

Business and Professional Women/Louisiana 2002-2003 History

At the conclusion of the 83rd annual conference, the Installation Banquet, “Rise to the Challenge”, held at the Ramada Inn, Natchitoches, launched the 2002-2003 year with the installation of President Pat Moses, President-Elect Linda Burns, First Vice President Camille Moran, Second Vice President Rhonda Counselman, Corresponding Secretary Rosa E. White, Recording Secretary Eva Bourdier and Treasurer Anne Storms. The President announced her slogan “Attitude + Motivation + Determination + Commitment Equal Success” and her goals of Membership Growth, Leadership Training, Leadership Responsibility, Sharing & Caring.

The appointed committee chairmen were Bylaws Corvette Kowalski, Finance Alice Barrios, Foundation Wanda Ishmael, Public Relations Linda Dreier, Young Careerist Laurie Bartley, and Individual Development Paula Hope.

The special committee appointments were Auditor Betty Bellina, Nominations Chair Phyllis Callahan, Parliamentarian Glenda Prechac, *Pelican* Editor Rhonda Counselman, *NBWW* Chair Doris Sanders, Agnes Morris Education Loan Fund and LA Education Foundation Linda Burns, NIKE Chair Janis Guyton, State Convention Chair Rhonda Counselman, Historian Iona Myers, Scrapbook Debbie Lejeune, Chaplain Lois Ferguson, Legal Advisor Sandi Aucoin Broussard, Rules and Resolutions Kathryn Nizer.

The Past State Presidents on the Board were Linda Dreier, Alice Barrios, and Doris Sanders. Suzanne Sweeney is the Southeast District Director and Frances Jakes is the Southwest/Central Director.

Following the Sunday breakfast where the Past Presidents Council inducted the newest Past State President Linda Dreier, the post-convention board of directors meeting convened. The state directories were distributed to the above members and the local presidents. District meeting dates were planned and announced. Finance Chair Alice Barrios reported that the president’s fund raiser “Rise to the Challenge” goal of \$1792.51 had raised \$1200 of the amount to this date.

The committee for the National Convention Mardi Gras “Ball” in New Orleans completed their plans and had a great event, well-attended, held at the second floor meeting room of Harrah’s Casino, New Orleans, with assistance from the Mardi Gras krewe from St. Bernard, with all their royalty.

Members who attended the BPW/USA conference as delegates at the Fairmont in New Orleans were Young Careerist Desiree Duhon Dyess, Pat Moses, Linda Burns, Camille Moran, Rhonda Counselman, Eva Bourdier, Corvette Kowalski, Linda Dreier, Doris Sanders, Alice Barrios, Janis Guyton, Glenda Prechac, Martha Gremillion, Stephanie Tufaro, Pat Tracey, Diane Henry, Iona Myers and Paula Myers. Some local members attended only to help with registration, the Ball, and other duties of the hostess state.

The Mid Year Conference and Legislation Day convened at Best Western Acadian Hotel, Lafayette, Louisiana, November 8-9. Linda Dreier accepted the reservations with deadline of October 11. The Legislative Day Forum, “Women in Turmoil – The Personal and Professional Crises Facing Today’s Woman”, planned by Camille Moran, Legislative Chair, included four panelists with expertise in the subject, from 1 to 4 PM. A Social followed in the President’s Suite. The evening concluded with Dinner featuring speaker Sandra Thompson Decoteau, “A Woman’s Place is in the House or Senate.” The agenda for Saturday was registration from 8 to 9, followed by the conference from 9 to 3, with a break for lunch from 12 to 1. Fees were \$25 for registration, \$20 for Friday dinner, and \$15 for Saturday lunch. Room rate was \$69.00.

Two issues of the *Pelican* went to each member and the President sent out emails and *Leadership Update* newsletters.

The Policy and Action Conference of BPW/USA and Interim Board meeting was held in Washington, DC, February 5 –9, with BPW Louisiana represented by President Pat Moses, President Elect Linda Burns, and First Vice President Camille Moran.

Spring District meetings were held March 22 in W. St Tammany Parish for Southeast, with Camille Moran as state representative, and in DeRidder March 8 for Southwest/Central, with Anne Storms as state representative.

The Eighty-Fourth Annual State Convention convened at the Holidome in Monroe, June 6-8, 2003. Lt.-Governor Kathleen Blanco was the featured speaker at the Friday luncheon. The Young Careerist competition was held, with the YC winner announced as Courtney Hornsby from Natchitoches BPW. The Awards and Nike Banquet were held that evening, with Annie Cazes Price receiving the state's highest honor, The Nike. Other awards for the work of the year follow.

St. Bernard won the *National Business Women's Week* Best Program Award, presented by Doris Sanders.

Linda Dreier, Public Relations Chairman, presented three awards: Best Public Relations Program (Press Book) to Monroe-West Monroe; Best Coverage of Outstanding Community Program to St. Bernard; Best News Coverage of a Single Program to West St. Tammany.

Best Foundation Program Award was won by St. Bernard, presented by Wanda Ishmael, Chairman. She also gave recognitions to the following: Jefferson Parish the GOLD Foundation Award for \$112 per capita contributions; and to Monroe-West Monroe for \$48 per capita; Silver recognition to Oakdale (\$15 per capita) and Natchitoches (\$10 per capita). In the FRIENDS category, with 25% or more of membership contributing \$25+, Jefferson Parish and Monroe-West Monroe were honored.

Slidell won the Legislation Award. St. Bernard won the Issues Management Program Award, and Excellence in Advocacy Award, which was the state entry in the national competition, all presented by Camille Moran. She also presented Equal Pay Day Awards to Monroe-West Monroe, Natchitoches and Slidell. Most Attendance at Lagislative Day honor went to Lake Charles (30%).

National Membership Awards, as presented by Dr. Louise Gutowski included Club Award to West St. Tammany, and Individual Award for One-byOne to Lori Tate of Natchitoches, and Top Recruiter for 14 new members to Judy Wilson, Monroe-West Monroe.

State Membership Awards, presented by Rhonda Counselman, included Certificate of Merit for Equalizing to St. Bernard and Alexandria. The Membership Retention Award honored Lake Charles 100%, Monroe-West Monroe 125%, Slidell 115%, West St. Tammany 125%. Membership Growth recognition went to West St. Tammany for 24, and Monroe-West Monroe for 14. The Communication and "Rise to the Challenge" awards honored Janice Cobb of St. Bernard, and Judy Wilson of Monroe-West Monroe. The Starfish Recruiter Award was won by Judy Wilson, Monroe-West Monroe. Plus Five Winners were Ludy Pittman 6 and Dawn Hovenaghel 6, both of Slidell; Angie Balli 7, of St. Bernard; Sandra Juneau 5, Katie Champagne 5, and Patti Mayeux 5, all of West St. Tammany. Plus Two Awards recognized Deanna Hamilton-Lanz, 2, Lois Hueschen, 3, Tracy Petruccelli, 2, Dianne Henrie, 3, and Delores Jenkins, 2. One-by One awards honored Angie Jackson-Wilson, Lori Tate, Sharon Sampite, Julia Coleman, Donna odom, Phyllis Callahan, Dot Horton, Rebedda King, Sheilah Goodson, Bonnie Cook, Joanne Gallinghouse, Ronda Gabb, Diana Davis, Weegie Levet Petrie, Nancy Eisenmenger, Debra Collins, and Sharen Martin.

Jefferson Parish was honored by BPW/USA President Cindy Young with a "Local Growth Award" for outstanding recruitment.

Courtney Hornsby from Natchitoches won the Young Careerist Award, presented by Desiree Dyess.

Peggy Barbay Toner was recognized for Individual Development, by Paula Hope. Since she had no competition, by vote of assembly next day, she was approved to represent BPW/LA at the national conference in the ID competition.

Linda Burns, Chair of District Directors, presented these awards: for Participation, both Southwest Central and Southeast Districts; for Communication, the same two; for President's Theme Award, Southwest Central; for Outstanding District/Traveling Pelican Award, Southwest Central.

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The "Rise to the Challenge" Awards were presented to Rhonda Counselman, Monroe, Dawn Sharpe Hovenaghel, Slidell, and Dianne Henrie, St. Bernard, by the president.

Dianne Henrie, St. Bernard, won the President's Excellence in Leadership Award, and Monroe/West Monroe won the Most Outstanding Local Organization Award (Traveling Award), both presented by the President.

The business meeting convened on Friday at 5 PM. Mr. Rob Washington, Public Relations Director of Monroe, represented the mayor, to give the Official Welcome. Dr. Louise Gutowski, BPW/USA Vice President, National Representative brought greetings from BPW/USA. The business meeting recessed, then reconvened on Saturday, where these officers were elected to serve the 2003-2004 year: President Linda Burns, President Elect Camille Moran, First Vice President Angela Wilson, Second Vice President Judy Wilson, Secretary Rebecca King, and Treasurer Marie Eddlemon. Bylaws amendments passed to change officer structure to be President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, to begin in 2004-2005, effectively omitting a Second Vice President, and adding duty of Legislative Chair to President Elect, with Chair of District Directors, and combining Membership and Program Chair to duties of Vice President. Another change was adopted to allow election of an officer viva voce, without using a ballot, when there is only one nominee for an office.

During the noon recess, the Past State Presidents lunch honored "those who did answer the challenge." Pat Moses asked Past presidents in attendance to share their "Memories from the Past" and each received a lovely blown glass long-stemmed red rose. The past presidents who attended were Opie Hogston (71-72), Glenda Prechac (76-77), Janis Guyton (91-92), Anne Storms (93-94), Iona Myers (95-96), Antoinette Gardner (96-97), Corvette Kowalski (97-98), Doris Sanders (99-00), Alice Barrios (00-01), Linda Dreier (01-02).

Convention Registration included 50 members and 2 guests. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM. The Installation Banquet followed, in the evening.

Iona R. Myers

Iona R. Myers, Historian 2002-2003

Adopted by 2004 BPW/Louisiana state convention as approved history