

# THE PELICAN

Business and Professional Women/LA

APRIL 2007

## President's Message



*Judy Wilson*

Spring has arrived and that indicates that our BPW year is winding down. Everything has moved so fast since I was installed last June. With the theme of "Strengthening the SOUL of BPW/LA", the Executive Committee and I jumped right into the duties at hand. As reported in the Fall Pelican, 14 of us attended the National Conference in Dallas, where Louisiana won the "Giraffe Award" for "sticking our neck out" for Equal Pay. Past State President Angie Jackson Wilson was chosen National Membership Chair and Past State President Camille Moran was selected for membership on the National Legislative Committee.

In August, BPW/LA and the LA Coalition for ERA sponsored Women's Equality Day in Baton Rouge and the program was excellent - Another plus for our federation. In October, many of

the locals held National Business Women's Week celebrations. The congressional debate held in Monroe and sponsored by Monroe/West Monroe BPW was a real highlight. Four candidates squared off, including one woman, and a lively discussion followed. A banquet hosted by St. Bernard Parish BPW chose Man and Woman of the Year in St. Bernard for both 2005 and 2006 and over 200 people attended at the High School in the middle of all the Katrina devastation. West St. Tammany BPW held a banquet and raised over \$10,000.00 for their scholarship program. They also provided a team of workers to work on building a house for Habitat for Humanity. Many of the locals received proclamations from city and parish officials.

Two successful district meetings were held in the fall and my thanks go to the District Directors, Bonnie Cook, S. E. District and Delia Flynn, SW/Central District for informative and interesting speakers and good meetings.

January 26/27, 2007 was our Mid-Year Board and Legislative Day. Corvette Kowlaski, PE and Legislation Chair presented a very informative program and if you missed it, you missed something. We covered a lot of topics from Wage Club, Equal Pay, ERA, Heart Healthy Act, Retirement and Healthy Families to what we can do to help get legislation passed on these important issues. Members of the AAUW attended as well as our members.

Thanks to all of you who attended Mid Year Board. Our group was small, about 31, but mighty. Everything went very well and lots of business was conducted.

Delia, Cory, Camille, Angie and I attended Policy and Action in Washington, DC in February and learned so much. As I stated in my Soul Mates Today newsletter recently, thank you for allowing us this opportunity to speak for Louisiana on the issues. We also showed our Equal Pay PSA DVD and that gave Louisiana more exposure at the National level.

In March, two more very successful District meetings were held including elections for the coming year. S. E. District's new Director will be Cynthia Thompson, currently West St. Tammany President. Congratulations Cynthia. SW/Central District's new Director will be Linda Burns, Past State President. Much success to you Linda.

As we prepare for Equal Pay Day in a few weeks, be aware that the real work of passing the Equal

*continued on page 3*

**Strengthening the**  
  
**of BPW/LA**  
**Support-Opportunity-Unity-Leadership**

# Greetings

From Your Vice President/  
Membership Chair

As we begin drawing to the close of our year of rebuilding, I am encouraged that we have the determination to retain at least 90% of our membership. As of March 25, 2007 our membership total is 229. Continue to reach out to those we have lost and see if we can reactivate some of those members.


We have had a renewed interest in starting 2 new LOs, one in Lafayette and one in Baton Rouge. Wouldn't that be wonderful? We are looking to revitalize other clubs. We are just short of 21 new members to reach my membership goal of 250. Together we can achieve that goal.

I need you to send me those monthly Membership reports so I can give awards at state conference. The deadline for State is May 20, 2007. In addition, I need you to go to the National website, [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org), and download the Membership recruiter forms in order for you to win an award from National. Some of the

national awards include money. The forms need to include all the requested information and need to be sent and received by me by May 31, 2007. They have to be received at National by June 8, 2007. The ONLY way to receive this award is to send the forms to me. Remember, membership building is a continuous campaign. Please let me know if how I can help you.

Our goal this year is not only to recruit new members but to renew and retain the membership we have. We are women helping to rebuild Louisiana for the future. Women working to bring Louisiana's children home to raise their families here. To quote Eleanor Roosevelt, "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face." With support, opportunity, unity and leadership we will reach out and put into action our better impulses because of the friendships and experiences we have built as members of this great federation. It is the best reward of membership that we need to sell to bring back prior members and gain new members.


DeliaFlynn  
BPW/LA Vice President/  
Membership Chair



*Judy Wilson*  
Publicity Consultant

Phone/Fax: (318) 342-8807

E-Mail:  
[jwrew@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwrew@bellsouth.net)



In Commemoration  
of  
Women's Equal Pay Day  
the Monroe/West Monroe  
Business & Professional  
Women's Association

presents a

**WOMEN'S  
SEMINAR**  
"Marketing Yourself  
for Success"

Saturday, April 21, 2006  
West Monroe Community  
Development Building  
For Information contact Peggy Wells  
at 318-665-5516 or 651-8934

Who Is  
Your  
**NIKE**  
candidate

MAY 1  
DEADLINE

SEE  
PAGES  
65-66  
OF  
BOARD  
BOOK  
FOR  
ALL THE  
DETAILS

## The Presidents Message

*continued from page 1*

Pay for Women Act in Louisiana should be going on right now. Camille Moran, ERA/Equal Pay Coordinator and I are asking you to visit your legislators in their district offices and ask for support for the Equal Pay for Women Act. We need more sponsors. Rep. Willie Hunter, Monroe is introducing the bill once more and he has asked for our help before it comes up. He needs co-sponsors. How you as BPW members can help is to make those visits, phone calls, e-mails, anything to get the support of at least 60 legislators in the house before the session even starts on April 30, 2007. Rep. Hunter is on term limits so this is his last time to pursue this important issue. Let's help him. After you have completed your visits or phone calls, call or e-mail Camille and let her know what happened. Be sure and ask for co-sponsorship, but if not that, than ask for their vote (yes) when it

comes up. She will let Rep. Hunter know what is happening with the sponsorships. He has said he will alter some of the wording of the bill that hopefully will make it more



agreeable to passage.

This will all come up in mid May at the Labor Relations Board Meeting in Baton Rouge. Plan now to attend as Camille, Cory, and I testify at the meeting. We need people there to show support. The Lobbyist groups will be there and we need to show we are strong.

As I call you to state conference, I am proud of what we have

accomplished this year. It's taking longer than everyone thought to recover from 2005 and the hurricanes. We truly are "Strengthening the SOUL of BPW/LA". Only YOU can make our federation what it was before and as we go on, it will get nothing but better. Build your membership, offer interesting programs and educational opportunities for your members. Strength, Opportunity, Unity, & Leadership, (SOUL) is what we have to continue to improve, keeping the history and why we began in the first place and looking to a new future that will only be good for BPW/LA.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, and see you in Natchitoches on June 7-10 for our state conference.

Your BPW Sister  
and Your President  
Judy

### JEFFERSON PARISH

#### ***CONGRATULATES***

*Corvette J. Kowalski*

***Incoming 2007-2008  
State President***

### JEFFERSON PARISH

#### ***ENDORSES***

*Iona R. Myers*

***for the Office of  
State Treasurer***



# Call To State Conference

**All BPW/LA Members & Guest Are Invited To Attend  
The 2007 BPW/LA 88th Annual State Conference  
June 8-10, 2007 Hosted by Southwest/Central District**

**At the Ramada Inn of Natchitoches  
7624 Hwy. 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457**

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

As BPW/LA President, I encourage everyone to join the fun, learning, business, and fabulous food that SW/Central District and our host, local Natchitoches BPW and Conference Chairs Camille Moran and Doris Sanders have arranged for us. This truly is going to be an outstanding conference. Our tentative schedule to tempt you is as follows: Arrive early on Thursday, June 7 by 3:00 PM for our Pre-Conference Activity. We will tour the Melrose Plantation and then be hosted by the Natchitoches local at the Lakeside home of their president, Desiree Duhon-Dyess. We will be treated special with a fish fry and a ride on their party barge.

**Friday, June 8 -10:00 am – 3:00 PM**, we will be offering four workshops - **Workshops for Winning!** Helping to Strengthen the SOUL of BPW/LA. See the registration form for a list of each one. They will be some of the most worthwhile and interesting workshops you can find. You will not want to miss any of this valuable day. Lunch will be on your

own from 11:50 to 1:00. **9:00 am to 3:00 PM – Individual Development Program** will be offered for those wishing to finish the modules necessary to compete for our state so we can send a candidate to Reno for National Conference. Remember at least 3 people must compete according to our by-laws in order to be eligible for national competition. See registration form in this issue. Call Bonnie Cook chair, for information. If there are three candidates for **Young Careerist**, they will be judged at same time. We already have a candidate and now need two more. Please consider entering a candidate so we can be represented at National. Call Angie Jackson-Wilson, YC Chair for further information. At **3:15 PM – Speak Off for ID Candidate followed by Speak Off for YC**. This time was chosen so that all the members could be in attendance for this important event after the other workshops. At **4:00 PM – “Town Hall Meeting”**- This is the time to share information, ask questions, and discuss concerns. We do want to include everyone in this most important hour. At **5:00 PM the 1<sup>st</sup> Business Session** will be call to order. Don't miss the **6:00 PM - Awards Night- “Hawaiian Evening in Paradise”** This will be the time to dress in your Island outfits, brush up on the Hula, Limbo dancing, and have a luau. The awards are the spotlight of the evening, but the Hawaiian atmosphere

will put a great new twist on the party. **Saturday, June 9 - 9:00 am – The Business Session** will convene, where we get down to the business of our state federation. Our keynote speaker for the morning session will be Dianne Polangin, Vice President of BPW/USA and National Representative to our Louisiana Conference, who will speak on the state of our national organization and what the future holds for BPW. A **Luncheon Speaker** will be on the program with an inspirational message for the members. After the business session in the afternoon, the **Installation Banquet** will be held when Corvette Kowalski, Jefferson BPW will be installed as 2007-2008 President. **Sunday, June 10** - Be sure and plan on attending the **Devotional Breakfast** when we honor the women that have gone on before us and induct Judy Wilson into the **Past President's Council** which will be followed by the **Post Conference Board meeting**.

**Again I encourage you to attend this important conference and renew our goal of helping our federation grow through Strength, Opportunity, Unity, and Leadership. Sign up now and make your hotel reservations by May 25. All of the conference materials will be on the website at [www.bpwloisiana.org](http://www.bpwloisiana.org). I look forward to seeing you June 8-10 in Natchitoches.**



Alexandria BPW

Proudly Endorses

**Delia Flynn**

for the

Office of President Elect

of BPW/LA



Southeast District

Congratulates & Supports

**Corvette Kowalski**

as incoming State President for 2007-2008

and proudly endorses

**Iona Myers**

as Nominee for Treasurer.

The Southwest/Central District

congratulates

**Judy Wilson**

2006-2007

*Louisiana State President*

*for a Successful Year*

*& Expresses Appreciation to*

*Corvette Kowalski, President Elect*

*Delia Flynn, Vice President*

*Doris Sanders, Recording Secretary*

*and Iona Myers, Treasurer*

*for their*

*service and to all other*

*members whose dedication and*

*involvement made this*

*Federation year something*

*to be proud of.*

## PHENOMENAL WOMAN

*by Maya Angelo*

*Pretty women wonder where my secret lies  
I'm not cute or built to suit a model's fashion size*

*But then I start to tell them*

*They think I'm telling lies.*

*I say*

*It's in the reach of my arms*

*The span of my hips*

*The stride of my steps*

*The curl of my lips.*

*I'm a woman*

*Phenomenally*

*Phenomenal woman*

*That's me.*

*I walk into a room*

*Just as cool as you please*

*And to a man*

*The fellows stand or*

*Fall down on their knees*

*Then they swarm around me*

*A hive of honey bees.*

*I say*

*It's the fire in my eyes*

*And the flash of my teeth*

*The swing of my waist*

*And the joy in my feet.*

*I'm a woman*

*Phenomenally*

*Phenomenal woman*

*That's me.*

*Men themselves have wondered*

*What they see in me*

*They try so much*

*But they can't touch*

*My inner mystery.*

*When I try to show them*

*They say they still can't see.*

*I say*

*It's in the arch of my back*

*The sun of my smile*

*The ride of my breasts*

*The grace of my style.*

*I'm a woman*

*Phenomenally*

*Phenomenal woman*

*That's me*

*Now you understand*

*Just why my head's not bowed*

*I don't shout or jump about*

*Or have to talk real loud*

*When you see me passing*

*It ought to make you proud.*

*I say*

*It's in the click of my heels*

*The bend of my hair*

*The palm of my hand*

*The need for my care.*

*'Cause I'm a woman*

*Phenomenally*

*Phenomenal Woman*

*That's me.*



Natchitoches BPW

Proudly Supports & Endorses

**Doris Sanders**

for

Recording Secretary

BPW/LA 2007-2008



The Southwest/Central District

proudly endorses

**Delia Flynn**

for President Elect &

**Doris Sanders**

for Recording Secretary

for 2007-2008 State Office



# New District Officers

Southwest Central District recently held the elections for new officers for 2007-2008 at the spring district meeting in Alexandria. Named as District Director was Linda Burns, Oakdale BPW. The other officers are Recording Secretary Delia Flynn, Alexandria BPW; Treasurer Anne Storms, DeRidder BPW; Candidate Data Chair Camille Moran, Natchitoches BPW.



Southeast District officers for 2007-2008 were named recently at their District Meeting in Kenner, LA. The new District Director is Cynthia Thompson, West St. Tammany BPW. The other officers are Associate District Director Daaren Montgomery Grimes, New Orleans BPW; Candidate Data Chair Michelle Echols, West St. Tammany BPW; Recording Secretary Tracy Petruccelli, St. Bernard Parish BPW; Treasurer Daren Hymel, West St. Tammany BPW. (In photo Mary Petruccelli is standing in for Tracy Petruccelli)

*Congratulations To All The Ladies!*

**The Executive Committee hard at work making sure things are in tune for BPW/LA**



*From left to right: Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Cook (also representing Recording Secretary Doris Sanders), President Judy Wilson, President-Elect Cory Kowalski, Treasurer Iona Myers, Parliamentarian Glenda Prechac, and Vice President Delia Flynn.*

**Eva Bordelon & Pat Moses from Lake Charles BPW doing their "Broadway Thing" at Mid Year Board Fun Nite!**





## Legislation Update

Since the Policy and Action Conference I have mailed, faxed and even called both Offices of Senators Vitter and Landrieu to obtain their position on the Heart for Women and Healthy Families Act.

As we go to press with the Pelican, I have received no reply. Often to promote legislation you have to work very hard to get the attention of your elected officials.

Both the Heart for Women and Healthy Families Act have been re-introduced in the US Senate with no action at this time on the US House side. I will continue to follow up; however, your support by writing to both our Senators and simply asking for their support is all that is requested. Please notify me if you should receive responses.

Corvette Kowalski  
*President Elect*

### 50/50 Raffle Progress

My thanks go to those locals who are selling the raffle tickets. So far Monroe in Southwest Central District has sold the most and Jefferson Parish in S. E. District is the largest contributor. We really need to get these tickets sold. I appreciate everything you all are doing to help. If you need more tickets let us know.

We have three people that have sold 10 or more that will be eligible for the special gift. This raffle is helping our federation to Strengthen BPW/LA.

Thanks.  
Janis Guyton, Finance Chair

## Website Update will be Complete within a Month

During the next month, we will be moving more and more information onto our state website, [www.bpwloisiana.org](http://www.bpwloisiana.org) as we prepare for the future of our federation. Many things that are now in the board book will be available for all members on the web. As we move into the electronic age for our federation, this whole process should attract the younger more computer savvy women to our federation and we will see the importance of a good, effective, up to date website. Anytime we have a registration form for anything, it will be on the website. Any activity coming up will be put on the calendar as soon as it is announced. Many of you have said that you like to know ahead of time so you can plan to attend our activities but need to arrange time off work, etc. This will accommodate you we believe.

Links to our national website, [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org) along with the local links of our Louisiana organizations will keep us connected. We are also linking to the legislative issues website for Equal Pay and ERA and many other sites. If your local has a website, please put the state and national website on your web too. We will list all of yours. It is an exciting time and we hope that you will take advantage of this feature as a plus for belonging to BPW.

Advertise your business on our website too. You will be surprised when your bottom line improves as we do business with each other.

Contact Judy Wilson, 318-342-8807 or [jwrew@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwrew@bellsouth.net) for information about our website.

**WOMEN HELPING WOMEN!**

## Wage Project & Clubs

Discrimination in wages is still a fact of life. Until we pass the Pay Equity Act and enforcement is in place, women will continue to lag behind on salary earnings less than men. This is not a gender issue but a family issue and a retirement issue, especially for women. Women will live longer and usually with less money when a spouse dies.

As part of the education and awareness for Pay Equity is the Wage Project. Precisely this project promotes the establishment of Wage Clubs. What are Wage Clubs? They are groups of 5-10 women who come together in a safe place where they can obtain support from other women as they share personal stories about gender discrimination at work, gather information, build allies, then go to the top to create change in their workplaces and communities.

There is a web site [www.wageproject.org](http://www.wageproject.org) that provides an abundance of information on how to start and manage a Wage Club. The meetings can be separate or part of your own LO meetings. The choice is yours.

At the Legislation Day we performed a Mock Wage Club meeting during the program to give the attendees a brief participation in a meeting. I hope that LO's will start a Wage Club. Help to promote and spread the word on Pay Equity through Wage Clubs.

Corvette Kowalski  
*President Elect*

## Inquiring Minds Want To Know!

### Why are Fundraisers Necessary?

I would like to take this opportunity to explain why we need to have fundraisers. Each year that there is a decline in membership, those shortfall funds must be replaced. Due to prudent management of funds, we have reserve accounts. If we withdrew the deficiency each year from those funds they would soon be depleted. The budgets over the past years have been reduced to bare minimums. The budget is approved at state conference and those in attendance have the opportunity to critique and make suggestions about revisions.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita took a devastating toll on our membership. Almost a third of our membership was displaced. The Louisiana Federation is struggling to recover. We must have fundraisers to sustain the budget. Please do your part and participate in the 50/50 fundraiser. We need **YOU** to put your 'Heart and Soul into BPW' this year.

Janis Guyton  
*Past State President 1991-1992*  
*2006-2007 State Finance Chair*



This Column will appear in each Pelican from now on and will also be on our state website at [www.bpwloisiana.org](http://www.bpwloisiana.org) beginning in April 2007. If you have a question about BPW that you need clarification on, please e-mail Judy Wilson at [jwrew@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwrew@bellsouth.net) or call (318) 342-8807 and the answer will appear on the website or the next Pelican. This is our way of educating our members, especially the newer BPW sisters about our organization.

## Second Gathering of La Women Leaders

This conference first held in 2004 with Regional Meetings across the state in 2005 was put on hold as Louisiana recovered from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Now 18 months later the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering was held in Baton Rouge on March 9 and 10, 2007. Attending were Delia Flynn, Camille Moran and myself Cory Kowalski.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office on Women Policy this conference was to play catch up so to speak. This was an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurial



opportunities and reports from the Regional Conferences on issues discussed and action taken. Some plans and progress were made. Topics include Violence against Women, Education Reform and Pay Equity.

BPW Louisiana was present for the Pay Equity discussion and recognized for our combined efforts with AAUW on the fight for passage of the Equal Pay Act. We learned first hand from the legislators present that they have little desire to pass the act and do not seem to understand the issue of women not being equitably paid. The fact that pay equity affects more women in poverty, families, and growth for retirement plans, seemed to not matter. We have our work cut out for us this legislative year.

The conference will once again hold regional meetings throughout the state. I encourage you to attend when they are announced and take the opportunity to network at the grass roots level for the issues that affect our communities and our lives.

The web site for information is [www.la-womenspolicy.com](http://www.la-womenspolicy.com). Please visit the website in the future and monitor for upcoming news. In all, it was a good conference and an opportunity to network with business leaders and our legislators.

Corvette Kowalski  
*President Elect*

## Nominations for 2007-2008 Board

There are still some vacant committee chairs for the upcoming 2007-08 Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving please contact Corvette Kowalski at C-504-275-8825 or [corkow@aol.com](mailto:corkow@aol.com).

Louisiana Federation of Business  
and Professional Women, Inc.

# 2007 STATE CONFERENCE

June 8, 9, 10, 2007  
The Ramada Inn of Natchitoches  
7624 Hwy. 1 Bypass

*Hosted by the Southwest/Central District  
Natchitoches BPW Host LO*

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## INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MODULE 1-7 TO BE PRESENTED AT BPW/LA 2007 CONFERENCE

All members attending the 2007 BPW/LA Conference are invited to take part in our Individual Development Program that will be held on Friday, June 8 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding with our "Speak Off" at 3:15 p.m. for those wishing to represent BPW/LA at National in Reno, NV.

To be eligible to represent BPW/LA you must have completed all 14 Modules of the ID Program and we **MUST HAVE 3 CANDIDATES TO HAVE A "SPEAK OFF."** Modules 8-14 were presented at the 2006 State Conference.

Please complete the  
form and return it to:

Bonnie Pepper Cook  
848 Old Metairie Drive  
Metairie, LA 70001-6095  
504-722-8823  
Email: [bbpcook@aol.com](mailto:bbpcook@aol.com)

### INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

LO: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Participated in Modules 8-14 in 2006: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_