
From: Alliance President [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 3:08 PM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Written Testimonial on CenLa Redistricting

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Historical ReDistricting In Central Louisiana:

By T. W. Swafford (Addendum by Jacque Murphy)

Central Louisiana has always shown promise of being a successfully ran revenue generating city filled with great people and fair and equitable treatment, and yet, there are few who take part in the success that exists presently. More specifically, Alexandria has had a history of quietly orchestrated oppression. From its inception, during a pivotal moment in American history, Slavery was in fact the largest export and resource as it was, through out the south at that time. Throughout the decades of post civil war (1890s-1950s) existed a Pension program to compensate the families of injured or deceased Civil War Veterans...

"In 1898 Louisiana began granting pensions to Confederate veterans or their widows. In most states the pension system began with providing pensions to injured veterans and then later expanded to include veteran's widows or other dependents. Oct 1, 2021

Collection years: 1898-1950

Record Type: Pension Applications"

which can be found several places on the internet including (sos.la.gov)

This is the foundation on which this area was made reality. During the 1950's (pre-civil rights) there were families of confederate soldiers were being made whole, through this State funded pension plan. Just a brief look at the families who received these Government subsidies built Alexandria which is why the organized operation of oppression still exists.

Communities of color were separated from the communities with economic, political and judicial power. Law Enforcement, through out the years, were typically comprised of sons and grandsons of Confederate Veterans. Today we drive down the streets of "Lee" named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Jackson St. after Confederate Lt. Stonewall Jackson, Bolton Ave. After George Washington-Bolton and the list goes on. With Economic & Political power firm within their grips, the confederacy lives on through monuments in front of our Court House, and the same takes place within. These are the designs, my Grandfather Thomas Parnell, sued Rapides Parish twice over because of how the Districts were disproportionate, in means of African Americans and White people. At one point, our School Board and Police Jury both had 18 members, which was used against the black people of that time...(one man one vote). After successfully defeating the Parish twice, implementing the LeBlanc plan to ensure equality in voting rights for the black people of Alexandria and Rapides Parish at large. Today, we still face the same hidden monsters and racism has presided over the under-served communities for the decades since. Districts 1 (Better known as the North side) District 2, (Also known as the Sonnier Quarters)& District 3 (also known as the South side)all share some attribute of each other and none of Districts 4 or 5's attributes. The missing portion of this equation is the issue revolving around segregation, de-inclusionment, disenfranchisement, repeated usurping of political power within the black communities, infrastructural lack all leading to the conclusion that this was an organized set of events. In the

coming year of 2022, ReDistricting will take on a new face, as a new generation takes up the mantle that was shelved, as we slumbered while our communities slowly died from economic and political starvation.

I encourage everyone to locate the Confederate Pension Applicants on, either the Secretary Of State (Louisiana) website for a more obvious look at how ReDistricting and Racism have worked hand in hand, as recently as the 1950s when the last payment was made.

The Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce was found in 1914.

addendum:

2021 Cenla Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Winners “Bizzy Awards” Accolades Presented to Industry Standouts

November 8, 2021 Jacque Murphy

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA – Local businesses were honored on Friday, November 5, 2021, at the 9th Annual Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Gala at the Alexandria Convention Center at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Winners in each of the Bizzy Award categories were named at the red-carpet event with Sandra McQuain and Mike Davis serving as Masters of Ceremonies.

The Presenting Sponsor for the event was Crowell and Owens, LLC and the award honoring non-profit agencies was permanently named the Crowell and Owens Best Non-Profit Organization Award.

“The Crowell and Owens families appreciate the opportunity to recognize non-profit agencies providing a stellar level of value and service to the central Louisiana community annually at the Bizzy Awards,” said Zebulon M. Winstead, a third-generation family member and managing partner of the law firm, who serves as the 2021 Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors. “We are pleased to present the first Crowell and Owens Best Non-Profit Award to Hope House of Central Louisiana.”

The winners of 10 categories of the Bizzy Awards were selected among nominees made by the Chamber Board of Directors and Chamber members. Chamber member representatives voted via ballots emailed in an electronic survey. A combination of Chamber votes and those of a panel of judges composed of two Chamber executives and two economic developers from other communities in Louisiana determined the winners. There are six special categories of Bizzy Awards that are selected by the sponsors of each award. Those categories are the Red River Bank Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Cleco Innovation Award, Louisiana Central’s “We Make Good Stuff Award,” Rapides Regional Medical Center Community Benefit Award, Procter & Gamble’s Equality and Inclusion Award and the Chamber’s Emerging Leader Award.

“The Chamber extends congratulations to each of the Bizzy winners,” said Deborah Randolph, President, Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce. “These businesses are the economic engines of the region and this event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to their achievements.”

2021 Bizzy Award Recipients

RoyOMartin Best Overall Business Award: Hayes Manufacturing

Crowell & Owens Best Non-Profit Organization: Hope House of Central Louisiana

Crest Industries Best Large Business: Louisiana Eye and Laser

Red River Bank Entrepreneur of the Year: Doug Godard

CLECO Innovation Award: Rapides Regional Medical Center and Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital

Best New Business: Avant Organics, a Crest Company

Best Medium Business: Hotel Bentley

Best Small Business: Coody Roofing

Louisiana Central's "We Make Good Stuff" Award: Andrew Stewart, Patriot Golf Carts

Rapides Regional Medical Center Community Benefit Award: Cleco

Emerging Leader Award: Caitlin Chelette

Best Marketing Campaign: Evangeline Bank & Trust Company

Best Business Website: Tamp & Grind Coffee

Procter & Gamble's Equality and Inclusion Award: Crest Industries

Best Interior Design of a Business: Turner Teleco

Best Curb Appeal of a Business: Freedman Clinic of Internal Medicine

Tavares Swafford
Cenla Housing Alliance President
Community Organizer
Housing Justice Narrative Fellow