



Connections Professional Networking



**MAKE A LASTING
CONNECTION IN 2016!**

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Upcoming Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2017

Please join us for a wonderful networking experience!

Petroleum Club Lunch Buffet | \$18

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 11th.
It is important that you let us know if you plan to attend.

You may RSVP via [e-mail](#) or on our [website](#).
Email: connectionsprofnet@gmail.com

To prevent Connections from being charged by the Petroleum Club for no-shows, if you need to cancel your RSVP please do so by 10:00am on the Thursday prior to the meeting. We need to confirm our numbers with Petroleum Club by 11:00am the day before.

To cancel, please send email to connectionsprofnet@gmail.com.

Connections accepts cash or checks. Please have your check made payable to Connections prior to arriving at the meeting to expedite registration.



Petroleum Club
[111 Heymann Boulevard \(Oil Center\)](#)

Buffet lunch \$18

Please bring cash or preferred method of payment check.

Meetings are being held in the lounge on the 1st floor, near the arch driveway, down the hall from the buffet.

Networking begins at 11:30 am.

Meeting begins at 12:00 Noon.

Featured Speaker



Cheryl Bowie
Owner and Branding Strategist
Right Angle

Join us for our January 2017 meeting to hear about Cheryl Taylor Bowie's presentation about ***Finding Synchronicity in Your Career***.

As a child immersed in art, Cheryl Bowie always knew that she wanted to work in advertising. Jobs with agencies in Beaumont, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans led her to open her own firm, Right Angle, in 1987.

Today as the owner and branding strategist for Right Angle, Cheryl directs a team of 10 other designers and writers, creating branding, marketing, advertising, and public relations campaigns for clients in banking, real estate, healthcare, manufacturing and more.

Cheryl also is a partner in FocusFirst, a firm that has conducted focus groups throughout Louisiana for nearly 20 years. Additionally, Cheryl turned her passion for the ancient Asian art of feng shui into a secondary career and has taught classes at UL and McNeese and has lectured at conferences across three states and consulted with clients in five states.

A Texan by birth, but Cajun by choice, Cheryl is married to Ed Bowie and they are grandparents to Jack and Joe.

President's Message



Dear Ladies of Connections,

January 2017. It's hard to believe this date. When I was just a little girl and thinking of any time period over the year 2000 – it was just unimaginable. That was so far away, and I wondered what the times would be like. Would it look futuristic like The Jetsons? Well, we aren't quite like The Jetson family, but we do have some similarities. We now have smart phones, houses and cars. We now have a robot named Rumba - not Rosie, that will vacuum our houses. And the rest – well - it looks like we have a ways to go before our lives resemble this futuristic lovable life. So much for a child's vision of her future. Besides, I'm a low tech not a hi tech kind of a gal!

Flash forward to today. When we look around, we have much to be grateful for. We have gone through quite a lot this past year, and yet we always seem to bounce back. I "Googled" (that's a verb now) The Daily Advertiser's Top Stories of 2016 and below is their Top 10 List. It does seem a little unreal and even gloomy to read, but I still remain optimistic in these times. As I often say, we can come back from anything as long as we stick together. With all of the negative news around us, we remain true to our roots and push forward to make the best of difficult situations.

1. August flooding

2. Oil and gas industry woes
3. Louisiana budget crisis, TOPS funding
4. Baton Rouge protests, officer shooting
5. 2016 Election
6. UL football locker room video
7. Les Miles fired, LSU coaching changes
8. Ambassador Town Center opens
9. City Marshal Brian Pope legal troubles continue
10. Southside High takes shape

Happy New Year Everyone! Let's make this year better than before.

Sincerely Yours,

Cynthia Beslin
Connections President

Business Spotlight



Cynthia Beslin

Business Development Manager

Rayne Building & Loan Association

200 N Adams, P O Box 46, Rayne LA 70578

Phone [337.334.7535](tel:337.334.7535) Fax [337.334.4261](tel:337.334.4261)

www.RayneBuildingLoan.com

Originally from Mobile, Alabama, I married a Cajun and moved to small town Rayne, Louisiana. I got to know and love this strange different culture and found comfort in my new very large family; my husband was one of eight children in a close knit loving family. We eventually moved into his grandparents' home - right next door to mom and dad. I wouldn't change a thing, and yet I never would have imagined that this beach loving - southern girl could have found her way to crossing the great Atchafalya for a whole new life.

As many of you know, I have recently changed careers. I have come full circle back to a place very familiar to me. I currently serve as Business Development Manager for Rayne Building and Loan (RBL); this is a newly created position for RBL, whose primary market includes personal real estate and mortgage lending. I reach out to attorneys and leaders in the real estate market, as well as newer real estate agents. A good referral for me would be realtors, contractors and individuals/businesses looking for real estate. RBL's personal loan programs include conventional, FHA, USDA Rural Development and VA loans. We service both of our in-house and FannieMae conventional loans. RBL also offers CDs and savings accounts. They have been helping families buy their dream homes in Acadiana for over one hundred years.

I am also involved in my community. I am a member of the Realtor Association of Acadiana and the Acadian Home Builders Association. Currently, I serve as President of Connections and previously held the VP Membership position. I am a member of both The Rotary Club of Rayne and The Rayne Chamber of Commerce. Former positions include: Secretary for Rotary Club of Rayne, Vice President for Rayne Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of Rayne's Frog Festival. I am also a former sacristan for St. Joseph Catholic Church. I am a graduate of EXCEL, a leadership program sponsored by The Chambers of Commerce of both Crowley and Jeff Davis. I also serve on various other committees for the organizations in which I belong to.

Previously, I worked for Prudential as a Financial Professional and developed and fostered client relationships in the insurance and investment programs markets. We helped clients make financial decisions based on their life insurance, investment and retirement needs. My financial licenses are currently held with Hancock Brokerage of Metairie, LA, an independent brokerage firm. Prior to Prudential, I was self-employed in the retail market. As owner of Forget-Me-Not, a jewelry and accessories business, my market included trade shows along the gulf coast, as well as personal and corporate trunk shows. I was also co-owner of The Pink Lily, a home décor and gift store in Rayne, for five years. My experience also includes serving as Marketing Director for Rayne State Bank when I first moved to Rayne. Serving as spokesman for the bank, I planned and implemented all marketing campaigns and events, as well as assisting with human resources and training for employees.

I am a graduate of Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama and attended The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I am married to John Jude Beslin and we have beautiful two daughters, Caroline and Mary Frances. Caroline recently graduated from LSU and works in Baton Rouge and Mary Frances attends LSU.

News & Announcements

NEW Connections website:

<http://www.connectionsforwomen.net/>

Members... You can bring marketing materials, business cards and brochures/flyers to the meeting and place on the door prize table to promote your business!!

Members... You can email announcements, accomplishments, business tips or share good news to Anita Link and she will share on Connections Facebook page.

Send to: Anita Link - anita@stpierrepromos.com

Connections Career Achievement Award

Pat Sonnier will be taking applications for our 2017 Career Achievement Award. For more information on the award, past recipients and the nomination process, click [here](#).

Connections Board Vacancy

We are currently seeking members for a key role on our board. We are seeking members interested in participating in the Secretary position on the Connections Board for the 2016/2017 year. Please see Cynthia Beslin, Connections Board President, if you are interested in this vacancy.



Connections Supports

Giving for Faith House

Let's support our women in need.

Let's give a helping hand to our Faith House Families this Christmas,
by giving **unwrapped** presents to their young children.

Suggested Presents to Bring to this month's meeting on Friday:

arts and crafts, board games, dolls (dark skin), skates,
skate boards, super heroes, children's movies, puzzles, toys, etc.

Thank You.



Faith House appreciated all of our gifts and supplies that were so graciously donated at the December Meeting. Ms. Mary was so excited! I think she was surprised by how much we gave. Such a great cause!

Faith House, an organization we have donated to, has a list of immediate needs for their shelter.

Immediate Needs: Laundry detergent, dish washing liquid, paper plates, utensils, bowls and cups, towels and washrags, floor cleaner, brooms/mops, diapers (size 4 and 5), sanitary

products, ethnic hair care products, Lysol, sheets and blankets (Twin Size)

For women moving out of the shelter, they are also seeking: Furniture (Sofas, beds, dressers, etc.) sheets/blankets, pots/dishes/utensils, kitchen tables/chairs, carseats, fans, and suitcases.

Please contact Mary Usner at (337) 234-2715 for donations or questions.



Connections Book Club

We are excited to announce that the first book of the Connection's Book Club will be *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald* by Therese Anne Fowler. The group will tentatively be meeting to discuss this book on February 15th at 7:00 at the Lafayette Main Library on Congress Street. If anyone is interested in attending but cannot make this date, time, or location, please contact Paige at 446-5161 or at pcbeyt@gmail.com.

Thank you to all of the ladies that participated in the Christmas Gift Exchange and all of the fun they brought to the game.









Mark Your Calendar!

Our next Connections meeting will be on February 13th
Networking and business card exchange begins at 11:30 a.m.
Meeting starts promptly at 12:00 noon at the Petroleum Club.

Future Connections' Meetings:

February 13th

March 10th

April 14th

May 12th

**CONNECTIONS PURPOSE AS BY OUR
CONNECTIONS CONSTITUTION**

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.

SECTION THREE: TO PROMOTE
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN
THE COMMUNITY.

SECTION FOUR: TO PROVIDE MODELS FOR
THE COMMUNITY.

Enjoy yourself at our meeting!!

2016 / 2017 Board Members

Connections Officers

Cynthia Beslin - President
Rebecca Taylor - President Elect
Eugenia Shedrick – Newsletter VP
Anita Link – Public Relations VP
Paige Beyt – Membership VP
Debra Billeaud – Treasurer
Lana Fontenot - Program VP
Deirdre Detraz – Board Member at Large
Pat Sonnier - Career Achievement
Joann Pugh - Scholarship Chairperson
Lisa David - Arrangements Chair

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Shedrick at 337-852-3027 or
eugenias@worknet2k.com. If you would like to
become a member of CONNECTIONS, contact
Paige Beyt, Membership Vice-President at
pcbeyt@gmail.com.

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