



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BPW LOUISIANA • FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER • TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!





BPW Federation Progress Report

We're committed to the continous growth, development, education, and political awareness of our membership. We have started on the following items and look forward to your input as we move forward:

- Bylaws. President Hollins has tasked the Bylaws Chair, Executive Committee, local organization Presidents with reviewing the current bylaws and submitting proposed changes.
- Young Careerist Program. Vice President Dorthea Bennett is working to revitalize the YC Program. We are excited to see what she has in store. She can be contacted via email at ycchair@bpwlouisiana.org.
- Website Update: Visit www.lafbpw. wildapricot.org and let the Federation know your thoughts on the website. As you browse and experience any issues, please send an email to webmaster@bpwlouisiana.org.
- **Financial Update**: The State Auditor found both the BPW and Agnes Morris Scholarship Fund in good standing.

Southeast Fall District Meeting

Members of the New Orleans and St. Bernard BPW organizations attended the annual Southeast Fall District Meeting on Saturday, September 30. Since St. Bernard was the host, the event was held at Rocky & Carlo's Restaurant in Chalmette. Pictured, from left to right (second row): KaTrina Griffin, Amber Wallo, RoseMaria Broussard, Cynthia Ryckaert, Jenifer Heintz, Suzanne Sweeney, Angie Roy, Daisy Spriggens; (first row) Kaaren Montgomery-Grimes, Claudette Reuther, Rene Hollins, Adele Folse, and Lena Nunez.

The Holiday Season is Here!

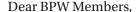


Eat, Dine & Shop Local



- ► Message from the President
- ➤ 2023-24 Membership, Public Relations Goals & Plans
- Calendar of Events
- Recap from the State Conference
- News from Around the State
 - Monroe-West Monroe
 - New Orleans
 - St. Bernard
- Not a Member Yet? 9 Reasons Why You Should Join BPW





I am honored to serve as your 104th State President. Organized in 1919, the Federation's aim was to bring together an alliance of diverse individuals, dedicated to improving the professional, personal, economic, and educational outlook of women.

These last few years the pandemic has affected our ability to empower, advocate, and educate. However, the tide has turned. We can return to what we know best! We can be effective in our State, our districts, and communities. There are so many needs, issues, and opportunities that are awaiting our influence.

I have chosen the theme "Together We Can Do It." It is my pledge to collaborate with the members of this organization to rebuild its brand, strengthen its membership, and build effective programs. However, I cannot do it alone. I need each of you to commit to rebuilding this organization. Together We Can Do It!

This is our time. We can regain our influence throughout the State if we bring our ideas, knowledge, skills, and abilities together and make methodical steps in rebuilding this organization as the premier body it should be.

Together We Can Do It!

Yours in BPW,

Rene F. Hollins

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP GOALS AND PLANS

Together We Can Do It! by creating a methodical plan to assist the club regain its influence for businesswomen established in their careers and those whom we can assist with their goals and aspirations.

- Contract a Marketing Consultant to assist with developing a marketing plan to re-brand the organization.
- Contract a website consultant to re-design the website and generate traffic to the site.
- Work with local Public Relations Society to secure an intern to handle PR for the organization, i.e. develop email lists, write press releases, secure media.
- Each local club review and update a designated piece of club advertising paraphernalia.
- Each club commits to attending one recruitment event this year on behalf of the state.
- Statewide fundraising activity to fund the Agnes Morris Scholarship and local organizations.
- Support the Proposed Legislative Platform.
- Revitalize the Young Careerist Program.
- Recruit new membership by 15%.
- The State President will attend at least one meeting/year at each local organization (barring natural disaster).
- The President and Membership Chair will use approved Membership promotions funding to develop and send BPW Membership Benefits.

2023-2024 PUBLIC RELATIONS GOALS AND PLANS

• To utilize print, electronic, television, and radio media throughout the state to publicize the benefits of BPW membership, the Agnes Morris Scholarship, the speakers, and development sessions at state meetings (Mid-Year Board and State Conference), NBWW, and Equal Pay Day signature events. The Events Planning Committee, Webmaster, Committee Chairs, and Appointees will all work together to execute this plan.

LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN 2023 - 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name	BPW Local Organization	Phone	Email
President	Rene Hollins	New Orleans	504.810.3639	president@bpwlouisiana.org
Vice President	Doretha Bennett	Monroe-West Monroe	318.805.3948	vicepresident@bpwlouisiana.org
Secretary	Linda Burns	Oakdale	318.308.7625	secretary@bpwlouisiana.org
Treasurer	Angie Jackson-Wilson	Monroe-West Monroe	318.348.1681	treasurer@bpwlouisiana.org
Immediate Past President	Lisamarie Brandon	St. Bernard	504.452.8600	ippresident@bpwlouisiana.org

Calendar of Events

2023

October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 05	EC Monthly Teleconference
October 08	Governor's Election Day
October 09	Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 14	Gubernatorial Primary Election Day
October 15-21	National Business Women's Week
October 16	National Boss' Day
October 31	Halloween
November	American Indian Heritage Month National Diabetes Month
November 02	EC Monthly Teleconference
November 05	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 07	Election Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 23	Thanksgiving
December 07	Chanukah EC Monthly Teleconference Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Years Eve Nike Award Nominations Due*

2024

January 01	New Years Day
January 04	EC Monthly Teleconference
January 06	King's Day/Mardi Gras Begins
January TBD	Deadline for early registration for State Mid- Year Board Meeting
January TBD	Deadline for Mid-Year reports from BPW/LA Committee Chairs and Special Appointees
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20	State Mid-Year Board Meeting (Via Zoom) NIKE Award Distributed (Proposed)
January 31	Deadline for nomination forms and pictures to the Nominations Chair
February	American Heart Month Black History Month BPW Scholarship Month
February 01	Agnes Morris Scholarship Deadline EC Monthly Teleconference
February 02	Groundhog Day National Wear Red Day
February 12	Lundi Gras

February 13 February 14 February 19	Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras Ends Valentine's Day Presidents' Day	
-	•	
February 19	Precidents' Day	
	Presidents' Day	
	American Red Cross Month	
March	Employee Appreciation Month	
Manual TDD	Women's History Month	
March TBD	Spring District Meetings	
March 01	Deadline for Spring Pelican articles to the President	
March 07	EC Monthly Teleconference/ Board Teleconference	
March 08	International Women's Day	
March 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
March 15	Deadline for Spring Pelican articles to the Pelican Editor	
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	
March 19	St. Joseph's Day	
March 29	Good Friday	
March 31	Easter	
	Autism Awareness Month	
April	Stress Awareness Month	
4 '101	Workplace Conflict Awareness Month	
April 01	Distribution of Spring Pelican	
April 02	Autism Awareness Day	
April 03	Equal Pay Day	
April TBD	Election of 2023-2024 LO Officers	
April 04	EC Monthly Teleconference	
April 15	Tax Day	
April 22	Earth Day	
May	Military Appreciation Month Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	
May 01-07	National Hurricane Preparedness Week	
May 01	Deadline for BPW/LA Awards	
May 02	EC Monthly Teleconference	
May 04	Kentucky Derby	
May 12	Mother's Day	
May 15	Deadline for reports from BPW/LA Committee Chairs and Special Appointees	
May 15	Deadline for LO 2023-2024 LO information to State President – incoming officers, meeting information	
May 29	Memorial Day	
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month	
June 7-8	Installation of 2023-2024 LO Officers State Conference (Location TBD - SE District)	

LO - Local Organization

 $^{* \}textit{See page 4 for more information regarding the Agnes Morris}$ Educational Scholarship and Esther Terry NIKE Award.



How women can keep their careers going forward

Women have played essential roles in the global workforce for a very long time. Despite their contributions, they continue to face professional obstacles that many of their male colleagues never experience.

The differences between the professional challenges faced by women and those faced by men were evident during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. A study was published in the journal, World Development, examining general inequality during the pandemic, focusing on certain factors such as job loss. While the pandemic had a devastating impact on economy, women bore a seemingly disproportionate percentage of that impact. The study also found that women were 24 percent more likely to permanently lose their jobs than men. Additionally, women expected their labor income to fall by 50 percent more than.

Strategies to keep careers on track can be especially useful in the face of these obstacles female professionals will face even after the pandemic has ended. The following are some ways women can keep their careers going forward.

Continue education. The Graduate Management Admission Test, referred to as the GMAT, is used to assess candidates for admission into graduate level management programs, such as MBA programs. A recent analysis of GMAT test takers found that 47 percent were women, which marked an all-time high. The value of education is undeniable, and women can continue their educations via the pursuit of advanced degrees as they look to keep their careers going forward.

Emphasize networking. The Association for Talent Development reports that 57 percent of job openings are filled through networking contacts. Networking is more accessible than ever thanks to social media sites like LinkedIn, and women can utilize such resources to build connections with mentors and colleagues that can share everything from career advice to access to new job openings.

Define career expectations. Defining career expectations early on can be beneficial in various ways. Such expectations can guide career choices and provide a road map that women may utilize to stay the professional course. This can also help women make decisions about their careers when they come to forks in the road. For example, if a path to promotion seems blocked, women can examine their established career expectations to help them decide if it's time to seek new employment or not. Defining career expectations also can help women effectively communicate with mentors about their goals, which mentors can then use that information when offering guidance. Expectations need not be concrete, and it's likely they will change over time. But they can serve as an important foundation for anyone from young female professionals to experienced executives looking to make changes or determine the next step in their careers.

Women face professional hurdles many of their male colleagues never experience. Various strategies can help women clear such hurdles and keep their careers going in the right direction.

Additional Information on the BPW Scholarship & NIKE Award

Submitted by Linda D. Burns. AMESF Chair

THE AGNES MORRIS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Are you entering a higher education institution to finish your degree or to further your career? Are you a member of BPW LA? If so, Agnes Morris Education Scholarship Fund can give you a scholarship to help with your school expenses.

The scholarship is set up for \$600 per semester for one year (which does not include the summer session).

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, you must be a member of a local club, member-at-large, or a student member of a local club or at-large.

Visit www.lafbpw.wildapricot.org and download the rules and scholarship application. Upon completing the form, you'll also need to include three references, have your local organization President or Treasurer sign it, and have your Treasurer validate your mem-

Mail the documents to Linda Burns, 1424 Evangeline Road Glenmora, LA 71433, or send via email to lindab2@centurytel.net.

Applications must be received by May 1st.

The forms will then be reviewed at the EC Meeting held before the State Conference convenes. The scholarship recipient will be announced during the business session at the State Conference in June.

THE ESTHER TERRY NIKE AWARD

BPW Louisiana is also looking for the 2023 NIKE winner from our membership. The nominee must be submitted by her local organization or by a BPW member (if the nominee is a Member-At-Large or Student-At-Large).

Here are four things to remember when submitting a nominee:

- 1. She must be a BPW LA member in good standing.
- 2. List all positions she has held on the local, district, and state levels in BPW LA. Include the positions held and which programs she worked on at each level. As this is a state award, she must have held chair positions or worked on state level committees in addition to within her district and local organization.
- Tell about her participation and contribution for her church and community.
- 4. Include information about her character and career.

The nomination should be in report form (no more than five typed pages). Do not include the nominee's name/LO's name in the report. Include a cover page that has the LO name/information and the nominee's name.

Your nomination must be received no later than December 31,

Mail your report to Linda Burns, 1424 Evangeline Road, Glenmora, LA 71433, or via email to lindab2@centurytel.net.

2023 State Conference Recap

CHARTING THE COURSE

The 2023 Annual BPW LA State Conference was held from June 9-10 at the Courtyard Baton Rouge-Acadian Center/LSU Area Hotel in Baton Rouge.

Themed "Charting the Course," the event featured two workshops relevant to our mission, a leadership workshop by AcQueena Grant, and Local Organizations' (LO) President's Panel.

The state conference began with a 2022- 2023 Executive Meeting on Friday evening. Friday night was the annual awards night, with the theme "Mardi Gras Party." The awards presentation recognized all the hard work and accomplishments of BPW/LA LOs and members during the 2022-2023 BPW year.

The business meeting on Saturday was full of meaningful dialogue and informed decision making. The installation of the 2023-2024 elected officers, followed by the post conference Board meeting concluded the meeting. Thank you, Southwest Central District, for hosting the conference!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Public Policy Award		
Local Organization Name		
Member At Large	Camille Moran	

Membership Participation Award		
Local Organization Name		
Monroe/W. Monroe	Vicki Crist	
New Orleans	RoseMaria Broussard	

Legacy Award	
Local Organization	Name
Monroe/W. Monroe	Frances Jakes
Monroe/W. Monroe	Angie Jackson-Wilson

Membership Retention Awards		
Local Organization	Percentage	
Alexandria	100	
Lake Charles	100	
New Orleans	86	
Monroe	74	
St. Bernard	50	

Community Achievement Awards		
Local Organization Name		
Monroe/West Monroe	Gwen Amelin	
New Orleans	KaTrina Griffin	

Award of Excellence in Programming		
Local Organization		
Monroe/West Monroe		
New Orleans		
St. Bernard		

Recruitment Awards		
Local Organization	Name	
Monroe/W. Monroe	Angie Jackson-Wilson	
St. Bernard	Angie Roy Claudette Reuther Lisamarie Brandon	







Around the State

MONROE / WEST MONROE

Submitted by Angie Jackson-Wilson, President 2023-2024



August 26th is Women's Equality Day, the 103rd anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S. First introduced as a motion in 1971 and formally adopted in 1973, this is a day which celebrates and honors the women's suffrage movement and acknowledges the hurdles that women have had to overcome in their stride towards equality and progress.

Simply put, if we do not have a seat at the table, the important history and stories will only be told from the perspective of men, especially those in in leadership, and the crucial needs and requisites for women to successfully grow their worth and uplift their families will go unmet.

Women in leadership roles can tell the stories of their own survival and listen to the stories of others reality, which can lead to societal and institutional changes that benefit the entire community."

Business & Professional Womens' mission of information, education, and advocacy has always spoken to me from the

first time I learned about the organization, and it still speaks to me.

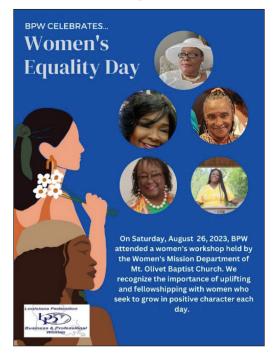
As a woman, I am proud to be part of an organization that supports and empowers other women, we are proud to commemorate this day.

The fight for equity and empowerment, access and opportunity continue, and we must engage more people. Understanding the impact and importance of gender equality and the significance of equal rights for women goes a long way to create the awareness that brings about the crucial changes that is needed in professional and personal lives.

If you are asking people to become involved in a "fight," they must understand how it benefits them, their family, their workplace, and their community. They must have a vested interest. Whatever the fight, it boils down to answering the question, "What's in it for me?"

A 65-year-old soon to be retired man can be convinced to join the fight for pay

Below: On Saturday, August 26, members attended a workshop held by the Women's Mission Department of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.



equity when he realizes that the benefit will impact his working daughter and granddaughters. A 20-something-year-old woman can be convinced to join the fight to reduce prescription drug costs when she realizes that it will impact the health and welfare of her grandmother who has just been diagnosed with diabetes.

Once invested, people will bring their personal experiences, needs and villages to the fight and the conversation expands and become more inclusive. There are challenging conversations to be had and decisions to be made.

Let's celebrate Women's Equality Day 2023 by Embracing Equity!



The Monroe Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and BPW Founder's Day Celebration.



August meeting and birthday celebration.



Latetao Hutchinson, Top 20 Under 40 Recipient. Latetao is the Vice President of Community Affairs at JP Morgan Chase.





NEW ORLEANS

Congratulations



Submitted by RoseMaria Broussard, New Orleans Club

KaTrina C. Griffin

Congratulations to New Orleans member, KaTrina C. Griffin! Ms. Griffin received the Phenomenal Woman Award at "A Night with the Stars" Gala. The Gala was hosted by the Bi-Parish branch of the National Association of University Women Organization (NAUW). The event took place on August 26, 2023, in Thibodaux, La. The NAUW organization sponsors, promotes, and conducts educational activities designed to provide community outreach services to learners at every level of development. It gives assistance to those who are out of school but need those basic skills necessary to function effectively in our society. It raises educational standards in institutions of higher learning by addressing educational issues, and strategically partnering with allied organizations. Ms. Griffin is the President of the New Orleans branch. To find out more about the National Association of University Women, Inc. please visit nauw1910.org.

ST. BERNARD





Prior to the start of St. Bernard Salutes America festivities, St. Bernard Parish Vietnam War Veterans and the St. Bernard Parish Business and Professional Women's Club gathered to hold their annual Liberty Bell ringing ceremony in front of the Fred Sigur Civic Center in Chalmette to celebrate the 247th anniversary of the United States' independence from Great Britain. The St. Bernard Parish Liberty Bell was installed in 1976 and purchased by the BPW and donated to the parish. "It's a big part of BPW history and we want to continue the tradition for our military and veterans," said Councilwoman Wanda Alcon, who presided over the ceremony. Assisted by St. Bernard Fire Department personnel, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 550 participated in the bell ringing celebrating American independence.



A fun time was had by the St. Bernard club at their "End of Summer" luncheon held at Ralph's on the Park in New Orleans, La. Attendees included Cindy Ryckaert, Adele Foles, Claudette Reuther, Deborah Fagan, Wanda Alcon, Dawn Russell, Desire Hebert-Wibright and Angie Roy.



The St. Bernard BPW Club held a meeting to present their three BPW scholarship recipients. Pictured past president, Claudette Reuther, secretary, Kristen Pouey, president, Wanda Alcon, recipients Zoey Wolfe and Catherine Wilson, committee chair, Tracy Petruccelli, vice-president, Lena Nunez and treasurer, Cindy Rychaert. Not pictured is recipient Samantha Mahler.



Not A Member Yet?

9 GREAT REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN BPW

1. Impact

Be part of a national movement and make a difference in the lives of working women as we work together to create the changes needed for equitable work environments and supportive communities. Belong to a nationally-recognized organization whose legacy of success opens doors to other leaders and opinion makers.

2. Networking

Exchange ideas, explore business opportunities, and share common goals with professional women at the community, state, and national levels. Connect with mentors, colleagues, and friends who can assist you in advancing your career, growing your business, and making the right connections.

3. Advocacy

BPW Foundation is headquatered in the Washington, DC metro area for a reason . . . to provide members effective national representation on issues critical to working women. Through BPW Foundation, you have a powerful voice on small business issues, with corporations and on Capitol Hill, without doing all of the legwork yourself. Additionally, through BPW Louisiana, partnering with more national and state women's organizations, you have a powerful voice advocating for the Equal Rights Amendments, Pay Equity, and Prevention of Violence Against Women. Keep the working women's agenda - equal pay, work-life balance, better child and elder care, strong Social Security and pension programs, and workplace equity - at the forefront.

4. Education/Career Enhancement

Participate in BPW programs that are specifically designed to provide the skills needed to succeed and be successful. The Young Careerist Program gives a leg up to young women new to the work force but full of potential.

5. Leadership

Develop Leadership Skills at the local, state and national levels with mentors to help you along the way. Maximize the careerboosting value of your BPW membership by identifying volunteer opportunities that match your professional goals or strengthen your existing skills. Become a recognized leader by getting involved in programs that benefit your community.

For more information, visit

www.lafbpw.wildapricot.org

6. Information

Have quick access to relevant up-to-date information about topics essential for working women, such as the entrepreneur center, via the BPW Foundation website and the BPW Louisiana website.

7. Visibility

Gain visibility and prominence in your community through involvement in BPW events - locally, regionally, statewide, and nationally. Meetings, newsletters, and websites provide opportunities to showcase and promote you and your business.

8. Helping Others

BPW Foundation provides scholarships, research, information, and career development programs for working women. Supporting the BPW Foundation allows you to help other women upgrade their skills or return to the workplace while furthering workplace equity and work life balance. Through the Agnes Morris Education Scholarship Fund, BPW Louisiana offers scholarship to women students 25 years of age or older who are members of B-PW Louisiana and who are attending college or professional certification classes.

9. Friendships

Membership in BPW brings many rewards, but the most lasting and meaningful are the lifelong friendships. Through participaÂtion in the many BPW activities and programs, you will form supportive friendships as well as important business relationships. There is nothing quite like the feeling you get in a room full of powerful women all focused and energized on current issues and a common cause. Whether it is laughing together, working together, or lobbying together, BPW members know how to have fun and to get the job done!

