

HISTORY OF
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
ST. LOUIS CONVENTION 1919

THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS
1919-1994

There is still in existence the small scrap of brown paper on which was written the first outline ever drafted for the proposed organization that is now the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs--a scrap of paper that was cherished as long as she lived by Miss Georgia Emery of Detroit, one of the founders.

The words on this paper were the first tangible result of long months of discussion and survey. They were written in May, 1918 in a cafeteria on Fulton Street, New York, Ann Fulton Cafeteria of the YWCA, where one hundred representative women of the United States had met to consider the possibility of forming a group that was destined to be not "just another women's organization," but was to become, within a quarter of a century, one of the strongest sources of unified woman power in the nation.

Interest in the prospective conference swept the country like wildfire. Invitations were accepted with enthusiasm and interest. The little group of one hundred women that gathered in the Ann Fulton Cafeteria on May 11, 1918 did not know that they were making history that day.

The women present at that conference were a varied group; representing practically every field open to women. There were executives accustomed to giving directions; also women accustomed to taking orders and efficiently following out the plans of other people. There were lawyers, physicians, educators and librarians, insurance and advertising women, statisticians and secretaries; a factory superintendent and a chief yeoman in the navy were there to lend a colorful note. Saleswomen, heads of filing departments, publicity directors, advertising counselors, editors, social workers all representing a splendid balance of experience, occupation and sectional opinion. A World War was already in progress and organization of the group was conceived of as a war measure.

Lena Madison Phillips, Secretary of the National Board of the YWCA, agreed to devote her entire time to organizing the new group and was given the title of Secretary of National Business Women's Committee. Before her work was actually under way the Armistice was signed. Interest continued and by March 1919, plans were so well in hand that the National Woman's Committee was able to present a recommendation to the War Work Council asking that State Federations now be definitely established and that delegates from the various states be selected to meet in national convention at the Hotel Statler, St. Louis, Missouri in July 1919, with a view to effecting a permanent organization of Business and Professional Women.

The months that lay between this recommendation in March and the National Convention in July were crowded with intense effort and excitement. The date, time, and place had been set to coincide with the Women of Commerce who were meeting for its annual convention and it was hoped to effect an amicable consolidation of the two groups.

The expectant atmosphere that surrounded that first convention of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women during those torrid days of July, 1919, in the city of St. Louis will never be forgotten by anyone privileged to attend it.

There were major offices to be filled and it was important that sound and reliable leaders be chosen to fill them.

The convention created quite a stir in the city. Streamers announcing it were strung across the hotel lobby. Business men used valuable white space in their daily advertising to welcome the delegates and offer best wishes for the success of the new organization. Reporters from the local newspapers and national magazines considered this occasion important enough to be present to report the progress of this convention.

When the convention was called to order, only three states were not represented. Altogether, there were 212 delegates in attendance; counting the visitors who came along for the ride and for the excitement

of seeing what was going to happen at this new and unique gathering of influential women, the total rose to around 400.

To try to give individual credit to this group of leaders would look like a roster of beloved names, for they were women who made an impression by their thought and vision that has never vanished from Federation memory. However, a few names must stand out indelibly. There was Georgia Emery, an insurance woman of Detroit, well versed in group procedure and in human nature; there was Mary Stewart, whose beautiful Collect was ultimately adopted as the credo of the Federation. There was Lena Lake Forrest, who was to become the second president of the Federation; Gail Laughlin of California, Ida Clyde Clark, Eugenia Wallace, Mamie Bass, Dr. Orie Latham Hatcher, Eva Hunt Dockery, Fern Bauersfield, Louise Connelly, A. Neissner, and Lena Madessin Phillips to name a few.

The keynote of the convention was sounded in an editorial written by Ida Clyde Clark for *CAN HAPPEN*, a little bulletin that was a contribution from the Women's Advertising Club of St. Louis. This was distributed daily to the delegates to keep them informed of progress. The editorial said:

“We are about to embody an Ideal. We must be sure that this thing we are creating is always kept worthy of the spiritual idea that has inspired it. There are five things on which it must depend. We must be Sound, we must be Sincere, we must be Sane, we must be Steady, we must be Efficient.”

Marion Glenn, Pacific Coast District; Ida Venable, Middle West; Mary Johns Hopper, New England and Atlantic Coast States; Nina B. Price, the Southern Territory; and Florence Spencer, Central District; were field organizers whose names should go down into history as the women who laid the cornerstones of the Federation.

By the third day the new group had a name, a constitution and a definite program for the future. It also had a president, Gail Laughlin of California. It had an official publication, *Can Happen*, which later became the *Independent Woman*.

The first headquarters of the Federation was established in the Flatiron Building at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street, New York City.

The Louisiana Federation was one of the numerous state associations organized prior to the formation of the National Federation. The first club, which may be said to be the parent organization, was formed on April 18, 1919, in Shreveport at a meeting at the Youree Hotel. Inspiration for its formation was Agnes Morris, secretary to the State Board of Health, who was at that time too busy to take office in the new group, but not too busy to interest others. It was through her that Nell Lynn King, Shreveport's first president, came into the picture.

Shortly after the formation of the Shreveport Club, Nina B. Price, was sent through the Southern States as an organizer for the as yet prospective National Federation, arrived in Louisiana, and a banquet in her honor was held in the Hotel Youree. Mrs. Price moved on from Shreveport and presently there came an invitation to the Shreveport Club to send representatives to New Orleans for a meeting to organize the State Federation. This was held at the Hotel Roosevelt, afterwards to be the scene of a National Convention. Agnes Morris was persuaded to become the first state president. Dr. Haidee Weeks Guthrie, a dental surgeon famous throughout the South, was another member of the organizing group, as was Mrs. Florence Holmes Stone of New Orleans, afterwards National Treasurer, Gertrude M. Dillenberger of Shreveport and Mrs. B. B. MacFaillane. Three Louisianas, Dr. Guthrie, Miss Lyon and Miss Ernestine Wood of Bogalusa represented the state at the St. Louis meeting.

New Orleans, Shreveport, Alexandria, New Iberia and Bogalusa were in the first federated group. Mansfield, Monroe and Ruston were other early clubs. From the outset the new Federation stood solidly for the advancement of business and professional women. At the first State Convention it was reported that the clubs had in the first year of the Federation's existence found jobs for seventy-five women and had given financial aid amounting to nearly \$2000 to women needing business assistance and for the housing of fifty-eight girls in Alexandria. The Shreveport Club had raised \$1000 for a clubhouse. As early as this first meeting the suggestion was advanced that an employment bureau be established for women. This

subject continued on the agenda for a number of years. At the fourth convention each club agreed to contribute \$120 per year to the State Education Loan Fund. State legislation for the welfare of women in industry was adopted at the eighth State Convention. Also a resolution was passed inveighing against sex discrimination in business and the profession.

The Louisiana Federation has effected the repeal of legislation discriminating against married women workers, was active in the campaign for the preservation of the Old State Capitol Building, and pioneered in vocational guidance. The Baton Rouge Club sponsored the original Clara Tree Major plays for children, now a Parent Teacher project, and organized the local YWCA. The De Ridder Club brought into existence the Beauregard Parish Health Unit.

During the first few years of the National Federation's existence New Orleans played hostess to a National Board meeting. In 1928 it entertained the National Convention. The Louisiana Federation also organized and sponsored the first motorcade to go to a National Convention. Other milestones equally significant mark the State Federation.

The successive presidents have been: Agnes Morris, New Orleans, 1919-1921; Neil B. Lynn, Shreveport, 1921-1922; Dorothy Schulze, Monroe, 1922-1924; Florence Holmes Stone, New Orleans, 1924-1927; Gertrude B. Dillenberger, Shreveport, 1927-1929; Byrne Monget Womack, Baton Rouge, 1929-1932; Jessie Kirk Norton, Shreveport, 1932-1934; Dr. Mable Fontaine Wood, New Orleans, 1934-1936; Maud Reid, Lake Charles, 1936-1937; Monita Goldsby, Baton Rouge, 1937-1939; Juanita Hawley Privette, Covington, 1939-1941; Eunice Thompson Stuckey, Baton Rouge, 1941-1943; and Martha Witter, Alexandria, 1943-1945.

NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION 1928

There had been no change in leadership at Oakland. Lena Madasin Phillips remained as president. There had, however, been a change in the executive secretaryship. Emma Dot Partridge resigned, and in the early fall months, Emily R. Kneubuhl of Kneubuhl came to the executive offices. There was a change also in the editor-ship of the *Independent Woman*. Helen Havener of Main succeeded to the editorial desk vacated by Alice Waller, and was given the additional responsibility of the publicity directorship.

At this point in the Federation's progress it also seemed desirable to add a field secretary to the staff, and Ruth Rich of Florida who had already served the Federation in several volunteer and professional capacities, succeeded to this post. In the spring months of 1928 Frances Cummings, an expert in the field of vocational guidance, was added to the staff as educational secretary.

Its forces thus strengthened, the Federation completed at the convention in New Orleans in July, 1928, its first decade of work, achievement and progress. This progress seemed naturally to fall into five-year periods. The second was to unify its woman power; to give strength and stabilization to its pronouncements and program.

Much water flowed under the bridge between 1927 and 1928, not only in the Federation, but in the world at large. For example, women sat on juries in New Jersey for the first time, and, to the astonishment of the dolorous, Justice did not topple from her throne. National Business Women's Week was launched and became an unqualified success. The Transportation Committee, which had been added to the Federation's roster of regular committees after the spectacular success of the trans-continental President's Special in 1927, functioned with glowing efficiency. Plans were laid for the first Goodwill Tour of business and professional women to Europe, which took place in the summer of 1928. Likewise, the first Tri-State was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, attracting an attendance of 200 delegates, almost as large a number as was present at St. Louis, the founder convention, in 1919.

During the year faint whispers had begun to infiltrate as to the wisdom of having chosen July for the convention month. This month, it was argued, was hot in any part of the United States....sometimes so torrid that one lacked energy for the work of the convention. However, there was a second school of thought that pointed out that July was both the birth month of the United States and the birth month of the Federation and should be retained for sentimental if for no other reasons. But the factor which really turned the tide was July, vacation month for the majority of business and professional women and it was easier to attend a convention at that time. July won hands down, and so did a biennial convention, an issue which again cropped up in New Orleans.

The convention city of 1928 welcomed the delegates with true Southern Hospitality and offered them royal entertainment from start to finish, winding up with a reproduction of the famous Mardi Gras ball.

By this time the Constitution adopted at St. Louis, and amended with fair frequency at subsequent conventions, had become somewhat archaic, and much of the convention time at New Orleans was consumed in discussing a complete constitutional revision, both to provide for the biennial conventions which were authorized there, and to keep pace with the changing demands of the rapidly growing organization.

That this was sound growth was attested in a very practical way, for the Dixie Convention showed a comfortable balance of \$25,000 on hand.

During this year the Federation's awareness of world problems and its affiliation with the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, in whose deliberations it subsequently became an important influence. Much progress was also reported on the Michigan Survey.

At this convention it became obvious that the influence of the National Federation had been productive of an increasing participation by women in the political life of their respective states. Indeed it was here that stress was laid upon what later became a cardinal principle of organization life; that it was of paramount importance for business and professional women with their highly specialized equipment to play an active citizenship role.

The second Five Year period in the life of the Federation was now closing, and the organization could look back with justifiable pride to its achievements during those years. It had forged its way to an enviable position among the well-established women's organizations of the country. It had given serious attention to the importance of sound vocational training. It had launched a survey which would result in the assembling of much scientific data regarding business and professional women. It had established Business Women's Week. It had affiliated itself with such powerful and influential groups as the Women's Joint Congressional Committee and National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War. It had established a sound legislative policy. It had changed to a biennial meeting. It had opened up new activities for women and given business and professional women an increased prestige in community, state and nation.

The Third Five Year period found the Federation free from debt, independent in action and direction, unhampered by any leading strings. The Federation entered its third Five Year period on a new keynote... "Opportunities and Avenues for Woman Power." It had already mobilized the woman power within its own group. The task that lay ahead was to widen horizons for the business and professional women of the nation.

Women wielded an important influence in 1930...an influence that was both economically and legislatively strong. They paid taxes on three billions of dollars of individual incomes and received 70% of all bequeathed estates. 1930 marked the tenth anniversary of granting of the vote to women.

It was about this time that depression began to affect the nation. The question of employment loomed uppermost as a serious issue. The payment of income taxes and the question of dependents became part of the daily problem of every member. Practically every one had dependents of one sort or another. The old myth of "working for pin-money" was vanishing into obscurity. Business and professional women were supporting families, buying homes and sending dependents to school. Their value as an income-earning unit in the community was becoming increasingly recognized.

In 1944 the whole nation was absorbed in winning World War II, a year before Hiroshima was leveled by the first atomic bomb. Longer hours of work, food rationing, purchase of war bonds, first aid training, and the operation of civilian service centers for the men and women in uniform were then immediate and primary concerns of our 91,000 members. The end of that World War in 1945 was followed by the Korean War of 1950-53. Seven years later, with the close of this account in 1960, our 175,000 members shared the nation's concerns over problems in its own hemisphere due to the Castro take-over in Cuba. They came to live daily with the world-wide problems attending the race for control of space which started with the Soviet Union's successful launching and return of Sputnik carrying a live passenger, the dog Laika.

In 1960 Marguerite Rawalt was persuaded to accept the post of historian and a written agreement was made that the appointment was tendered and accepted as an authorship agreement for writing and completion of the history, rather than as a term appointment to expire with the appointing committee; that the history would be published and distributed by the National Federation.

A few of the landmarks of progress by our Federation set forth herein are: the active role in procuring the inclusion in the UN Charter of the declaration of legal equality of men and women; an experimental period, marked by the suspension of a National program framed by National officers and chairmen, with its challenge to the clubs at grass roots to engage in originality in planning their own programs within the objectives, and the resounding return to the old system after a three-year trial; the "take-action" response of the 1954 Convention in reactivating the Lena Madelin Phillips Building Fund of 1929 with a resolution to raise \$325,000 within the term of five years for a headquarter in Washington; the moving of National Executive Offices for the 36-year location in New York City to Washington, D.C.; becoming the first among national women's organizations to establish an educational and research foundation with creation of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation in 1956; the purchase, remodeling and dedication of our own home at 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C.; the 1945 reactivation of regional conferences after the war and their abolition in 1958, coupled with decision to hold annual National conventions and limit the National President to a one-year term; increased emphasis upon legislative activities with the establishment of subsidiary legislative headquarters and

assignment of a staff director to permanent station there; the step-up effort in "Operation Buttonhole" for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by devoting special funds and securing professional assistance; the formulation of fundamentally needed policies and procedures for administration in the National Executive Offices; finance log update; Personnel Manual and position descriptions; magazine publication and editorial policies, and procedure for endorsement of women for public offices.

Hundreds of loyal leaders have contributed their talents and energies to the achievements for these years through which the Federation moved forward to its place of leadership in the nation. The 1944 Convention of the Federation adopted an international platform of principles which proved to be responsible for the invitation the Federation received to be represented at historic meetings related to the United Nations' preliminary organizations, such as the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

THE HEALTH FORM...drawn up by a former Health Committee chairman, Dr. Edythe Hersey, the only such form compiled for business and professional women, and applauded by the Journal of the American Medical Association. Thus the way was paved for the offering of a Blue Cross hospital insurance plan for Federation Members, the first such action.

An International Conference held in New York on January 20-21, 1946, at the Waldorf Astoria, provided opportunity to discuss with working women of other countries the problems of the shift from war to peace.

A keynote speech made by President of the Federation, Margaret A. Hickey, set a pattern for many meetings to come; "We must hold the enthusiasm that women put into their war work and turn it to constructive channels for the building of peace. Let us endeavor to recapture the spirit of the pioneers, to be aggressive and militant...in the pursuit of our aims. Let us not be ashamed to go into politics, join political parties, work with the party organization in our own precincts.

In 1923 ERA supporters first introduced the bill. In 1947 BPW launched its efforts again for passage of ERA. Though receiving a 38 to 35 vote in the Senate, was lost for lack of a two-thirds majority.

Highlights of the 50's included such items as: Change of name for Education and Vocations, and the work slanted more toward members, their upgrading, work attitudes, personnel practices, rather than principally toward youth; creation of jobs as well as preparation of people for jobs; adequate dues so that money-raising schemes need not place a burden on a small number of members in a club; stressing of health aspects pertaining to working women with special emphasis on periodic physical checkups; avoidance of letting safety work overbalance the program but giving traffic safety due importance; study of international problems before Congress and UN, and the special interest shown in adopting delegates to the 1952 International Board meeting at an approximate cost of \$50 to \$100 for each adoptee.

In 1953 National Board took up the cause of ERA with renewed enthusiasm. A special "Operation Buttonhole" kit of information and materials on the legislation was prepared and sent to the states at a cost of \$1 each. The pages of the *Independent Woman* were used to inform and enthuse clubs into action, with such articles as "When you Buttonhole Your Congressman."

In 1954 "Bucks for Bricks Campaign" was launched to purchase a home for the Federation in Washington, D.C. The Federation took the national spotlight with the establishment of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation as "the first national foundation created to serve business and professional women the world over" and the first such educational and research center created by a national women's organization in the United States.

Two Federation needs and purposes were achieved; not one, but two Federation dreams came true. The Federation was incorporated in the District of Columbia on February 27, 1956, as a corporate entity qualified to take title and ownership of a headquarters property and simultaneously to function as an educational and research center which would insure continued out-front leadership in the future advancement of the interests of business women. Thus, both real estate ownership and program development were incorporated.

Hazel Palmer, National President, 1956-58 stands out as an example of a successful woman. It is said of her: "(She has) natural attributes of good leadership...graciousness, poise, diplomacy, integrity, good judgement, personal charm and the courage of her convictions".

The name of the magazine was changed, beginning with the November, 1956 issue, from its long-familiar *Independent Woman* to *National Business Woman*, a change approved by mail ballot of the Board of Directors.

The 1958 Biennial Convention held in Seattle was full of excitement and debate. Club dues for convention were doubled, International Federation dues were raised to 15 cents per capita, bylaws amended to provide for annual election of officers, with provision that no officer should be eligible to serve more than two consecutive years, the vote being 1057 to 10. The most heated debate centered around the question of contributing to the International Federation's Delegates Fund.

Miss Rawalt requested "down-to-earth" figures on: (1) the membership and amounts of contributions by all countries into the International Federation budget, so that we may see where we stand "when this finger is pointed at us", (2) the relative amount of the U.S. annual contributions to the total budget, the totals contributed, and a list of the contributions to the several special funds which have been made in recent years, so that we can evaluate our "obligation," moral or financial. Mrs. Taylor confirmed that not all federations pay on a per capita basis, and stated the total international budget was \$35,000 per year. Our Federation's treasurer, Dorothy Brimacombe, then provided information that the U.S. had given, prior to 1948, \$113,000; from 1948 to 1958, in 10 cent dues, \$155,000; and that beginning next year, at 15 cents, we would pay over \$26,000. Judge Sachar moved "that the National Federation disclaim any responsibility on any of the amounts heretofore set up as voluntary payments, and they do not commit the Federation to any contribution of any kind with reference to delegates to the International Federation. She pointed out that this was not to question the importance of the International Federation, but the question was whether we can sap our resources for this, which would be a continuing annual contribution. Action was postponed until the following morning, at which time three International Relations chairmen took the floor in succession against the motion.

A compromise resolution, presented by Judge Lorna Lockwood, was adopted which read as follows: "Resolved that it is the consensus of this convention body that the National Federation, not having previously acted upon the resolution of the International Federation regarding voluntary contributions of a specific amount to the Delegates Fund, is not obligated to pay any amount thereon, but that this body favors supporting voluntary contributions to such fund from state federations and individual clubs under the guidance of the International Relations chairmen.

A special committee to define "actively engaged" was set up during the pre-convention Board Meeting. Mary Propes was named to serve on this committee. Mary Propes, Louisiana State President also served as elections chairman.

1960 Convention had its share of heated debates concerning dues increase and the Equal Rights Amendment. Annual dues were increased by \$1.00 and the recommendation calling for professional rewriting of the Handbook was approved.

The 1960 Convention marked the end of the period of biennial National Conventions and the era of two-year terms of office for elected officers.

LOUISIANA 1944-1960

There were 31 clubs in the federation as of January 31, 1958, with a total membership of 1,485. Three new clubs were received into the federation.

The state is divided into five districts, which hold meetings twice a year, in the fall and spring. Conventions were held in Alexandria, 1953; Shreveport, 1954; Lake Charles, 1955; New Orleans, 1956; Monroe, 1957; and Baton Rouge, 1958.

One of the projects of the Louisiana Federation is the sponsoring of Small Business Clinics, which have been held in Baton Rouge, Monroe, Alexandria and Shreveport.

The Agnes Morris Loan Fund has been one of the projects of Louisiana for many years. This money is loaned to girls and women who want to go to college or take special training in their chosen field

of work. Miss Leocadie Amiss of Baton Rouge was fund custodian for many years but retired in 1956. Mrs. Ora McHenry of Shreveport is now the custodian.

The Louisiana Federation is represented on the Public Affairs Research Council and received valuable legislative material from it.

In line with the policy of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the "Do It Yourself" programs have been used throughout the state. New leadership and skills have been developed in the clubs with this form of program.

Louisiana clubs and members contributed 102% of their quota before the end of the first year in July 1955, and finally gave \$4,269, which was 11% of their quota, to the National Federation Headquarters Building Fund. Contributions were also made to the Research Fund of the BPW Foundation.

The successive state presidents have been: Mr. Ray Theaux, Lafayette, 1945, 1946; Gladys Miles, Monroe/West Monroe, 1946-48; Emma Wood, Franklinton, 1948-50; Mary Propes, Lake Charles, 1950-52; Naomi Drake, New Orleans, 1952-54; Verda Baker, DeRidder, 1954-56; Laudine Smith, 1956-58; Dana Beckworth, Minden, 1958-60; Violet Poindexter, Mandeville, 1960-61.

The following information submitted to the National Federation Historian on February 1, 1994 to be printed in the History of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., Volume III, 1961-1994. History books to be on sale at the 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration in St. Louis, Missouri in July, 1994.

LOUISIANA FEDERATION

In May, 1964, Esther Terry, State First Vice President was named as chairman of the special committee for the establishment of the Governor's Commission of the Status of Women in Louisiana. On September 14, 1964, Governor John J. McKeithen signed the executive order creating the "Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Louisiana." The conference title has changed to the Governor's Conference of Women and members of the federation as well as other women's groups attend the annual conference where issue workshops are attended and legislation needs for the interests of women planned.

The State Congress of Career Women Leaders, sponsored by the Louisiana Federation was held on October 19, 1969 in Lake Charles. The goals of the congress were to develop a more effective American professional and business life by cooperative understanding of all organizations with common interests; to strive for increased participation in career guidance programs for young people; to continue the development of attitudes and the acquisition of knowledge at all levels that will improve the individual woman's growth and participation in career and community endeavors and to develop greater understanding of the career woman of today and her relationship with her colleagues, both men and women. Dorothy Frasier, State President presided over the session.

The Honorable Martha W. Griffiths, United States Congresswoman from Michigan was the keynote speaker at the annual Legislative Conference of the Louisiana Federation which was held on January 26-27, 1973 in Baton Rouge. After the meeting a plan of action was formulated to help implement the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in Louisiana. Vivian W. Nelson, State President, announced that a coalition was being formed with other women's organizations so that an appropriate plan of action could be effectively implemented during the next session of the state legislature for favorable passage of ERA in the House and the Senate.

A Mardi Gras Extravaganza featuring a New Orleans style supper and gala carnival ball was held at the National Convention in San Antonio in July, 1982. Olga Dugas of the St. Bernard LO assisted by Bertha Chauvin, Past State President chaired the affair. Louisiana was presented the Winged Victory Award (Equalization of Membership with a total of 1803 members); Annie C. Price.

On May 25, 1985 at the State Convention in Slidell, State President, Loretta Keane presented Lindy Boggs, the first woman from Louisiana to be elected to the US Congress, the Louisiana BPW Woman of Achievement Award.

On October 3, 1992, Billie C. Woodard, a member of the Lake Charles, LO, was elected Judge, Court of Appeals, Third Circuit. A book written by Judge Woodard entitled "You and the Law" was released in 1993 and all proceeds are shared by the Battered Women's Shelter in Lake Charles and the Calcasieu Parish School Board.

The 1993 National State Membership Award was presented to Louisiana at the National Conference in Reno. Jefferson Parish LO tied Morgantown, WV LO for the Local Organization Membership Award. Iona Myers, State Second Vice President and Membership Chair (also a member of the Jefferson Parish LO) and Pamela S. Kampitsis, State President accepted the awards.

The Louisiana Federation will celebrate its 75th Anniversary at the State Convention in Monroe on June 9-12, 1994. State President Anne M. Storms will present special recognition certificates to Irene Reid, Monroe/West Monroe; Lottie Riff, Frances E. Willard, Alice Arguello, Lake Charles LO; Helen Lee, Esther Terry, Verda Baker, DeRidder LO; Elise Jones, Shreveport/Bossier LO; Maxine Morris, New Orleans LO; and Christelle Knight, Bogalusa LO. These members have served the federation for over fifty years. Irene Reid chartered the Monroe LO in 1920.

The Louisiana Federation is proud of its history and will continue to promote the issues that matter most to working women; we will encourage and support qualified, dedicated women to accept leadership roles in appointed as well as elected offices in local, parish and state government.

The successive state presidents have been: Georgine Holcombe, Bogalusa, 1961-62; Lorraine Z. Mule, New Orleans, 1962-63; Eula Cato, Gretna, 1963-64; Lillian Poole, Hammond, 1964-65; Esther N. Terry, DeRidder, 1965-66; Josephine Aycock, Baton Rouge, 1966-67; Eva Steuernagel, New Orleans, 1967-68; Elizabeth Burdeaux, Monroe/West Monroe, 1968-69; Dorothy Fraiser, St. Bernard, 1969-70; Bertha A. Chavin, Westside, 1970-71; Opie Hogston, Lake Charles, 1971-72; Vivian Nelson, DeRidder, 1972-73; Beryl R. Murphy, New Orleans, 1973-74; Dr. Doris Conway, Lake Charles, 1974-75; Lillian Duet, Thibodaux, 1975-76; Glenda Prechac, New Orleans, 1976-77; Jody Hasten, Jeanerette, 1977-78; Bonnie Tynes, Bogalusa, 1978-79; Mary M. Gildart, Alexandria, 1979-80; Shirley T. Leonard, Thibodaux, 1980-81; Annie C. Price, Alexandria, 1981-82; Robbie Melder Hill, Oakdale, 1982-83; Ferrie A. Church, Shreveport/Bossier, 1983-84; Loretta T. Keane, New Orleans, 1984-85; Sylvia Duplessis, Slidell, 1985-86; Sue S. Magee, Bogalusa, 1986-87; Gayle Patrick, Shreveport/Bossier, 1987-88; Helen Trichel, Oakdale, 1988-89; Yolanda Hughes, DeRidder, 1989-90; Garnet Sharpe, Glenmora, 1990-91; Janis Williams Guyton, Monroe/West Monroe, 1991-92; Pamela S. Kampitsis, St. Bernard, 1992-93; Anne M. Storms, DeRidder, 1993-94.

Louisiana has 24 local organizations and equalized on April 14, 1994 with a membership of 672. Total membership as of May 31, 1994 was _____. A special celebration honoring not only 50 Years Plus Members but also 25 Years Plus Members was held in Monroe on June 9-12, 1993; celebrating 75 YEARS of WOMEN HELPING WOMEN TO MAKE A BETTER LOUISIANA. Officers to be installed at the Diamond Anniversary Celebration are: Ardis D. Lamb, State President; Iona Myers, State President-Elect. Other officers are not named at this time as they may face opposition at convention.

History compiled by: Anne M. Storms, 1993-94 Federation President

* Source of Information: 1919-1944 & 1944-1960 History of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

* Past State Presidents and Local Organization Presidents

HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMENS CLUBS, INC.
75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.....1993/1994

State President: Anne M. Storms

President-Elect: Ardis D. Lamb

Second Vice-President: Antoinette Gardner

Corresponding Secretary: Robbie Hennessy

Auditor: Corvette Kowalski

First Vice-President: Iona R. Myers

Recording Secretary: Debbie Lejeune

Treasurer: Pat Moses

Chair, Nominating Committee: Sandi Myers

Standing Chairs

Legislation: Pat Thompson

Public Relations: Mary Masters

Bylaws, Policies & Procedures: Nancy Buxton

Foundation: Glenda Prechac

Young Careerist: Lois Ferguson

President's Theme: Experience BPW - Free To Be Me...Proud of Our Past, Dedicated to Our Present and Committed to Our Future. A colorful Hot Air Balloon decorated with daisies symbolized the freedom of women to excell professionally was designed by Sandra Storms Kropf.

Special Chair Appointments

Parliamentarian: Loretta Keane

Vision Editor: Iona Myers

Nike Award: Mary Tatum

State Convention Chair: Janis W. Guyton

WIT: Deborah Chaddick

ID: Sandi Myers

Chaplains: Esther Terry & Vivian Nelson

Agnes Morris Educational Loan Fund Custodian: Jody Hasten

National Legislation Platform Delegate: Sandi Myers

Historian & 75th Anniversary Task Force Chair: Garnet Sharpe

Task Force Committee: Carol Cervini, Debbie Fisher, Dolly Ruggiero, Sylvia Duplessis, Linda Burns, Cliffo Crump

Pelican Editor: Gayle Patrick

Mid Year Board: Delia Flynn

NBW Week: Gail Miller

National PAC: Jeri Cobb

Legal Advisor: Debbie Hinkel

Project 2012: Pam Thompson

Choices: Martha Grcmillion

District I Director: Marie A. George

District IV Director: Pat Thompson

District VII Director: Marie Eddleman

District II Director: Billie Petty

District V Director: Joanne Basanez

District VIII Director: Mary Tatum

Local Organization Presidents

Jefferson Parish: Corvette (Cory) Kowalski

New Orleans: Glenda Prechac

Westside: Elizabeth Schwarz

Jeanerette: Irene M. Bienvenu

Lafayette: Evelyn Doucet

Capital City: Alice Teddlie

Greater Gonzales: Anne Lemmon

Slidell: Deborah L. Benner

Alexandria: Liz Macheski

Natchitoches: Camille Moran

Bastrop: Janis Crain

Ruston: Liz Hastings

Lafitte: Mary Graham-Smith

St. Bernard: Tracy Petruccelli

Crowley: Fay Istre

Jennings: Cynthia Satchell

Lake Charles: Sandi Lobue

Donaldsonville: Wanda Ishmael

Thibodaux: Eola T. Pitre

Bogalusa: Sue Magee

DeRidder: Esther Terry

Oakdale: Rhonda Melder

Monroe: Mary Michie

Shreveport: Liz Malec

The 1993 State Convention was held in Natchitoches, Louisiana on June 11-13. Mayor Joe Sampité and Camille Moran chaired the convention. President Pamela Kampitsis, National Representative Susan Dailey and President-Elect Anne Storms were interviewed by the local radio station concerning women's issues.

At the National Convention in Reno, the Louisiana Federation was awarded the National Membership Award. Immediate Past State President Pamela Kampitsis and Iona Myers, 1992/93 State Membership Chair accepted the award. Jefferson Parish, Bastrop, St. Bernard and Natchitoches LOs received local membership awards. Louisiana Federation membership for 1992/93 was 662. Membership and payment of past dues to IFBPW still remain a serious problem. IFBPW refusal to provide BPW/USA with certified statements for the past four fiscal years, schedule of payments that are made on the IFBPW building or any income derived from same, salaries of staff, administration overhead, travel expenses and programs that improve the lives of our sisters worldwide that are currently sponsored and funded directly by IFBPW has made BPW/USA members question the spending of dues by IFBPW. IFBPW has refused to seat the USA delegation at any IFBPW Congress; therefore no BPW/USA representation. Due to decrease in membership, dues monies to be used to pay off the debt for remodeling 2012 has become a real problem; the increase in dues charged by IFBPW cannot be met without another dues increase. BPW/USA has requested negotiation concerning settlement of the 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 dues. A check for \$52,177.50 was forwarded to IFBPW as good faith. IFBPW has refused to negotiate repayment terms.

Mid Year Board featured an ID Course with speakoff competitions. This workshop enabled many members an opportunity to participate in the ID Program. Members attending Mid Year Board donated monies for planting of a tree in St. Louis to commemorate our 75th anniversary.

The first issue of the *Vision*, a newsletter to be published five times yearly, was mailed to all members of the federation in 1993. Iona Myers volunteered to be editor of this project which would replace a great amount of correspondence between officers and chairs on the state and local level and distribute current information to all members.

A reception was held in April 1994 in New Orleans by District I honoring the Florida Federation. Carol Cervini, St. Bernard LO, chaired this event. Lt. Governor Melinda Schwegmann was also present to welcome State President, Carol Tolomeo, and members of the Florida Federation.

Louisiana held its 75th Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Monroe on June 10-12, 1994. Darlene Watson, BPW/USA Young Careerist Chair was the national representative. State Convention Chair, Janis Williams Guyton and District VIII were in charge of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Fox McKeithen, Secretary of the State of Louisiana was the guest speaker.

President Anne Storms honored Fifty Year Plus members, Irene Reid (Monroe), Elise Jones (Shreveport), Maxine Morris (New Orleans), Esther Terry, Verda Baker and Helen Lee (DeRidder), Lottie Riff, Frances Willard, Alice Agruello (Lake Charles), and Christelle Knight (Bogalusa) for their service, stability, support and guidance, responsibility, commitment, vision and loyalty to BPW. President Storms presented 75 Year Anniversary Pins to Irene Reid, charter member of the Monroe/West Monroe BPW in 1922 and Esther Terry, charter member of the DeRidder BPW in 1933. They were the only 50 year plus members attending the convention. Twenty-five Year Plus members were also honored.

Pam Thompson, Project 2012 Chair, collected donations from local organizations and sold membership directories authographed by members attending the convention to purchase a brick at national headquarters commemorating our 75th anniversary.

AWARDS/NIKE LUNCHEON

National Business Women's Week

Natchitoches, Activities best Carrying Out Issues Relevant to Working Women
St. Bernard, Working with Other Organizations

Individual Development

Mary Masters, Speakoff Winner
Glenda Prechac, Runner-up

Young Careerist

Alisa Reed, YC
Lisa Emry, Runner-up

Public Relations

Jefferson Parish, Best Overall Coverage
St. Bernard, Best Coverage of Community Program

Foundation

New Orleans, Highest Donation Per Member Based on Membership 4/30/94
St. Bernard, Best Program
Marie George, St. Bernard, LO Providing Foundation Information to Local or Area High School Counselors and/or College/Jr. College Financial Aid Directors

National Foundation Awards:

Jefferson Parish, New Orleans, DeRidder, Jennings, Shreveport, Lake Charles and Thibodaux

Legislation

Jefferson Parish

Membership

Iona Myers, Most Outstanding Membership Recruiter
Jefferson Parish, Most Outstanding LO in Growth and Retention

National Plus 5 Membership Awards

Sandi Myers, Iona Myers, Jefferson Parish; Janet Piraro, Ann Bruner, Lake Charles; Esther Terry, Anne Storms, DeRidder, Yvonne Murray, Monroe; Camille Moran, Natchitoches; and Margie Wall, Alexandria.

Issues Management

Jefferson Parish, Traveling Award
Jefferson Parish, Legislation/Issues Management Project

District Director's Award

Marie George, District I

President's Award (The Helen Trichel Leadership Award)

Camille Moran, Natchitoches

NIKE AWARD

Lois Ferguson, Lake Charles

Final Report of Registration: Board members, 37; Delegates, 55; Alternates, 4; Past State Presidents, 6; Members, 26; Guests, 3: TOTAL 131

Delegates elected to National Convention were: Iona Myers, Antoinette Gardner, Wanda Ishmael, and Martha Gremillion. Final Membership Report for 1993/1994 totaled 674 members and 24 Local Organizations. Louisiana equalized and was honored at the 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration in St. Louis.

Mariwyn D. Heath, BPW/Ohio compiled and copywrote *A History of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (BPW/USA)*, Volume III, 75th Anniversary Edition and presented an autographed copy to each 1993-1994 state president.

BPW/USA National President Dianne Studer presented each state president (Dianne's Diamonds) with a certificate denoting the purchase of a brick engraved with the state's name and placed at the entrance to National Headquarters, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington D.C.

Audrey Tayse Haynes accepted the appointment as National Federation Executive Director. Building Woman Power Professionally theme was used throughout the federation year. A partnership with Wyeth-Ayerst for scholarship for Women in Graduate Medical and Health Business Programs was formed. Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories assisted in the planning of the program "Understanding Menopause" which was presented throughout the United States by BPW local organizations.

We are committed to VOTE WOMANPOWER! DURING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR WE WERE BUILDING WOMAN POWER PROFESSIONALLY. WE KNOW THAT WOMANPOWER WORKS. In 1995 WE WILL TAKE BUILDING WOMANPOWER PERSONALLY.

1994/1995 STATE OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Ardis D. Lamb |
| President-Elect | Iona Myers |
| First Vice President | Antoinette Gardner |
| Second Vice President | Wanda Ishmael |
| Treasurer | Martha Gremillion |
| Chair of Nominating Committee | Linda Burns |
| Auditor | Sandi Myers |

FEDERATION OBJECTIVES

- To elevate the standards for women in business and in the professions;
- To promote the interests of business and professional women;
- To bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the United States;
- To extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities.

BPW/LOUISIANA MISSION STATEMENT

- BPW/Louisiana advocates professional and personal growth, leadership development and participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for working women through advocacy, education and information.

HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
1994/95

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | State President | Ardis Lamb | |
| President Elect | Iona Myers | First Vice President | Antoinette Gardner |
| Second Vice President | Wanda Ishmael | Recording Secretary | Corvette Kowalski |
| Corresponding Secretary | Linda | Treasurer | Martha Gremillion |
| Auditor | Sandi Myers | Chair Nominating Com. | Linda Burns |

President's Theme: Workplace Equity through Advocacy, Education, Information. TAKE IT PERSONALLY-REACH FOR THE FUTURE

DIRECTORY COVER: HANDS REACHING UP FOR DIAMONDS signified success in reaching our goals for workplace equity was designed by Sandra Storms Kropf.

Standing Chairs

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Legislation | Sandi Myers | Public Relations | Mary Masters |
| Finance | Claudette Gordon | Foundation | Irene Bienvenue |
| Young Careerist | Mary Tatum | Bylaws, P & P | Loretta Keane |

Special Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Parliamentarian | Glenda Prechac | Pelican Editor | Gayle Patrick |
| Vision Editor | Iona Myers | Mid Year Board | Delia Flynn |
| Nike Award | Robbie Melder Hill | NBWW | Billie Petty |
| State Convention Chair | Corvette Kowalski | Legal Advisor | Sandi Lobue |
| Individual Development | Adrienne Seiffert | Chaplain | Lois Ferguson |
| Choices | Doris Sanders | Agnes Morris | Jody Hasten |
| Historian | Anne Storms | National Leg | Sandi Myers |
| Rules & Resolutions | Sandra Thomas | | |
| OK National Convention Reps | Iona Myers & Corvette Kowalski | | |

District Directors

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| District I | Claire Runnels | District II | Sandi Lobue |
| District III | Debbie Benner | District IV | Wanda Ishmael |
| District VII | Camille Moran | District VIII | Sandra Thomas |

Local Organization Presidents

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Jefferson Parish | Sandi Myers | Lafitte | Mary Graham Smith |
| New Orleans | Glenda Prechac | St. Bernard | Elaine Volentine |
| Westside | Elizabeth Schwartz | Crowley | Chellie Godeaux |
| Jeanerette | Irene Bienvenu | Jennings | Bonnie Robert |
| Lafayette | Deborah Fisher | Lake Charles | Lois Ferguson |
| Capital City | Alice Teddlie | Donaldsonville | Dolly Ruggiero |
| Gonzales | Mickie Deslatte | Thibodaux | Lillie Prejean |
| Bogalusa | Sue Magee | Slidell | Suzanne Hervy |
| Alexandria | Liz Mecheski | Natchitoches | Michelle Jordan |
| Oakdale | Rhonda Melder | DeRidder | Denise Mullican |
| Bastrop | Janis Crain | Monroe | Y'Vonne Murray |
| Ruston | Barbara Hammock | Shreveport | Mary Masters |

A very impressive ceremony installing the 1994/95 officers was held at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Monroe with Anne M. Storms, Immediate Past State President, as installing officer.

The mortgage on 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC was burned at the opening of the 75th National Convention on Sunday, July 10, 1994 at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis, Missouri with much pomp, ceremony and gratitude to all who contributed to make it happen. A Great Sigh of Relief was experienced by all in attendance. These Louisiana delegates witnessed the burning: Genevieve Berthiaume, Sylvia Duplesis, Antoinette Gardner, Mary Graham-Smith, Mary Greco, Martha Gremillion, Janis Guyton, Wanda Ishmael, Loretta Keane, Corvette Kowalski, Erna Kreamer, Sandra Storms Kropf, Ardis Lamb, Sue Magee, Mary Masters, Mary Ann Matherrne, Margaret Molaison, Camille Moran, Iona Myers, Sandi Myers, Gayle Patrick, Glenda Prechac, Lillie Prejean, Dr. Alisa Reed, Doris Sanders, Anne Storms, Elaine Vollentine, and Marjorie Wall. Louisiana was 28 delegates strong and being one of the twelve state that equalized were privileged to sit up front. We cheered for Jefferson Parish for recognition by BPW/USA as Honorable Mention for Issues Management/Legislation Award, for Dr. Alisa Reed, our Young Careerist representative and for Mary Masters as our ID representative. Martha Gremillion was a member of the 75th Anniversary Convention Choir.

BPW/USA Officers elected for 1994/95 are: Cindy Winkler, President; Anna Vacca, President Elect; Candacc Butler, First Vice President; Joyce Hart, Second Vice President; Susan Dailey, Recording Secretary; Robin Robinson, Treasurer.

The Long Range Planning Committee met in Alexandria following Mid Year Board. Twenty-one members gathered to brainstorm and start the process of planning to give us a focus and direction for the next five years. The group divided into four categories; shared and classified ideas concerning issues management/legislation, membership, structure and finance, and communication. Each group mapped a plan that included goals and objectives, how to reach these goals and a time limit to do so.

The 76th Annual State Convention was held at the Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie on June 9th, 10th & 11th. Cory Kowalski, the State Convention Chair and District I welcomed the members of the federation and the national representative, Joyce Hart, BPW/USA Second Vice President.

Special guest speaker Lt. Governor Melinda Schwegmann spoke on the activities of the Lt. Governor's office and legislative concerns in the State of Louisiana.

The Task Force Report regarding new rules and regulations of the Agnes Morris Education Loan Fund as revised by Anne M. Storms, Past State President, and approved by the Task Force Committee of Linda Burns, Chair of Nominating Committee and Robbie Melder Hill, Past State President was presented to the convention body for approval. After approved changes, the recommendations of the Task Force will be implemented within 45 days of the convention approval. Each local organization was provided with a copy of the new rules and regulations of the Agnes Morris Education Loan Fund.

State Bylaw Article XIV, Duties of Officers: Section 3: The first vice-president shall (e) serve as Legislative Chair was approved.

AWARDS/NIKE LUNCHEON

National Business Women's Week

Issues Related to Today's Working Women - Jefferson Parish

New Partnerships With Other Organizations - St. Bernard

Individual Development Award

Deborah Ducote Keller, St. Bernard

Young Careerist Award

Elizabeth Keyes, Slidell

Public Relations Award

Best Overall Public Relations Coverage - Jefferson Parish

Best Coverage, Outstanding Community Program - St. Bernard

Foundation

Highest Percentage Per Member - Jefferson Parish

- Best Foundation Program - Jefferson Parish
- Foundation Information to Local Schools - St. Bernard
- Award of Merit Essay - Corvette Kowalski
- Legislative Award
 - Legislation Program or Project - Jefferson Parish/Lake Charles
 - Legislator of the Year - no entries received
 - LOs with 10% Attendance at Lobby Day - Capital City, Donaldsonville, Jefferson Parish and Natchitoches
- Membership Awards
 - Most Outstanding Recruiter - Sandi Myers, Jefferson Parish
 - Most Outstanding LO in growth - Slidell
- Issues Management Award
 - Legislation/Issue Management Project - Jefferson Parish
- Best Director Award
 - Traveling Pelican Award - Claire Runnels, District I
- President's Award
 - Leadership Award - Best LO President - Sandi Myers, Jefferson Parish
 - Most Outstanding LO Traveling Award - Jefferson Parish
- Nike Award
 - Genevieve Berthiaume, Jefferson Parish

Final Report of Registration: Board Members 26, Delegates, 35; Alternates, 10; Past State Presidents, 11; Guests, 1; Visitors, 20. Total: 103

Delegates elected to National Convention, Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 15-18, 1995 were: Antoinette Gardner, Mary Masters, Martha Gremillion and Wanda Ishmael. Final Membership Report for 1994-95 totaled 563 members and 23 local organizations.

1995/96 State Officers

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Iona Myers |
| President Elect | Antoinette Gardner |
| First Vice President | Corvette Kowalski |
| Second Vice President | Mary Masters |
| Recording Secretary | Martha Gremillion |
| Corresponding Secretary | Sandi Myers |
| Treasurer | Camille Moran |
| Chair of Nominating Committee | Wanda Ishmael |
| Auditor | Pat Moses |

HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
1995/1996

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| State President | Iona Myers |
| President Elect | Antoinette Gardner |
| First Vice President | Corvette Kowalski |
| Second Vice President | Mary Masters |
| Recording Secretary | Martha Gremillion |
| Corresponding Secretary | Sandi Myers |
| Treasurer | Camille Moran |
| Chair of Nominating Committee | Wanda Ishmael |
| Auditor | Pat Moses |

President's Theme: Take Heart - Make Women Count!
Mission: To achieve equity for all women in the work place through advocacy,
education and information.

Vision: BPW is the leading advocate for working women

The following characteristics embody our vision and mission and assist the organization in focusing our efforts. Focused; Broad-based; Formidable Force; Cutting Edge; Catalyst for Change; Committed Professionals; Efficient and Progressive; Business Partners

Directory Cover: Outline of the State of Louisiana with three women, holding a heart. BPW/USA
logo, Women Mean Business

Board Members

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Parliamentarian, Chair of Protocol | Glenda Prechac |
| Pelican Editor | Ruth Cooley |
| Past President (3 yr) | Ardis Lamb |
| Past President (2 yr) | Anne Storms |
| Past President (1 yr) | Pamela S. Kampitsis |

Standing Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Legislation | Corvette Kowalski | Public Relations | Claire Runnels |
| Finance | Rhonda Melder | Foundation | Sandi A. Lobue |
| Bylaws, P & P | Anne M. Storms | Young Careerist | Dr. Alisa Reed |

Special Committee Chairs/Task Force Appointments

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Vision Editor | Iona Myers | Individual Development | Mary Masters |
| Vision Co-Editor | Stephanie Tufaro | Historian | Anne Storms |
| Nike | Loretta T. Keane | Choices & Changes | Doris Sanders |
| Rules/Resolutions | Phyllis Callahan | National Convention | Ardis Lamb |
| Legal Advisor | Roberta Brock | LA Educational Foundation Task Force | Robbie Melder Hill |
| Chaplain | Sylvia Duplessis | | |
| National PAC | Jeanne Okamoto | | |
| Agnes Morris Ed Fund | Jody Hasten | | |
| Mid Year Board | Delia Flynn | | |
| 96 State Convention | Deborah K. Fisher | | |
| NBWW | Marie Eddlemon | | |

District Directors

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| District I | Corvette Kowalski | District V | Jo Anne H. Bassanez |
| District II | Debbie Spallino | District VII | Rhonda Melder |
| District IV | Anne Lemmon | District VIII | Sandra Thomas |

Local Organization Presidents

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Jefferson Parish | Genevieve Berthiaume | Shreveport | Brandy Brocato |
| New Orleans | Teddy V. Bellott | Lafitte | Mary Graham Smith |
| Westside | Anne Gauthreaux | St. Bernard | Shelah Goodson |
| Lafayette | Deborah Fisher | Lake Charles | Ann Bruner |
| Capital City | Alice T. Teddlie | Donaldsonville | Dolly Ruggiero |
| Gonzales | Yvonne Andrepont | Bogalusa | Inactive/Dues |
| Slidell | Elizabeth Keyes | Alexandria | Marjorie M. Wall |
| DeRidder | Denise Mullican | Natchitoches | Doris Sanders |
| Oakdaie | Jean Fogleman | Bastrop | Susan Arnett |
| Monroe/W.M. | Janis Guyton | Ruston | Barbara Hammock |

Iona R. Myers was installed as state president at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie on Saturday, June 10, 1995. Installing officer was Past State President, Robbie Melder Hill. Corvette Kowalski served as State Convention Chair. Brigadier General Sherian G. Cadoria was the keynote speaker at the installation banquet. Her topic was very inspiring and a few of the highlights were worth recording in our history: Be visionary...willing to respond to accommodate change. P.A.C.E. - professionalism (a life-long pursuit); attitude (a dynamic charge); change (challenges); and **excellence** (the high road, our society has drifted from the high road). General Cadoria encouraged each of us to: work as a team; compete only with yourself; carry other women with you; know the issue; read continuously; observe continuously; intelligent input; careful listening (listening is an art); walk/talk softly-be humble and gentle; be caring; be flexible, willing responsive accommodation of change; be assertive, attitude in getting views heard. In the year 2000 women will need a positive attitude, perception, have flexibility (bend, don't break), be optimistic and pool resources and experience.

BPW/USA National Convention was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 15-18, 1995. Nutrition and exercise expert Richard Simmons was the hit of the keynote luncheon on Monday July 17th. Members learned the latest country line dances and much excitement was generated on auction items at the Foundation Gala. These were the entertaining and fun times; inspiring speakers and information-packed seminars, a first-ever technology fair and leadership institute plus more were available to increase knowledge and leadership needed to promote BPW; it's mission, vision and goals. Anna M. Vacca was installed as BPW/USA National President. On July 31, 1995, Direct dues transition period began.

Mid Year Board was held in Alexandria, Louisiana on November 11, 1995. Twenty-seven members were in attendance. On Sunday, a seminar "Win, Win" was held to assist members in learning to organize and run a meeting properly.

The 77th Annual State Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Central Holidome in Lafayette, Louisiana on June 7-9, 1996. Deborah Fisher, State Convention Chair and members of District II were in charge of the convention. Not only were learning workshops provided, but also relaxing and entertaining sessions were offered to all members. Everyone enjoyed the fashion show presented by Abdalla's. An excellent variety of vendors provided many items for sale. Patricia Cornish, BPW/USA Finance Chair, was our national representative.

AWARDS/NIKE BANQUET

NBW Week

Highest Percentage Members Participation: Alexandria BPW

IDP

Sandra Miller - Jefferson Parish BPW

Young Careerists

Carol Treitler-Fife - St. Bernard BPW

Public Relations

Best Coverage (Press Book): Jefferson Parish BPW

Best Coverage of Outstanding Community Program: St. Bernard BPW

Best Coverage of a Single Program: St. Bernard BPW

Foundation

Highest Per Member Contribution: Jefferson Parish BPW

\$3.00 per member LO Contributions: Jefferson Parish, Thibodaux, Donaldsonville, Slidell, Lake Charles, and New Orleans LOs

Membership

LO Best Retention & Growth: Donaldsonville LO

Most Outstanding Membership Recruiter: Pattie Dossman - West St. Tammany LO

Plus 5 Recruiters: Pattie Dossman, West St. Tammany; Ann Bruner, Lake Charles LO; Sandi Myers & Genevieve Berthiaume, Jefferson Parish LO

Legislation Award

Outstanding Legislative Program: Donaldsonville BPW

Attendance at Lobby Day: Donaldsonville, New Orleans and Jefferson Parish LOs

Issues Management Award

Making a Difference: St. Bernard LO

Excellence in Media Award: Amy Ragsdale - St. Bernard LO

District Director's Award

District Accomplishments Award: District I - Corvette Kowalski

State President's Award

Most Outstanding LO Award (Traveling): St. Bernard

President's Excellence in Leadership Award: Corvette Kowalski - Jefferson Parish LO

NIKE Award

Pamela Kampitsis - St. Bernard LO/Past State President 92/93

BYLAW AMENDMENT: Article XV, Board of Directors, Section I:

The Executive Committee with the Chairs of standing and special committees, the district directors, the presidents of the local organizations or the local organization's duly authorized representative, the Pelican Editor, the corresponding secretary, and the parliamentarian shall constitute the board of directors.

RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED: (1) Three issues of the Pelican will be printed during the federation year beginning 1996-1997. (2) The National President's Gift collected from each LO will increase from 50¢ to \$1.00. This fund will be used to reimburse the State President for the contribution she makes towards a gift for the National President at the National Conference. (3) The State YC Chair will gather information at the 1996 BPW/USA Conference from other federations regarding their YC regulations for their state competitions, and present her report with a recommendation at Mid Year Board (1996). The YC state competition will begin on Friday after 3 p.m.

Final Report of Registration: Delegates, 77; Guests, 3; Visitors, 27; Total in Attendance 107. Total Membership Reported for year ending May 31, 1996: 494 Members.

1996/1997 BPW/LA Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| President | Antoinette Gardner |
| President-Elect | Corvette J. Kowalski |
| First Vice President | Mary Masters |
| Second Vice President | Dolly Ruggiero |
| Recording Secretary | Doris Sanders |
| Treasurer | Martha Mahfouz |
| Chair of Nominations | Delia Flynn |
| Auditor | Pat Moses |

FEDERATION OBJECTIVES

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- To promote the interests of business and professional women;
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- To extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities.

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