



President: Jan Lemaire
Secretary: Gloria Brady-Cross
Muster Master: Joe Battaglia
Newsletter Editor: Gloria Brady-Cross

Vice President: Bob Comeaux
Treasurer: Anita James
Historian: Denny Olvany
Webmaster: Charley LeBlanc

President Jan Lemaire's Message: December brings so many good things like happy memories of the past, great food traditions, the magic of special days and the opportunity to gather with friends. December brings our Magnolia Christmas and WHAT a gathering we had! If you couldn't make it, we missed you. There were about 40 of us and there was so much laughter that I'm surprised you couldn't hear us wherever you were! We will gather again February 25- March 1st at Sun Roamers. It's centrally located, has a clubhouse, has cabins for those without rigs and was available when the booking we planned tried a little bait and switch and fell through. Fingers crossed that you can join us there!!!

Jan Lemaire, President

Newsletter Editor Message: You missed a good time by all who did make it (about 40 people). I received some pictures from various members who documented our tours, meals, crafts, games, Dirty Santa Game, etc., though I never received a group picture. There was a lot of laughter and comradery shared by all. Thanks to all who helped in making this newsletter. Hope to see all of you back here at Sun Roamers RV Park in Picayune, MS.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Anita James reported at the business meeting that the chapter treasury had a current balance as of Nov 1 2023 of **\$3628.06** and the Fisher House reserve is **\$850.50** of that balance which leaves **\$2777.56** as the available balance. I do not know the amount that was collected for the 50/25/25 Raffle and the Silent Auction at this muster.

Anita also continued collecting the chapter dues of **\$20** for the chapter membership renewal of 2024 at this muster. All members' dues should be paid by Jan 1, 2024. By Feb 1, all unpaid membership dues are considered delinquent and on Mar 1, unpaid members will be deleted from the Magnolia's roster. So, get it done!

Health and Wellness Update of MS Magnolia Members

John and Nancy Arce still did not have their RV back yet because of incorrect parts! Maybe that will be their Christmas gift.

Francis and Lynette Arceneaux had to cancel the Christmas muster because Lynette fell and split her scalp and collected her share of bumps and bruises.

Joe and Shelly Battaglia have sold their Class C RV. They were able to just drive over each day.

Ken and Kitty Buckner still are unable to RV yet. Kitty's last surgery has not eliminated her pain.

Dewey and Kathleen Burke have sold their home and moved into a 55+ apartment condo community in Lafayette. Dewey is scheduled for back surgery to take care of a pinched nerve.

Elaine and Bob Comeaux were able to attend the muster, but Elaine was not feeling well enough to join all of the activities.

Frank and Linda Coates have been RVing all along the coastline and they invited a couple to join us one day. The Bruhn's enjoyed their visit so much they have applied to join us in the future.

Alan and Claudia Esterly joined us at the muster. Alan was recuperating from knee replacement surgery and this was Claudia's first time to join us. She spends much of her time attending her parents who live in Texas.

Mary Ferguson brought some of her patriotic Skipbo boards for sale at the muster. She plans on attending the Feb muster at Sun Roamers.

Warren Kelly and Kathryn had to cancel their attendance at the Christmas muster. They will winter in Florida at the campground where he once lived. Sure did miss his fruitcake cookies!

Frank and Pauline Krenkel had to leave early because Frank became ill. Hope he has recuperated.

Jesse and Anita James will have to make a trip back to Red Bay for repairs before returning home. He also had to use his phone for pictures instead of his camera at this muster.

Charley LeBlanc volunteered his time every morning leading other members (Battaglia, Coates, Glazier, Olvany, Theriot, and Martin) to cook four breakfasts during the muster. He also spent some time doing volunteer work with his church's Christmas donation activities.

Jan and Dave Lemaire's home is still going through the process of being raised several feet into the air to prevent their home from being flooded again. It has been a long slow process.

Jim Martin joined us at Picayune and he is planning to enter the Veteran's Retirement Home in Biloxi once his application is accepted.

Denny and Ann Olvany were able to help in various activities at the muster.

James and Gene Stubbs RV was still in the shop, but they drove in for two days to be with us in some activities.

Judy and Bob Theriot hosted their first muster (which was fantastic) and it created some great memories for all of us.

Diane Thompson says she will be starting her volunteer work with the veterans at Keesler's AFB in January. Lou Finkle is still writing and publishing his articles about SMART.

Nita Taylor has finally finished an extensive and lengthy P/T regimen and Phil has winterize their RV. No traveling until the springtime she says.

Jack and Cathy Vandevender enjoyed the shopping and found some treasures in Picayune's shops.

Don Vardel was able to drive down from Tennessee to join us for the first time in years. Carol was with her daughter celebrating a birthday. Maybe next time, we will get both of them.

Bob Zeller said he missed us but he was attending the White Sands Panhandlers Muster.

I hope everyone else is doing well. Hopefully, some of you will send updates after receiving this newsletter.

Musters of the MS Magnolias

Feb 25-Mar 1 2024 at Sun Roamers RV Park and Resort, Picayune, MS. We need hosts.

Apr 8-13, 2024 at Hollywood Casino RV Park in Bay St. Louis, MS. It is a no-host and no-muster fees muster.

May 3-8, 2024 at Anchors Aweigh RV Resort in Foley, AL. Hosts and costs TBD. We will be in a joint muster with the Florida White Sands Panhandlers Chapter.

Oct 20-25, 2024 (TBD) at Parker's Landing RV Park on Woolmarket exit, MS.(Biloxi) to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of MS Magnolias Chapter. Hosts and costs TBD.

Dec 8-12, 2024 with departure on Dec 13. Christmas Muster at Sun Roamers RV Park and Resort, Picayune, MS: Hosts are needed to work with cohosts Linda and Frank Coates for this Christmas Muster. This is a free muster for all MS Magnolia members. Guests must pay \$20 per person. We will have our Dirty Santa Game as usual. Check out the website for more info and registration forms.

Winners of Games

Hand and Foot Tournament: Winner: Jan Lemaire (Booby) Juanita Glazier

Skipbo Tournament: Team of Juanita and Bob Glazier

Cornhole Tournament: Team of Frank Coates and Bob Glazier

Left: Frank Coates and Bob Glazier, winners of Corn Hole Tournament (Center) Bob Comeaux playing game (Right) Bean Bag Baseball Game players



Left: Lou calling the Card Bingo Game (Center) Winner James Stubbs (Left) Bruhn as guests.



Crafters being taught by Nancy Arce how to make frosted Christmas containers.



Tourers of the H. J. Smiths Sons Museum in Covington, LA



Left: Kitchen helpers for every breakfast (Center) Atchafalaya Restaurant (Right: Meeting



Left: Denny helping Jim Martin with Dirty Santa gift (Center: Joe with one of his choices. (Right: Jesse looking at his choice during Dirts Santa.



LEFT: Elaine and Bob opening their presents the next day. (Center:Bob Theriot choosing his present. (Right: Patsy Erieg getting her gift.





This is the way everyone felt after our busy muster, but Alan beats all of us to it!!!

SMART is a not-for-profit 501(C)19 Veterans Organizations all Donations are Tax Deductible

S*M*A*R*T Inc, 14 Duxbury Ave. Molino, FL 32577