



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

December 2025



As we near the end of 2025, I recall past President Ed Lagucki's words from our December 2024 newsletter: "It should be nothing but a wild ride." His prediction proved true. This year brought major changes to our City-Parish and the Federation, reshaping our landscape.

Parish Governance: A Year of Change

East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sid Edwards began his term in January 2025, facing the challenge of stabilizing finances after a revenue shift of over \$50 million to the new city of St. George. Several proposals were offered, including a millage for the District Attorney's office and the THRIVE BR plan, but both were defeated. The Metro Council approved the 2026 budget in December, foreseeing staff cuts and service concerns. For the first time, the EBR Library is operating without a dedicated millage, and we expect a continuation millage proposal in 2026. The path forward with these financial and governance changes are tough, prompting us all to reassess what we value most. We expect 2026 to bring new proposals that will need your attention. The Federation Board will continue monitoring tax millage proposals and legislative issues to keep you informed, because educated citizens vote—and we believe our members are voters!

Federation Leadership Transition

After years of dedicated service, two longtime board members have stepped down. Roby Shields served for six years, working on virtually every committee and assisting with every event. And, our longtime president, Ed Lagucki, stepped down in April. His steady leadership helped us navigate many challenges. We thank Ed and Roby for their years of dedicated service to the Federation.

The Federation has benefited from the guidance of immensely talented board members over the years. As President, I consider it a privilege to work with our board and thank our officers, Debra Simino, Vice-President; Margrett Fels, Secretary; and Steve Bradshaw, Treasurer. We are pleased to welcome new board members, David West and Jamie Goodman, who bring fresh energy and perspectives. Their insights are already shaping our work, ensuring the Federation stays responsive to your needs. We look to our growth in

membership as an indicator of success. Membership has doubled over the past decade. Thank you for your membership!

Looking Ahead to 2026

If 2025 has shown us anything, it's that change can also be an opportunity for growth. Our City Parish governance is adapting, St. George is testing new strategies in operations, and the Federation continues to focus on our members' needs. We remain committed to advocating for transparent, effective government and supporting you through these times.

Thank you for your ongoing support, feedback, and involvement in strengthening our neighborhoods, municipalities, and parish government. The ride in 2026 may still be wild, but as long as we're working together, we believe we can build a brighter future for all.

We wish you and your loved ones holidays filled with love, laughter and joy. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and heartfelt best wishes for traditions that bring your family together.

Sherry Guarisco, Board President

2026 Board of Directors & Officers

At the November annual meeting, the membership unanimously elected the slate of Board of Directors as presented. New officers were elected at the December Board meeting.

Your 2026 Board is pictured below, front row (left to right): Adrienne Bowser (Riverbend), President Sherry Guarisco (Central Highlands), Vice-President Debra Simino (Sherwood Forest), Secretary Margrett Fels (Oakbrook), and Angela White (Southern Heights). Back row: (left to right) are: Harry Horton (Parkwood Terrace), David West (Melrose), Past Vice President Roby Shields (Hidden Oak), Steve Oivanki (Pollard Estates), Past President Ed Lagucki (Palm Hills), Steve Bradshaw (Village Charmont Condos), Monty McNutt (Old Jefferson) and Jamie Goodman (Lakeside).



2026 Federation Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Federation meetings are held quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of the 2nd month of the quarter (February, May, August and November). Along with keeping members connected to issues impacting their neighborhoods, the meetings offer attendees a first-hand opportunity to network with each other, get resource information and stay abreast of the latest governmental developments.

In-Person meetings: Quarterly meetings will all be held at the Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd., 70806 beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, February 12

Thursday, May 14

Thursday, August 6 (1st Thursday)

Thursday, November 12

Special Informational Meetings via Zoom: Informational meetings may be called to address critical issues as needed. These will be held on the 2nd Thursday in the months in which an in-person meeting is not held. Notification of such meeting will be sent via email. For example, in 2025, two special meetings were called to provide information on upcoming millage elections.

2026 Membership Drive

The Federation concluded 2025 with a total of 113 member associations throughout East Baton Rouge Parish, collectively representing approximately 70,000 homeowners. This accomplishment is especially notable when reflecting on our growth over the past decade. In 2012, our membership included just 49 associations. By 2022, that number had more than doubled, reaching 111 associations. For the past four years, from 2022 through 2025, we have successfully maintained this higher level of membership, achieving an impressive renewal rate that is nearly 100%.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who continue to support the Federation. Your commitment and involvement are vital to our ongoing success. We are especially grateful for your role in bringing new members into our community—word of mouth remains the primary source of our new associations. Membership dues for the coming year remain unchanged, with rates set at \$75, \$55, or \$35, scaled according to the size of each association. We hope your association will choose to continue its membership with us in 2026.

As in previous years, an invoice for membership renewal will be emailed to the Authorized Delegate (AD) of each association on January 2nd. Membership renewals are due by January 31st. The AD can easily forward the invoice to the treasurer or other appropriate officers if needed. Payment options include both check and online payments, ensuring convenience for all member associations. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to email us at fbgrcamember@gmail.com or text/call Debra Simino, Vice-President, at 225-571-2192 or email debrasimino@gmail.com.

St. George Happenings

A study has been commissioned by the City of St. George to explore the possibility of having a new multi-use sports and events space built. Once the study is completed in January 2026, more information on location.

architectural design and programming will be announced.

The next St. George Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 5:00PM at the St. George Fire Station 14100 Airline Hwy. Agendas are posted on stgeorgela.gov.

The Crime Prevention & Improvement District Discussion Group

Congratulations to South Burbank Crime Prevention and Development District. In the recent tax elections where the voting public seemed to turn down every tax measure, they were the exception. Their Parcel Fee Renewal was approved 195 to 154 or by a 56% to 44% margin. They must be doing a good job!

For more info, contact Bob Harper
Home 225-767-6859
Cell 225-218-7804,
Bharper3@cox.net



Christmas Ponderings:

It's the only time of year you can sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of a sock.

The four stages of life:

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

Where treetops glisten and children listen?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!