

THE PELICAN

Business and Professional Women/LA

APRIL 2006

President's Message



Angie Jackson Wilson

April is here already, seems like it was just a short time ago that the gavel was passed and I was off to National Conference in Philadelphia.

So much has happened since June 11, 2005, it is difficult to look back and think of a time when we were not focused on the events caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I know many of you will never be able to go "home" again, because home as you knew it for so many years is no longer there. You are either in the process of rebuilding or relocating. My prayers are with you and your families constantly.

The objectives of the Strategic Plan were developed to continue raising awareness on the role BPW/LA plays in the lives of working women. These objectives were also designed to encompass BPW/USA's platform.

We have experienced a significant decline in membership instead of the growth that we had anticipated.

The devastation of the hurricanes has played a major role in not achieving this objective, however, we continue to add members with diverse skill sets and levels of experience.

BPW's signature programs, Individual Development and Young Careerists, are excellent tools to enable members to obtain information on education and career development. The Agnes Morris Scholarship Fund continues to provide scholarships to deserving applicants to assist them in their career advancement.

Membership satisfaction remains a number one priority. It is extremely important that local organizations use the strategies set by the National and State to prepare its goals. This will go a long way in enhancing your local and state meetings.

Our Website is currently being updated and soon we will be able to improve on our online networking. BPW/USA's website has a full range of programs to provide additional support and networking services. Access to discounts from companies like Dell Computers, Avis and Liberty Mutual are just a few. Web Presence Rewards from Globalnet is also available; GNP is the new host for www.bpwloouisiana.org.

We did not accomplish many of the stretch goals in our strategic plan, however we were able to provide some financial relief to twenty three members after the hurricanes and kept you informed and updated to the best of our ability on the whereabouts of members who had relocated to other states.

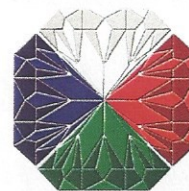
We hosted a joint celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment with the Louisiana Coalition of the ERA at the Women's Center on the Campus of LSU in Baton Rouge on August 27th. Also at our Mid Year Board Conference on January 14, 2006, one of the featured speakers was Joe Wood Berry, a professional lobbyist. "Getting The Job Done, What It Takes To Be a Professional Lobbyist" was her topic.

There is still a couple more months left in this Federation year and one of the highlights was the visit of National President, Roslyn Ridgeway (GA) to the Southeast District meeting on March 25th.

April 25th is Equal Pay Day, Immediate Past President and Pay Equity Chair, Camille Moran has put together a program on April 22nd in Baton Rouge. Once again at State Conference we will host a day long Individual Development Program. Additional information is available in this issue.

Fundraising has been challenging and we will continue to do the best we can to meet our goal this year. Thanks to those members who have taken up the President's Gemstone Challenge.

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Circle of Gems

**BPW/LA GEMS ARE
Refocusing • Activating
Renewing • Executing**

BPW/LA President-Elect/Legislation Chair/Issues Management Chair Update

By Judy Wilson,
BPW/LA President-Elect

Since Mid-Year Board Meeting in January 2006, the emphasis for BPW/LA has been planning the rest of the year which will be highlighting Equal Pay, Young Careerist, and Individual Development, membership growth, Black History Month, and Women's History Month.

At Mid Year Board, the Saturday luncheon speaker was Joe Wood Berry, a professional lobbyist from the Lake Charles, LA area who spoke to us about advocating for our issues effectively.

After Mid-Year Board, Angela Jackson-Wilson, our state president attended Policy and Action in Washington, DC in February. I was unable to attend because of my health, but Angie did us proud and came back with lots of good information about our legislative issues and BPW training. She visited the offices of Representative Rodney Alexander and

Representative Melancon where she advocated for our issues.

Plans are presently underway for the big Economic Recovery Summit and Equal Pay Day Commemoration that will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 10-3 PM at Mike Anderson Restaurant in Baton Rouge with State Representative Syndie Mae Durand from Lafayette and Representative Willie Hunter, Jr from Monroe who will lead the discussion about advocating for the Equal Pay Act in Louisiana. Hunter is the author of HB 144 for Equal Pay for Women and is sponsoring this bill through the Louisiana Labor Relations Committee of which he is chair. The Recovery Summit will have speakers from various government agencies and will discuss how women of Louisiana can get help for their needs from Katrina and Rita and future disasters that may strike our state. Everyone is invited to come to this most important event. Camille Moran, Immediate Past State President and Equal Pay Day/ERA Coordinator is chairing this interesting program. Please make plans to attend.

As Legislation Chair, I encourage everyone to plan a Equal Pay Day event. This is one of our most important events of our club year. Go to BPW/

USA website (www.bpwusa.org) and look for ideas and help with your local event. At the state conference in Lafayette I will be giving Legislation Awards and also Equal Pay and ERA Awards. Look at the awards criteria on page 36-37 of the board book. They should be postmarked no later than May 1, 2006 and sent to me at my address below.

Issues management awards are on page 37 of the board book. Please take advantage of the awards so I may honor those locals that have had interesting and educational programs during the year. They should also be postmarked by May 1, 2006 and sent to me. Programs are how we keep members. Let me know what you have been doing this year.

We must remember the most important issues of Equal Pay and the Equal Rights Amendment passage are the goals of our organization. Louisiana BPW can be instrumental in getting these two pieces of legislation passed in our State. We can not give up.

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jwrew@bellsouth.net

REMEMBER, WE ARE THE WORKING WOMEN'S ADVOCATE!

2006 - 2007 BPW/LA PRESIDENT



Judy Wilson joined Monroe/West Monroe BPW in September 2001 after relocating from Texas, where she served as a LO Membership Chair, First Vice-President, President and District Director in District 13 for 9 years. Locally she has been Membership Chair and Public Relations/Publicity Coordinator, chaired events for National Business Women's Week and for the local Equal Pay Day Observance. Currently she is serving as President Elect. Judy is very active attending all District Conferences, Mid-Year Board/Legislature Day and State Conferences. Judy has qualified numerous times for the Plus 10 Membership Award presented by BPW/USA. Membership recruitment and retention are among her strong talents, Judy looks forward to membership growth. Judy is dedicated, hard working, and will get the job done for our State Federation.

The Presidents Message

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There is still time to be included in the State Conference program, if you did not meet the February 28th deadline. The final deadline is May 15th, 2006.

Finally, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your State President. Thank you for your support and kind words of encouragement. It was not the year I expected, but the one I will not soon forget. Despite everything there was a lot of fun times and friendships and memories made to last a lifetime.

As for BPW Louisiana, we are a resilient group of women and I am proud to be associated with this organization. They have been so many dark days for us, but our sun will shine again. God bless you and all of you please take care.

Southwest Central District Report

By Faye Underwood, District Director

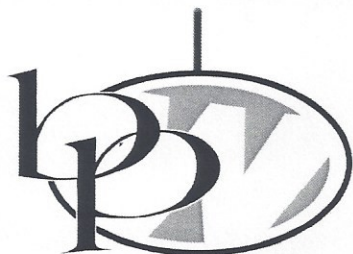
March 15, 2006

The SW/C Fall District Meeting on November 12, 2005 was well attended by the LO's despite the rescheduled meeting due to the two hurricanes. State Representative Doris Sanders reported on not receiving the monthly membership reports for each LO. She also congratulated the DeRidder Lo on gaining 3 members to enable the DeRidder LO to keep its charter. Doris Sanders and Camille Moran reported on the Hurricane Relief Task Force to help our sisters in both districts in South Louisiana. State President Angie Jackson-Wilson made a report on the State of the State BPW and issued a call to the Mid-Year Board

Meeting in Lafayette on January 14, 2006. The Southwest Central District was well represented in Lafayette. Madam President, congratulations on a well run meeting. I was thrilled to see all of the members who attended. And the stories the members from South Louisiana told of their experiences during the Hurricanes. Awesome!

I am looking forward to my SW/C District Meeting Saturday March 17, 2006 in Alexandria. The Alexandria LO will host at the Cleco Building. Dessie Williams, Associate Professor at LSU-Alexandria will speak on "Women of Distinction" in honor of Women's History Month.

DON'T MISS the 2006 Business and Professional Women/USA National Conference, *New Frontiers*, scheduled July 19-20 in Dallas, Texas. Join us as we look at the future: innovative research, strategies and thinking. Workshop themes include **Empowerment: Take the Lead; Advocacy: Stake Your Claim; Workplaces: From Ordinary to Extraordinary; Balancing Act: Live a Little.**



Southwest Central District

congratulates

Angie Jackson-Wilson

for an outstanding year

& proudly supports

Judy Wilson

as incoming State President

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

On Thursday, February 2nd, I along with over 200 other members and supporters of Business and Professional Women/ USA (BPW/USA) visited Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of the organization's national legislative platform. The lobby day kicked off the 2006 BPW/USA Policy & Action Conference: Changing Policies That Impact Workplaces.

The three bills for which we lobbied were Johanna's Law, The Healthy Families Act and the Retirement Security for Life Act. The lobby day included advocacy training, an expert panel discussion about the three bills

and a luncheon on Capitol Hill. The expert panelists who discussed the three bills were Cindy Hounsell, Executive Director of WISER, Sheryl Silver, Founder and President of Alliance for Women's Cancer Awareness and Holly Fechner, Policy Director and Chief Labor & Pensions Counsel for the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee.

Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) addressed the conference attendees during the luncheon preceding the lobby visits on an upcoming bill "the HEART for Women Act. The bill is supported by Business and Profes-

sional Women/USA (BPW/USA) because of the need for increased research on heart disease and its unique impact upon women. The HEART for Women Act would "amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases in women."

Following the luncheon, I visited the offices of Senator Mary Landrieu, (D-LA), Congressman Charles Melancon, (D-LA 3rd District) and Congressman Rodney Alexander, (R-LA 5th District)

While I was unable to meet with



*Karen Garcia-State President, Arkansas
Roslyn Ridgeway-National President*



*Erin Daste, Legislative Assistant
Charlie Melancon, 3rd District*



Rebecca Barham - Legislative Counsel - Rodney Alexander



Business and professional Women Policy & Action Conference, Washington, D.C. - February 1-2, 2006

WOMEN POLICY & ACTION CONFERENCE

the Senator or either of the Congressmen personally, their legislative staff was eager to listen to our positions on the three bills and the legislative agenda of BPW/LA.

The lobby day closed with a BPW/PAC event featuring pollsters Celinda Lake and Kellyanne Conway, authors of the book, "What Women Really Want", which has been featured on the Today Show.

BPW/USA CEO Deborah Frett characterized the conference as a catalyst for women to become change agents. "The Policy & Action Conference allows our membership and

working women to present a unified front to elected leaders and policymakers on the issues that impact women nationwide," explains Frett.

This year an online tool was offered, the Advocacy Classroom created by Advocacy Associates, to prepare conference attendees for their lobby visits. The tool easily and clearly outlined the legislation as well as how to lobby on Capitol Hill.

A special research and education day was held on Friday, February 3rd featuring employers and organizations that are re-shaping and re-thinking workplaces as a result of policy. Par-

ticipants had a selection of workshops to attend and the option to receive continuing education units.

The Board of Directors meeting was held on Saturday. National President, Roslyn Ridgeway updated the members on the top ten accomplishments of the organization to date. The majority of the day's business was the Amendments to the By-laws and Policies and the Procedures Handbook, and as usual it was very lively and informative. These items were forwarded to the National Conference for further consideration.



LA Delegates to 2005 National Conference - Philadelphia. Theresa Gibson, Barbara Leach



Debbie McCaffery, State President, Virginia





Alexandria BPW
Proudly Nominates
Delia Flynn

as Candidate for
State Vice President
& Congratulates her election
to the office of
Southwest Central District Director



Jefferson Parish
proudly nominates as a candidate
for State Treasurer

Cory Kowalski

Economic Recovery Summit & Equal Pay Day Commemoration

SPONSORED BY THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, INC.
& THE LOUISIANA COALITION FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

ATTENTION: WOMEN OF LOUISIANA

- * Are you a Louisiana woman affected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita who is in need of financial recovery information to rebuild your economic future?
- * Do you want to learn more about closing the gender wage gap in our state and how you can achieve pay equity in your workplace?
- * Have you a desire to learn how to be an effective advocate for these and other important issues in both your home district and on the state and national levels?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, we encourage you to join us for a day of information, education, and training featuring leaders from the federal government and across our state.

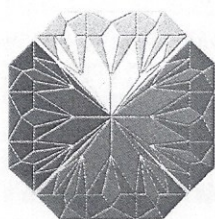
DATE: Saturday, April 22, 2006
TIME: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.—Economic Recovery Panel
12:15 p.m.—1:30 p.m.—Equal Pay Day Commemorative Luncheon
1:45 p.m.—3:00 p.m.—Advocacy Training Workshop
PLACE: Mike Anderson's Seafood Restaurant
1031 West Lee Dr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

- Economic Recovery Forum Participants: Moderator: Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Director of Policy and Planning, Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Panelists: **Cheryl P. Buchert, J. D.**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law/Supervisor of the Loyola Katrina Advice Clinic and Team, Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana; **Shelly Appleby**, Project Specialist, Mayor's Office, City of Lake Charles, Lake Charles, Louisiana; **Mary C. Garon**, National Bank Examiner/Community Affairs Officer for the Gulf Coast, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, New Orleans, Louisiana; **Willie Lake**, Community Affairs Director, Dallas Region Memphis Area Office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Jackson, Mississippi; and **Ernest J. Reilly**, CEO, RagasReilly Business Consulting Services, L.L.C., New Orleans, Louisiana
- Equal Pay Day Commemorative Luncheon Keynote Speaker: **State Representative Sydnie Mae M. Durand**, Louisiana District 46
- Advocacy Training Workshop Facilitators: Pay Equity Legislation Author and Sponsor, **State Representative Willie J. Hunter, Jr.**, Louisiana District 17 and **Ginger E. Adam**, President of the Governmental Relations Firm Ginger E. Adam, L.L.C., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

*** Cost of dutch-treat luncheon is \$17.00/person. Please RSVP by April 19, 2006 to Event Chair Camille Moran at (318) 357-0748 or 888-856-7701

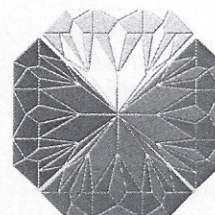
President's Circle of Gems Challenge Fundraiser



\$100 LEVEL - Camille Moran, Cynthia Edwards, OFBPW & Ohio Region 3

\$50 LEVEL - Frances Jakes, Judy Wilson & Rhonda Counselman

\$25 LEVEL - Betty Bellina, Bonnie Cook, Glenda Prechac, Janis Guyton,
Martha Gremillion & Wanda Ishamel





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STATE CONFERENCE

Call to the 87th Annual BPW/LA State Conference

June 9-11, 2006

Holiday Inn, Holidome, Lafayette, LA

All State Officers, Local Organization Presidents (or their representatives), Standing Committee Chairs, Special Appointments, District Directors, Past State Presidents are required to attend. The Conference is open to all members in good standard and everyone is encouraged to attend.

As President of BPW/Louisiana, I would like to personally invite to attend the conference.

Getting Ready for State Conference

State Conference planners-Linda Burns, Pat Moses Howard, Wanda Ishmael, Dianne Henrie, and Bonnie Cook are busy working up activities to keep you involved for the entire weekend---but don't worry they want you to have a good time also.

We will meet at the Lafayette Holiday Inn Holidome off the Evangeline Thruway on June 9-11. Don't forget to call and make your reservations early so you can get take advantage of the BPW discount. At this time we can only give you the bare bones plans---for those of you who come in early on Thursday night, bring your appetite as we will go out to eat, visit, and exchange personal and LO news. On Friday, you will have an opportunity to participate in the Individual Development program. After the opening of the business session, the Awards Supper recognizes LO's efforts throughout the year. Angela Jackson Wilson's final business session will conclude Saturday afternoon. Judy Wilson, Incoming President's Installation Banquet is on Saturday night. On Sunday, Angela Jackson Wilson's induction into the Past President's Council/breakfast will be followed by the Post Conference Board meeting.

Activities and events are still being planned and finalized so be sure to circle June 9-11 on your calendar and meet us in Lafayette for a good time!