



# JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

P. O. Box 467  
Jeanerette, Louisiana 70544



VOLUME NO. 1 ISSUE No. 10

## 2015 NEWSLETTER

### REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE A PRIORITY FOR 2015

This past year has been a challenging one for the Society.

Last year it had become apparent that we had serious problems with the front porch, the porch floor, the balustrade around the front porch, the base of the columns, and the three sets of steps connecting the porch with the front yard. When we acquired the Hewes House in 2002, there was no hand railing around the front porch, the porch was rotten in many places, and the bases of the columns were in need of attention. It has been almost 10 years since we completely rebuilt the front porch and installed the balustrade around it. We also repaired the column bases and built steps at the same time. Unfortunately, that good Louisiana weather and some materials which were not properly cured or installed during our last effort, had resulted in premature rot and damage. It first became noticeable a couple of years ago when the balusters began to rot. By the time we were able to undertake a full scale repair, we had to completely rebuild the porch flooring, foundation, balustrade, and repair two of the steps and the bases of the columns. We completed this work mid year at a cost of about \$18,000.00, and painted all of the new construction at an additional cost of \$4,000.00. We also painted the new handicap ramp which was rebuilt in the latter part of 2013. The new ramp takes less space, is a more functional design, and improves the appearance of the house from the Main Street view. A repair to the AC in one of the cottages cost us another \$1,500.00. As you can imagine, these expenses were out of the ordinary, and took a large bite out of our reserves.

The good news is that we hired two master carpenters to do all of the porch work, and bought the best available treated lumber. The men who did the work went down to the foundation and replaced all of the bad supports, as well as replacing most of the decking. The balustrades are completely rebuilt. So I am hoping that this repair will last somewhat longer than 10 years. In addition, we are going to install a gutter around the front porch, which will eliminate a lot of the adverse impact of the rain on the wood.

A couple of pictures show the result of the new work on the porch and handicap ramp.



*Preserve. Educate. Improve.*

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## Page 2

### THANKS TO THE FLOWERREE FOUNDATION AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Additional good news is that the Flowerree Foundation, through Anne Flowerree, and John Hewes Flowerree continue to give us their very generous support. In addition to personal donations from these two benefactors, the Flowerree Foundation gave us an annual grant of \$25,000.00 in December of last year. This money will almost completely cover the repairs we had to make, and has allowed us to fully replenish our reserves. Our most sincere thanks to Anne, John and the Flowerree Foundation.

### INSURANCE UPGRADE

It was inevitable that after all of the work and money we have invested in the Hewes House it would be time to upgrade the insurance coverage we have on the home. The new coverage is considerably greater than we had before, which is a good thing, but the cost also went up 125%. Schwing Insurance, a sustaining Business Member of the Society, helped us to place the new coverage, and we appreciate their assistance.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Because of the work that was in progress, we had to delay the annual membership meeting. The Board has set a date of Saturday, November 7, 2015 for the 2015 Annual Membership meeting. We hope you will join us at the Harry B. Hewes House at 11:00 a.m. We will serve appetizers and drinks.

### YOUR 2015 BOARD



The members of your Board of Directors have continued to devote their time and energy to maintaining the Hewes House and keeping the Society running. We thank them for their service and encourage all of you to let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

If you have any interest in serving on the 2016 Board for the coming year, please let us know.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and help, and we look forward to seeing you on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

First row: Ronald Sovine, George McJunkins, Linda Freeman,  
Second Row: Raymond Allain, Tommy Granger, Red Rosamond,  
Louis Lancon, Dana Bourgeois,. (not pictured: Mary Kay Allain)