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New officers, humanitarians honored, Krewe's Broadway night

Donna Freckmann

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Town Talk

One of the great reasons to live in the Pensacola Bay area is the multitude of activities you find here. We are an active Navy town, a hub of genealogical activity, we honor dignitaries and humanitarians, and know how to have a good time. Read on.

Navy league has installation

1 The Pensacola Council Navy League of the United States recently held its annual installation of officers and board members during its Dinner-Dance held at The Mustin Beach Officers' Club. The following officers were installed by RADM Gary Jones: Bobby Riggs, president; Bob Anderson, first vice president; Mark Harden, second vice president; Buck Mitchell, third vice president; John MacPherson, treasurer; Betty Williams, secretary; Tom Gonzalez, judge advocate; the Rev. John Gray, chaplain; Dean-o Fournier, past president; and Butch Wallace, Bullhorn editor.

The board members for 2009 are Jeri Blankenbeck, Frank Fabre, Nancy Fetterman, Tom Furr, A. J. Gallardo, Buck Mitchell, Peter Moore, Peggy Pilcher, Kenneth Ruber, Fred Sitten, Gary Skaar, VADM Jerry Unruh, Candie Woods and Ron Yeakle, emeritus. The following outgoing 2008 board members were presented appreciation gifts: MacPherson, Roger Murray, Robert Penfold, and Michele Wilson. The past presidents attending were also recognized and presented with a Pensacola Council Navy League coin.

Discussing lineage groups

2 Don Tristan deLuna chapter members, Daughters of American Colonists met at the home of Ellen Lea. Regent Martha Hinrichs called the meeting to order and welcomed members and introduced guest Maureen Young. She also reported three new members: Joni Matthews, Margaret Watson and transfer member Marian Pellett.

Nancy Englander served as moderator for a program about the many historical lineage societies in the Pensacola area. Various members of DAC represented more than 15 groups, and facts were discussed and shared about membership requirements for many of these organizations.

The audience was enthusiastic as several members discovered ties to new organizations.

Special guest honored at dinner

3 Sam and Diana Hall and Pat Windham hosted a dinner for Mathew Akoko Abiewa at Windham's Pensacola Beach Home. Abiewa is the deputy registrar for the Cameroon GCE Board in the Southwest region of Cameroon. He is a member of the first delegation from the International Visitor Leadership Program to visit Pensacola at the invitation of the Gulf Coast Citizens Diplomacy Council led by Jena Melancon.

Also attending the dinner were Dr. Dan Holland and his wife, Marcia, Dr. Debbie Santavy and Melancon.

City Councilman Hall and his wife, prepared a five-course meal, which reflected the delicacies representative of the South, and the Gulf Coast with specially selected wines paired to each course.

Flowers and food presentations were done by Eric Tudor and Michael Jones.

The Gulf Coast Diplomacy Council is also hosting delegates from Barbados, Philippines, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan and Vietnam.

Humanitarian awards announced

4 West Florida Hospital recently named the recipients of the 2008 Frist Humanitarian Awards announced Dennis A. Taylor, president and chief executive officer. Pat LeBlanc, RN, education department, was the winner of the employee award. Bobbie Rowland, a volunteer for pastoral services, was named the volunteer winner. For the first time ever, a physician category also was included in the competition. Dr. Chris Dorvault, a radiologist, was the recipient of the Physician Award. All three are residents of Pensacola.

This honor places LeBlanc, Rowland and Dorvault in competition for the nationwide 2008 Frist Humanitarian Awards, the highest honor an employee, volunteer and now a physician, can earn within HCA, West Florida Hospital's parent company. The awards are given in recognition of the humanitarian achievements of the late Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr., founder of the company.

Krewe takes on Broadway

5 The Krewe of Marionettes celebrated its 52nd anniversary with a ball held at the historic Heritage Hall of Seville Quarter. The theme was "Curtain Call with the Marionettes" with members and guests walking down the red carpet to be transported to Broadway in New York City.

Opening the Marionette Tony Award Show was board President Margaret Fox who served as emcee for the evening. She presented awards to the stars of Grease, "Sandy," played by Joanne Safko and "Danny," played by Richard Hawkins. This year's queen, Linda Gascoigne, "Annie," and king, Harry Stopp, "Daddy Warbucks," won a Tony for the picture "Annie."

"Donna," played by Nan Jones, and "Sam," played by Breck Barlow, won for the smash hit "Mamma Mia!" Debbie Stearns, portraying "Mary Poppins," and Mark Wise, portraying "Bert the chimney

sweep" scooped up the award for "Mary Poppins."

"Phantom of the Opera" was a winning show and "The Phantom," Robert Kelley, and his girl "Christine," Genia Jones, were pleased to accept their award.

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