

# Louisiana delegates weigh in from Democratic National Convention

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(KPLC) -

No matter which political party you identify with, the chance to travel to its national convention is certainly exciting. The group representing our area in Philadelphia this week said it's an experience they'll never forget.

"It's been absolutely incredible and amazing to be here," said Frederick Bell, "to be a part of history as the Democratic Party nominates the first woman for the presidency of the United States."

Bell is the youngest delegate representing Louisiana this year, but he's surrounded by dozens of others from the Bayou State, including "political junkie" Michael McHale.

"It's been an amazing experience to see everyone coming together to move our country forward," said McHale, "There's been a lot of talk about controversy over the Bernie delegates and Hillary delegates. To be honest, I haven't seen too much of that; I think that's maybe overblown by the press. Certainly in our delegation, we are working together."

Calcasieu Parish Schools employee Sheryl Abshire said she is at the convention representing educators.

"I think my best experience has been networking with other educators from around the country that have the same common interest in promoting, supporting, and funding public education," said Abshire, "I think that's been

a real highlight."

This is the second convention for Lake Charles native Davante Lewis, who says his favorite part is seeing the diversity.

"You see every face; you see every color, race, gender, creed, rich, poor, black, white, straight, Hispanic," said Lewis, "It is America in this room. It's an experience of a lifetime, to do it with so many people who look so different but are all so united."

Lewis said it's easy to get caught up in the race to the White House and lose sight of the people who'll be affected by this election. He said the convention has allowed delegates to share their stories with each other and put people back in focus.

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