Joyce Barbier	Garry Hubble	President
Jane Brou	Dorene Mayeux	Ellis Gauthier
Jessamy Charette	Janet Simoneaux	Vice President
David Couvillon	Lorry Trotter	Kim Callegan
Wilhemenia DeCuir	Elisa Tubbs	Secretary
Glen E. DeMourelle	Evva Wilson	Mary Bennett
Brian Falcon		Treasurer
		Janice Hebert

Cohn High School: How We Love Thee

The reception for the exhibit, "Cohn High School: How We Love Thee" on February 28, 2016 was well attended with over 150 guests. The exhibit was curated by Angelique Bergeron and Kathe Hambrick and designed by Lauren Hawthorne. Museum intern Jenna Steward wrote the publication manuscript, which was the basis for the exhibit. Cohn High School Alumni Association liaisons were Joycelyn Green and Wilhemenia DeCuir. The reception included a commemorative dance piece choreographed by Mina Estrada, who is with the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, and performed by four generations of Cohn High School alumni and their descendants. The project included the publication of a soft cover book, "The 20-Year History of Cohn High School: The Only High School for African Americans in West Baton Rouge Parish" with support from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities; a video produced by the museum and FantomLight, and an Oral History Collection with interviews from alumni and faculty funded by DOC DHL; and a growing museum collection of artifacts that will preserve the story of Cohn High School for perpetuity. The video is now on YouTube and copies of "The 20-Year History of Cohn High School" are available for free at the museum.

The museum partnered with the Cohn High School Alumni Association, DOC DHL, LSU, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, WBRP School Board, Zachary Historic Village, McKinley High School Alumni Association, River Road African American Museum, and the City of Port Allen. We are grateful to the community for support, memorabilia, photographs and stories.

The exhibit demonstrates that even though the school is no longer standing, Cohn continues to be important to parish residents and their families, many who now live across the nation. Cohn's history is also a part of the national narrative, illustrating how racially segregated education impacted our communities and inspired civil rights achievements. As Mrs. DeCuir stated in the video, "I can no longer show my grandchildren Cohn High School, I can now only say this is the site where Cohn used to be." More than the building, however, Cohn High School fostered careers in science, politics, sports, education and the arts and shaped families for many generations. The spirit of the school is still in West Baton Rouge. With the oral histories, records, and artifacts safely preserved at the museum, the school keeps giving and teaching even after the walls have come down.



Pictured above (L-R): Wes Watts, WBRP School Superintendent, Julie Rose museum director, Wilhemenia DeCuir, immediate past President of the Cohn High School Alumni Association, Joycelyn Green, President of the Cohn High School Alumni Association and Angelique Bergeron, Curator.



Friends and former classmates visit at the reception for the exhibit "Cohn High School: How We Love Thee."

**Visit the West Baton Rouge Museum Store for your
Mother's Day and Graduation Needs**

Museum Store
BOOKS & GIFTS

The Museum Store has a large selection of items for the mother or grandmother in your life: From unique jewelry pieces, scarves, handbags, and hand-made soaps to cook-books, aprons, embroidered tea towels and one of a kind cutting boards. You're sure to find something even for those hard to please. For the graduate, there is a wide selection of

note cards, books, jewelry, photo frames and ties. All items are reasonably priced and sales support the Museum's mission and programs.

The Museum Store is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Come in and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee while you shop. For further information, call 336-2422 ext. 19 or email Gwenn at gwenn.lavolette@gmail.com.



**West Baton Rouge Museum Hosts
National History Day Contest**

The West Baton Rouge Museum welcomed students and judges on Saturday, March 19, 2016 to participate in the Greater Baton Rouge National History Day Contest. National History Day is a highly regarded academic program for middle and high school students with the support of prominent institutions such as the History Channel, The Smithsonian, and the National World War II Museum. Each year, more than half a million students nationwide participate in the National History Day competition. It's an exciting learning opportunity that cultivates an interest in history and encourages critical thinking and problem solving skills.



Students from the twelve parish region were invited to compete as individuals or in groups by choosing a topic and doing research that addresses the theme, "Exploration, Encounter & Exchange." Students presented their findings in one of five different categories: *exhibit, research paper, performance, documentary, or web site*. Students placing 1st - 4th in each category will advance to the state competition at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans in April, and potentially to the national level in Washington, D.C. in June, where students compete for scholarships and cash prizes.

This was the fifth year that the West Baton Rouge Museum hosted the regional National History Day competition. The popular program has attracted a growing number of teachers, students, and volunteer judges. Thanks to all that participated.



**Have A
Roaring
Good Time**



Calling all gum shoe detectives, comic book heroes and flappers! A slapstick adventure waits for children ages 6-12 complete with mystery, mayhem, music and pop culture from the 1920's and 30's at summer history camp.

**Two one week sessions to choose from:
June 20-24 or June 27-July 1**

Space is limited. Advanced paid registration required.

For more information:
225-336-2422 ext. 15
www.westbatonrougemuseum.com

**WEST
BATON
ROUGE
MUSEUM**



Wilhemenia DeCuir WBR Historical Association Volunteer

Although a relatively new board member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, Wilhemenia DeCuir is always ready and willing to serve her community. Her interest in children and their formation led her to devote much time to education as a teacher and tutor in schools and churches. Her entire adult life has been devoted to children, education and the betterment of the community. She taught school in West Baton Rouge for 42 years where she served as librarian at Cohn High, Port Allen Middle, and Port Allen High Schools.

When asked what her passion is, DeCuir immediately said the Cohn High School Alumni Association! She was instrumental in assisting with the recent Cohn High School: How We Love Thee Exhibit and Reception at the West Baton Rouge Museum and worked hand-in-hand with Museum Director Julie Rose in gathering artifacts, and information for the Cohn High School booklet, "The 20-Year History of Cohn High School: The Only High School for African Americans in West Baton Rouge."

A native of Erwinville and daughter of the late Rev. Freddie and Doretha Williams, she moved to Port Allen when she was six and attended Port Allen Colored Elementary School from 1st to 7th grade and then Cohn Junior/Senior High School in 8th grade. She is a graduate of Cohn High School and an active member of the Cohn High School Alumni Association. She attended LSU for two summer sessions and graduated from Southern University A&M with a Masters plus 30.

Following her marriage to Martin Dale DeCuir she moved to Baton Rouge and tutored in various East Baton Rouge schools and worked with several pilot programs and served as Director of Christian Education.

She is an active member of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, West Baton Rouge Retired Teachers Association, and serves as chair of WBRT Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. She also volunteers twice a week at Oschner Medical Center.

Wilhemenia and her husband have two daughters, Valencia and Ilona (deceased) and five grandchildren who love to spend time with their grandparents.



Angelique Bergeron
Curator of Collections

Curator's Corner

Don't Miss Our Spring Exhibits!

The exhibition, **Go Love Africa: Portraits from Uganda and Madagascar** will be on display at the West Baton Rouge Museum through April 30, 2016. The exhibit features the photography of Aaron Williams, former editor of the West Side Journal, and Nathan Dewberry who together travelled

to Uganda in 2014 and Madagascar in 2015 with their cameras and printers. The duo established the non profit organization Go Love Africa, which is dedicated to providing individuals from less privileged communities around the world with photos of themselves. Williams and Dewberry aim to bring the precious gift of self-portraiture to people who have never had a photo. Since 2013 and in this way Go Love Africa is spreading love and kindness to people in remote African villages with the opportunity to own a photo of themselves - something so many lack. The two photographers have invited five more photographers to join them in their mission to photograph everyday people and to provide their sitters with a portrait of themselves as a goodwill venture.

The communities Go Love Africa documented in the current exhibition at the WBRM in their photographs often lived in sugar farming communities. Williams and Dewberry visited sugarcane fields and mills and interviewed some sugarcane farmers.

The exhibition, **Angela Gregory: From Paris to Port Allen**, will be

on display at the West Baton Rouge Museum from April 2 through June 12, 2016. The exhibit features the art and sculpture of Angela Gregory including her work on the Bienville Monument, the Henry Watkins Allen Monument, the Negro Project, as well as personal and religious works. On loan from the Newcomb Museum of Fine Art, the exhibit will showcase *La Belle Augustine* and *Faithful George*. Other pieces on display come from LSU Museum of Art, The Old State Capitol, The Foundation for Historical Louisiana, The Historic New Orleans Collection, The Water Institute of the Gulf, The Angela Gregory Estate, The West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and private collections.

Born in New Orleans in 1903, Angela Gregory graduated from Newcomb College in 1925 and received a scholarship to study art at the Paris branch of the Parson's School of Fine and Applied Arts. Once in Paris she sought out Auguste Rodin's student Antoine Bourdelle with whom she studied for two years. Upon returning to New Orleans, she received numerous commissions throughout Louisiana and the United States including the Henry Watkins Allen monument in Port Allen.

Gregory (1903-1990) was one of thousands of American women who ventured into professional vocations. This early 20th century generation of women envisioned themselves as members of the industrial age and intended to be contributors to society through professional work. Gregory exemplifies this social phenomenon by attending college, serving in apprenticeships, and training with an accomplished academic sculptor. This exhibition looks at the artist's career through her artistic portfolio, which provides a lens focused on the rise of professional women in a world once exclusively open to men.

For more information visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.com or call (225) 336-2422 x 15.

Calendar of Events

April 2 - June 12: *Angela Gregory: From Paris to Port Allen*, a retrospective exhibition on the life and artwork of the Louisiana artist.

April 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm: Volunteer Appreciation Barn Dance.

April 16, noon - 2:00 pm: "3D Safari: A Family Sculpture Workshop," Work with professional artist and educator, Cetin Ates who will lead participants through the process of creative problem solving, building, gluing, and painting to make a masterpiece and a memorable afternoon! Free. Space is limited. Advance reservations required.

April 24, 2:30 pm: Gallery Talk "Angela Gregory: An Artist Inspired" Enjoy a lecture/tour of the exhibit with art historian Susan Hymel.

May 7 - September 4: An exhibition, Huey Long and the Noble Experiment: Prohibition in Louisiana.

May 18, noon: Lunchtime Lecture, "Angela Gregory: From Paris to Port Allen" with Historic New Orleans Collection art historian Judith Bonner. Free.

May 26, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: "Sculpture and Sangria with Cetin Ates. Evening Art Experience for Adults,"— Slip into summer with a fun night of cocktails and making 3-dimensional art with a professional sculptor. Free. *Space is limited.* Advance reservations required.

Have a Roaring Good Time at the Blast from the Past Summer Camp

June 20 - June 25: Session One Blast from the Past Summer Camp

June 27 - July 1: Session Two Blast from the Past Summer Camp

A slapstick adventure awaits little rascals (ages 6 – 12) complete with mystery, mayhem, music, and pop culture from the 1920's and 1930's at West Baton Rouge Museum's summer history camp.

June 25 - August 14: An exhibition, *Spirited: Prohibition in America*. Prohibition was a part of the Constitution. Ratified in 1919, the 18th Amendment stirred up a passionate debate between "wets" and "drys" that will forever cement Prohibition's place in history.

July 19, 20, 21: Teachers Institute: The theme will center around the 1920's and 30's. Registration is required. Online at westbatonrougemuseum.com and by calling (225) 336-2422 x15.

July 25: WBR Historical Association's Christmas in July Card Party at the WBR Community Center, Port Allen.

West Baton Rouge Historical Association

2016 Membership dues are now due

Please send your check to: WBRHA

845 North Jefferson, Port Allen, LA 70767

See Membership form on the last page for dues amount

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.	Lagniappe Dulcimer Society
Dana A. Ayo	Mim and Najma Landry
Babs Babin and Family	Harry L. Laws Co., Inc.
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	Jonathan & Brandi LeFeaux
Baton Rouge Community College	Calvin & Becky Mayeux
Michael & Jan Becnel	Jane P. Middleton
Marlene Benedetto/Hubbens	Modernaires Dance Club
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron	Andrea & Joey Normand
Carolyn Blanchard	Dr. J. H. Odom, Jr.
Mike & Pat Blanchard	Dr. Philip & Monica Padgett
Sue & Sid Blanchard	Placid Refinery
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno	Rod Prejean & Assoc., Inc.
Carroll & Carolyn Bourgeois	Rabalais Law
Holli C. Breaux *	Richard's Printing
Barry & Susan Brewer	Thelma & Noah P. Rizan, Jr.
Jane Brou & Family	James & Theresa Rizzutto
Business First Bank	Edana Robnett
Kim & Kerry Callegan	Julie & Kenny Rose
Kym & Tony Cashiola	Stacy Ryan
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley W. Coates	Claire Sarradet
Cou-yon's BBQ-Port Allen	Dixie Scalise
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies, L.P.	Janet Simoneaux
Glen Daigle	Bob & Connie Smith
Chad & Ashley Doiron *	Sneaux Balls to Geaux/Carol Quattrone
The Dow Chemical Company	Bobby & Ruth Stanley
Ann Neal Dugas & Family *	Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Tina Englade *	Mike & Ellen Tauzin
Linda Lowe Erley	Lorry & Bill Trotter
ExxonMobil	Al & Cathy Troy
Don & Marie Favrot	Margot G. Turk
William H. Forman, Jr.	J. Kenneth Washington
Beryl Fourroux *	West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
Ellis Gauthier & Family	West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau
Sara & George "Skipper" Grady	West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones	West Side Women's Club
Terry & Steve Guidry	Westside Homeschoolers
Jason Hammack/Court Street Café	
Lee & Michelle Hart	
Garry Hubble Family	Welcome to New Friends:
Hugh's Place, Inc.	Holli C. Breaux
Iberville Bank	Chad & Ashley Doiron
Edmond & Stacie Jordan	Ann Neal Dugas & Family
Caroline Kennedy	Tina Englade
Janice Kitchens-Melancon	Beryl Fourroux
LA Farm Bureau Federation	*Denotes New Friends Member



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

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Acquisitions Memorial Fund

- Sarah Corkern – Bobby & Ruth Stanley
- J. L. Wilson – Ruth & Bobby Stanley
- J. L. Wilson – Alice & Chris LeBlanc
- J. L. Wilson – Babs Babin
- J. L. Wilson – West Side Women’s Club

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

- Tom Bernard – Ron & Genie Hendry
- J. L. Wilson – Ron & Genie Hendry

Frank Carruth III Children’s Fund

- Mike Ryan – Morris Farms Partnership, LLC

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DONATION FORM

Please fill out the form, enclose your donation made payable to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association in an envelope and mail to: West Baton Rouge Historical Association, 845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767. Only one acknowledgement card will be sent per donation. Thank you.

FROM: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE MAIL CARD TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NOTE: Place an (X) next to the Memorial Fund to which you wish to send your donation.

ACQUISITIONS FUND _____ ETHEL CLAIRBONE DAMERON FUND _____

FRANK CARRUTH III CHILDREN’S FUND _____ (make checks payable to WBR Museum)

GENERAL FUND _____ MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND _____

The WBR Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax exempt. Thank you for supporting the WBR Historical Association.

Membership Form – 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please check the membership category you wish to join.

Student \$10.00 _____

Friends \$100.00
(businesses/individuals) _____

Member \$20.00
(individuals) _____

Patrons \$35.00
(families/individuals) _____

Make checks payable to West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and mail to 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.