2019–20 Connections Officers & Directors

President .......... Rebecca Taylor
President Elect .......... Miriam Douglas
Newsletter Vice President .......... Anita Link
Public Relations Vice President .......... Mary Leblanc
Membership Vice President .......... Amber Doucet
Treasurer .......... Stephanie Funderburk
Arrangements Chair .......... Catrina Dupuis
Program Vice President .......... Misty Carrier
Secretary .......... MeSha Prejean
Board Member at Large .......... Cynthia Beslin

Connections Past Presidents
Cheri Hoff Menckler 1987
Anne Pyle 1987
Nora Dool 1987–1988
Diane Conery 1988–1989
Caleen Lopez 1989–1990
Emilia Bellone 1992–1993
Sherry Pool 1993
Lupe Acosta 1993–1994
Betty Fletcher 1994–1995
Priscilla Gauthier 1995–1996
Vonda Broussard 1996–1997
Sondra Hebert 1997–1998
Marci Post 1998–1999
Rachel Rossler 1999–2000
Kaye Pooler 2000–2001
Carol Condon 2001–2002
Gail Dubois-Broussard 2002–2003
Pat Sonnier 2003–2004
Carolyn Ward 2004–2005
Ruthi Clement 2005–2006
Rose Hoffman Cormier 2006–2007
Keli Foret 2007–2008
Jayne Ryder 2008–2009
Lupe Acosta 2009
Vonda Broussard 2009–2011
Rose Patout 2011–2012
Patricia Ann Sonnier 2012–2013
Rodlyn Cochran 2013–2014
Nanette Heggie 2014–2015
Deirdre Detraz 2015–2016
Cynthia Beslin 2016–2017
Rebecca Taylor 2017–2018
Anita L. Link 2018–2019
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Connections strives for accuracy in all of its publications; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the members to provide their most current contact information.

To update your contact information, please call Membership Vice President Amber Doucet at (337) 322-7200 or email amber.b.doucet@gmail.com
Leadership Institute of Acadiana in partnership with One Acadiana. Its purpose is to build community through leadership by educating participants in the various leadership roles of our community. Connections wholeheartedly supports this program and offers its members a scholarship.

Once selected by the Leadership Institute of Acadiana as a participant, any Connections member is eligible to apply for the Scholarship by contacting the Connections Scholarship Chairperson. Recipients are selected by Connections Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors.

Leadership Lafayette Scholarship Recipients

1988–1989   Carolyn Greco; Sharon Moret
1989–1990   Fina Knezek; Jan Engelbrecht; Carleen Castille
1990–1991   Deborah Verges; Lisa Mayers
1994–1995   Beryl Louviere; Pat Andrus
1995–1996   Sunnie Templeton
1996–1997   Nanette Heggie
2001–2002   Mathilda Johnny
2002–2003   Shay Davis
2003–2004   Debra Spiks
2004–2005   Simone I. Perrodin
2005–2006   Nancy Istre
2006–2007   Julie Lefeune
2007–2008   Diane Higginbotham
2008–2009   Chelsa Ellison
2010–2011   Kelly Cormier
2011–2012   Michelle Girouard
2012–2013   Kirsty Joseph
2013–2014   Abby Savoie & Kirsty Joseph
2017–2018   Eva Campbell
2018–2019   Laura Brasseaux
2019–2020   Betsy Broussard
The Connections Career Achievement Award is an honor presented to women in the Acadiana area who represent the epitome of professional accomplishment and achievement, and who present themselves as desirable role models. These women have received peer professional awards based on achievement or advancement during the year in their particular field of endeavor and demonstrated their willingness to share their skills to enhance their own professional reputation and growth. Potential candidates are nominated by Connections members and selection is made in February for the previous year’s accomplishment.

About our award given to the Career Achievement Recipients:

“FEMINA” Derived from the Latin word for “woman,” the Femina Award originated at a prestigious women’s exposition in the Netherlands. As such it is an appropriate designation for female career achievement.

2018 Award Recipient
Beth Hamilton, OncoLogics
American Cancer Society Black and White Gala Spirit of Hope Honoree
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s 2016 Man and Woman of the Year Campaign

2017 Award Recipient
Jo Ann Pugh, Pugh Family Foundation

2016 Award Recipient
Carol Trosclair, President of Carol Trosclair, Inc.

2015 Award Recipient
Deidre Toups, President of H.B. Rentals

2014 Award Recipient
Jessica L. McGee, AMG Integrated Healthcare Management

2013 Award Recipients
Flo Meadows, CPA & Commercial Realtor—Coldwell Banker
Nancy Mounce Cochran, Former Teacher and City Council Chair—Currently a Counselor

2011 Award Recipient
Donna Landry, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

2010 Award Recipient
Vonda K. Broussard, Jeansonne & Remondet, LLC

2009 Award Recipient
Nanette Soileau Heggie, Investment Partners of Acadiana, Inc.

2008 Award Recipient
Jayne Ryder, Van Eaton & Romero

2007 Award Recipient
Rose Hoffman Cormier, Woman’s Foundation—Health Information Center
2004 Award Recipient
Jeanette Alcon, Lafayette Community Healthcare Clinic

2003 Award Recipient
Dr. Catherine B. Janes, Lafayette Parish School System

2002 Award Recipient
Cynthia C. LeBourgeois, Attorney at Law

2001 Award Recipients
Angel Huval, CSW, Clinical Social Worker, St. Martin School Based Center—President of C.H.O.I.C.E.S., Inc.
Jennifer M. Kleinpeter, Attorney—The Onebane Firm
Cindy Theriot, Mary Kay Consultant—Faith House Coordinator in Vermilion Parish

2000 Award Recipients
Jacqueline R. Benedik, Health Instructor—University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Gail Dubois-Broussard, Unit Manager—BeautiControl
The Honorable Phyllis Montgomery Keaty, 15th Judicial District Judge

1999 Award Recipients
Fran Clarke, Board Certified Social Worker, Private Practice
Geraldine Hubbell, Executive Director—Acadiana Symphony Orchestra
Ursula Quoyseser, Head Volleyball Coach—Episcopal School of Acadiana

1998 Award Recipients
Deanna Brandon, Unitech Training Academy
Carol Condon, American National Insurance Agency
Kaye Pooler, Legal Ease/NSA

1997 Award Recipients
Sonya M. Branch, Lafayette Public Library
Donna B. Broussard, Educational/Medical Consultant
Janet R. Morien, Hibernia National Bank

1996 Award Recipients
Lupe Acosta, Paralegal, Daniel M. Landry, III
Della Bonnett, Vice President of Information Technology, USL
Judy Cox, Principal, Acadiana High School
Cecile Verret, Executive Director, Stuller Place

1995 Award Recipients
Sharane Gott, President, Better Business Bureau
Dr. Jean T. Kremer, Director of the Department of Media & Printing Services, In the Division of Computing & Information Services, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Diane Gabik, Publisher/Editor, Acadiana Woman Magazine

1994 Award Recipients
Betty Lowry, President, Owner, Lowry’s Kwik Kopy Printing
Pat Andrus, M.S., C.F.L.E., C.G.C., Martin & Castille Funeral Home
Patricia Castellini, President, Dynamic Achievement, Inc.
**1993 Award Recipients**
Jackie Edgar, President, Owner, Edgar Ford
Dixie Horning, Women’s Rights Advocate and Triathlon Athlete
Nellie Prudhomme, R.N., M.P.H., Community Activist

**1992 Award Recipients**
Lorna Bourg, Asst. Ex. Director, Southern Mutual Help Association
Connie Didier, English Teacher, Northside Senior High School
Lyn Fontenot, Owner, Fontenot Design Associates
Katherine Landry, Principal, Woodvale Elementary School

**1991 Award Recipients**
Honorable Rebecca F. Doherty, United States District Judge
Yvette Girouard, Softball Coach, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Priscilla Ourso, President, Owner, Reagan Textiles, Inc.

**1990 Award Recipients**
Detective Sgt. Sherry W. Pool, CSCSA, Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Dept.
Emilia Bellone, MSW, BCSW, Acadiana Counseling & Training
Carolyn Doerle, Pres., CEO, Doerle Food Service, Inc.
Sheila Armbruster, Gen. Manager, The Recycling Foundation
Patricia Sonnier, Asst. Supt., Lafayette Parish School Board

**1989 Award Recipients**
Karen Guidry Bienvenu, RPT, Physical Therapy West
Debbie Flemming Caffery, Photographer
Carolyn French, PhD, Shearson, Lehman, Hutton
Carolyn Greco, Women’s Yellow Pages
Bootsie Landry, Bootsie’s South Louisiana Cooking
Susan Ory Powers, Author, Actress
Rose Ann Romero, Albertson’s Store Manager

**1988 Award Recipients**
Kathleen B. Blanco, Public Service Commissioner
Carleen Castille, President, Martin & Castille Funeral Home, Inc.
Debbie Bouse Stewart, Field Fashions
Wilma A. Subra, Subra, Inc.

**1987 Award Recipients**
Merline Louis Hebert, Creole Lunch House
Chaplain Joy A. Long, University Medical Center
Jan Bertrand Ortego, Realtor, Old South Realty
Nelda Spinks, PhD, University of Southwestern Louisiana

**1986 Award Recipients**
Nellie Derise, PhD, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Rachel Fournet, MS, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Margo Longo, MD
Phylis Mouton, Secretary of Labor
Maria Placer, Vice Pres., News Director, KLFY TV 10
Balbina Plotkin, University of Southwestern Louisiana
Teresa N. “Terri” Richard, City of Lafayette Police Dept.
Jessie Livingston Taylor, City of Lafayette Development
Anne Pyle, ADP Consulting
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Entertainment; Marketing and Public Relations

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Unclassified

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Personal Services; Retail

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- 12 -
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Unclassified

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Unclassified

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Medical, Health and Wellness

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Personal Services

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Travel  

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Unclassified  

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Medical, Health and Wellness  

TRAHAN, KRISTEN  
Unclassified  

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Non-profit
URBAN, SUSAN  Ad on page 26
Co-founder/Co-director
Dashing W Farm ................................................................. 337-945-7046
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Unclassified

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Unclassified

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Unclassified
Networking is the basis for Connections both professionally and personally. In an effort to facilitate networking, Connections has established a Classified Section for our members. Due to the varied fields, however, it was necessary to select general categories whereby all professions would be listed.

We hope this Classified Section will assist our members in their networking endeavors.

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ARTICLE I.

NAME
The name of this association will be Connections.

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE

SECTION ONE. To provide a professional, educational and personal support network for career-oriented women.
SECTION TWO. To provide an arena in which career-oriented women can meet one another for the purpose of sharing ideas, experiences and needs in relation to their careers.
SECTION THREE. To promote professional achievements of women in the community.
SECTION FOUR. To provide models for the community.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS

SECTION ONE. The officers of this association shall be President, President-Elect, Membership Vice-President, Program Vice-President, Public Relations Vice-President, Newsletter Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These eight officers shall constitute the Board of Directors, along with the Board Member-at-Large and the Arrangements Chair.
SECTION TWO. All officers and the Board Member-at-Large shall be elected at the meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting and continue in office for a period of one year, or until the next subsequent election. No officer may serve for more than one year consecutively in the same office.
SECTION THREE. Interim vacancies in office may be filled by a majority of the remaining members of the Board of Directors voting thereon.

ARTICLE IV.

MEETINGS

SECTION ONE. The Annual Meeting shall be held in May of each year.
SECTION TWO. At least one regular meeting shall be held each calendar month.

ARTICLE V.

QUORUM

SECTION ONE. A majority of the regular membership of the association shall constitute a quorum at any regular or annual meeting, but at no time shall the lack of a quorum prevent those present from proceeding with the business of the day.
SECTION TWO. A quorum of the Board of directors shall be five.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION ONE. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members in good standing present; or
SECTION TWO. This Constitution may be amended at any Regular Meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members in good standing present, if seven (7) days written notice has been given all members.
SECTION THREE. All by-laws and standing rules may be adopted, amended or repealed at any Regular Meeting by a majority of the regular membership present.
SECTION FOUR. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws should be presented to the members in writing at least seven (7) days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VII.

DISSOLUTION

SECTION ONE. Upon dissolution of the association the assets of the association shall be distributed to the University of Southwestern Louisiana with instructions that the assets be used for women’s scholarships.
ARTICLE I.  
DUES  

SECTION ONE. The annual dues of Regular Members shall be fifty ($50.00) dollars.  

SECTION TWO. The annual dues of Student Members shall be thirteen ($12.00) dollars.  

SECTION THREE. Dues are payable within thirty (30) days of notification in the newsletter by the Membership Vice-President. Members who do not pay their dues within the thirty (30) day period after notification shall be dropped from the membership rolls and will be assessed a reinstatement fee of ten (10.00) dollars.  

ARTICLE II.  
MEMBERSHIP  

SECTION ONE. Connections memberships shall consist of Regular Members and Student Members.  

SECTION TWO. The regular membership shall be composed of members in good standing who may attend all meetings, serve on committees, serve as officers and enjoy all other benefits of Connection membership.  

SECTION THREE. The student membership shall consist of any college student who is not employed full-time. A student member in good standing may be a committee member but may not serve as an officer or board member.  

SECTION FOUR. In order to maintain a membership in good standing, each member must pay dues in the amount and on the date set by the Board of Directors. Members must attend a minimum of six (6) meetings a year.  

ARTICLE III.  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS  

SECTION ONE. The officers of this association shall perform their duties in order to achieve the purposes of this association.  

SECTION TWO. The regular one-year term of office for each officer and Board Member-at-Large shall commence June 1. The fiscal year shall end April 30.  

SECTION THREE. The duties of the officers shall be as implied by their respective titles, and as specified by Robert’s Rules of Order. The Board Member-at-Large shall act as a liaison between the membership and the Board. The Arrangements Chair shall be responsible for logistical arrangements for all Connections events.  

SECTION FOUR. The President shall appoint all standing committees, except the Nominating Committee and the Advisory Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, and shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees except the Nominating Committee. The President, with the approval of the Board, may appoint special committees as needed.  

SECTION FIVE. All officers may appoint other members in good standing to assist them as a committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors.  

ARTICLE IV.  
COMMITTEES  

SECTION ONE. There shall be six standing committees: Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Advisory Committee, Career Achievement Awards Committee, Professional Development Committee, and Scholarship Committee.  

SECTION TWO. The Audit Committee shall examine the books of the Treasurer and report to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting each year.  

SECTION THREE. The nominating committee shall be composed of eleven (11) members in good standing, who have been elected at the January regular meeting. The slate of nominees shall be presented in writing at the February Board of Directors meeting and published in the newsletter in February and March. Nominees for office must be members in good standing per Article II, Section 4.  

The Nominating committee must contact each person whom it wishes to nominate to obtain her acceptance before making its report. Every effort should be made to achieve age, occupational, role model and employer balance on the slate.
SECTION FOUR. The Advisory Committee shall be made up of previous board members and shall serve at the request of the Board of Directors in giving advice on special projects.

SECTION FIVE. The Career Achievement Awards Committee shall be composed of members in good standing. They will announce in February each year those women in the community whom they believe have achieved significant professional achievement or advancement during the year. A reception will be held by this committee to honor the recipients.

SECTION SIX. The Professional Development Committee shall be composed of members in good standing. They will provide a minimum of two special professional development seminars or programs during the year which may benefit and be accessible to the majority of membership.

ARTICLE V.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION ONE. The Board of Directors shall have the power to transact general business of the organization at all Board of Director’s meetings, to fill vacancies in any office, and to act upon all matters concerning membership.

ARTICLE VI.
MEETINGS

SECTION ONE. Regular meetings shall be held at noon on the second Friday of each month, except when that Friday falls on a holiday weekend; in that event, the meeting will be held on the third Friday of the month, as approved and amended by the membership on February 6, 2015. The regular meeting for May shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors.

SECTION TWO. Special interest meetings, if authorized by the Board of Directors, may be scheduled at any time and may be used to fulfill membership attendance requirements.

As proposed by the By-Laws Committee on January 31, 1986.
Diane Conery  Carol Reed
Merry Lou Wilkins  Jan Prejean
Janet Limouze

And approved by the Steering Committee on February 3, 1986.
As amended on September 9, 1988.
In the late summer of 1985, Mary Lou Wilkins, Jayne Webre and Chris Corbo had a luncheon meeting to discuss the need for career-oriented women in Lafayette to develop an organization for the purpose of networking, sharing ideas and experiences, and promoting educational formats to enhance opportunities for one another.

A second informal meeting brought fourteen women together, generating a steering committee of fresh ideas and an abundance of enthusiasm.

In October of 1985, the first Connections meeting was held in Michael’s Ballroom with an attendance of eighty women interested in the organization. Steering committee members took turns as Mistress of Ceremonies until a Board of Directors could be elected.

Business portions of the meeting were held to a minimum, allowing time for an informative speaker to furnish educational information. Additionally, women needed the time to introduce themselves, so “Open Mic” was established.

Committees were organized and plans for goals set into motion. Career achievement awards were established to recognize women within the Acadiana area who have excelled or made a significant contribution to their field of business.

Connections’ inception provided a format for career-oriented women to encourage professional growth, acknowledge achievements, and offer support. The vision of the founding members has become reality for members today, as we continue to grow and network through Connections.