



Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Summer 2025

Volume 25 - Issue 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight on the
Aging Network 2-12

Hurricane Season 13-14

The Louisiana
Executive Board
on Aging &
Making a
Difference 15

Welcome New
Staff 16

FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!



From the Director's Chair...

As you are no doubt aware, the Legislature adjourned its annual Regular Session on June 12, 2025. GOEA was pleased that our budget was accepted in House Bill 1. We were also very pleased that House Bill 126 was successful, as that permanently increases state funding for each Council on Aging. We attended the signing of House Bill 263, which will facilitate our Elderly Protective Services investigators' requests for crucial financial records when investigating alleged financial exploitation. House Bill 363 was signed, making the exploitation of elderly persons a specific crime, punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of \$10,000.

The federal budget procedure is ongoing, but thus far, we are pleased overall with the proposed funding for most of our senior programs. We will keep you informed as we receive more information.

Thank you for all you do every day for Louisiana's seniors!

Sincerely,

Amanda Smith, Executive Director



In the Spotlight

Vermilion Council on Aging: We had a highly successful Mother's Day Brunch on May 8, 2025, for clients at our Abbeville Senior Center. Fifty clients attended. They did a coloring exercise to sharpen cognitive skills and inspire creativity. We served a Brunch meal that included eggs, bacon, waffles, biscuits, pastries, and fruit juices. Door prizes were given and a great time was had by all.



Pointe Coupee Council on Aging: Celebrated Older Americans Month with Bingo and a Crawfish Boil!



Jefferson Council on Aging:

Lafitte Senior Center's
Spring birthday party!



Lafitte Senior Center's
Mother's Day Luncheon!



Jefferson Senior Center
Senior Game Winners!



Mr. Giovanni Santini winner
Gold in Darts and Silver in
Cornhole!



Mr. Arthur Perez Silver
winner Texas Hold'em!



Mr. Jack Thompson
Gold Winner Billiards!



Easter Craft at Lafitte
Senior Center!



Art Painting Fun at Lafitte Senior Center!



Livingston Council on Aging: Our Senior Health Fair was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025!

Congratulations to Mr. William and Mrs. Marie!
They were married at the Council on June 4, 2025.
This was the second wedding so far in 2025!



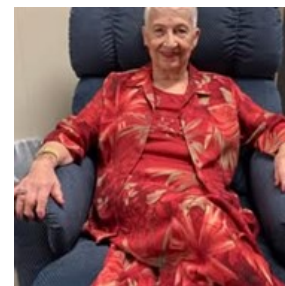
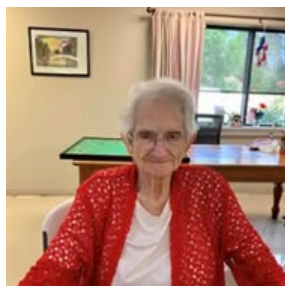
Wizard of Oz Themed Annual Meeting!



Jefferson Davis Council on Aging: Celebrated Older Americans Month with a Crawfish Boil that was sponsored by our District Attorney.



Sabine Council on Aging: We are saddened by the passing of three of our clients and one of our drivers. Picture below from left to right is: Billie Lou Luster Passed 3-15-25 (91), Robert Lilly, Jr passed 4-07-25 (78), Betty Craig passed 5-16-25 (77), and Sue Hayden passed 5-27-25 (84). Thank you, Mr. Robert Lilly, Jr. for 10 years of dedicated service to the Sabine Council on Aging. This is not good bye, this is see you later.



Staff/board members love participating in the Special Olympics, this is one event they always look forward too!

Toledo clients enjoyed a trip to the Alexandria Zoo and lunch!



Happy Birthday to Ms. Gail Palmer!



In honor of Older Americans Month, our clients from all four sites enjoyed a Senior Prom themed “Under the Sea” on May 2, 2025 at our Toledo site!



Caldwell Council on Aging: Celebrated Older Americans Month on May 22, 2025 with good food, live music, and dancing.



Mr. Clarence Tucker celebrated his 95th birthday on May 5, 2025!



New Orleans Council on Aging: The New Orleans Senior Fest 2025 was held on May 16, 2025 at the Lakefront Arena. This fun filled event provides older adults with helpful information, answers to questions, a chance to interact with city officials and departments, entertainment, food, prizes, and a good time!



Franklin Council on Aging: Held a Ladies Tea Party on May 8, 2025, at the Wisner Meal Site. A great time was had!



Lafourche Council on Aging: Lockport Senior Center clients having fun playing games!



Ascension Council on Aging: Celebrated Easter with a party and a hat contest! We had over 40 participants in our hat contest.



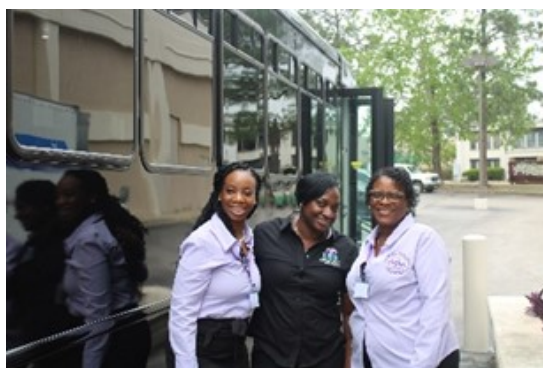
Tea Party to Celebrate May Birthdays!



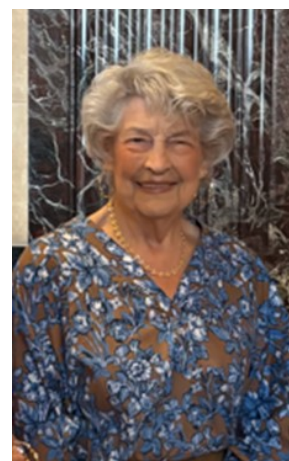
**Ms. Ida Smith
celebrated her 91st
Birthday on May
23rd!**



East Baton Rouge Council on Aging: The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) held its Statewide Spring Conference April 1st – April 3rd. Through a collaboration between GOEA and our CEO, Mrs. Tasha Clark-Amar, a networking tour was held on April 1st for all conference attendees. Attendees were able to tour Lotus Headquarters, Lotus Village Senior Living Community, the CareSouth Geriatrics Medical Center, the Ageless Circle, and finished up at The Lotus Senior Center with a wonderful reception. Team EBRCOA was thrilled to host this tour for our fellow Council on Aging mates and we look forward to all the great things to come as a result of it. During the remaining conference dates, we heard from key speakers on policies and procedures, attended breakout sessions, and made connections with several supporters from across the state.



Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs: Would like to wish Ms. Pat Jones a very Happy Birthday, She turned 95 in May!



Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs: GOEA was very pleased to attend the signing of House Bill 263. Signing this bill into law grants the Office of Elderly Affairs the necessary authority to more efficiently obtain financial records from banks to protect vulnerable elderly adults from financial abuse.



GOEA's 2025 Subgrantee Conference was held on April 1-3, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We are happy to announce the conference was a success and we look forward to more events in the future! Thank you to all of the presenters, participants, and staff for your help making this event a success!



Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1st through November 30th. Although the potential for storm surge and tidal flooding is primarily a concern for South Louisiana residents, other hurricane effects, such as high winds, tornados, and heavy rainfall with flooding may affect residents throughout our state. A lack of awareness and preparation is common in all major hurricane disasters. Know your vulnerabilities and what steps you should take to help reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

Understand Warnings

- Hurricane Watch: Conditions are possible in your area, usually within 36 hours.
- Hurricane Warning: Conditions are expected in your area, usually within 24 hours.

Evacuation Tips

- If advised to evacuate by authorities, do so promptly.
- Create a family communications plan—designate a contact outside the storm area.
- Pack emergency supplies: water, food, protective clothing, blankets, or sleeping bags.
- Secure your home: unplug appliances, shut off electricity and water, and secure loose outdoor items.

Before the Storm

- Monitor local news for updates.
- Check and restock your emergency kit.
- Fuel up your vehicle.
- Board up windows and secure outdoor furniture.
- Set refrigerators/freezers to the coldest settings.
- Store safe drinking water.
- Review your evacuation plan.

After the Storm

- Tune in to local radio or TV for guidance from state and local officials.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.

For a complete list of storm preparation guidelines, visit the LA Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness "Get a Game Plan" website at <https://getagameplan.org/> and download the FEMA smartphone application to access important safety tips on what to do before, during, and after a hurricane. Additional sources of information can be found at the below websites:

<http://gohsep.la.gov/>

<http://lsp.org/>

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

<https://www.louisiana211.org/>

<https://511la.org/>

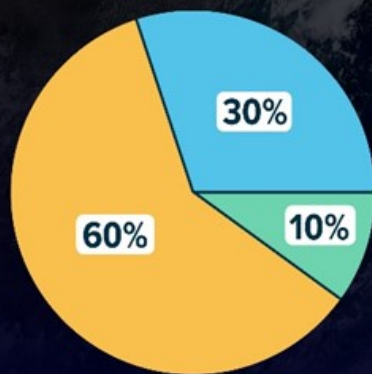
Hurricane Season Outlook

Forecasters within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's) National Weather Service predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season, which goes from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 30% chance of a near-normal season, a 60% chance of an above-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season.



2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

Season Probability



Above Normal



Near Normal



Below Normal

Named Storms

13 - 19

Hurricanes

6 - 10

Major Hurricanes

3 - 5



2025 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Andrea
Barry
Chantal
Dexter
Erin
Fernand
Gabrielle

Humberto
Imelda
Jerry
Karen
Lorenzo
Melissa
Nestor

Olga
Pablo
Rebekah
Sebastien
Tanya
Van
Wendy

Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow NOAA's @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on X.

May 2025

The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

Wednesday, August 27, 2025 @ 11:00AM

The Board members are listed below:

Leslie Keen—Chairwoman

Huey Beverly

Terry Courville

Ann Keene

Willie Lewis

Donald Mallet



Heather Prejean

Charles “Buddy” Pugh

Rene Thibodeaux

Ricco Thomas

Blanche Wilks

Making a Difference

GOEA would like to formally recognize current Area Agency on Aging and Council on Aging Executive Directors that have 25 or more years of service to the Aging Network. Thank you for your substantial contributions and unwavering commitment to Louisiana's senior population!

Jackie Green ~ 25 years with Calcasieu COA

Howard Rogers ~ 26 years with New Orleans COA

Debi Fleming ~ 33 years with Tangipahoa COA

Brenda Hagan ~ 35.5 years with West Carroll COA

Clarissa Newman ~ 36 years with Tensas COA

Charlene Rodriguez ~ 37 years with Lafourche COA

Shannon Broussard ~ 43 years with Cajun AAA

Becky Bergeron ~ 44 years with Point Coupee COA

Liz Cannon ~ 45 years with Red River COA

Dinah Landry ~ 48 years with Cameron COA



***Join us in welcoming our new
team members!***

LaCarlaneshia Smith ~ Elderly Protective Services

Markeisha Stewart ~ Elderly Protective Services

Michael Simmons ~ Elderly Protective Services

Diedre Collins ~ Accounting & Finance

Ashley Beauchamp ~ Accounting & Finance

Danielle Ruffin ~ HCBS Program Monitor

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

602 North 5th Street Suite 435

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Phone: (225) 342-7100

Fax: (225) 342-7133

Website: www.goela.louisiana.gov

