



## ***What BPW Louisiana Has to Offer You!***

### **Scholarships**

The Agnes Morris Educational Scholarship Fund is open to any BPW/LA member over 25 who wants to continue her education through college courses, professional certification courses, technical college, or SBA seminars. Applications are due February 1 of each year. For more information, go to our website and click on ***Scholarships***. Several of our Local Organizations also sponsor scholarships.

### **Young Careerist® Program**

The Young Careerist® Program provides training leadership, and professional development skills for working women 21-35 years of age. The program offers unique learning opportunities for personal and professional growth and leadership experiences through participation in workshops on Networking, Mentoring, Interviewing, Preparing Presentations, and Public Speaking; face-to-face and virtual training sessions are available. The Louisiana Young Careerist® winner is selected at the BPW Louisiana State Conference in June of each year, based on panel judging in categories including a speech, personal interview or group interview/presentation, and a biographical sketch with essay questions. Participants do not have to be BPW members. For more information, contact [president@bpwlouisiana.org](mailto:president@bpwlouisiana.org).

### **Local Organizations**

Our local organizations strive to support and educate women in business, benefit our members with educational programs in both professional and personal development, make significant contributions to our communities through a variety of outreach programs (i.e. Habitat for Humanity, Dress for Success Send one-Suit Drive, Race for the Cure), and provide a variety of networking opportunities with women

who support one another's professional efforts. For more information on a local organization (LO) near you, contact [president@bpwlouisiana.org](mailto:president@bpwlouisiana.org).

### **Advocacy**

Our Legislative Platform includes passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, Economic Equity for Women, and Women's Violence Prevention. BPW Louisiana is a member of the United for Equality Coalition, which supports the 3-State Strategy for elimination of the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification. Our partners in this effort include well-known professional women's organizations including the AAUW, the League of Women's Voters, LA Movement, and YWCA; there are over 50 national organizations in this coalition. We support Economic Equity because Louisiana's women have the largest wage gap of college-educated women over 25 of any state in the nation and Washington DC.

### **Speakers**

At our biannual state meetings (January and June), we provide speakers on women's issues and professional and personal development topics. Recent topics have included "Bulletproofing Your Job," "What Women Want—A Generational Difference in the Workplace," "Emerging Iraqi Democracy," "Osteoporosis Prevention," "Interviewing Do's and Don'ts," "Legal Document Every Woman Needs," and "Negotiating Skills—Reaching Win-Win."

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# TEN Great Reasons to be a BPW Member!

## 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 headquartered 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. Virtual webinars and seminars offered through BPW Foundation provide convenient opportunities for professional and personal development. The Individual Development® Program has provided tens of thousands of women with leadership, negotiation, and professional skills. The Young Careerist® Program gives a leg up to young women new to the work force but full of potential. State and local seminars on both professional and personal development topics are also available.

## 5. 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. BPW Foundation and BPW Louisiana also have Facebook™ Groups.

## 6. Leadership

Develop Leadership Skills at the local, state and national levels with mentors to help you along the way. Maximize the career-boosting 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.

## 7. Visibility

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

## 8. Helping Others

BPW has a proud tradition of "women helping women." 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 BPW Louisiana and who are attending college or professional certification classes.

In October 2005, BPW launched *Women Joining Forces- Closing Ranks, Opening Doors*, our exciting, new initiative designed to help women exiting the military in facilitating their successful career transitions into the civilian workforce; there are no other comparable non-government organization programs specifically targeting the needs of women veterans.

BPW Foundation's pilot project, *Moving from Red to Green: Working Women in the Green Economy* will explore the demand for green jobs for women and determine what programs and services can successfully prepare and link women with the jobs and the companies that will best suit their needs. The result will be moving women from unemployment, or underemployment, to providing them with access to sustainable job options and the skills and support they need to succeed. This project also serves as primary research to investigate how to train, educate and prepare women for the green economy.

## 9. Member Benefits/ Discounts

Gain access to special programs like the BPW Foundation Career Center to find a new job or post a job. There are also discounts on a number of services and products. With BPW benefits and discounts you can enjoy great products and save money too. BPW Louisiana members can advertise their business on the state website free of charge.

## 10. Friendships

Membership in BPW brings many rewards, but the most lasting and meaningful are the lifelong friendships. Through participation 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!

**JOIN BPW TODAY!**