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Health and Wellness Update of MS Magnolia Members

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Magnolias,

A representative group of Magnolias is travelling to Biloxi this Friday, April 25th, to meet with Ron Gribble at Keesler Fisher House 1. There, we will donate \$1,294, which was collected during CY 2024, to Fisher House as our annual donation. After the presentation and subsequent facility tour, the Magnolia group will have lunch at the IP Casino in Biloxi and relax the afternoon. We look forward to this annual presentation and genuinely appreciate all who will attend. Thanks to all who helped make this a reality.

Bob Comeaux,

President

The Magnolias have spent good times during April at the Spring muster at River View RV Park in Vidalia, LA on the banks of the Mississippi River. The weather was shaky on arrival day and some managed to arrive early and others arrived late, but arrive we did, and there was good food, great conversations and of course, games! Some thrifted, some relaxed and some toured the winery and the distillery (see the pics on the next pages. Bet you can tell who did what!).

The river was spectacular and afforded us views of river boats, tugboats and rushing water after the heavy rains. We left before the river level became critical. A notable event saw our muster overlapping with the SMART Louisiana Food and Music Caravan. They invited us to share the results of their jambalaya cooking class. There was seafood jambalaya and chicken and sausage jambalaya. We all brought a dish to share and had a great time meeting new SMART friends and catching up with old friends. Johnny Leggett, the president of SMART Cajuns was the host for the caravan. The food was great and the conversations magnificent. The muster was synonymous with "a great time was had by all," and we capped the week off dining at Crawdaddy's in Vidalia.

Bob and Elaine Comeaux were the cohosts of the muster with Nancy and John Arce as the hosts. Unfortunately, Bob's mother died on April 4th and he and Elaine were unable to attend the muster. Please keep them in your prayers. Losing family is difficult. Nancy and John did a wonderful job as first-time hosts. We had enough illness in our membership that attendance was a little sparse than at past musters. Because of other SMART calendar events, this muster was scheduled to avoid conflicts and fell during Spring musters for other camping groups outside of SMART.

Charley Leblanc tells us that Dianne is working to be able to get into and out of their RV as they are ready to hit the road after a year of inactivity. They were going to try this muster but at the last minute their rig developed a transmission issue and stayed in the shop. Thankfully it was a fixable issue and though the specifics escaped me, I can tell you it involved 11 quarts of transmission fluid after the repair was completed!

Anita and Jesse James were slated to join us even though their rig was in the shop, but Jesse was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia two days before the muster. He is recovering at home now and they hope to see us at one of the summer luncheons.

Lou Finkle and Dianne Thompson sold their motor home two days before the muster and were unable to make a cabin reservation at River View. That makes about 6 chapter members who still want to muster with us even though they are out of the RV business. More on that later.

Bob and Juanita Glazier arrived with their new to them Tiffin Allegro and had a great time. Bob headed up the breakfast kitchen crew along with Bob Zeller. Unfortunately Bob and Juanita had to leave a day early to get back to pick up Juanita's hearing aids at the repair shop because they headed out the Monday after the muster for North Carolina to visit with a son-in-law who was critically ill.

Bob Zeller arrived a day late due to family issues. He shared that his brother died not long before the muster and he was taking care of family business. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers.

Denny and Ann Olvany are doing well. They are in the decision-making process about whether to get another RV. The one they have isn't exactly what they need, and they want to comfortably travel with their dog Ziggy. I get that. As a dog mom myself, I want him to love it as much as I do. Good luck Olvanys as you work through this issue!

Warren Kelly and Catherine Crews mustered with us as Vidalia is the home-town of their childhood. They now live in Saint Francisville and would like us to consider coming for a Civil War battle re-enactment sometime in the future. Warren (who had considered buying a new MH) just finished all kinds of maintenance and upgrade work on his and has decided it's better to keep the issues of which you are aware than to purchase somebody else's issues!

Gloria Cross is doing well but as busy as always with the job of assisting aging family members. She continues to work toward finalizing John's estate. She and Mary Ferguson shared a cabin at River View, and we got to look at the inside of it. It was very nice and makes me wish we could find more parks with the things we need for our cabin campers.

Ron and Patsy Erieg had their computer hacked and have spent a lot of time trying to correct the damage done. Give them a pat on the shoulder the next time you see them and you breathe a sigh of relief that it wasn't YOU!!

One last thing before we look at pictures. We need places to muster. Please search your area for RV parks that have clubhouses with kitchens and that have cabins! I just need one suggestion from each of you. You can email me at janislemaire@hotmail.com with your suggestions. If you can also tell us the rates they charge that's a bonus!!



Breakfast with the early risers



Sunday night Mexican meal



Jambalaya with Louisiana Caravan



Crafty people!!



Thriftng!!



I don't know—You figure it out!!!!



Dinner—one last time—Crawdaddy's

Central Regional Muster, May 12-14, 2025 at Coachlight RV Park in Carthage, Missouri. Central Regional director Nita Taylor is the assigned Muster Master. All Info about the Regional Muster is on the website, but Nita sent an email stating registration fees are to be mailed to Reese Burke and checks are to be written to SMART.

Summer Luncheons, May-September, 2025, first Tuesday of the month at 11 AM at Sedra Bistro, 348 Robert Blvd, Slidell, LA. Hosted by Charley LeBlanc

Sept 15-19, 2025 Mineola, Texas, SMART National Muster. All info is on the SMART website.

October 19-24, 2025 Halloween Muster, at Poche's Breaux Bridge, LA. Hosted by Bob and Juanita Glazier and co-hosted by Gloria Brady-Cross. Information is on the website

Nov 30-Dec 4, 2025 with departure on Dec 5. Christmas Muster at Sun Roamers RV Park and Resort, Picayune, MS: Hosted by Patsy and Ron Erieg, co-host Jan and Dave Lemaire. This is a free muster for all MS Magnolia members. Guests must pay \$20/pp. We will have our Dirty Santa Game as usual. Check out the website for more info and registration forms.

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

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