

District Directors Message Fall 2007

Now that we're half-way through Hurricane Season 2007 (although September is notoriously the peak of Hurricane Season) we need to start thinking about the 2008 Regional. The District Board of Directors voted at the 2007 Spring Regional to try something new with Regional Conferences. We'll only have one "Conference" with an actual Meeting and we're going to try to have it in the Orlando area the beginning to middle of February. We should be able to get a good rate on a hotel, since it will fall between the Holidays and Spring Breaks.

I've heard several suggestions including Casino Night, something geared more toward the children, or everyone getting dinner on their own and then meeting back at the hotel for an evening of revelry. I may be reaching for the stars, but why not do all three? All of the Chapters can work together and take over a part of the planning.

I need volunteers for Committees so no one has to do all of the work. We have a lead on a couple of hotels in Orlando, and I can negotiate all of the contracts from here. I'm sure I can talk Aileen and Cal into driving up to Orlando for the day to make final preparations. Since hiring a company to put on a Casino Night is quite expensive, we're going to have to look within the group and do it ourselves. We can have several game stations around the banquet room for 2-3 hours with Blackjack and poker and maybe a few participation games as well. This is the first time we're trying something like this, so ANY input would be appreciated. We'll need volunteers to find a DJ and everyone to try to get donations for prizes. If Members of every Chapter make it a point to get donations for a Silent Auction and/or Raffle and a raffle for the kids, this could be a very successful Conference.

Let's all put our e-heads together and see what we can come up with.

Chapter Presidents - Please email me a list of your upcoming meetings that I'll forward to Chris and have posted on the D4 Website. Also, check that the Officer List for you Chapter is current and email me any changes.

For those of you who haven't heard yet, Maureen Malek, LPA's Office Manager, underwent a radical mastectomy for cancer. When she had a complete evaluation and tests they did not find cancer in any other parts of her body. In fact the tissues after the radical mastectomy came back negative as well. This means there was not any other cancer found in her body. She will start chemotherapy this next week and this will go on for four months. After that she will have radiation. She is in contact with Lois Gerage-Lamb on a regular basis and is able to help Lori Holcomb out with the office duty questions.

Ms. Dottie MacKay is answering the LPA phones and doing a great job. Dottie was a counselor at an in take center and so this is something she was able to jump right in and take on. She is now retired. Dottie is willing to do this as long as she is needed. She has done a great job answering

questions and those questions she cannot answer right away she finds the answer and immediately contacts the person with her findings.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 will have their next meeting on Saturday October 27th at 2:00pm hosted by the Miller Family in Coconut Creek. It's the Annual Halloween Party, so dress up or pay the price. Adults who don't wear a costume will be asked to chip in \$5 to go for prizes for the kids. Aileen, Cal, and I will provide the main course and everyone is asked to bring a side dish and a 2-liter bottle of soda.

The South Florida Minigator Website has been updated. Check it out at www.southfloridaminigators.org. Thanks to Rick Ayers for the effort.

CHAPTER 13

Chapter 13 will host a meeting on Sunday October 21 at Wooten Park in Tavares, FL. Dust off your picnic basket & bring your family & friends! Kids pack your soccer ball, fishing pole, frisbee, yard games for a fun filled day in the park. There is also an awesome shaded playground. Newcomers are always welcome! For directions and times, RSVP Michele & Mark McCormick at justus88@power1.com

Chapter 13 is also having a Thanksgiving Social Gathering on Saturday November 3, 2007 at 2 PM. It will be at the Northside Presbyterian Church 1400 Lake Washington Rd. Melbourne, FL. There Is Also An Awesome Outside Area To Play Bocce Ball. Please RSVP Lois Marie Search at LMS030465@yahoo.com

Chapter 51

Miranda Uhl just got back from Rio where she was competing in the Parapanan Games swim meet. Deanna says it was VERY exciting and fun. Miranda made the USA Elite team while she was there, but then that really doesn't mean much without a lot of explaining....Google her name and it all comes up. ATTAGIRL, MIRANDA!!!

Seattle National Conference Update

Lois Lamb, LPA National President

The books for Seattle are being wrapped up. If there is a refund issue concerning the Seattle conference, then Dawn and Ted Spencer need to be notified. I know that the Detroit people are hard at work to make the 2008 conference a great one. Remember the dates for the Detroit conference are one week earlier than Seattle. I believe we begin to come in on June 20, 2008

I want to personally thank everyone who offered their time and assistance during the month of July and August to help during Maureen's absence. We pull together for the betterment of

LPA and carry on. You do not know or realize the impact someone has on LPA until you have taken over their job.

Maureen, we miss you! Get well soon!

Jeff Sims, LPA Senior Vice President

In Seattle, I mentioned at the Officer Meeting about possibly starting a Committee consisting of some of the Chapter Presidents to come up with ideas on getting the Chapter activity up, and to discuss various issues that affect the Chapters. Within the next month or two I will be asking for feedback from you to see if it is something that should be done or not.

For those of you who haven't heard, LPA has a new Chapter. In Seattle, the District 3, Blue Ridge Chapter (#69) was chartered. It consists of the area around Roanoke, Virginia. Some may remember several years ago, the group tried unsuccessfully to charter but it fell through due to interest waning away. The Chapter has been meeting regularly for almost 2 years now and continues to grow each day. Congratulations to the Blue Ridge members and good luck as you continue to grow.

Robert Haines

LPA Vice President of Membership

Speaking from the heart for a moment, after returning home from Seattle I felt so proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. The wonderful efforts Lois, Joanna, the members of the EC, the DD's, and all the other wonderful volunteers that have really taken this organization to a new level.

As of July 1, our national membership is at an all time high, we had a record attendance at the national conference, and we had a record number of first timers.

Bill Bradford, LPA Vice President of Programs

Hello all. I hope everyone has recovered from the Seattle conference. Ted, Dawn, Maureen, and the entire District 11 conference committee did a great job and I think it was one of the best conferences ever. The 50th anniversary celebration was fantastic!

I was very busy in the months leading up to the conference processing scholarship applications and Kitchen's Travel Fund awards. Also, I have been busy since the conference making sure all the students receive their scholarship money in time for fall classes. We had 34 applicants for LPA scholarships. This is down by 9 applicants from last year. The Greenberg Center selected 10 of those for an award of \$1000 each. Mark Trombino awarded Julie Erickson the Anu Trombino Scholarship in the amount of \$3000. The other 23 applicants all received awards from the LPA scholarship fund for amounts ranging from \$250 to \$850. The total awarded from LPA was \$13,500.

We also had a record number of Kitchen's Fund applicants this year. 24 applications were approved and 23 were awarded (one family had their conference needs met by the Make-a-Wish Foundation). In total, 20 room-nights and \$10,500 were awarded to first-time conference

attendees. This is up by 15 applicants from last year. I think LPBW is having an affect on generating new conference attendees. At the newcomer's reception, over 400 people attended, which is as large as the entire conference was just 17 years ago.

Gary Arnold
LPA Vice President of Public Relations

As of August 23, 2007, the 50th Anniversary Conference issue of the *LPA Today* is at the printers. The issue should be in the mail in one to two weeks. Jody Lindstrom and I will soon be brainstorming themes for the next issue. If any of you have theme ideas, please share them with Jody or myself. Also, please encourage your constituencies to contribute to the magazine. One goal we have is to give voice to the often under represented members within LPA. A recent edition to the magazine that addresses the goal is a new column written by an average stature mother of a short statured child. We'd love to reach out to other sections of our community as well, teenagers for example.

Ron Piro, National Parliamentarian, Conference Review Committee, National Election Committee

It was a slower month for the CRC, but things are still progressing. Closure of the contract with the Nashville Renaissance hotel for 2010 has been delayed, as we work out an agreement for moving the plastic footstools purchased by the Hilton Hotel chain for the sleeping rooms at the Milwaukee and Seattle conferences forward to the Marriott hotels for the next three years. We are working on a plan where each hotel would purchase the stools from the previous year's hotel, and store them until the conference. There are currently approximately 480 footstools at the Seattle Doubletree hotel that we would like to move forward.

Meanwhile, the Detroit 2008 committee has outlined the schedule of events for the week of their conference, and their planning is progressing well.

Finally, the CRC continues to explore multiple sites in the southwest for the 2011 conference.

Future conferences:

2008 - Detroit - Sat. 6/21 - Fri. 6/27

2009 - Brooklyn - Sat. 7/4 - Fri. 7/10

2010 - Nashville - Sat. 7/3 - Fri. 7/9

Ron Piro - Chair, Joanna Campbell, Marge Carlisle, and Amy Clemons

Once the Regional Conference is set up, I'll be sending out the Registration Packet along with another Newsletter. Input is always appreciated.

Ken Miller, LPA District 4 Director
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"Success is what happens when Preparation meets Opportunity"