



Women's Council
OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

Connecting, Promoting & Empowering Women

Special
points of
interest:

- President's Letter
- Race for the Cure 2010
- Member Events coming up- you won't want to miss!
- Next WCGBR Council Meeting Thursday, May 13th, 11:30am

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Erica Malone
Editor

Women's TIME

April, 2010

President's Message



WCGBR 2010 President,
Jaimie Smith

Welcome to the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge. As we move forward with our programs for 2010, I hope that you will take the opportunity to explore the many facets of the Women's Council. We are a service organization dedicated to promoting the interests of women in the Greater Baton Rouge area. This service manifests itself in many different ways. There are opportunities for you to utilize your talents and skills to facilitate the work we do in service to the women of Baton Rouge. It is through service that you will build the relationships that will transform your life. It is through service that you will find your passion and experience the richness of fulfillment that is unique to the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge.

We are very excited about the work ahead of us. And we are excited about our growth as an organization. Join us as we work together to fulfill our mission of promoting, connecting, and empowering women from all walks of life.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Jaimie Smith
2010 WCGBR President

2009 Women's Week Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors below for their help in making Women's Week possible.
MORE INFORMATION ON THE SPONSOR OR TO VISIT THE WEBSITE, CLICK ON THE SPONSOR, NAME or LOGO

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Jaimie Smith

Ann Taylor
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2010 Women's Week Sponsors

We are currently seeking sponsors for 2010 Women's Week.

PICTURE YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE.

Become a Women's Week Sponsor today!

For more information on becoming a sponsor, call Erica Malone at (225)346-5095 or click [here](#).

For a look at the many benefits that our sponsors receive click [here](#).

2010 Patron Reception

The Women's Council announces the first ever Patron Reception to be held Thursday, June 3, 2010, at Baton Rouge Gallery from 6PM to 8PM. There will be a wine and cheese reception with a special recognition of 2009 and 2010 Women's Week sponsors at 7PM. Entertainment will be provided by Women's Council member, Kris Cangelosi's, Cangelosi Dance Project. Event is open to all Women's Week Sponsors, Women's Council Board members, Women's Week Steering Committee members, Patron Committee members, and Women's Council members bringing a prospective donor.

Tea For Two Date Set



The Women’s Council Membership Committee for 2010 is enthusiastically preparing this year’s Tea for Two. We want to encourage all members to invite all the women they know who could benefit from getting to know us and all the great things we do for our community. If you know someone who enjoyed *Women! A Week-Long Celebration* but has not yet become a member, this is another opportunity to introduce them to what we’re about.

So please gather up your mothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors and join us for Tea for Two, Thursday, May 13, 2010 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church (930 North Blvd.). Guests attend for free, we ask members for a \$5.00 donation. Light refreshments will be provided by Pam Hardy. Invitations are in the process of being sent out to all members. In the meantime, for more details please check out May 13 on the Event Calendar which can be found on the home page of our Website <http://www.wcgr.com>.

If you would like us to e-mail or mail an invitation to your guest(s), please provide us with their name and address. E-mail to Martha Dishongh at wcgr09@yahoo.com or contact her at (225) 752-6628.

Tea for Two, May 13, 2010 from 11:30am to 1:00pm at First United Methodist Church

Special Events By Members

Independence Park Theatre Presents: The Little Mermaid

April 9th at 7PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for kids/seniors. Performance will take place at BREC’s Independence Park Theatre located at 7800 Independence Blvd. 225-216-0660. For tickets or more information visit theparktheatre.com.

CAT HAVEN GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 7:00 AM-1:00 PM, at the Cat Haven Shelter located at 11130 North Harrells Ferry Road. All proceeds benefit Cat Haven programs (spay/neuter; shelter; adoptions; etc). DONATIONS NEEDED: If you have items to donate and want to help raise money for our programs, please mark with a price and deliver to the Shelter on Wednesdays between 4-7 or Saturdays between 12-4. Call Kristina Shapiro at 939-9115 for more information.

BHGH Sweet 16 Party with James Carville & Mary Matalin

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baton Rouge celebrates 16 years of service to at-risk children in Baton Rouge with a cocktail party at Juban’s Saturday, April 17th at 7PM. Special guests James Carville and Mary Matalin will speak and there will be food, music, and a silent auction. For more info contact Erica at 346-5095 or visit bhghbr.org.

HELP WANTED:

Recipes needed for cookbook! WCGBR Wants Your Recipes!!

Women’s Council of Greater Baton Rouge is in the process of putting together a cookbook fundraiser. In order for this idea to succeed, we need recipes. Please feel free to submit your personal recipes to us and we will publish them! We are looking for a variety of recipes including appetizers, main dishes, desserts and drinks.

You can submit your recipe two ways:

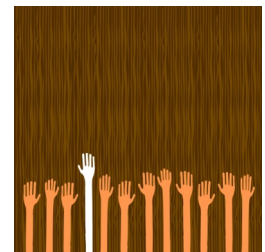
By email: wcgrcookbook@yahoo.com
By mail: P. O. Box 14123, Baton Rouge, LA 70898

The books will be available for purchase during Women’s Week 2010.

If you’re interested in joining our committee, call Eileen Thompson at (225) 218-0075

Patrons Committee Needs Volunteers

Do you know a business owner or contact that might want to sponsor Women’s Week? Then you can help us! If you’re interested in helping us raise funds for this year’s Women’s Week, please contact Patron Chair, Erica Malone at book-booglar@yahoo.com.



Like to help us out??? We’d love to have you!

WCGBR A Family Affair: A Member Testimonial



Women's Council Members, Eboni Thompson, Audrey Robertson, Areah Thompson, and Eileen Thompson

It was August 2008, the first time in 20+ years I didn't have a minor child in my household to care for. I was already a volunteer for CAFVIC / Battered Women's Program but wanted something else to fill the void my schedule would have. I googled Women's Organizations Baton Rouge and **The Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge** was the second hit (the first was a group for Moms).

According to the website, The Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge is a nonprofit organization made up of diverse organizations and individuals committed to enhancing our community by connecting, promoting and

empowering women. I thought, this sounds perfect and I joined online that night. A month later, I attended a discussion on Women Empowerment equals Human Empowerment presented by Natasha Wilson, who was, at that time, the Director of Education and Training for the Battered Women's Program. It was there that I met Anita White. Anita was the WCGBR Ambassador and the activity was a part of Women's Week. I had never heard of Women's Week before and I was intrigued. Anita was very personable and spoke with me about Women's Council and Women's Week. Needless to say, I was hooked.

I was so impressed with Women's Council, its mission, and its members that I encouraged my mother, **Audrey Robertson**, and daughters, **Eboni and Areah Thompson**, to join me for a meeting. My mother and several friends, including **Veniayetta Aikens**, attended the 2009 Meet and Greet and joined that day. My daughters liked that idea of the organization and the Women's Center but thought the fee was a bit much for their student budget. Well that was resolved when WCGBR decided to offer student memberships. I was so excited; I couldn't wait to inform them. Both **Eboni Thompson** and **Areah Thompson** became members of WCGBR in January 2010, becoming the first student members. They are looking forward to programs designed to educate and empower women at the collegiate level.

It is my joy and my privilege to belong to the organization that hosts Women's Week. It is the primary means by which we provide forums to discuss platforms important to women including the issues of healthcare, education, family, community, economics, business, politics, government, sports, arts and humanities. I look forward Women's Week 2010, the WCGBR Business Center and its workshops, our monthly membership meetings where we have opportunities to bond and network, and everything else Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge has to offer.

By Eileen Briscoe Thompson (WCGBR Member)

Welcome New WCGBR Members

The following six women became new members January-March, 2010.

Student: Eboni Thompson, Areah Thompson

Individual: Victoria Cooper, Tara Wicker, Michelle Smith

Small Business: Margaret Saizan

New Membership Type Just for Students

The WCGBR Board has created a new membership type. Any women attending school can join the WCGBR as **Student Members**. As long as you have a student ID your dues will be just \$10.00.

Student membership benefits are as follows:

- Opportunity to network with other organizations and individuals committed to enhancing our community by connecting, promoting, and empowering women.
- Opportunity to participate in volunteer activities that support the women of our community.
- Access to all leadership development resources.

To learn more about membership types and benefits please see our Website at

<http://wcgbr.com/membership/default.asp>

Race 4 The Cure



2010 WCGBR Race 4 The Cure T-shirt design by Jenifer Patureau

Race 4 The Cure was a huge success, thanks in part to participation by many Women's Council members. Libby Quintana organized the effort and set up our lovely Women's Council tent, a first for us at Race 4 The Cure. Ladies from the Women's Council (and a few male friends) donned beautiful t-shirts designed by Jenifer Patureau for WCGBR. If you would like to see photos of this event or any other Women's Council event click [here](#).

Next Women's Marketplace meeting will be April 22, 2010, at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran

Women's Market Place

The next Women's MarketPlace is **Thursday, April 22**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the corner of Old Hammond Highway and Tara Boulevard. Come network and socialize from 5:30 to 6:30; the program will start at 6:30 and we finish at 7:30 or so. Our featured speaker for this meeting is Arianne Bellizaire, a past-president of Women's Council, and currently a full-time stay-at-home mom who has recently launched a new home-based business, Aribell's Southern Living At HOME. Please come welcome Arianne back to Baton Rouge as she discusses her transition from a corporate businesswoman into a mother and business owner, and the challenges she has faced. If you would like to join us for a delicious catered meal for only \$10, please RSVP to rsvp4mp@gmail.com so we can be sure to have enough food. Everyone is welcome – bring your friends. WC members are invited to bring their business cards, flyers, or information about special events.

Past President, Arianne in BR for Event

On **Friday, April 23**, Kristina Shapiro will host Arianne Bellizaire at a home-shopping party at 1905 East Magna Carta (in Runnymede Townhouses) where she will showcase some of her beautiful home accent, entertaining and organizational pieces. The products are made of the highest quality, and each piece is created to enhance any home or office. Everyone is welcome but please RSVP so Kristina will know how much refreshments to get. For more information or to RSVP, call Kristina at 928-4193 or 939-9115.

WCGBR Members Receive Awards

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation announced the recipients of the 2010 Women of Excellence Awards. The Women's Caucus created this prestigious award in 2008 to recognize and honor extraordinary women of outstanding professional excellence across the state for their achievements and contributions. One recipient was selected from each of the seven categories. A panel of four judges selected the award recipients based on background, leadership accomplishments, contributions, community service, and media impact. The Women's Council would like to congratulate two of our members, Robelynn Abadie and Frances Bennett who each won an award for their individual service to our community. Congratulations, Ladies! We are so proud of you!



Business Award Recipient:
Robelynn H. Abadie - Abadie
Financial Services, LLC

The Women of Excellence Awards and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarships will be presented at the Women of Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Baton Rouge Marriott. Contact the Women's Caucus Office at 225.342.0334 for ticket information.



Volunteerism & Civic Involvement Recipient:
Frances B. Bennett

In Memoriam

Eileen Ratterree Armstrong, a 2005 Silver Magnolia and long time Women's Council member, died on March 4 at age 92. Her list of activities, organizations, and achievements were both extensive and impressive. She is probably best remembered as a member of the school board from 1971 to 1982 and was the first woman elected president of the board in 1980. Her term was marked by the 1981 desegregation busing order. It has been said that she handled the situation with "grace, skill, and dignity." Her license plate bore her initials "ERA" and a reference to her support of the Equal Rights Amendment. She fought to give women's athletics more support and funding. She received the YWCA Women of Achievement Award in Public Service in 1995 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000 by the Louisiana Center for Women and Government at Nicholls State University. There is no doubt that Eileen Armstrong was truly a trailblazer for our entire community especially women. She opened doors for us to follow. The Council extends our condolences to her family.

Karen Groves, Historian



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