

A CWA member who makes a difference

CloseUp



Deborah Young of Lafayette is the new state director for CWA of Louisiana.

How did you become involved with CWA?

In 1998, I had been listening to CWA's daily radio broadcast and heard [black pro-family activist] Star Parker speaking about women in the welfare system. CWA was actually giving her that voice, and I knew it was an organization I wanted to be involved in.

Many blacks are suspicious of conservative organizations—even if they are Christian. Why is that?

The conservative agenda many times has been perceived as not understanding, not caring and not giving a solution. There is a misperception that black Americans have a separate set of values—which is usually negative—and that we are incapable of embracing issues of morality. The black community cannot deny that our family structure has been almost destroyed. I want to address those issues, especially in the black church, through presentations to pastors and their wives


and women's ministries. I plan to network with those who spearhead faith-based initiatives.

As a new CWA member, the first issue you tackled was education. Why?

There was the perception that black parents weren't interested in their children's education. CWA gave me the strength and the courage to visit my school and get actively involved. Assisting a teacher who needed help. Taking time to sit in the back of the classroom. I watched kids. I watched the interaction between teachers. I saw the difficulty teachers had, difficulties students had. Then I started to speak with parents concerning parental involvement and parental rights.

What is your vision for CWA-Louisiana?

Through Christian radio, I have launched the "Daniel 6:10 Initiative," a statewide membership drive to locate modern-day Daniels who will pray and stand for righteousness. This will increase CWA membership and support the broadcast of *Concerned Women Today* throughout Louisiana.

I also want to encourage CWA members to involve their teens in CWA activities. We hope to gain new student members through presentations of the "Young Citizens Clinics" to clubs in middle and high schools. 

CWA of Louisiana has many opportunities for you to make a difference! Contact Deborah Young at 1-337-291-2697. For more information about other states, call 1-800-458-8797.