



**In the Loop**

**Monroe West Monroe Business & Professional Women**

**[www.monroe-westmonroebpw.org](http://www.monroe-westmonroebpw.org)**

Member of the Louisiana Federation

May 2023 to August 2023

## *Message from the President*

Dear BPW Monroe West Monroe Members.



Our new leadership has hit the ground running to work on not only providing more value to our existing members but building our membership. We want to reach out to today's working women and let them know the role BPW played to help women achieve all the rights we currently enjoy and to help preserve those rights. The BPW leaders and members before us have built a legacy that deserves to live on with the working women of the next century and I believe that BPW/LA is and will be a relevant organization to working women well into the future.

I want our members to be proud to invite other working women in our local communities and throughout the state to become a part of BPW/LA.

We survived the COVID-19 pandemic and three years later we are in the midst of returning to some sense of the former normal. We find ourselves with many members who have lapsed and need to increase our membership. We are strong and adaptable women and I believe we remain a viable and much needed organization for working women.

BPW provides a sisterhood, connecting shared values and concerns for working women and their families. As your new leadership team work hard to strengthen these ties and the communication among the members, as well as the state leadership, we hope you will seek out and take advantage of the support and strength that we build by working together and supporting each other, through whatever this new BPW year may bring.

As always, I extend to each of you my Best Personal Wishes,

Angie Jackson-Wilson, LO President 2023-2024

[angiejwilson@gmail.com](mailto:angiejwilson@gmail.com)

318-348-1681

## Monroe West Monroe Business & Professional Women

P.O. Box 15046  
Monroe, LA 71207

[bpwmwmla@gmail.com](mailto:bpwmwmla@gmail.com)

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee



##### President

Angie Jackson-Wilson  
318-348-1681

[angiejwilson@gmail.com](mailto:angiejwilson@gmail.com)



##### Vice President

Shirley Stewart  
318-348-9431

[sstewart572@gmail.com](mailto:sstewart572@gmail.com)



##### Secretary

Courtney Mcdaniel  
318-805-7772

[cmcdaniel423@gmail.com](mailto:cmcdaniel423@gmail.com)



##### Treasurer

Doretha Bennett  
318-805-3948

[browndee423@yahoo.com](mailto:browndee423@yahoo.com)

#### Committee Chairs

##### Audit

Sheila Clark-Mims  
318-547-9395

[mims307@bellsouth.net](mailto:mims307@bellsouth.net)

##### Empowerment & Events

Brenda Sheppard-Nelson  
414-793-6171

[bsheppardnelson@yahoo.com](mailto:bsheppardnelson@yahoo.com)

##### Membership

Vicki Crist  
318-547-5752

[uccvlc@yahoo.com](mailto:uccvlc@yahoo.com)

##### Publicity

Darian Atkins  
318-348-8991

[datkins@ladelta.edu](mailto:datkins@ladelta.edu)

##### Scholarship

Teresa Brooks  
318-362-8055

[teresa.brooks.EA@outlook.com](mailto:teresa.brooks.EA@outlook.com)

#### Special Appointments

##### Chaplain

Gwen Amelin  
318-732-3641

[a1962gwen@yahoo.com](mailto:a1962gwen@yahoo.com)

##### Parliamentarian

Frances Jakes  
318-237-2894

[fbjakes1935@icloud.com](mailto:fbjakes1935@icloud.com)



#### Louisiana Federation of Business & Professional Women

P. O. Box 15131  
Monroe, LA 71207

[www.lafbpw.wildapricot.org](http://www.lafbpw.wildapricot.org)



2023-2024

"Together We Can Do It"

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2023

June	09-11	State Conference Courtyard – Baton Rouge
<b>June</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
July	01	Deadline for 2023-2024 Board Book Corrections
July	06	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>July</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting – Conference Room-ULM Stubbs Hall</b>
July	15	<i><b>BPW USA Founders Day 1919</b></i>
July	15	Deadline for mailing/email Board Book Corrections
<b>July</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
August	03	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>August</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting - Conference Room, ULM Stubbs Hall</b>
August	26	<i><b>Women's Equality Day</b></i>
<b>August</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
September	01	Deadline for Fall Pelican articles to the President
September	07	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>September</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
September	15	Deadline for Fall Pelican articles to the Pelican Editor
September	23	Southwest Central District Meeting
September	24	<i><b>Gold Star Families Day</b></i>
<b>September</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Southeast District Meeting</b>
October	01	Deadline for mailing/emailing of Fall Pelican
October	05	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
October	08	Governor's Election Day
<b>October</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>15-21</b>	<i><b>National Business Women's Week</b></i>
October	16	National Bosses Day
<b>October</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
October	1-31	<i><b>Breast Cancer Awareness Month</b></i>
October	1-31	<i><b>Domestic Violence Awareness Month</b></i>
November	02	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>November</b>	<b>07</b>	<i><b>Election Day</b></i>
<b>November</b>	<b>11</b>	<i><b>Veterans Day</b></i>
<b>November</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
December	07	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>December</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Deadline for NIKE Nominations</b>

## 2024

January	04	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
January	06	Deadline for early registration for State Mid-Year Board Meeting
January	06	Deadline for Mid-Year reports from BPW/LA Committee Chairs and Special Appointees
<b>January</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Mid-Year Board Meeting</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
February	1-29	BPW Scholarship Month
February	01	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>February</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
February	29	Deadline for Nomination Forms and pictures to the Nominations Chair
March	1-31	<b><i>Women's History Month</i></b>
March	01	Deadline for Spring Pelican articles to the President
March	07	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>March</b>	<b>08</b>	<b><i>International Women's Day</i></b>
<b>March</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting – Nominations for Local Officers 2024-2025</b>
March	15	Deadline for Spring Pelican articles to the Pelican Editor
<b>March</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
April	01	Deadline for mailing/emailing of Spring Pelican
April	03	<b><i>Equal Pay Day</i></b>
April	04	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
<b>April</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting - Election of 2024-2025 LO Officers</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
May	01	Deadline for BPW/LA Awards
May	02	State Executive Monthly Teleconference
May	15	Deadline for reports from BPW/LA Committee Chairs and Special Appointees
May	15	Deadline for LO 2024-2025 LO information to State President – incoming officers, meeting information
<b>May</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Local Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting - Installation of 2023-2024 LO Officers</b>
June	7-8	State Conference 2024 – Host- Southeast District

**Monroe West Monroe Business & Profession Women**  
**Member of the Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women**



**Women Helping Women *strive* for Success.**  
**Together We Can Do It**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month**

**5:30pm to 7:30pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, ULM Business Incubator**  
**Stubbs Hall**

## 2023 Annual State Conference Recap

### "Charting the Course"

Monroe West Monroe was represented by a total of six members at the 2023 BPW/LA Annual Conference either in person or via Zoom on June 9-10. Two of them were first time attendees. The meeting was held at the Courtyard Baton Rouge-Acadian Center/LSU Area 2421 S Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808

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" Each local organization brought Mardi Gras paraphernalia and decorated the room and tables to create a carnival like atmosphere.



The awards presentation recognized all the hard work and accomplishments of BPW/LA LOs and members during the 2022- 2023 BPW year. 2022-2023 State President Lisamarie Brandon along with Events Planning Chair, Angie Jackson-Wilson presented the well-deserved awards. Monroe West Monroe received the following.

#### Local Organization Awards

LO Membership Retention Award  
LO Community Achievement Award  
Program Award of Excellence

#### Individual Member Awards

Member Participation Award – Vicki Crist  
Community Achievement Award – Gwen Amelin  
Legacy Award – Frances Jakes and Angie Jackson-Wilson  
Top Recruiter Award– Angie Jackson-Wilson

Starting with the pre-conference Board meeting, Saturday focused on the business of the Federation including reports of officers and chairs, approving the budget, the election of officers and memorial reflections. "The Glass Ceiling", a leadership workshop presented by Acqueena Grant, Director of Communications and Outreach at the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the LO President's Panel Discussion moderated by Jamie Mayes, owner of Jamie Mayes Educational Consulting & Literacy Services, LLC highlighted the morning session.

The newly elected BPW/LA State officers were installed by Rosemaria Broussard, BPW/LA State Auditor and New Orleans LO Vice President in the post luncheon session. President Rene Hollins, (New Orleans), Vice President Doretha Bennett, (Monroe West Monroe), Secretary Linda Burns, (Oakdale), and Treasurer Angie Jackson-Wilson, (Monroe West Monroe).

The Past State President's Council inducted the outgoing State President Lisamarie Brandon into the PSP Council. The conference concluded with the Board of Directors meeting to discuss the coming BPW year.

Congratulations to the following members who will be serving on the 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**Executive Committee**

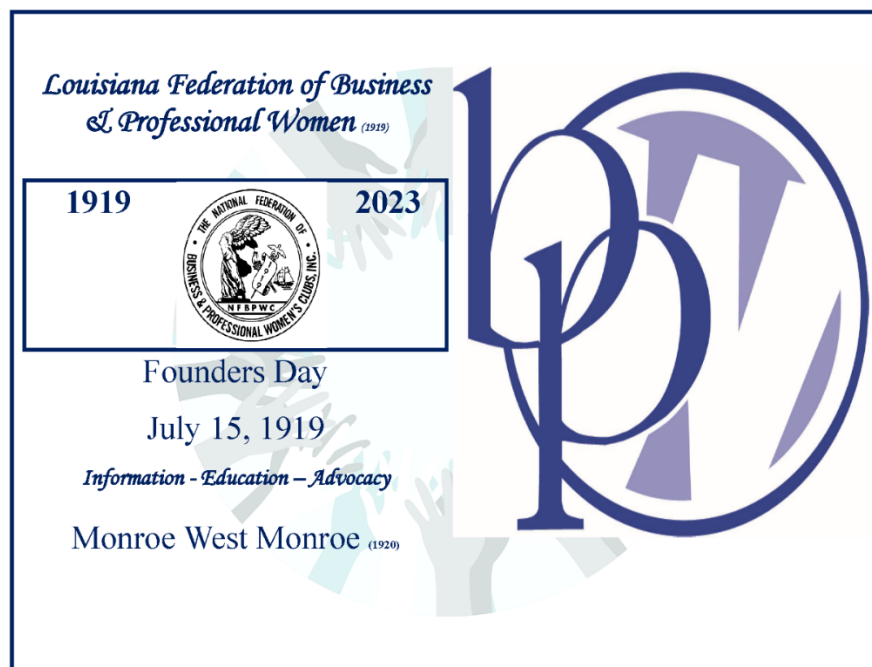
- Vice President -Doretha Bennett
- State Treasurer-Angie Jackson-Wilson

**Standing Committee Chair**

- Legislation and Issues Management – Doretha Bennett
- Membership- Angie Jackson-Wilson
- Nominations – Sheila Clark-Mims
- Young Careerist-Doretha Bennett

**Special Appointments**

- Chaplain-Pamela Bryd-Chisley
- Event Planning-Angie Jackson-Wilson
- Parliamentarian-Frances Jakes
- Past State President Rep.2<sup>nd</sup> Year-Gwen Amelin
- Rules and resolutions-Gwen Amelin





## STATE CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



2022 President Lisamarie Brandon



Jamie Mayes, Panel Moderator

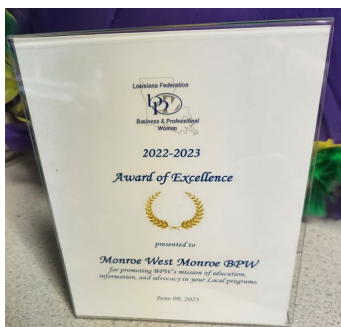


Gwen Amelin, Community Award

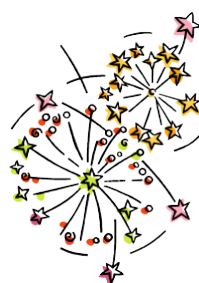


AcQueena Grant, Facilitator

### Awards



Award of Excellence in Programming



Membership Retention Award



LO Presidents panel Discussion.



Newly Installed BPW/LA Officers

Past State Presidents (L-R): Kaaren M. Grimes, Angie J. Wilson, Wanda Alcon, Lisamarie Brandon, Linda Burns, Delia Flynn, Gwen Amelin.



Passing of the gavel



## Local Organization Activity



Monroe Chamber Diversity Luncheon with  
Darian Atkins on June 01, 2023

  
Monroe Chamber Diversity Committee  
presents  
**BUSINESS  
LUNCH AND LEARN**  
Thursday  
June 1  
2023  
12:00pm-1:30pm  
Monroe Civic Center  
Louisiana Room  
401 Lea Joyner Memorial Expy  
Monroe, LA 71202  
Free to attend

  
with presenter  
**DARIAN ATKINS**  
Louisiana Delta Community College  
Topic  
*Equity In Hiring*

Special Thanks to our Sponsor  
**CHASE** 



Hats and Horses Derby Fundraiser at LA Delta  
Community College



The Wedding Singer at Strauss Theater





Ribbon Cutting on July 11, 2023 hosted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. Also a recognition of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the National Federation of Business & Professional Women.



August meeting and birthday celebrations.



State Vice President and Local Treasurer Doretha Bennett with Governor John Bel Edards at the State of the State Luncheon

#### BPW Monroe West Monroe Committee Assignments

##### **Audit Committee**

**Chair: Shelia Clark-Mims**

Teresa Brooks

Courtney McDaniel

**Chaplain: Gwen Amelin**

##### **Empowerment & Events Committee**

**Chair: Brenda Sheppard-Nelson**

Gwen Amelin

Lou Antley

Pamela Byrd-Chisley

Jordan Carter

Diane Lyon-Charles

Shirley Stewart

John Wilson

##### **Membership Committee**

**Chair: Vicki Crist**

Doretha Bennett

Latetao Hutchison

Beverly Lewis

**Parliamentarian: Frances Jakes**

##### **Publicity Committee**

**Chair: Darian Atkins**

Ella Davis

Jamie Mayes

Shirley Stewart

##### **Scholarship Committee**

**Chair: Teresa Brooks**

Marie Brown

Bobbie Lee

Courtney McDaniel

John Wilson

## Welcome New Member-Diane Lyons-Charles



May 23-Jandy Rowell

June 24-Angie Jackson-Wilson

July 16-Jordan Carter

July 19-Ella Davis

August 2-Sheila Clark-Mims

August 4-Brenda Sheppard Nelson

August 22-Gwen Amelin

August 24-Doretha Bennet

August 31-Pamela Bryd-Chisley





# Lemons to Lemonade

## Literary Workshop

**A Socio-Emotional & Arts-Based Approach to Overcoming Life's Challenges**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10 AM**

**June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 3 PM**

Workshop headed by  
Jamie Mayes Educational Consulting



**NEDHSA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTER**

**2324 Armand Connector, Monroe, LA**

**[nedhsaL2L.eventbrite.com](https://nedhsaL2L.eventbrite.com)**

Jamie Mayes hosted this two day workshop

## Scholarships Available

# Invest in Your Future with a BPW Scholarship



## Scholarship Programs Details

Don't miss this opportunity to  
unlock your potential and transform  
your dreams into reality.

**Monroe West Monroe BPW  
Monroe-West Monroe Business &  
Professional Women Scholarship - ULM**

**Louisiana BPW  
LSU  
Contact LSU**

**Agnes Morris Education Scholarship  
BPW LA – Members Only  
Louisiana Federation of Business and  
Professional Women - Scholarship**

[WWW.BPWMONROEWESTMONROE.ORG](http://WWW.BPWMONROEWESTMONROE.ORG)



BPW CELEBRATES...

# Women's Equality Day



On Saturday, August 26, 2023, BPW attended a women's workshop held by the Women's Mission Department of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. We recognize the importance of uplifting and fellowshiping with women who seek to grow in positive character each day.





## Women's Equality Day 2023

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 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 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.

**Angie Jackson-Wilson  
President 2023-2024  
Monroe West Monroe BPW**

## Legislative Update from Legislative Chair, Camille Moran

### Updates: ERA Deadline Removal Resolution Killed on U. S. Senate Floor

Coalition Leaders and Partners,

Unfortunately, as we knew would most likely happen, our ERA Senate Resolution, SJR 4, failed to make cloture on the U. S. Senate floor yesterday. The Senate, unlike the House, requires a procedural vote before the actual vote on the bill or resolution. This procedural vote must have a supermajority of 60 in order to pass; not just a simple majority. This procedural vote (cloture) allows a vote on the bill/resolution, if passed by a supermajority. The cloture vote on the ERA only garnered 51 votes (47 opposed), so it failed to reach cloture and the resolution itself therefore was not voted on.

This is a sad day for the ERA and its supporters, but it was also a historic day, as this was the first time the Senate resolution had a floor vote. We will have to regroup and see where we go from here, so stay tuned for updates on next steps.

### Contractor Equal Pay Bill Stopped in State Senate Labor Committee

In more sad news, Sen. Joseph Bouie's bill to require employers of state contract workers to obey the Louisiana Equal Pay Act of 2013 that we passed for state workers ten years ago, died in the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on Wednesday by a vote of 2-4. This used to be an easy committee to pass equal pay and other economic security legislation in, but unfortunately the make-up of this committee has changed drastically and it is no longer a supportive committee. We deeply appreciate the favorable votes we received from Sen. Regina Barrow and Sen. Royce Duplessis. Please send them and Sen. Bouie notes of thanks for their favorable votes and sponsorship, respectively.

Sen. Gary Carter's bill to increase the state minimum wage was not heard in Senate Labor on Wednesday after all but is supposed to be heard next week. Please lobby the committee members for their support prior to the vote.

I'm still battling a "sick" computer but will provide as many alerts and recaps, etc. as possible until I get it fixed. Many thanks to Pam Baldwin of AAUW for sending messages for me on Tuesday.

Thanks to everyone who contacted our U. S. Senators re the ERA Resolution vote and the members of the Senate Labor Committee re the equal pay bill.

Have a great weekend!

Camille Moran  
Louisiana ERA/Pay Equity Coalition Lobbying Director

Read the Proclamation from President Biden for WED on August 26, 2023 by clicking [HERE](#). [A Proclamation on Women's Equality Day, 2023 | The White House](#)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**2023 HEALTH SUMMIT**

ADVANCING POPULATION HEALTH, EQUITY, AND WELL-BEING

CONTINUING OUR PROGRESS TOWARD LA40BY2030 WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**OCTOBER 3-4, 2023** CONVENES AT 1:00 PM

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 3, 2023

[2023HEALTHSUMMIT.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://2023HEALTHSUMMIT.EVENTBRITE.COM)

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, EMAIL [INFO@LAHEALTHEQUITY.ORG](mailto:INFO@LAHEALTHEQUITY.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION





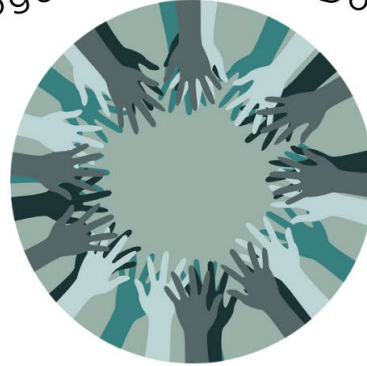


## Fall District Meetings



"Together We Can Do It"

Louisiana Federation



# Fall district meetings

**SOUTHWEST  
CENTRAL**

**SEPTEMBER  
23, 2023**

Starts at 10:00AM  
Via ZOOM  
More Details to follow

**SOUTHEAST**

**SEPTEMBER  
30, 2023**

Contact District  
Liasion for Details

