The Remington Suite and Hotel Spa announced Jennifer Taylor as the new corporate sales manager. Jennifer is a native of Shreveport with a B.A. in Mass Communications from Southern University A & M College in Baton Rouge and is currently pursuing her MBA. She was recently recognized by the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce as the “Top 40 Under 40.” Jennifer participates in the Shreveport-Bossier Junior League, the Louisiana Association for the Blind, and is Chair of the Shreveport Common Task Force.

Shreveport-Bossier recently landed the 2014 North American Mature Publishers Association (NAMPA) annual convention. It will be held in at the Horseshoe Casino and Resort, Sept. 28 – Oct. 1. The event is an opportunity to showcase the Shreveport-Bossier area and gain exposure to more than 9 million readers nationwide. In addition, the North American Travel Journalists Association (NATJA) announced Shreveport, Louisiana as the host city for the upcoming 2013 NATJA conference scheduled on Oct. 8-11.

The Louisiana Office of Tourism (LOT) Marketing grants for qualifying festivals, sporting events, competitions or grand openings of new tourism attractions are available now. Should you have any questions about the grant guidelines or wish to submit an event summary for review, please contact Judy Halloran at (225) 342-8121 or email jhalloran@lot.la.gov. Deadline is March 15.

**Board of Directors**

- Betty Matthews, Chairman
- Jerry Kolinski, Vice Chairman
- Mary Dunn, Treasurer
- Luke Turner, Immediate Past Chairman
- Inki Shaver, Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*
- Tom Lubbe, Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*
- Matthew Schopbach, Shreveport-Bossier Chamber of Commerce*
- Debra Hamilton, Bossier Office of Community Services*
- Tommy Clark , Bossier Chamber of Commerce.*

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- Ray Tromba, Bossier City Mayor’s Office*
- Jon Johnson, Bossier Rural Municipalities*
- Kathy Jackson, Caddo Rural Municipalities*

**Appointing Organization**

- African-American Chamber of Commerce*
- Bossier Chamber of Commerce.*
- Community Services*
- Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce*
- Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*
- Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*
- Tom Lubbe, Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*

**New Additions to Shreveport Common**

With the grand opening of the dual-branded Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites by Hilton on Wed., March 6, Shreveport-Bossier celebrates the 10,000 hotel room mark. This opening makes Shreveport-Bossier more appealing to the meeting planners for groups and conventions including corporate, medical, religious, and social (e.g. fraternalities, sororities, etc.) markets.

"A lot of large conventions will not consider a destination unless there are 10,000 rooms or more. Now, we are able to approach these meeting planners that were unavailable to us before," said Dianna Douglas, regional sales manager at the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau.

The Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites by Hilton Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana’s first dual-branded hotel, provides groups amenities and services that maximize their budgets, including 9,000-square-feet of event space, additional meeting space, the Grand Dahlia Ballroom, a 24/7 business center, free Wi-Fi, full-service restaurant and bar, and on-site catering.

Situated next to I-20, the Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites by Hilton Shreveport-Bossier offers guests centralized accessibility to restaurants and attractions in the area.

Attractions include casinos, museums, an alligator park, and gardens, and more. With this hotel opening, the Shreveport-Bossier area is ready to showcase all that Northwest Louisiana has to offer groups and large conferences.

For more information about the new hotel opening, please visit the website at www.homewoodsuites3.hilton.com. For a complete list of area hotels visit www.shreveport-bossier.org.

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"Separated by the Red River with a neon-lit bridge, Shreveport-Bossier, La. is where cowboy and Cajun come together..."  
- Southern Traveler
Your Bureau at Work

Stacy Brown, president, attended Mardi Gras celebrations in Washington D.C. with Luke Turner, former chairman and board of directors in February. While in D.C., Stacy and Luke met with a corporation for travel promotion called Brand USA, and discussed entering a cooperative partnership, making the State of Louisiana the first to do so. The cooperative partnership will exist in three languages: French, Spanish, and German.

Sheila Norman, sports tourism administrator, is coordinating and promoting upcoming sports events including the LHSSA State Basketball Northern Regional Semi-Finals at Centenary College, the Bass Federation’s state high school bass tournament at Caddo Lake, the high school All-Star basketball games at Centenary College, the Bassmaster Open Series, and the LHSSA State Boys and Girls Golf Championship.

Carolyn Dowden, convention services coordinator, recently attended Barkside Airforce Bass’ 60th Anniversary of the Vietnam War celebration on Feb. 8 and provided visitors guides, maps, copies of the Locals Eat Here guide, and the 10 Free Things to See and Do brochure to generate future visitation.

Shreveport Common Gets New Additions

Shreveport Regional Arts Council is welcoming the spring season with a burst of new additions to the area’s downtown cultural arts scene. Most recently, SIRAC will celebrate the opening of their new headquarters, Central ArtStation and on March 21, they will host an open house to showcase the expansion of Artspace at the 700 block of Texas Street, held 5:30 to 8 p.m. during the monthly TNT Express Thursday Night Trolley Time.

The new additions mark the latest chapter, not only for the local arts agency, but for the area’s burgeoning arts and entertainment community known as Shreveport Common. “Shreveport Common is the new art and culture hub of downtown and two phases of Artspace and Central ArtStation are just such huge components of success,” Downtown Shreveport Development Authority Executive Director Liz Swaine said. The area encompasses nine blocks, bordered by Louisiana Street, Milan Street, Oakwood Cemetery, Austin Place, the Union Pacific Railroad track and a new gateway to downtown at the Common Street Viaduct.

In addition to providing office space for staff, the facility also will include 4,000 square feet of rehearsal and production space, called the Engine Room, for performance rehearsals, workshops, demonstrations and more. Visitors will be able to explore the site and contact the Emerging Artists Gallery and national artists in residence will have a space in the Artist’s Tower. Visit the Shreveport Regional Arts Council website at www.shreveports.org and click on the “Community” tab, like their page on Facebook or call (318) 673-6500 to learn more about Shreveport Common. Visit the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourism Bureau’s website www.shreveportbossierfun-guide.com to find out about this and other events happening in Shreveport-Bossier.

Provincial Pride

The Shreveport-Bossier Attractions Association hosts “Engineering Experiences” Seminar

Tourist Bureau Taking P.R.I.D.E. Nominations

Sci-Port

Submit your events to the Shreveport Bossier Convention and Tourism Bureau at sbctb@shreveport-bossier.com or call (318) 221-2844. www.shreveportbossierconventionandtourism.com