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THIS BOOKLET WAS
COMPILED
BY
MRS. HINES HOYT
SECRETARY-TREASURER, LFBF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE
LFBF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OFFICERS

1971

REVISED EDITION 2010

MRS. DENISE HYMEL, CHAIR
MRS. BECKY CREEL, FIRST VICE CHAIR
MRS. BECKY HENSGENS, SECOND VICE CHAIR
MRS. BONNIE PACE, THIRD VICE-CHAIR
MRS. DIANNA FONTENOT, SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dear Friends:

The challenges of the new millennium bring to us many opportunities to provide needed programs of interest to Farm Bureau Women. Each individual's interests, ideas, and efforts remain an important factor.

Our Women's Committee's mission statement is to develop leadership for women, promote agriculture and develop public understanding of the value and need of agriculture. The Women's Committee has gained respect for its participation and attainment of goals within our total Farm Bureau program and will continue to do so in the future.

The hope of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Women's Committee is that this suggested program of work will encourage all farm women to intensify their efforts in participation, beginning at the local level, and provide opportunities for women to become involved in all areas of Farm Bureau. We promote the high ideals and standards of the organization, which include accountability, credibility, patriotism, strong homes and families, free enterprise, spiritual values and fiscal conservatism.

Our suggested program of work has been planned to be flexible and adaptable to your parish's needs. So please join us in CELEBRATING LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Hymel".

(Mrs.) Denise Hymel
State Women's Chair

Dear Farm Bureau Women:

We are indeed proud of the women in our organization for their many contributions to the growth and success of one of the best organized, most influential farm organizations in the world. The Louisiana Farm Bureau has an outstanding record of achievement. Women's Committees of our state have been vital to these achievements.

Your group has become one of the most dynamic forces in our organization. You are to be commended for the outstanding job your Women's Committees over the state are doing in the area of leadership development, agriculture education, political influence, and youth activities. We continue to gain the respect and cooperation of our legislators and citizens.

The future of Farm Bureau lies in the hands of its membership and you, as women, are an important part of that membership. Through Farm Bureau you have an opportunity and challenge to share in building a great American future. With an organized Women's Committee in every Louisiana parish, Farm Bureau will be an even stronger force in shaping our American way of life.

My sincerest wishes for the most successful year in the history of your Women's Committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald R. Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ronald Anderson
President

IN FARM BUREAU:

We Believe ...

...in the American private, competitive enterprise system.

...that the Constitution is the basic law of the land. Long-established interpretations should be changed only through constitutional amendment.

...in a government of law, rather than of men, and in a Congress that limits discretionary powers of the Executive Branch and regulatory agencies.

...that property rights are among human rights essential to the preservation of freedom.

...that government should provide only minimum aid and control.

...that each person should be rewarded according to productive contributions to society.

...that government should stimulate, not discourage, individual initiative.

...that the search for progress should be encouraged through opportunity—rather than hindered by illusions of security.

...that monopoly—whether by government, industry, labor or agriculture— is dangerous.

...that government should operate impartially in the interests of all.

...that propagandizing by government is dangerous to self-government.

...that voluntary cooperation is a part of the American system – and is the “Farm Bureau way.”



All These Sustained By Our Religious Faith



THE ORGANIZATION'S STRUCTURE

WHAT IS FARM BUREAU?

PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU: Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement, thereby promoting the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and nonsecret in character.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. **The parish Farm Bureau is the basic unit.** A member joins his parish Farm Bureau and automatically his membership provides affiliation with the state and American Farm Bureaus. Community units may or may not be incorporated. If they acquire or hold ownership of property, they should be incorporated.
2. **Parish Farm Bureaus should be incorporated under state laws** in order to define and legally protect officers in the discharge of their responsibilities. Their bylaws define objectives of the organization, location, and terms and responsibilities of officers and committees. Articles and bylaws should be filed with the proper parish officials.
3. **State Farm Bureaus are federations or associations of parish Farm Bureaus,** duly incorporated by the state, thus defining objectives, purposes, duties, and responsibilities of those connected with the organization. Strength and efficiency result when parishes have some uniformity in phases of their program such as organization, educational, social, legislative, and services.
4. **The American Farm Bureau is a federation of state Farm Bureaus** and is incorporated for the same reason as stated above regarding states and parishes.

"The purpose of this organization shall be to correlate and strengthen the state Farm Bureau and similar state organizations of the several states in the national federation; to promote, protect, and represent the business, economic, social, and education interests of the farmers of the nation; and to develop agriculture." (Article II of the AFBF Bylaws)

5. **We, as Farm Bureau members, believe:**

That America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts.

That economic progress, cultural advancement and ethical and religious principles flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals.

That individual freedom and opportunity must be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security."

In government by legislative and constitutional law, impartially administered, without special privilege.

In the representative form of government - a republic - as provided in our Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to freedom of worship; in separation of church and state; and in freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

That individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

That people have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without preservation of individual freedom.

In the right of every person to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society; and to save, invest, spend, and convey earnings to heirs. Each person has the responsibility to meet financial obligations incurred.

That the search for human rights is a noble cause, but the definition of these rights varies widely among nations. We urge the United States to cease involvement in the human rights policies of other nations.

HISTORY OF LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved the organization of a State Women's Committee in the late 1940's at the LFBF annual meeting.

The Women's Committee Charter and Bylaws were incorporated into the LFBF organization at this time, and it is stated that **all activities of this committee are performed under and with the complete assent and approval of the LFBF Board of Directors.**

Since the beginning, eight women have served as chair of the LFBF Women's Committee:

1951-1956	Mrs. Gladney Hoffpauir	Acadia Parish
1956-1959	Mrs. Audrey Currier	Tangipahoa Parish
1960-1970	Mrs. Helen Mobley	Pointe Coupee Parish
1971-1983	Mrs. Melba McIntosh	West Carroll Parish
1983-1990	Mrs. Linda Zaunbrecher	Vermilion Parish
1990-1994	Mrs. Betty Jo Brian	East Baton Rouge Parish
1994-1999	Mrs. Mindy Hetzel	Jeff Davis Parish
1999-	Mrs. Denise Hymel	E. St. James Parish

During the first few years, there were not enough interested women to be district directors. They were few and far between, but the Women's Committee continued to grow and presently has a full slate of officers, plus an active Women's Committee in 50 parishes.

The youth contests at the LFBF convention were the first projects undertaken by the Women's Committee. Later - and as more women became involved - other projects were inaugurated into the Women's programs.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE'S MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to develop leadership for women, promote agriculture and develop public understanding of the value and need of agriculture.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Purpose

The purpose of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee is to increase participation and expand the activities of women in our organization--parish, state and national.

Role of Women's Committee

The Women's Committee is organizationally structured as "an arm of the Board" to utilize "leadership" in Farm Bureau, emphasizing those activities particularly suited to the talents and interests of women.

All projects and programs of the women must have the approval of their respective Farm Bureau boards, whether parish, state or national. Women's Committees are governed by the policies as established by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Functions of the Women's Committee

Farm Bureau is a family organization where men and women work together to develop and implement the policies as set forth by the members; therefore, the functions of the Women's Committee are:

- To stimulate the interest and enthusiasm of Farm Bureau women in the organization and its programs so they will want to assist with developing and carrying out the policies.
- To plan projects and activities that will provide opportunities for women to participate and become involved in the entire Farm Bureau program.
- To provide information and education whereby Farm Bureau women can attain the knowledge to help solve the problems of farmers and ranchers through their organizations.
- To surface and develop the "leadership" potential for Farm Bureau, especially trying to involve younger farmwomen.
- To provide one of the channels of communication to the respective boards of directors from the membership, thereby giving the "women's point of view."
- To help promote membership, commodity promotion, knowledge of the organization, and legislative activities.

**The Women's Committee is responsible to the State Board of Directors.
Projects assigned to the Women's Committee include:**

Youth Activities

Memorial Service

Women's Activities

Youth Conference

“Foods a’la Louisiane” and “Louisiana Temptations” Cookbooks

Women's Award of Excellence

Women's Fall Meeting (October/November)

Women's Spring Meeting (March/April)

**Fundraising for the Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation, American Farm Bureau
Foundation for Agriculture, and Louisiana Foundation for Ag in the Classroom**

Food Check-Out Day

Hunger Awareness

Farm City Activities

National Ag Day Activities

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR
LFBF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**

AFBF Convention	January
Food Check-Out Day	February
Youth Conference	March
LFBF Women's Spring Meeting	March or April
National Ag Day	March
Pre-Convention Meeting with Convention Chairs	April or May
Deadline Dates for ALL Convention Entries: (Queen, Talent, Talk Meet, and Women's Award of Excellence)	May 1
LFBF Convention	June/July
LFBF Women's Fall Meeting	September/ October
Farm City Week	November/ December

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING A WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

- Step 1.** Parish Women's Chair either Board-appointed or elected at parish Farm Bureau annual meeting. (She should have the same qualifications as the parish president.)
- A. Responsibilities of Women's Chair
 - 1. Work with parish board and personnel (parish secretary, president, etc.) in selection of local committeewomen.
 - 2. According to Louisiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Agreement, the parish chair should attend regular board meetings.
 - 3. Work with parish secretary, etc., in planning and carrying out program of Farm Bureau during the year.
- Step 2.** Selection of Committee Members
- A. Select local women as suggested above in Step 1, A-1.
 - B. Send letters asking ladies to serve on committee. Enclose return card or envelope for acceptance.
 - C. Set date for first meeting and notify prospective members.
- Step 3.** First Meeting
- A. Have inspirational speaker to explain need and responsibilities of committee.
 - B. Discuss of types and frequency of meetings.
- Step 4.** Standing Committees
- Decide which standing committees you need and secure chairs for these subcommittees. Ask to have a woman appointed to those committees which are already functioning as a part of the overall parish Farm Bureau program; such as: Legislative, Commodity Promotion, Publicity, Local Affairs, Safety, and Contests.
- Step 5.** Work Out Calendar of Events (Suggestions in Handbook)
- A. Select particular projects to develop.
 - B. Place women in charge of projects of their choice.
 - C. Enlist other women in parish who agree to help on certain projects such as Farm-City Festival, crime prevention, rural health, and Food Check-Out Day.
 - D. Ask members to invite at least one other woman to come to each meeting.
 - E. Encourage local groups to discuss current topics over coffee, etc.

ALL PROGRAMS MUST MEET APPROVAL OF PARISH BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Available Sources of Information:

Bylaws

LFBF Women's Committee Handbook

Policy Books (State and National)

Brochures (Federation, Insurance, Youth Contests, Safety and CPR)

Videos and LFBF News

LFBF Women's Executive Committee Available To Speak at Parish Meetings

LFBF Area Field Services Directors

Women's Committee Coordinator

LFBF Women's Goals

2010-2011 LFBF WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

The following is the recommended Women's Programs. There are five areas of activities.

EDUCATION/AG PROMOTION

Projects can include:

- Displays
- Cookbook promotions
- Newspaper articles
- Radio and television appearances
- Radio and television commercials
- Food-Check Out Day
- Farm City activities
- Hunger Awareness Month
- Farm/ag tours
- Ag in the Classroom activities

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Provide training:

- How to conduct meetings
- Spokesperson training
- Letter writing to Congress and newspapers
- Attendance at:
 - Women's Spring/Fall Meetings
 - Women's Voting Delegates to Convention

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- State Capitol lobbying
- Planned visits to Congressional home office
- Conduct district informational meetings
- Conduct campaign workshops
- Promote involvement in FBAct
- Place thank you ads in newspapers
- Work with state government relation staff to develop a working program that includes Farm Bureau women in key legislative issues (examples: health care, environmental issues)
- Promote AgriPac contributions

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Contact other organizations to develop working strategy on key issues (Ag-related, Lions, Rotary, church, community groups)
- Develop working relationships with all available media
- Work with state Public Relations staff to develop a state program that includes Farm Bureau women in key issues

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Member Services – Inform members of the many member services programs
- Promote Service to Member programs such as: Seasonal Specialties, Eye Care, Farm Bureau Connection, Farm Bureau Bank, Dodge, etc.
- Safety Programs
- Youth Conference
- Queen’s Contest
- Talent Contest
- Talk Meet Contest
- Promote and support our Foundations:
 - Louisiana Ag in the Classroom Foundation
 - Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation (scholarship)
 - American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

_____ Yes _____ No
 If yes, which program(s), date(s), how, number of volunteers involved, and number of people reached:

(10 points)

Additional Activities

- i) Cookbook Program _____ Yes _____ No
- ii) Safety Program _____ Yes _____ No
- iii) Legislative Program _____ Yes _____ No
- iv) Farm City Week _____ Yes _____ No
- v) News Media/Public Relations _____ Yes _____ No
- vi) Agripac _____ Yes _____ No
- vii) Hunger Awareness Activity _____ Yes _____ No
- viii) Food Check-Out Day _____ Yes _____ No
- ix) Ag in the Classroom _____ Yes _____ No
- x) Any other activity not listed here

(2 points each for a total of 20)

*** If your parish is participating in the Women’s Leadership Committee Award of Excellence, a total of 75 of the 100 possible points in the WLC portion is required and **YES MUST BE CHECKED** (below). The Women’s Leadership Committee Award of Excellence (Form E) must also be submitted to the state office by May 1st, 2010 to be considered for the award. The form is mailed to Parish Presidents prior to convention or can be obtained by calling the State Office. Please include photos, documentation, etc. immediately following this section.

Yes _____ No _____

**LFBF WOMEN’S COMMITTEE
 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

PURPOSE

The purpose is to recognize an organized parish Farm Bureau Women’s Committee, which has worked to fulfill the goals and program of work instituted by the LFBF Women’s Committee.

JUDGING

Judging will be based solely on information documenting parish Women’s Committee activities throughout the year such as letters, notices, newspaper articles, and photographs of parish Women’s activities and follow up with results achieved. Focus should be placed on the quality of your documentation, not quantity. Activities can be cross-referenced in order to reduce duplication.

AWARDS

Parishes participating in the Awards Program will be recognized according to merit. A plaque will be presented to the overall winner.

LFBF YOUTH CONFERENCE

“The Impossible Dream”

To dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe,
 To bear with unbearable sorrow,
To run where the brave dare not go,
 This is my quest, to follow that star,
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far;
 To fight for the right without questions, or pause,
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!
 And I know, if I'll only be true to this glorious quest,
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm, when I'm laid to my rest,
 And the world will be better for this
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
 Still strove with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable stars.

Helen Nelson Mobley's dream was to bring to the young people of Louisiana Farm Bureau a better understanding of the American way of life and its resulting freedom because of God...to bring to their attention the adversaries that threaten our country's future...to make everyone fully aware that America is still the envy of every country on earth, not because it is the wealthiest, but because it is the freest nation on earth...this nation under God.

A dream became reality when the first LFBF Youth Conference was held in Alexandria, Louisiana, April 2-3, 1966. At this time, only the states of Louisiana and Missouri were conducting Americanism Conferences.

This has become an annual affair. It is acclaimed as the most rewarding project undertaken by the LFBF and LFBF Women's Committee. The Women's Executive Committee is responsible for program planning and activities.

Young people who come from your parish should be aware of the three-fold responsibility which is theirs when they accept your invitation to attend and represent your parish. **First**, they should conduct themselves so as to be a credit to their parents and to your Farm Bureau. **Second**, they should feel obligated to attend all of the sessions. **Third**, they should assume the responsibility of carrying the messages of the conference back to your parish.

LFBF CONVENTION

DUTIES FOR FARM BUREAU WOMEN

Farm Bureau women are responsible for a large part of the activities held during the convention. All of these activities provide an opportunity for the women attending convention to become more familiar with Farm Bureau projects and afford a wonderful opportunity for acquaintances and founding new and better ideas for continued growth and unity.

The Memorial Service is another event sponsored by the Women's Committee each year. The Service recognizes those deceased members who held an elected office in local or state Farm Bureau organizations.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES AT CONVENTION

Silent Auction
Memorial Service
Talent Contest
Talk Meet Contest
Queen's Contest
Women's Brunch
Women's District Caucus & Business Session
Youth Hospitality Room

LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU YOUTH CONTESTS

The State Women's Committee is responsible for the Youth Contests held in conjunction with our annual state convention. Contests are as follows:

QUEEN'S CONTEST

Any single female member of a Farm Bureau family (active or associate) between the ages of 16 and 19 by the first day of convention is eligible to represent the Parish or Collegiate Farm Bureau.

AMATEUR TALENT CONTEST

Any unmarried member of a Farm Bureau family (active or associate) ages 6 through 19 by the first day of convention is eligible to represent the Parish Farm Bureau. There are two categories: Junior – 6 to 13 years; Senior – 14 to 19 years. No professional act is eligible.

TALK MEET

Any member of a Farm Bureau family (active or associate) between the ages of 15 and 19 by the first day of convention is eligible to represent the Parish or Collegiate Farm Bureau. The talk must relate to the current year's subject.

DEADLINE FOR ALL YOUTH CONTESTS IS MAY 1

For Youth Contests brochures and more detailed information, contact your parish Farm Bureau Office or **Julie Baker Richard** at Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, PO Box 95004, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004, (225) 922-6213, or E-mail: julieb@lfbf.org.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS SESSION, CAUCUS AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Following the meeting of the Credentials Committee, get your list of respective district delegates.
2. At the beginning of the Business Session, verify the name(s) and number of delegates present at your district table.
3. After doing so, the corrected list should be given to the state Women's Committee Secretary for roll call.
4. After roll call, you should instruct your delegates that they are to caucus. (The word CAUCUS means: a closed meeting of a group of persons belonging to the same political faction usually to select candidates or decide on policy.)
5. At that time, they are to select one person to serve as District Director (please refer to Attachments A and C) and a nominating committee member. The District Director may or may not be the same as the nominating committee member. It is up to the discretion of the district.
6. The nominating committee members from all districts will be excused. This committee is responsible for selecting a Nominating Committee Chair, as well as for submitting a slate of officers for election. These positions are: Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Third Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. (Refer to Attachment B for more information.)

**SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR
LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

- I. Eleven members and the Executive Committee will be elected during the annual meeting of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation state convention, subject to approval of the LFBF Board of Directors.
- II. Must meet the following requirements for eligibility:
 - A. Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau family.
 - B. Must be willing to give time for state committee meetings.
- III. The Louisiana Farm Bureau Women's Committee members will each have one vote.
- IV. Members must be **ACTIVELY** engaged in farming and must receive a substantial portion of their income from farming.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP ON STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- I. Each District Director shall hold office for a term of two years.
- II. District Directors from Districts I, III, V, VII, IX, and XI shall be elected at annual meetings in odd-numbered years. Elections for Districts II, IV, VI, VIII, and X shall be held at annual meetings in even-numbered years.
- III. Only parishes with an organized Women's Committee will be allowed to vote in district caucus for their respective District Director.

OFFICERS

- I. The officers for the State Women's Committee will be the chair, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, third vice-chair and secretary-treasurer.
- II. These officers shall hold office for a one-year term.
- III. An officer can succeed herself.
- IV. The State Women's Committee executive officers must be full-time farmers.
- V. Officers will be elected at the annual meeting held during the LFBF state convention, subject to approval of the LFBF Board of Directors.
- VI. Each organized parish represented will have predetermined number of vote(s) for the election of executive officers. (based on parish membership)
- VII. Only parishes with an organized Women's Committee will be allowed to vote in the election of executive officers.

ATTACHMENT C

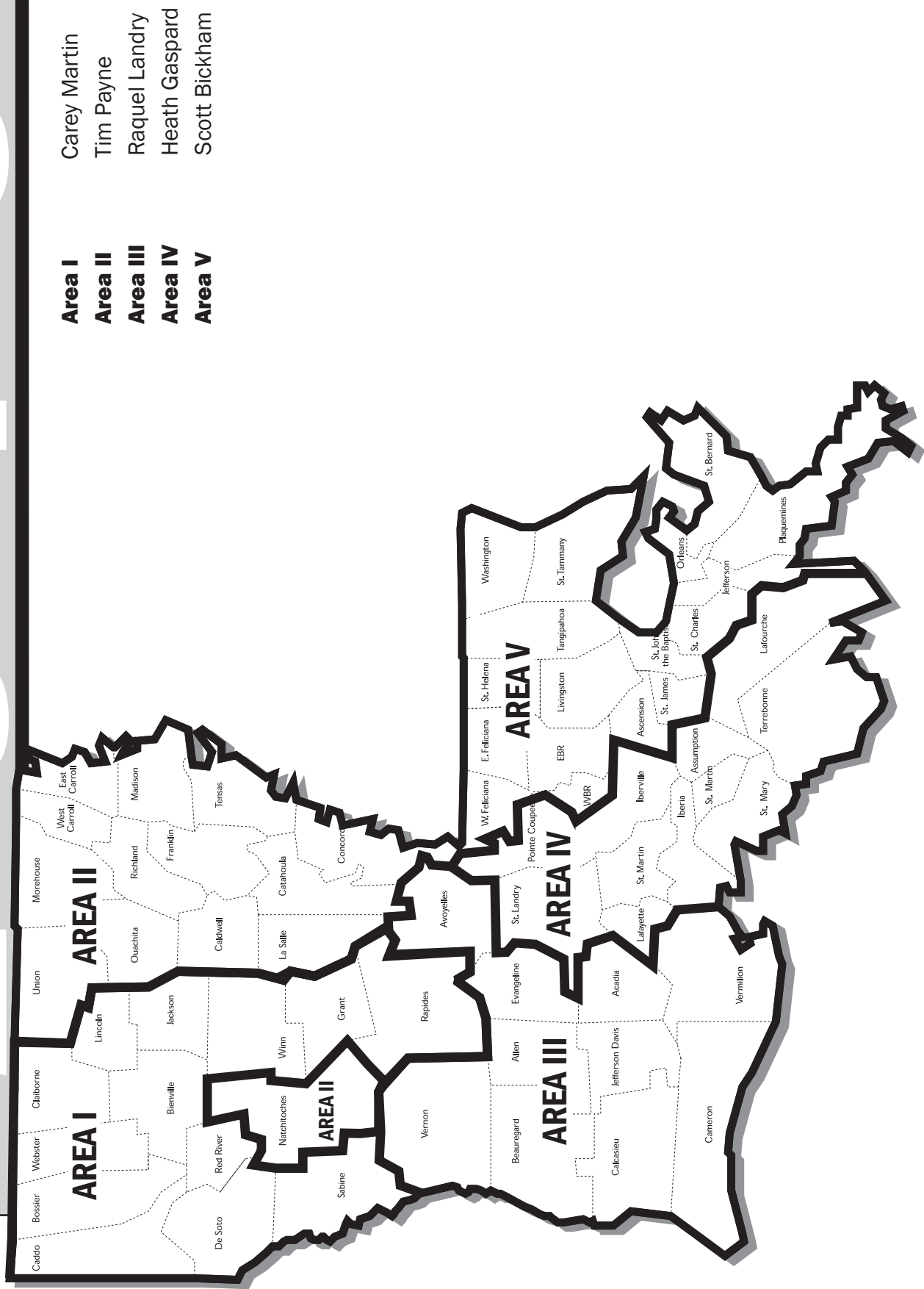
DUTIES
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE DISTRICT DIRECTORS

1. Preside at district/statewide meetings when held.
2. Be able to assist a parish upon request of parish president.
3. Serve as voting delegate for business session between conventions.
4. Attend multi-state/national meetings when requested.
5. Attend and assist with state legislative activity.
6. Assist Women's Executive Committee when requested.

MEMORIAL SERVICE GUIDELINES

1. All district directors should attend Memorial Service on Sunday morning and be there 45 minutes ahead of scheduled time.
2. Programs are to be given out at door by at least two district directors. (One door open only.)
3. The LFBF Women's Committee or district directors may usher LFBF board members and wives to front rows and bring family members of those to be memorialized to the designated areas marked by ribbons, making sure that end seats are filled in both center aisle seats (about six rows down).
4. During the reading of the memorial script, two district directors will be selected to assist family members at the front to light memorial candle and present rose.
5. District directors will come back to front of room after ceremony to give memorial candles to family member(s) of deceased.

LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION AREA FIELD SERVICE DIRECTORS



- Area I** Carey Martin
- Area II** Tim Payne
- Area III** Raquel Landry
- Area IV** Heath Gaspard
- Area V** Scott Bickham

HOW FARM BUREAU OFFICERS ARE CHOSEN

LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 18 MEMBERS

**President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary
Treasurer**

Each position elected at convention each year by voting delegates

11 District Directors

Voting delegates of district in caucus choose nominee who is elected by voting delegates at convention

Women's Committee Chair

Nominated by Women's Committee at annual meeting. Elected by voting delegates at convention

Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair

Nominated by YF & R Committee at annual meeting. Elected by voting delegates at convention

The Women's Committee is composed of a **chair** plus the following 15 members:

**First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Third Vice-Chair, Secretary-
Treasurer, and 11 District Directors**

Elected by Parish Women's Voting Delegates

For questions or more information on the Women's Committee activities contact:

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