



Federation of GBR Civic Associations *Meeting Notice & Newsletter*



Keeping our members informed—our most valuable Benefit of Membership

Please Share with your association members!

This publication is intended for the private use of Federation member associations and their respective members. Please do not share the contents of this document outside of our membership community without permission from the Federation Board.

Any questions or comments, please submit to: FGBRCA@gmail.com or call 225.315.1206

February 2024

Monthly Member Meeting

The Federation will not be meeting in February (reminder, we meet on the odd numbered months, unless a pressing matter arises).

What's in Store for the Federation in 2024

2024 is forecasted to be another challenging (and busy) year with a number of both new and continuing activities, namely;

- important new HOA Legislation being introduced – changes to the HOA act will be introduced and rebranded as the Planned Community Act. Once the proposal has received final review through the Louisiana State Law Institute, we will get a copy of the legislation for our members, understand how our members will be impacted, and determine what level of legal review we will need,
- the impact of the **Corporate Transparency Act of 2024** that may impact our HOA nonprofit corporations. This purpose of this legislation is to combat tax fraud, money laundering and financing for terrorism. We will research and share the pertinent information,

- local and national elections, including Mayoral, Councilmembers and whatever comes of the Congressional and Presidential races,
- a reassessment of parishwide property values which should be very interesting given the recent inflation in housing values,
- traffic and transportation projects – I-10 widening and parishwide MovEBR projects all happening at the same time – how can we be involved in communication,.
- stormwater drainage utility fee will come to fruition – the Federation has several members on the team – this effort is moving much slower than the initial sense of urgency would have demanded. This has the possibility of becoming a campaign issue. We will also continue to monitor and challenge the progress on cleaning out all the main tributaries in the parish,
- planning & zoning challenges to ensure responsible growth. The Federation will continue to monitor and communicate the monthly agendas and help our members prepare for any potential challenges,
- Litter and neighborhood blight – the Federation is an active member of the Mayor’s BrightenUp BR initiative and will explore opportunities that make sense for our members' participation,
- SafeBR is a coalition of government, businesses, non-profits (including the Federation) and others who are working together to find solutions to BR’s crime problems utilizing national best practices. The stated goal is to reduce BR’s homicide incident rate by 50% in 10 years by addressing the root causes,
- Continuing efforts to educate our members on ways to improve the effectiveness of HOA leaders through our HOA workshop and selected monthly meeting topics. To also initiate an internal HOA help network of our associations to facilitate our motto of “neighbors helping neighbors”,
- Short Term rentals, continue to monitor the effectiveness of the City Parish ordinance and proposed suggested improvements.

2023 Federation Recognition Awards

At the January Federation member meeting, two teams received the 2023 Annual Awards for their efforts to exemplify the Federation's mission. The teams recognized were:

HOA Workshop Committee

Including Sherry Guarisco, Debra Simino, Angela White and Margrett Fels

Economic Development District Challenge

Including Carolyn and Randy Rice, and Charles Perilloux

Please click the following link to see pictures and read more about their accomplishments. <https://fgbrca.org/RECOGNITION-AWARDS>

IT Problems with Cox Emails ending up in SPAM folders

The Federation is aware of problems with communications (email blasts) from our WildApricot membership application to our members that end up in your SPAM folder starting around mid December 2023. These communications would include the monthly newsletter, the Planning Commission agenda summaries as well as invoices for the 2024 membership dues. As of now, the problem seems to be isolated to those members who utilize Cox.net web mail service. Multiple attempts to get Cox to remove the Federation's domain (fgbrca.org) from their domain "blacklist" have gone unresolved. We continue to work the issue but will make sure communications happen through alternate means. **The monthly newsletters can also be retrieved through our website at <https://fgbrca.org/page-18118>**

For members who have Cox.net email service, please be aware that your emails will be transitioning to Yahoo email. We are not sure if this is exacerbating the problems we are experiencing or not. Also, beginning in February 2024, new requirements for both Google and Yahoo will take place to make emails safe and secure from fraudulent emails. These requirements will set specifications for message authentication, reporting and conformance. If you believe you are not receiving the normal communications from the Federation, please contact us to investigate.

Please see this link for more info about Cox.net email users:

<https://www.cox.com/residential/support/coxnet-email-transitioning-to-yahoo.html>

Neighborhood Registry

In 1993, an Action Item of the Baton Rouge Comprehensive Plan ([FUTUREBR](#)) was to create and maintain a comprehensive list of neighborhood organizations that is used to communicate issues and notify of the public of meetings. The Neighborhood Registry is shared by the Planning Commission with City-Parish agencies to develop a coordinated communication system regarding neighborhood information. The Federation implemented a webpage back in 2022 to allow our members to access and update this information. If you haven't done so, please visit this site and either update or register your association's contact info.

<https://fgbrca.org/City-Parish-Neighborhood-Registry>

Membership Renewal Update

Invoices were emailed on January 5th to each member's Authorized Delegate. Currently, over half of our 112 members have renewed with many others letting us know that their renewal will be sent soon. Thank you!!

We have had a challenge with members using a cox.net email address but have reached out to those members individually. **(See article above on Cox.net).**

Any questions or need assistance, email fgbrcamember@gmail.com or text/call Sherry Guarisco at 225-963-7383.

Our goal is 100% renewal!

2024 Legislative Advocacy Update

The Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature begins at noon on Monday, March 11, ending no later than Monday, June 3 at 6pm. Prefiled legislation can be found at www.legis.la.gov (Bills/2024 Session). Because this is a regular session, there is no limit to the number of bills that can be prefiled, with over 50 pieces of legislation already prefiled. Another special session, focused on crime, is likely to be held prior to the convening of the Regular Session. The Federation’s Legislative Advocacy Committee watches for proposed legislation that could affect homeowners. If you are interested in joining the committee, email fgrca@gmail.org or call Sherry Guarisco at 225-963-7383.

2024 Member Meetings

2024 Federation Meeting Proposal		
<i>Month</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>
Jan	In Person	Year in review, Introduce board, 2024 focus, recognition
Feb	No meeting	<i>Available if pressing focus area issues surfaces</i>
Mar	Virtual	HOA topic, pressing focus area issue
Apr	No meeting	<i>Available if pressing focus area issues surfaces</i>
May	In Person	2 hr HOA style workshop (notionally on Saturday)
Jun	No meeting	<i>Available if pressing focus area issues surfaces</i>
Jul	Virtual	HOA topic, pressing focus area issue
Aug	No meeting	<i>Available if pressing focus area issues surfaces</i>
Sep	In Person	2 to 4 hr HOA style workshop (notionally on Saturday)
Oct	Virtual	HOA topic, business issues related to annual meeting
Nov	Virtual	Annual meeting, elect directors, vote on any proposals
Dec	No meeting	<i>Enjoy the Holidays</i>

Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts

The Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts committee will be meeting in the upcoming year from 6:00 to 7:00 on the following dates (third Wednesday in the month the Federation meets):

March 20
May 15
July 17
October 16

Robert D. Harper
Riverbend Crime Prevention and Improvement District

Key - Recurring City Parish Meetings

Metro Council

Dates: February 5th, 14th, 31st

Agenda Center: <https://www.brla.gov/agendacenter>

Planning Commission

Date: February 19th at 5PM

Agenda: <https://la-batonrouge.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02192024-1755>

Board of Adjustment

Date: January 5th

Agenda: <https://www.brla.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02022024>

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