

POWER OUR PROMISE

A Virtual Event Celebrating our 2020 Women of Distinction
and Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Honorees

Presented by



Tuesday, October 13, 2020

6 – 6:45pm



WHO WE ARE

We're 2.5 million strong—more than 1.7 million girls and 750,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] to change the world.

Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low. On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, she organized the very first Girl Scout troop, and every year since, we’ve honored her vision and legacy, building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success.



Our Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and to
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

WELCOME

Dr. Rebecca Pennington, Ph.D., CFRE, CEO

EVENT HOSTESS

Kweilyn Murphy
WDSU Meteorologist

HONOREES

Women of Distinction

Carolyn Breaux
Dr. Sally Clausen
Leslie C. Pichon
Jan Ross

Four Pillars Award

Dr. Mari Ann Callais
Ava Dejoie

Outstanding Man

Artis Williams

Outstanding Organization

New Orleans City Park

Outstanding Woman

Dr. Jennifer Avegno

SILENT AUCTION

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Silent Auction Closes at 9 p.m.

SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION

Girls Need Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts Needs You

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

Dr. Rebecca Pennington, CEO

POWER OUR PROMISE CONCLUDES



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Linda Law Clark
Elizabeth Stoner

DAISY SPONSORS

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Judge Regina Bartholomew-Woods
Mary Jane Becker
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Coleman, Herman L. Breaux, Jr.
Jacquelyn Daniels
Chimene Grant Saloy

Patricia Lee
Robyn Merrick
Joan Mollohan
Dawn Palermo
Richard CPAs
Dr. Raquel Square-Ayles
The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

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SPECIAL THANKS

Audubon Tea Room; Kweilyn Murphy and WDSU-TV, New Orleans; Barry Muniz Photography; Renaissance Baton Rouge; Rokit Science Agency; Sally-Ann Roberts

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Al Gensler
Alexandre Bonin
Aline Jacobs
Angela Copeland
Anne Roberts
Barbara Heard
Bessie Byrd
Betty Dixon
Brett Bonin
Cherrie Dean Britton
David Magee
Dawn Palermo
Dianne Pullen

Dr. Alma Thornton
Dr. Lyndia Jones
Elois Beathley
Florence Williams
Gloria Bartley Moultrie
Herman L. Breaux, Jr.
Janice Drake
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Ogden Museum of Southern Art
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Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers @ Highland & State
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Rayne Housey Bories
Rebecca Pennington
Restaurant Luke
Royce and Rebecca Pennington
Swati J. Shah
The Backyard
The Dermatology Clinic and Cosmetic Center
The Mortuary Haunted Mansion (Jeff Borne)
The Red M Studio
The Stabler Foundation
Topgolf of Baton Rouge
Vera Bradley, Lakeside
Zippy's Burritos, Tacos, & More



2020 HONOREES

Woman of Distinction Carolyn Breaux is honored to receive this recognition but knows that her Girl Scout journey was influenced and supported by many people. Carolyn has been a Girl Scout since childhood and recalls that her mother, an elementary school teacher and other teachers were her first troop leaders. Carolyn gives special recognition to two other ladies who were instrumental in bringing Girl Scouts to her hometown of Orangeburg, South Carolina. Mrs. Geraldine Zimmerman, a college math professor who introduced Girl Scouts to her community and to Maggie Vandiver, a field director from the former Carolina Low Country Girl Scout Council in Charleston, South Carolina. Because of these two women, Carolyn and other girls in her community experienced Girl Scouting. Mrs. Zimmerman and Mrs. Vandiver prepared Carolyn and others to attend the 1962 Girl Scout Senior Roundup in Button Bay State Park, Vermont.

Later, Carolyn was recruited by her former mentor, Maggie Vandiver who had relocated to work with the Girl Scouts of Chicago. Carolyn's initial assignment was to organize Girl Scout troops in public housing on the West Side of Chicago. Carolyn also served as an Assistant Camp Director, recruited Girl Scout Professionals, received recognition from Sears YMCA Community Center for work done on the West side of Chicago; and in 1970, was selected as a staff member to attend the Conference on Scouting for Black Girl Scouts in Atlanta.

Carolyn served as Crestville Service Unit Chair for 40 years with Audubon Girl Scout Council and Girl Scouts Louisiana East. She credits their successes to a dedicated Girl Scout Council staff, Service Unit Team, leaders, parents and church sponsorship. Two of her favorite Girl Scout activities are Thinking Day and Troop and Service Unit Campouts at Camp Marydale. Crestville's history exemplifies young ladies who earned the Silver and Gold Award who are currently making a difference both locally and globally in the fields of medicine, education, business, and other areas, including Carolyn's daughter.

Carolyn is a member of Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church of Scotlandville and has worked with many other churches over the years where she organized Girl Scout troops. She attends Church School and Worship on Sunday and is an active member of several church ministries.

Carolyn served on the Audubon Council Board of Directors, Board Nominating Committee and numerous other Council Task Groups. She has received the Appreciation Pin, Thanks Badge 1 and Thanks Badge 11. Her Service unit 616 also received the President's Award.

Carolyn is the proud mother of two children, Lisa and Herman, Jr., and grandmother of five, including two granddaughters in Girl Scouts. Her late husband always supported her time and efforts with the Girl Scouts.

Carolyn was employed for 31 years with the City of Baton Rouge Office of Community Development. She currently works at St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy.

Woman of Distinction Dr. Sally Clausen graduated from Centerville High School in Centerville, Louisiana and received her undergraduate, master's and Doctorate of Education from Louisiana State University. She served as a middle school teacher in East Baton Rouge Parish, as well as an Associate Professor in Special Education and Administration at LSU. She went on to become Secretary of Education on the Governor's staff, and Deputy Commissioner of Administration which manages all governmental functions in Louisiana.

Dr. Clausen became the twelfth and only female President of Southeastern Louisiana University serving from 1995 until 2001 when she was appointed head of the University of Louisiana System. She went on to serve as Commissioner of Higher Education, an agency which heads all public higher education in Louisiana, being the only person to hold that position on two occasions and coined the phrase "College Begins in Preschool".

She served in several national higher education leadership roles, including serving as Vice Chair of the National Association of University System Heads, as Executive Committee Member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, as a member and Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board, on the Commission of Graduation Rate Outcomes, on the Executive Committee of State and Higher Education Executive Officers, on the Lumina Foundation Research Advisory Commission, as Chairman of the Southland Athletic Conference, and as a member of the College Board Center for Innovative Thought.

Dr. Clausen was featured as one of only 15 college presidents in "The Entrepreneurial President", a book by Dr. James Fisher and Dr. James Koch based on research of more than 700 university presidents. Internationally, Dr. Clausen has served as a Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Citizens in Solidarity Foundation, Inc. Costa Rica, the Fachhochschule School of International Business, Reutlingen, Germany, and the International Special Olympics, as Chair, 1983 Opening and Closing ceremonies.

After retiring as Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Louisiana, Dr. Clausen served as Executive Director of the Ingram Center for Public Trusteeship and Governance, a division of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Washington, D.C. She has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and on the African Diaspora Consortium, a consortium sponsored by Columbia University in association with the University of Notre Dame.

In May 2018, Dr. Clausen was awarded only the second Lifetime Achievement Award as President on behalf of Southern Louisiana University.

She served as a volunteer at the First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, and faithfully served on the Prayer Team and the Care Team. Her passion in life is providing education for all. She is now retired and spends time with her two children and two grandchildren.

Woman of Distinction Leslie Camille Pichon, SAIC is a native of Slidell, Louisiana, where she was a Brownie in the late 1970s. She is the proud daughter of former Brownie-of-the-Year and Girl Scout Barbara Cook Ruffin and granddaughter of former Girl Scout Troop Leader Camille Cook. Ms. Pichon holds a Bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. While at LSU, Ms. Pichon was an active member of Chi Omega Fraternity and served as Intramural Sports Chairman, House Treasurer and Pledge Trainer.

With aspirations of becoming a special agent in the United States Secret Service, Ms. Pichon began her career in law enforcement in 1993 as a police officer with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. While serving as an officer, she was a member of the Andrew Jackson Fraternal Order of Police and enjoyed being a summer camp counselor at the FOP Youth Camps. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Pichon actively engaged with the girls and boys living in low-income housing areas that she patrolled and nominated as many as possible to attend the FOP summer camps free of charge.

In 1998, Ms. Pichon began her career with the Secret Service as a special agent assigned to the Nashville Field Office. There she investigated threats against the nation's financial systems, as well as threats against the President, Vice President, and other Secret Service protectees. In 2003, Ms. Pichon was assigned to the Presidential Protective Division in Washington, DC, where she served four years protecting President and Mrs. George W. Bush. In subsequent years, she served as a supervisor on the Presidential protective detail of President and Mrs. Obama and their daughters. During Mrs. Obama's tenure as First Lady, she chose Ms. Pichon to be a mentor in her newly formed leadership and mentoring program for disadvantaged high school girls. Ms. Pichon has since served in numerous supervisory assignments in the Inspection Division, the Office of Professional Responsibility, and most recently as Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Presidential Protective Division, protecting President and Mrs. Trump and their children.

In June 2018, Ms. Pichon was appointed to the position of Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Office, where she currently oversees the Secret Service investigative and protective missions for the state of Louisiana. Ms. Pichon's goal is to increase Secret Service community outreach for the greater good of Louisiana.

Recently, Secret Service headquarters has tasked Ms. Pichon with an additional duty during the 2020 Presidential campaign and selected her to be Detail Leader for Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris' protective detail. Ms. Pichon will continue to serve in her role as Special Agent in Charge in Louisiana, while rotating to this campaign assignment on a temporary basis.

Woman of Distinction Jan Ross is Executive Vice President of Philanthropy at the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, a private family foundation supporting the greater Baton Rouge community focusing on human services, education, health care and prison reentry. In this capacity, she leads the implementation of the strategic direction, guides her team through grantmaking due diligence, and serves as the community liaison for the Foundation. In response to COVID-19, Ross

has advised Governor John Bel Edwards in investing the Governor's COVID-19 Response Fund and has been active in the coordination of solutions for those with feeding insecurity, mental health and children's summer enrichment programming. Over the past 15 years, GSLE has received many grant awards from the Wilson Foundation, most importantly the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars grant awards which allow girls and their incarcerated mothers to participate in the Girl Scout Experience.

In previous capacities, Ross aided in the development of the grantmaking framework and implemented its online application and reporting systems. She created the first strategic initiative focused on prison reentry. Ross states, "our partners verified that 531 individuals had successfully re-integrated for three years post-incarceration. These individuals would have cost the state of Louisiana \$14,181,443 had they been incarcerated during that time period". In addition, Ross served as Office Administrator for the Wilson family office where she created an internal investment valuation report, provided oversight of bookkeeping activities, and worked on special projects. Ross began with the Wilson family as assistant to the Vice President of Merchandising of Wilson Jewelers where she managed diamond inventories.

Ross serves on the boards of Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and St. Vincent de Paul Foundation and serves as its investment committee chair. Ross served as a board member and executive committee member of Maison des Ami, Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge, Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy, and Capital Area Reentry Coalition.

Ross holds a Bachelor's degree in Personnel Management from University of Louisiana Lafayette and is a commissioned Civil Law Notary Public. She is a graduate of Leadership Baton Rouge of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Robert Hull Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Southern Philanthropy and the Baton Rouge Business Report Executive Leadership Academy. Ross serves as coordinator for a network of program officers of local foundations and has convened multiple statewide funders' meetings. Ross serves on the Women's Advancement Commission for Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Community Impact Cabinet for Capital Area United Way, Funding and Resource Subcommittee Chair for the Feeding Insecurity Coalition, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and is a member of Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, the fifth largest club in the world. Ross was active in Girl Scouting as a Brownie in Houma, Louisiana, and a Girl Scout in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ross is a member of St. George Catholic Church. She is married to Mike Ross, and together they have two adult children.

Four Pillars Award honoree Dr. Mari Ann Callais has lived in Hammond, Louisiana, since 1991 when she moved there to serve as the Director of Student Organizations and Greek Life at Southeastern Louisiana University, a position she held for 10 years. She served an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of the Student Affairs Graduate Program at Mississippi State University. She spent time in the corporate world working for Capstone Development in Birmingham, Alabama. She is a Past National President of her sorority for Theta Phi Alpha and National Panhellenic Council Delegate. She received a B.A. in Political Science from Loyola University, earned a master's degree in Education Administration from Our Lady of Holy Cross College now the University of Holy Cross, and received a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Research from Louisiana State University.

Currently, Dr. Callais serves as the Sr. Director of Strategic Initiatives for Delta Delta Delta Fraternity. She is a member of The Catalyst Agency Speakers Team and has been a keynote and featured speaker at many local, regional, national, and international conferences and conventions.

Four Pillars Award honoree Ava Dejoie is Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. She was appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards in January 2016. As Secretary, Dejoie is responsible for providing the strategic vision to enhance the growth of Louisiana's economy and its workforce. The commission monitors employment, administers unemployment compensation and tax funds, provides training resources for employers and jobseekers, and oversees worker compensation benefits. The LWC also gathers and supplies information on the labor market and occupational sectors in Louisiana.

Dejoie has more than 15 years of leadership experience in public administration and is passionate about finding solutions that make Louisiana an outstanding place in which to live, work and grow a business.

Her focus on the public policy field took root when she served as an intern in the office of U.S. Sen. John Breaux, D-La.

Dejoie joined the LWC in 2012 and was statewide coordinator of its Rapid Response Team. In this role, she directed resources to workers displaced by corporate layoffs, shut-downs and other job-reduction actions. She earlier served as director of LWC special projects in the New Orleans area, including supervising the Avondale Employee Transition Center.

Dejoie's extensive background in Louisiana workforce development includes experience as a business liaison for the Louisiana Department of Education. In addition, she served as a board member of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System from 1998-2007.

Dejoie also served as vice president of the Welfare to Work Partnership, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization in New Orleans that provides innovative workforce solutions for companies via the hiring, retention and promotion of welfare recipients and other unemployed workers. Dejoie supervised creation of the partnership's law project and was recognized for the accomplishment in ceremonies at the White House. While with the partnership, she also helped secure funding for a process technology laboratory at L.B. Landry High School in New Orleans.

In 2018, Dejoie became one of only eight women to earn the honor of the Louisiana State University Women's Center Esprit de Femme Award, an annual acknowledgement of a person who has made exceptional efforts toward the advancement of women. The following year, Dejoie received the Jobs for America's Graduates National Network Leadership Award, which pays tribute to those who have demonstrated a high level of commitment and involvement in support of JAG Model Programs which help high-risk and disadvantaged young people succeed.

Dejoie is a native of New Orleans and graduate of Ursuline Academy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in political science and government from Loyola University of New Orleans.

Outstanding Man Artis Williams is Executive Director of St John United Way and has been in that role for the last three years. St. John United Way, which serves St. John the Baptist Parish with health, education, and financial stability initiatives, bringing together industry, individuals, and the nonprofit agencies helping to fulfill the community's most fundamental needs. Moreover, St. John United Way has been a very generous supporter of GSLE for many years, funding troop activities

and providing financial and uniform assistance to girls who might not otherwise have the opportunity. In his role at St. John United Way, Artis has been a strong advocate for GSLE and has shown a keen, sustained interest in the success of the Girls Scouts in St. John the Baptist Parish. With his strong ties to industry in the River Parishes, Artis is a respected leader and connector.

Artis retired as Senior Plant Manager for Air Products and Chemicals Inc. in Reserve, Louisiana after seven years there (the plant is now owned by Evonik). Artis served in similar roles as Plant Manager in Elkton, Maryland and Paulsboro, New Jersey. Artis worked for Air Products and Chemicals for nearly 36 years. He worked for Air Products in the Houston area for nine years, in Louisiana for nine years, in Pensacola for one year, and in Maryland and New Jersey a combined 17 years. He has been a Deacon and a Sunday school Teacher for nearly 41 years. He has served as a board member, officer, or president for many community organizations in the communities where he has lived including the United Way, Community College Foundations, Chamber of Commerce and many others.

Artis served as Men's Ministry Leader at his church for over 12 years. Recently, Artis has served as President of the Resurrection Life Family Ministry Board, as Board member for the Rotary Club of Laplace, and Board Member/Sunday School Teacher at Bethel Church in Baton Rouge. For outside of work activities, he jogs almost every day and likes traveling to National Parks and on international mission trips. Artis has been married to his beautiful wife, Micki, for over 41 years and has two wonderful daughters, Kaziah and Kari.

Outstanding Organization New Orleans City Park is distinguished by its large menu of sports and recreational activities, attractions for children, and natural beauty. City Park has a special place in the hearts of generations of New Orleanians and is a must see for visitors to the city. The 1,300 acres of parkland provide enjoyment for people no matter their age. City Park is home to the world's largest collection of mature Live Oak trees. City Park is a 90/10 Park. Self-generated revenue makes up 90% of the annual operating budget; City Park receives no general fund operating dollars from the city or the state. The Park receives approximately \$2 million each year from the state for capital projects.

In October 2019, GSLE rededicated McFadden Cabin in City Park after a period of refurbishment and restoration. Preserving McFadden Cabin's presence and long-standing history as a central and beloved part of the park came about because of the support of City Park's leadership. City Park's commitment to ensuring the Girl Scouts' legacy continues for future generations is acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

Outstanding Woman Dr. Jennifer Avegno is a New Orleans native who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Arts in Sociology from Tulane University, and her MD from LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans. She completed her residency at LSU/Charity Hospital Emergency Medicine and joined the faculty at both LSU and Tulane shortly after graduation. As an academic faculty member, Dr. Avegno served as Associate Residency Director and Director of Undergraduate Emergency Medicine Education for both LSU and Tulane Medical Schools.

In 2017, she established the Division of Community Health Relations & Engagement in the LSU Section of Emergency Medicine, and as its director worked with institutional, governmental, and

other community organizations to facilitate innovative programming, interdisciplinary partnerships, and improved population health outcomes.

In 2018, she was appointed as the Director of the Health Department for the City of New Orleans, where she manages a dedicated team of public health professionals in addressing critical health needs for the community. Dr. Avegno currently leads the City's public health response to COVID-19 and developed one of the country's first mobile community based testing strategy and program, with intentional core focus on equity and access.

Honors include being named to Gambit Weekly's "40 Under 40," an Essence "Essential Hero," a New Orleans Magazine "Top Doctor," and several other leadership and teaching awards.