



COLONIAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

[HTTP://GEOCITIES.COM/COLONIALCHAPTER/](http://geocities.com/colonialchapter/)

JANUARY 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe how quickly time has gone by since our Chapter kickoff meeting in August, and we're already in 2008! There has been quite a bit of activity in our chapter over the past several months. In September, we had a "royal" time in Charlotte at the District Regional event (the regional theme was "a royal affair"). The Carolinian Chapter did an outstanding job providing us with events such as the Bank of America stadium tour, Teens horseback riding, the banquet / dance, and socializing around the pool, everyone had a memorable weekend. In October, Lisa McDowell, the Chapter Parent Coordinator, organized a gathering at Gan-yard Hill Farm for a day of pumpkin picking and socializing. The fall weather was perfect and a good time was had by all. Our November event was held in Colonial Williamsburg, following a lunch at The Shield's Tavern, we were taken on a personalized tour of several historic buildings, including the Governor's Mansion. We had a great time and we certainly got our share of exercise that day! December provided two great get-togethers! Early in December, a holiday luncheon and gift exchange was held at the Bocci Trotteria & Pizzeria in Durham, and in late Decem-

ber, a District Teen day in Concord, NC. The day was filled with basketball, soccer and bowling.

We have plenty of activities planned for 2008 as well. Sharon Fadness and family will host our gathering on January 26th in Chesapeake, VA, with a day of bowling and lunch. More information on this and other upcoming chapter events can be found in this newsletter and on the chapter website <http://geocities.com/colonialchapter/>

We have heard from some members about ideas for future events, and we are hoping that you all will consider hosting one of the chapter gatherings in your area. It doesn't have to be anything fancy – just come up with an idea that will allow us to get together, visit and catch up with friends new and old. Each month we will rotate the location of the event between Virginia and North Carolina so that members in opposite ends of the Chapter won't face a long drive for every meeting.

And now for some really exciting news: the Fall 2008 District Regional will be held October 3 - 5 at the Wyndham Hotel located on the ocean-front at the North end of Virginia Beach. While it seems like the regional is a long way

off, as you know, time goes by quickly. We need to form committees and get to work ASAP! We have several committee positions to choose from, teen activities, fundraising, children's room, registration, regional day activity coordinator, and others. Remember, this is YOUR chapter. We'd like to encourage all of our members to be involved in monthly and regional events to keep our momentum going and our Chapter strong! Please let one of us know how you would like to be involved in upcoming meetings or the Fall 2008 regional. Whether you can volunteer in a big or small way, your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you to the many who have already volunteered!

Finally, we would like to thank our fellow Chapter officers for their hard work and continuing commitment to the Chapter: Doug McCrory, Treasurer; Robin Davis, Secretary; Lisa McDowell, Parent Coordinator; and Cindy Horton and Lindsay Fowler, Newsletter Editors.

Wishing a Happy New Year,
Cathy Hughes & Leta Krieger,
Co-Presidents



- *We're on the Web!*
- *Join the Colonial Chapter Yahoo Groups*
- *Pictures from the October and November Events*

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COLONIAL CHAPTER OF THE
LPA

Presidents:

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Treasurer:

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Secretary:

Robin Davis

Parent Coordinator:

Lisa McDowell

Newsletter Editors:

Cindy Horton and
Lindsay Fowler

Durham, NC**October 18, 2007**

On Saturday October 13, 2007, 52 chapter members got together in Raleigh/Durham NC. The day started out with a pickup game of basketball. The dads showed the kids some moves they may have thought they no longer had! The athletes met the other chapter members for lunch at Johnny Carino's and then everyone headed to Ganyard Hill Farm for pumpkin picking and other farm fun. The weather was beautiful, the corn stalks were dry (Can you say "drought"?), and the company was fantastic. It was nice to see many old friends and meet some new ones too!

**Durham, NC****December 8, 2007**

Colonial Chapter Holiday Luncheon

This year's Holiday luncheon took place at Boccia Pizzeria and Trotteria in Durham, NC. Lunch was great, the weather was even better, allowing for Boccia on the restaurant's lawn and we were able to celebrate Alexander McDowell's first birthday. Rachel Clutter's fudge was to out of this world! Gifts were exchanged, pedal extenders were examined and new friendships were formed. What a great way to end the year!

**Williamsburg, VA****November 17, 2007**

Colonial Chapter members, along with new friends from bordering Chapters, enjoyed such a fun-filled day of exploring in Colonial Williamsburg! We started out with lunch at historic Shield's Tavern. During our meal, we were entertained by a local musician/historian who serenaded us on his fiddle and quizzed us on colonial life and politics. We then were taken on personalized, guided tours of several historical buildings, including the Governor's Mansion. The kids especially enjoyed petting the horses and being able to "test out" the customary bedding in one of the historical homes! We all had a great time, but were thoroughly tuckered out by the end of the day!

**District 3 Teens News**

We had the best turn out yet for a fun filled day in Concord, NC on December 27th. District 3 Teens, Tweens and Young at Heart played basketball, soccer, and went bowling with a pit stop for lunch. Thank you to the Duvick's for being such great hosts! In addition to Regional meetings, the group meets 4 times a year. Our next outing will be combined with the Colonial Chapter's February 9th meeting in Greenville, NC. Old and new friends alike are welcome! Details can be found on the Teen website <http://www.geocities.com/d3teens/main> or contact Michael Hughes for more information at ncskierboy@aol.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS.....PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!

[HTTP://GEOCITIES.COM/COLONIALCHAPTER/](http://geocities.com/colonialchapter/)

Saturday, January 26, 2008

AMF Chesapeake Lanes
112 East Medical Parkway
Chesapeake, VA 23320
11:30 a.m.



Don't forget to RSVP!
Sharon Fadness
sfadness@aol.com



Come to as many or few
events as you like!

**Basketball, Lunch at Olive Garden, Bladez
on Ice Skating AND
An ECU Hockey Game**

February 9, 2008

Greenville, NC
Beginning at 10:00am
RSVP to Kate Dunston by 2/1/08
katricia6@yahoo.com

March 15, 2008

Rocky Mount, NC

11:30am Lunch, 2:00pm Tour
RSVP By February 25, 2008

Angie Braswell Braswell97@suddenlink.net



**Spring
Regional**

April 4-6, 2008

District 3 Spring Regional
Hosted by
DelMarVa Chapter of the LPA
Timonium, Maryland

<http://www.delmarvachapter.com/>

May 2008

Cookout in Virginia Beach, VA

Details TBA



PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITE FOR DETAILS (<http://geocities.com/colonialchapter/>)

The Miracle League

By Michelle Lewis

Baseball! The great American sport! Everybody can play baseball—can't they? It seems easy enough for most of us to grab a bat, walk out onto a field, and swing the bat as a ball approaches our space. Whether we hit the ball or not, well, that's another story. But we have tried—haven't we? The Miracle League is for children who, due to special challenges in their lives, cannot play baseball on a traditional team.

On September 16, 2006, the Miracle League of the Triangle, based in Cary, NC, opened its first season with 104 players on 8 teams. This special league, open to children ages 4 to 21 who, for any reason, cannot play baseball on a typical team, invited all special children to come—and they came! The league grew so large that they split into 4 Junior (ages 4-7) and 8 Senior (ages 8-21) teams this season. With great local business, individual, and media support, this seems to be just the start of this amazing organization.

When I saw the Miracle League on a local newscast last fall, I knew this was a special gift for my son. Mike, whose brothers both play on the Fuquay-Varina High School varsity football team, always wanted to play sports. He has the drive and attitude his brothers have, but he also has a little-known condition called Morquio Syndrome. Morquio Syndrome affects his bone growth and stature, as well as other things throughout his body. At age 5, Mike had to have surgery to stabilize the way his neck attaches to his head. After the operation, the surgeon said that Mike would never be allowed to play team sports. I specifically asked about baseball, thinking foolishly that it would be a relatively non-contact sport. The doctor said no, that Mike could slide into home base and have someone land on him, breaking the bones and bracing that had been installed into his neck. Not a pretty picture.

Now, almost 5 years later, Mike slides into nearly every base as he makes his weekly trek around the field. He always makes a run for his team, sliding into Home where parents and fans from *both* sides cheer him on! Some of the kids on his team are even faster, rolling wheelchairs across the bases like old pros. Some may be slower, occasionally assisted by wonderful people—the buddies—who volunteer their time to ensure that each child reaches his or her goal—home base.

In 1997, Eddie Bagwell, a coach with the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association (RYBA), in Georgia, invited a team member's disabled brother, to join the team. The Association realized that not everyone could play baseball. Some people's physical or mental challenges prevented them from playing on even the most passive team. These children were there when friends or siblings sign up for activities, go to practice, and play together, but they could only watch from outside the fence.

RYBA created the Miracle League in 1998 *"to further its mission of providing opportunities for all children to play baseball regardless of their ability."* Since no traditional rules seemed appropriate for these special children, the League created these:

- Every player bats once each inning
- All base runners are safe
- Every player scores a run before the inning is over (last one up gets a home run)
- Community children and volunteers serve as 'buddies' to assist the players
- Each team and each player wins every game

The greatest challenge the children now faced was the field itself. Rolling a wheelchair around a grassy field presented new obstacles, like getting a wheelchair stuck so deep at second base that it took three "buddies" to get it out. The league, which started with 35 players on 4 teams, realized that there could be as many as 50,000 children in the Atlanta area that would like to play baseball, so they started to collect donations and design a field that could support their cause. The first Miracle League Baseball Field was completed in April, 2000 at a cost of over \$750,000. Its flat synthetic turf surface with built-in bases was just what these special children needed to let them play baseball with as much independence as possible.

This summer, team members participated in baseball clinics hosted by the Carolina Mudcats and by the USA Baseball staff. Miracle League players learned pitching, batting, throwing, and fielding skills while meeting some of North Carolina's most exciting baseball players and coaches.

Regardless of how they get to Home Base, the players from both teams always win! They make new friends and share experiences that they never could do before. At school, Miracle League team members can discuss their baseball game when other children discuss sports. Wearing their uniforms with pride, these special children know that they are part of something wonder

ful—their own team!

Special thanks go out to Stara Porrazzo, the League Manager, for her motivation and drive to make the Miracle League of the Triangle a reality, and to Tammi Dittmar, the league's Executive Director, for ensuring its continued success.

Ready to play? Visit <http://www.miracleleagueofthetriangle.com/> to sign up, volunteer, or donate! You will find registration forms, directions to the Adams Elementary School baseball field, and the fall schedule on this website. You may also email Tammi Dittmar at tdittmar@miracleleagueofthetriangle.com or call her at 919-238-0333. All national background information in this article is from the Miracle League's own website, www.miracleleague.com. Please visit that site for national information, photos, and a video.

"Every Child Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball"



Who: LPA youth ages 9-17

What: Space Camp www.spacecamp.com

When: March or August, 2008

Where: U.S. Space and Rocket Center
Huntsville, Alabama

Cost: Approximately \$700, would include travel, lodging and meals at the space

Contact: Geoff Mitchell Mitchell@wis.edu

Mark Your Calendars for More Events This Year!

June 20-28	Detroit, MI National Conference
July	NC - Details TBD
August	VA Beach - regional pre-planning & Chapter meeting
September	NC - Details TBD
October 3-5	VA Beach- Regional
November	OFF
December	NC - TBD



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Vacant

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Lisa McDowell

Newsletter Editors:

Lindsay Fowler and Cindy Horton

If Undeliverable, Return to:

*Colonial Chapter of The LPA
4419 Saddle Run Road
Wilson, NC 27896*

Postage

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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Get Ready For...

Surfin' LPA

Colonial LPA Hosts the Fall 2008 Regional

Virginia Beach, VA October 3-5, 2008



We need your help!

Venue & DJ Registration	Fund Raising	Teen Activities
Regional Activities	Children's Room	Parent Meeting

Please contact Leta Krieger kriegers4@msn.com or Cathy Hughes hughes-sah@aol.com if you would like to lead or assist with any of these committees!