



Everything New Orleans

Kenner woman is named state garden club president

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By **Rosalyn Eason**

Mary Jacobs of **Kenner** believes that garden clubs not only help the community; they also provide rewarding experiences for the members. As the newly installed president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc. she hopes to spread the joy and benefits of belonging to a garden club by increasing membership throughout the state.



Mary Jacobs of Kenner is the newly installed president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc. With her is her husband, Michael Jacobs.

"I want to increase (garden club) membership and invite people to join a garden club," Jacobs said. "Garden clubs help their communities, their churches, their schools."

Jacob's dedication to garden clubs is reflected in the theme of her presidency: "Continuing Our Legacy of Beautification, Education and Restoration."

Jacobs was sworn in as state president during an installation ceremony and banquet at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville recently.

Chateau Garden Club President Mary Crumb created and conducted the installation service, which had a dragonfly theme. "It was such an honor and privilege to install Mary as the president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation," Crumb said.

"When Mary asked me to install her and the officers, I was very touched."

Family members and friends joined Chateau Garden Club members at the ceremony to honor Jacobs.

As president, Jacobs will lead the state's more than 300 garden clubs, with more than 2,600 members. The Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc. is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc. The duties of her office include presiding over statewide meetings, working with the chairs of 93 committees and attending Blue Star Memorial marker dedications, flower shows, gardening workshops and other garden club events throughout the state.

Jacobs' installation marked the culmination of a long career as a member and leader of garden clubs. Jacobs joined Country Club Home Gardeners of Metairie in 1984 at the urging of the late Catherine Rhoto, a longtime member of

Chateau Estates Garden Club. Once she joined, garden club member Pat Hutchens saw Jacob's interest in the club and encouraged her to get more involved in many of their projects.

Jacobs moved to Chateau Estates in Kenner in 1986 and joined the Chateau Estates Garden Club, where she is still a member. She has served in various capacities with Chateau Garden Club, including a term as president.

She also has served as president of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs and the Civic Beautification Association of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

At the state level, Jacobs has been involved with the Louisiana Garden Club Federation for more than 20 years. She has been a District 2 representative and has served as state historian and president-elect.

In selecting her committee chairs, Jacobs has reached out and encouraged new people to get involved. She has tapped fellow Chateau Garden Club members Denise Woodward and Pat Golemi as co-chairwomen of the butterfly gardening projects for the state organization.

Jacobs said she is looking forward to her two-year term of office and hopes to make a positive difference in her community and state. "Garden clubs are near and dear to my heart because they involve so many projects, activities and goals," Jacobs said. "Everyone can become involved."

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