

President's Message



By Gwen Amelin

This has been a year of growth as well as challenges for BPW Louisiana. As President, I had the opportunity to be the guest speaker at BPW Monroe/West Monroe July meeting, celebrating the Anniversary of BPW. I was invited to speak at the Girl Code New Orleans event. Unfortunately I could not attend that event and Vice-President Cynthia Edwards eagerly accepted the opportunity for me and attended. Thank you Cynthia!

I attended the 5th Annual Women in Business Conference in Alexandria, Louisiana and after gracious hosting by Harriet Harworth in New Orleans, attended the Southeast District Meeting in New Orleans. There I was given the opportunity to speak and visit with the members of the Southeast District.

National Business Women's Week started with worship at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana, Ike Byrd, III Pastor welcomed the members of BPW and we enjoyed a wonderful worship service and lunch afterwards!

I attended the Southwest Central District Fall Meeting in Alexandria, where a wonderful program, hosting and food was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the members of the Southwest Central District for an enjoyable meeting.

Thanks to Ieshea Jones of Direnzic Technology & Consulting LLC for the update and redesign to our website. If you have not had

the opportunity to visit it, please do so!

Under the capable hands of Peggy Wells, The Pelican was printed and mailed to members. I received a beautiful thank you card from Annie Price and words of thanks from Frances Jakes for the publication. Thank you Peggy for an outstanding job!

Since I have been President, I have sent recruitment invitations to numerous professional women in the area through social media and face to face contact and recruited two new members, Dr. Angela Nichols Young and Dr. Terri Baker Bursey.

Congratulations to Laverne George, NIKE Award Winner and to all those who made Mid-Year Board!

I encourage all of you to continue the efforts for improving the lives of women everywhere and continue to "Navigate the Waters"! See you at State Conference!!!

Women are like teabags. You don't know how strong they are until you put them in hot water. Eleanor Roosevelt

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BPW LOUISIANA! 100 YEARS OLD IN 2019!

CALL TO STATE CONFERENCE 2018

Come One, Come All!!! The time is here...State Conference!

Ladies, what an exciting time and year with everything that is happening in our State! But amidst all of the buzz and excitement, we do not want to miss the opportunity to network with one another and learn at the **99th Annual State Conference**, held in the beautiful city of **Baton Rouge, Louisi-**

ana. Our date has been set for **June 8th, 9th and 10th**! I look forward to seeing all of you at the **Embassy Suites** on Constitution Drive. I know that this will be an exciting conference with food, fellowship and great speakers. So, consider this the **CALL TO CONFERENCE** and meet me in **Baton Rouge!**

LABPW President Gwen Amelin

STATE WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK!

Have you been to our BPWLouisiana.org website lately? If you haven't, go take a look! It has been revamped by BPW Monroe-West Monroe member **Ieshea Jones**.

Ieshea Jones is the Founder, CEO, & Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of **Di-renzic Technology & Consulting, LLC** headquartered in Monroe, LA. Her passion is assisting clients, helping them identify & mitigate technology issues while working diligently to educate and safeguard them against intruders.

After concluding her 10 year tenure with CenturyLink as a certified technology professional and senior lead program manager, **Ieshea** started her company and has worked tirelessly championing a process around information technology and security where she has been providing individualized Information Technology (IT) consulting, dedicated Information Security solutions, digital forensic investigation services and consulting, digital marketing strategic plans, program & project management consulting services, & specialized professional development & technology training since 2010.

Ieshea knows that in the day and age in which we live technology is not only a critical part of life but it's one of the scariest aspects of our day to day process, and she is passionate about helping to minimizing the stresses associated with technology navigation.

A native of Louisiana, **Ieshea** holds her Bachelor of Business Administration Computer Information Systems from ULM, and her Master of Project Management degree from The George Washington University's School of Business. She holds numerous certification, including but not limited to, Project Management Professional (PMP®), Certified Ethical Hacker (C|EH), Certified Web Master, Certified Social Media Manager and more. She has been recognized for numerous awards, including Top 20 Under 40, Bayou Silicon's Top 100, and, most recently, the 2016 SBA Small Business Champion of the Year.

Mother of two beautiful children (**Johann & I'Leyana**) and wife of **Larry Jones**, **Ieshea** has excelled and proven that women in the workforce, with God's guidance, can be amazing. And while 'scaring away the bad guys' is her passion, **Ieshea** enjoys spending quality time with her family, traveling, and being active in the community.



A Fleur de Lis Box?

Yes, that's what it is! A *beautiful* needlepoint Fleur de Lis box made expressly for Agnes Morris Education Scholarship Fund to use as a fundraiser by PSP Peggy Wells. The picture really doesn't do it justice! Linda Burns will bring it to State Conference for inspection and viewing.

The tickets will be sold at the 2018 and 2019 State Conferences, as well as the Fall/Spring SE and SWC District Meetings. They are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$12.00.

For more information contact Linda Burns 318-308-7625.



Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Esther Terry NIKE Award Winner—Laverne George

The recipient of the prestigious Nike Award must possess qualities which the Nike winged victory of Samothrace symbolizes: Strength, progress, dedication to the BPW organization, a sincere desire to make a difference daily to ensure women's rights are upheld, and to serve her community. PSP Esther Terry's vision and appreciation for achievement and dedication inspired her conception of the idea of an annual Nike Award. It is with much interest and anticipation at the Mid Year Board Meeting for BPW Louisiana that the recipient is named.



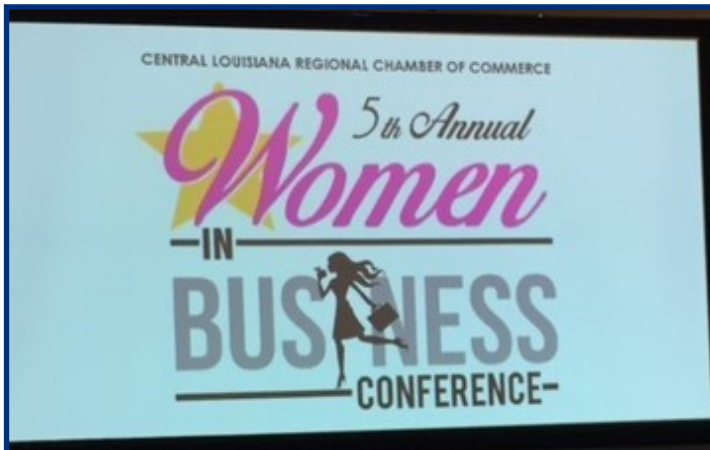
On Saturday, January 20, 2018, Laverne George, President of the New Orleans BPW was presented the prestigious Esther Terry NIKE Award by Linda Burns, Chair. The guest speaker for the event was Frances K. Lewis, Director Customer Care Technical Support Center of Excellence Cox Communications, SE Region. Ms. Lewis spoke on the subject of "Swimming with the Sharks". Members and guest enjoyed a wonderful lunch and great fellowship! Again, congratulations to Laverne George!



Louisiana BPW Represented at the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual Women in Business Conference

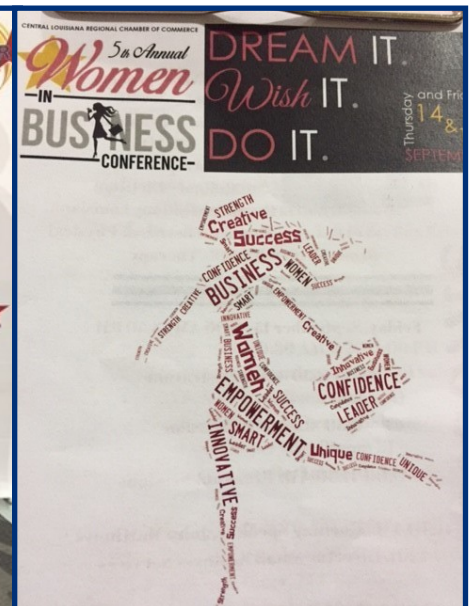


BPW/LA members PSP Harriet Harworth, PSP and current BPW/LA Treasurer Angie Jackson-Wilson, BPW/LA President Gwen Amelin, and PSP Cory Kowalski were invited to attend the event, which was held in Alexandria, LA on September 14-15, 2017. The conference was held to celebrate the contributions and value that women bring to the workplace, as well as providing opportunities for building business relationships, strengthening community connections, and for professional and personal development.



Attendees participated in learning tracks on professional development, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Topics included negotiating skills, creating successful strategic alliances, defining success, and thinking like an entrepreneur.

Morning keynote speaker was John Matthews, LED, Director Small Business Services. Luncheon keynote speaker was Shelly Marie Redmond, MS, RD, LDN, Entrepreneur, Author, Business Owner, and TV personality.



PLEASE SEND YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION TO THE STATE TREASURER

If you have a change of mailing address, email address, or telephone number, please remember to communicate any changes with the State Treasurer, who is also the Membership Chair. Doing so will insure that you receive communication updates from BPW Louisiana as well as BPW Foundation! Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



Find BPW/LA on Facebook!



BPW Louisiana has a Facebook group! We are listed as the Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women. Facebook is free; you do need a facebook account to join our group, but it is safe and spam-free. Become a friend! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/121239507920867/>

Advertising Rates

WEBSITE RATES FOR NON-MEMBERS:

Business Card Size—1 year @ \$100
6 months @ \$60
anything larger contact the webmaster

PELICAN RATES:

NON-MEMBERS AND MEMBERS:

Full Page—\$100/issue
1/2 page \$50/issue
1/4 page \$25/issue
business card \$20/issue

Before the ad is placed on the website or the pelican, it must be paid for. Send check made out to BPW/LA and mark it for ad on website. Be sure to enclose a copy of the ad, and send the check and ad to BPW/LA, P.O Box 15131, Monroe, LA 71207. As soon as the ad is paid for, it will be placed on website. If you have an electronic copy of the ad (.jpeg or .jpg or .gif file) email to webmaster@bpwlouisiana.org (for website) or peggy-wells1508@comcast.net (for Pelican). Pelican Ads must be paid for 10 days before pelican due date. The next Pelican due date is March 1, 2018.

DATE GIVEN FOR AGNES MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP

Are you entering a higher education institution to finish your degree or to further your career? If so, Agnes Morris Education Scholarship Fund can give you a scholarship to help with your school expenses. The scholarship is set up for \$500.00 per semester for one year.

All you need to do is go to the BPW LA website, download the rules and the scholarship form.

- You must be a BPW LA member (member or student member of a local, student member-at-large, or a member-at-large).
- Fill out the form, send in three references with your form, and have your LO President-Treasurer sign the form. (If you are a member-at-large or a student-at-large the BPW LA Treasurer will validate your membership.)

- Then mail the information to Linda Burns, AMESF Chair. The address is on the form.

The application needs to be received by May 1st so that there will be time to make copies, check the information, fill out the review form, etc. The applications are reviewed at the EC Meeting before State Conference convenes and we announce the scholarship recipient on Saturday during the business session at State Conference in June.

We look forward to receiving your scholarship application!

SW Central District Fall 2017 Meeting



BPW Members from the Southwest Central District met in Alexandria for their Fall 2017 meeting. The meeting topic was S.A.F.E. planning,

BPW Monroe-West Monroe Holiday Party



BPW Monroe/West Monroe members held their annual Holiday party December 12 at The Warehouse in Monroe, LA

SW Central District Spring 2018 Meeting



BPW Members from the Southwest Central District met in Alexandria on March 3, 2018 for their Spring 2018 meeting. Guest speaker Donna Hankins spoke about the writing process and publishing experiences. For all of you budding authors, Donna recommended writing something every day. Donna is the author of "Louisiana Cajun Girl," which is based on her life experiences in Louisiana.

Linda Burns, Co-District Director, did a 'walking' installation of the officers for the 2018-2019 year using the theme of incoming President Cynthia C. Edwards: "Keys to Success". Each officer was presented a 'KEY' to commemorate her job and the duties she would perform as a district officer: Annie C. Price-Parliamentarian; Camille Moran-District Candidate Data Chair (Liaison between the district and state); Angie Jackson Wilson-Treasurer; Delia Flynn-Secretary; and Pat Moses Howard and herself as Co-District Directors.



Congratulations are extended to Vicki Crist (Monroe/ West Monroe member and BPW LA Webmaster) who has been nominated for the Foundation Award of Excellence for Unclassified Staff at ULM. The recipients of the awards will be announced at a later date.



99th Annual State Conference Registration Form
June 08-10, 2018
Embassy Suites by Hilton Baton Rouge
4914 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

 (Name)

 (Mailing Address} (City) (State) (Zip Code)

 (Email) (Contact Number)

 (Local Organization) (PSP/State/District/ Local Position)

REGISTRATION FEES

Early- before (5/27)

Late after 5/28

Member (Saturday Lunch and Dinner included)	\$150.00	\$160.00
Student (Saturday Lunch and Dinner included)	\$145.00	\$155.00
Non-members (Saturday Lunch and Dinner included)	\$100.00	\$110.00
Non-Members -Saturday Lunch Only	\$50.00	\$60.00
Non-Members – Dinner Only	\$50.00	\$60.00
Non-Members Group-Table of 8- Lunch or Dinner	\$400.00	\$480.00

CONFERENCE MEALS

(Please note Friday Night activity and Sunday Breakfast are NOT included in the registration fee.)

Breakfast is free for those staying at the hotel.

Menu:

Saturday Lunch: Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings; Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya; Southern Fried Catfish; Dijon Potato Salad; Muffuletta Pasta Salad; Smothered Green Beans; Corn Macaque Choux; Rolls and Butter; Southern Pecan Pie and Sweet Potato Pie; Tea and Water.

Saturday Installation Dinner: Blackened Drum with a Lafitte Shrimp Sauce; Garden Salad; Rolls and Butter; Installation Cake; Tea and Water

Special Dietary Requirements; - Please inform Angie Jackson-Wilson (treasurer@bpwlouisiana.org) before registration deadline.

CONFERENCE ADS, SPONSORSHIPS AND VENDOR BOOTHS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

For more information or to register online, contact us at www.lafbpw.wildapricot.org

Mail: Checks payable to BPW/LA 2018 State Conference
 P.O. Box 15131, Monroe, LA 71207

Total Payment Due:

|\$

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99th Annual State Conference Registration Form
June 08-10, 2018
Embassy Suites by Hilton Baton Rouge
4914 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Accommodations must be made directly with the Embassy Suites Hotel Baton Rouge at 1-225-924-6566. Room rates are \$99.00 per night plus taxes and must be booked by **May 18, 2018** to secure rate. **BPW will not receive credit for rooms booked through other online booking websites.**

Tentative Schedule-At-A-Glance

Friday, June 08, 2018

5:00pm to 6:30pm	Conference Registration	Foyer
5:00pm to 6:00pm	Pre-Conference Executive Committee Meeting	President's Suite
6:00pm to 9:00pm	Welcome to State Conference/Marketplace	Atrium

Saturday, June 09, 2018

7:30am to 8:30am	Past State Presidents Breakfast	Restaurant
7:30am to 8:30am	Conference Registration	Senate Room
9:30am to 11:45am	Opening Ceremony/First Business Session	Senate Room
11:45am to 12:00pm	Break	
12:00pm to 1:30pm	Luncheon with Keynote Speaker	Senate Room
1:45pm to 4:00pm	Second Business Session	Senate Room
7:00pm to 10:00pm	Installation Dinner and Ceremony	Senate Room

Sunday, June 10, 2018

7:00am	Breakfast on your own	Restaurant
9:00am to 9:30am	Devotion	Senate Room
9:30am to 9:45am	Past State Presidents Council Ceremony	Senate Room
9:45am to 11:00am	Post Conference Board Meeting	Senate Room

Fall 2017 SE District Meeting in New Orleans



Spring 2018 SE District Meeting in St. Bernard



BPW Members from the Southeast District met in St. Bernard @ Rocky and Carlos' for their Spring 2018 meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Tina Tinney, Chancellor for Nunez Community College.

Monroe/West Monroe BPW March 2018 Meeting

Monroe/West Monroe BPW members listened to Dr. Angela Nichols-Young, owner of Healthy Minds, speak about 'Taking Care of Your Mental Health in 2018.'



ULM Women's Symposium March 2018

The Women's Symposium featured discussions in a panelist/moderator format. Panelists included university faculty, staff, and prominent leaders within the community. Some of the timely topics included financial health, diversity and cultural awareness, social media consciousness, overall health and self-care, authentic leadership, negotiations, and communication. BPW members Angie Jackson-Wilson and Gwen Amelin attended.

The keynote speaker was Meryl Kennedy Farr, president and owner of Ken-Rice Pac and co-owner and CEO of Neighbors, LLC. Farr spoke about paving her path to leadership. ULM also welcomed Taryn C. Branson from the Women's Policy division of the Louisiana Governor's office. Branson is a 2011 ULM alumna and was featured during the opening welcome to the symposium.



Mid Year Board January 2018



2018 NIKE award winner Laverne George (seated) with past NIKE award winners



LA-BPW Board Members with luncheon keynote speaker Frances K. Lewis (back row, holding plaque), Director of Customer Care Technical Support Center of Excellence for Cox Communications, SE Region.



2017-2018 BPW/LA President Gwen Amelin and Parliamentarian Frances Jakes



Nike Award Luncheon Keynote Speaker Frances K. Lewis, Director of Customer Care Technical Support Center of Excellence for Cox Communications, SE Region.



2017-2018 BPW/LA Board members conduct organization business at Mid-Year Board.



Mid Year Board January 2018



Louisiana Federation



Business & Professional
Women

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face —without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,
that in the big things of life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all, and,
O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!



Attendees at BPW Louisiana Mid-Year Board 2018



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Monroe West Monroe

appreciates the service of the following members during
the 2017-2018 Federation year and thank them
for their selfless contribution

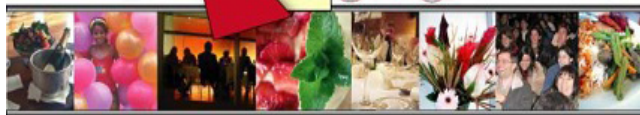
Gwendolyn Amelin – State President

Angie Jackson-Wilson – State Treasurer

Frances Jakes – State Parliamentarian

Connie Commenia – State Chaplain

Vicki Crist – State Webmaster



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Grand Openings
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IF YOU STAND AT ALL
STAND TALL



Our founders, Ike and Shirley Hamilton believed that when individuals with developmental disabilities were given opportunity, they could stand tall and they were right!



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