

**THE HISTORY 2010-2011 OF THE
LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.**

**President – M. M. (Peggy) Wells
Vice President – Linda Burns
Recording Secretary – Corvette Kowalski
Treasurer – Angie Jackson-Wilson**

PRESIDENT'S THEME

“Inspired and Empowered Women Can Transform Their World”

EVENT DATES

Post Convention Board Meeting	June 5, 2010
Mid Year Board Meeting	January 21-22, 2011, Baton Rouge, LA
92 nd State Conference	June 3-5, 2011, Monroe, LA

Strategic Plan and Goals for 2010-2011

Membership Goal: Membership recruitment and retention

Political Impact Goal: To continue the program of advocacy, education, and information as put forth in our State Legislative Platform.

BOARD MEMBERS

Parliamentarian – Frances Jakes
Immediate Past President – Cynthia Thompson
Past State President 1 yr – Corvette Kowalski
Past State President 2 yr – Delia Flynn
Past State President 3 yr – Cynthia Thompson

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auditor – Janis Guyton
Foundation – Stephanie Tufaro
Public Relations – Judy Wilson
Bylaws, P&P – Delia Flynn
Pelican Editor – Rhonda Counselman
Chair of Nominations – Wanda Ishmael

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS/TASK FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Agnes Morris Ed Scholarship – Linda Burns
Mid Year Board – Kaaren Montgomery-Grimes
Rules & Resolution – Lois Ferguson
Chair District Directors –
Nike Award – Pat Moses Howard
Membership – Treasurer
Legislation/National Leg Platform – Vice President

Historian – Martha Gremillion
Chaplain – Rev. Jo Ann Cooper
ERA Chair – Camille Moran
Web Master – Edna Haden

State Conference 2011 – Events Planning Committee – Kaaren Montgomery Grimes, Chair

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Southeast:

Director – Harriet Haworth

Southwest Central:

Co-Director – Linda Burns

Co-Director – Pat Moses Howard

LOCAL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Southeast District

Donaldsonville – Wanda Ishmael
Jefferson Parish – Stephanie Tufaro
New Orleans – Glenda Prechac
St. Bernard – Lauren Gibson

Southwest/Central District

Alexandria – Delia Flynn
Lake Charles – Lois Ferguson
Monroe/W.Monroe – Janis Guyton
Oakdale – Linda Burns

Installation:

The installation officers were Janis Guyton and Anne M. Storms, Past State Presidents. The theme of the installation was “*Inspired & Empowered Women Can Transform Their World*” which is the incoming President Peggy Wells theme.

Status of Local Organizations:

Currently there are eight local organizations. Membership total on May 31, 2010 was 112.

Mid Year Board:

The Mid Year Board (MYB) was held on January 21-22, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Baton Rouge – South, Baton Rouge, LA. Fifty-four persons attended the Mid Year Board Luncheon (27 guests and 27 members).

A panel discussion on “Leadership Skills for the Future” was excellent. Panelists Sharon Cole, Site Leader of Dow Chemical Company’s Plaquemine site; Patricia Felder, owner of Felder’s Collision Parts; and Stephanie Griffin Manson, Vice President of Operations of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, and moderator Kathy Fletcher Victorian of City Hall Fellows did a superb job.

The highlight of the luncheon was the announcement of the 2011 NIKE Award winner. The Esther Terry NIKE award is BPW Louisiana’s most prestigious award; it is given annually to a member for outstanding contributions to the State Federation, her Local Organization, and her community. Congratulations to Martha Gremillion of New Orleans LO.

A Mardi Gras Silent Auction raised \$340 to benefit the Agnes Morris Educational Scholarship Fund. Not only are we "Women Helping Women," but it is fact that education helps women improve their professional and personal lives, as well as the lives of their families. Our scholarship fund enables and empowers women to do just that. Young Careerist Training on Interviewing at Mid Year Board was held. Besides YC candidates and LO members, we invited our luncheon guests to participate. Lisa Hibner of Delta Community College presented pointers on interviewing, sample interview questions, and STAR exercises to help interviewees answer interview questions. We had excellent group participation during this session, and have another potential YC candidate.

An afternoon BPW Louisiana Policy-in-Action meeting was chaired by Camille Moran, PSP, and Judy Wilson, PSP and attended by members, luncheon guests, and legislative partners alike. The attendees brainstormed and strategized on how to move forward on our goals of ERA passage and Pay Equity.

State Conference 2011:

State Conference was held June 3-5, 2011 at the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center in Monroe, LA. There were 28 members and 11 guests attending. The Conference opened with the keynote address by Kathleen Harris, Superintendent of Monroe City Schools. Her topic was "A Lifetime of Learning". The morning session of the conference began with the Presentation of Colors by the Wossman High School Color Guard. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome Address and Proclamation by Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo. The formal business session followed.

The Luncheon Keynote Speaker was Alberta Green, Asst. Director of the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) Carrier Connections. Her topic was "Communicating with Confidence."

Following Ms. Green's speech it was announced that Jaclyn Tubre was the candidate selected Young Careerist for 2011-12. Jaclyn Tubre of the Dow Chemical Company in Plaquemine LA. Jaclyn is from Baton Rouge, and a graduate of LSU with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. She is currently working as a Senior Production Engineer for 2 power plants and electrical distribution system, where she is responsible for safe operations and training of operations personnel. Prior to her operations assignment, she was an Electrical Design Engineer for Dow Louisiana Operations, where she provided electrical expertise for several of Dow's plants in Louisiana.

State Conference is a business meeting when membership reviews the administration activities of this organization. Committee Chairs and elected Officials are held accountable for the work performed. Challenges in the membership growth and retention under the re-organization of BPW Foundation will plague us for several years. Retention will be helped by the passage of lower dues and growth will come not from just a lower dues fee, but the value of this organization and what it offers new members. Election for the coming year was conducted and another year passed to the history file.

President's Message: (June - May 2011):

July:

- July 1st was the effective date of the membership dues reduction voted on at 2010 State Conference. Membership dues for MOL and MAL membership categories dropped by \$34; SOL and SAL dues were unaffected.

State Treasurer Angie Jackson-Wilson and I attended the Women's Professional Empowerment Alliance event in O'Fallon, Illinois July 30, 31, and August 1. It was a chance to network with BPW members from the rest of the country and leverage ideas. 19 states were represented; some are still with BPW and some are not, but more states have signed the revised license agreement. There were several representatives speaking about BPW International, a speaker from WIPP – Women Impacting Public Policy, an organization that does advocacy for women business owners, a Circuit Judge speaking on the importance of LO's, and a speaker on the historical advances of women in the military. The best session (my opinion) was the roundtable session for state presidents.

August:

- Publicity for the Young Careerist program began.

September:

- BPW Louisiana was one of the sponsoring organizations for the 2nd annual Louisiana Women's Conference in Baton Rouge. This was an excellent opportunity to network with other women from throughout our state and to promote the mission and value of BPW. There were 4 interesting professional and personal development tracks and a number of high-powered women speakers featured for this one-day conference. We had a table at the conference and handed out promotional materials on our Young Careerist Program and on the benefits of belonging to BPW Louisiana. BPW Louisiana nominated Karen Kay of Monroe-West Monroe for the "Influential and Powerful Women of Louisiana" award, and she was one of the recipients of that award at the conference. BPW/LA will receive a free sponsorship in 2011 and has been asked to present a breakout session at the 2011 conference on a topic of our choice. We have also been approached on being a permanent planning partner of this annual conference. Your president will serve as public relations/marketing chair for the 2011 Women's Conference (9-23-11). So, participation will continue to benefit our organization.
- I had the opportunity to visit the Lake Charles LO for their September meeting

October:

- The first Young Careerist training sessions were held at the Fall District Meetings. 4 of the 6 confirmed Young Careerist candidates received face-to-face or virtual training on Networking and Mentoring. Thank you to those who have stepped up as mentors: Martha Gremillion, Jo Ann Cooper, Cynthia Edwards, Glenda Prechac, Linda Burns, Lisa Hibner, and Harriet Haworth. For virtual training, we used a free webinar service Vyew as well as our toll-free teleconference number.

November:

- Registration for Mid Year Board opened utilizing a new membership and event registration database powered by a service Wild Apricot. This does not replace our current website, www.bpwloisiana.org, but will be used in tandem with it. We will use the new database service for membership renewal invoicing, online membership renewal, online event registration, and automated membership e-messaging. This database will also help streamline the State Treasurer's workload. Our setup will be similar to that of BPW Illinois and Texas Business Women (formerly BPW TX). Other state organizations are utilizing this service successfully. There is the possibility of doing our entire website using this hosting service, which offers much more flexibility and ease in website setup and editing. The next feature to go online will be in January and will be a members-only page where members can obtain membership lists as well as other BPW Licensed information.

- I had the opportunity to visit the Oakdale LO for their November meeting. Plans are to visit the New Orleans, Jefferson Parish, and St. Bernard LO's in February and April 2011.

December:

- Publicity began for the Agnes Morris Education Scholarship Fund.

Beginning in July, monthly communications have been sent to the membership. Those members with email addresses have received these communications via email; others have received a hard copy via U.S. Mail.

The Executive Committee met via teleconference (toll-free number) in July, August, October, and November. The Events Planning Committee met via teleconference (toll-free number) in July, August, and October.

In 2010, I visited the meetings of Lake Charles, Monroe-West Monroe, and Oakdale LO's .

January:

- Our Mid-Year Board meeting in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn South was well attended. We had 28 members in attendance for the business meeting; we had 28 members in attendance and 24 guests at the luncheon. Martha Gremillion was named as the Esther Terry Nike Award winner.
- Following the luncheon, there were two additional sessions available for members and guests:
 - The YC Training on Interviewing
 - A political action session sponsored by BPW/LA and some of our advocacy partners

February:

- Detailed State Conference planning activities began
- We conducted a virtual 'makeup session' on Interviewing training for those YC candidates unable to attend the Mid Year Board training. For virtual training, we used a free webinar service Vyew as well as our toll-free teleconference number.
- I was able to attend LO meetings for St. Bernard, Jefferson Parish, and New Orleans.

March

- Special Registration for members for Vendor and Sponsorship opportunities opened on March 1.
- State Conference planning activities continued
- Final YC training sessions on Preparing Presentations and Public Speaking took place at the Spring District Meetings

April

- State Conference speakers were finalized
- State Conference planning activities continued
- Online and Mail Registration for State Conference opened on April 1
- Publicity began for State Conference

May

- The Executive Committee, along with the District Directors and Liaisons, reviewed the Agnes Morris Scholarship Fund applications.

Monthly communications have been sent to the membership every month during 2010-2011 since July. Those members with email addresses have received these communications via email; others have received a hard copy via U.S. Mail.

The Executive Committee met via teleconference (toll-free number) in January, February, and March; a face-to-face Executive Committee meeting was held prior to Mid-Year Board in January. The Events Planning Committee met via teleconference (toll-free number) in January, February, March, April, and May; there were two meetings held in May.

This concludes the history report for 2010-2011.

Martha Gremillion, Historian

Date: May 1, 2012