

Little People of America **District 4 Newsletter**

FALL REGIONAL

Gainesville, Florida

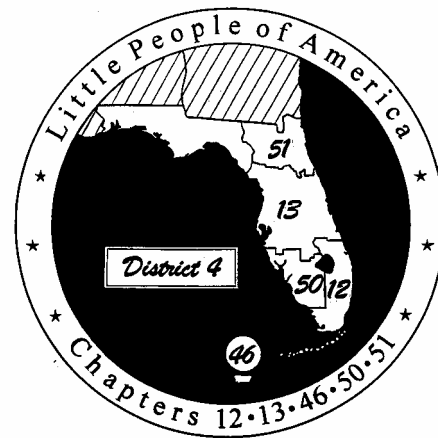
September 5th –7th



This September come join Chapter 51 for a “Tail Gator” in North-east Florida where the next regional will be held. Gainesville has more to offer than a great college education, it also has great hot spots. Within walking distance from the UF Hotel and Conference Center there is **The Harn Museum of Art, Florida Museum of Natural History, The Curtis M. Phillips Center for Performing Arts** (which has a variety of performances from symphony orchestras to dance to traveling Broadway shows to local talent) and the **Southwest Recreational Center**. And driving onto campus there is also the famous **Bat House** and a lake to take a quiet picnic. For those that are more courageous, the town has more natural sites to offer within a ten mile radius of the Hotel. The **Devil’s Millhopper** (120 foot deep sinkhole), **San Felasco Hammock State Preserve** (Ten miles of marked nature trails through 6,900 acres of sunny pine forests and shady hardwood hammocks), **Kanapaha Botanical Gardens** (includes various gardens and you can also see a variety of birds), and **Lake Wauberg** (a recreation park where you can walk along the nature trails, swim, canoe and paddleboat on the lake.) Or there are always the usual bowling alleys and paintball places that kids love. Gainesville will have something for you to enjoy, whatever your desire.

You can access all you need to know about Gainesville and University of Florida at www.cityofgainesville.org and www.ufl.edu/

We are planning, along with Scott and Pam Danberg, to start the day with a swim clinic and a track and field event. This will be great fun and we hope that children and adults will attend. A Pediatric Physical Therapist and her graduate students are going to sponsor our children’s room. We are also going to be able to offer free hearing screening in the children’s room by Dr. Debra Shimon Au.D and her graduate students. You will be able to schedule an appointment at the registration table. In the afternoon we will hold a question and answer period with a panel of highly respected doctors including: Orest Hurko M.D., Mary Blair-Matejcyk, M.D., Mary Wagner, M.D., Rosi Fortunato, M.D. and Debra Shimon, Au.D. In the evening you will be able to enjoy a wonderful buffet, tableside magic, silent auction and dancing. Do not miss this event! We will see you in Gainesville.



Director’s Corner

Our Spring Regional on Ft. Lauderdale Beach was a huge success with over 130 in attendance. Events included DAAA Bocchia Ball, swimming on the beach or poolside and taking in the sights on the beach or along the beach boardwalk. This was the first time District 4 sponsored a family through the Newcomers Fund. We would like to continue this effort and encourage you all to contribute towards the next recipient when registering for the next Regional in Gainesville. Included are photos from the regional. I would like to thank the many South Florida Members in planning and hosting the events. It was good to see the return of Tiffany Quick and her mom Michelle Burgess. Both have a great photo in our national newsletter along with Gina Zoldak & Jazmin Persaud. Dr. Jennifer Arnold was featured in the June 2003 issue of the Ladies Home Journal Titled "Making It", page 106. If you can get a copy it is worth keeping. Good going Jennifer!

Angela and I attended one and a half days of Board meeting at the national conference in Boston: Angela as the Parliamentarian and Robert as your District Director. Here are some of the highlights of BOD decisions: the District 4 nominee for the Kitchens Meritorious Award, Daniel Margulies, was approved and

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Meet Our Medical Advisors

Orest Hurko

Doctor Hurko is a neurologist who serves on the LPA medical advisory board, and in honor of his dedicated service, he was granted a lifetime membership to LPA. Doctor Hurko served from 1983 to 1998 at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As an Associate Professor in Neurology, his clinical duties included general neurology, neurogenetics, adult and pediatric genetics. Doctor Hurko specialized in evaluating the neurologic complications of little people, and he is familiar with the particular concerns of each type of dwarfism.

Mary Matejczyk

Doctor Matejczyk is an orthopaedic surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland Ohio. Her specialties include total hip and knee joint replacement and the revision of those replacements. She is also an associate professor for the Department of Surgery at the Ohio State University School of Medicine. Dr. Matejczyk was named to the alpha Omega Alpha Medical

Honor Society and awarded the Kappa Delta, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Orthopaedic Research Award, and the American Orthopaedic Association North American Traveling Fellowship.

Mary Wagner

Doctor Wagner is an assistant professor with the University of Florida, College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. She specializes in Pediatric Pulmonary, and her clinical interests include breathing disorders during sleep, apnea, chronic lung disease in infants and children, severe asthma and cystic fibrosis. Dr Wagner is familiar with the pulmonary issues that face many dwarfs, and she offers a specialty clinic for her pediatric sleep apnea patients who use a bipap or cpap to assist their breathing.

Debra Shimon

Doctor Shimon is an audiologist at Shands Teaching Hospital, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fl. She has over 20 years experience as an audiologist. Her specialties include the assessment and evaluation of hearing in infants,

children, and adults, with an emphasis in fitting hearing aids and assistance listening devices for all ages. Her professional experience also includes newborn hearing screening, industrial audiology, graduate student clinical training and public speaking. Her niece, Jessica Markbrieter, is a member of Chapter 12.

Rosi Fortunato

Doctor Fortunato is a Pediatrician in private practice since 1987 in Gainesville, Fl. She was awarded the Community Pediatrician Teaching Award in 1998 and 1999. Doctor Fortunato is also an assistant professor for the Department of Pediatrics at University of Florida, and has served on the University of Florida College of Medicine Alumni Board. Dr. Fortunato is the pediatrician for Miranda Uhl who is a member in Chapter

for minutes of the Board Meeting, and a laptop video projector for future meetings. Cricket & Paul Hrabosky did a marvelous job of revising the bylaws and policy manual. Ericka Peasley has a mock layout of a great Medical Resource website soon to be on the LPA dedicated server. Our membership renewal program increased membership by 12%. The letter campaign cost \$3,400, but resulted in extra dues of \$8,500. The sad news is our sales of securities lost \$58,515 in 2002 and unrealized gains loss on securities was \$35,032. This reflects the state of the national economy and is not unusual compared with the investments of other organizations.

I will have served my 3 year term at the Fall Regional in Gainesville. Therefore there will be an election for a new District Director. If interested, please make your interest known. Nominations will come from the floor of the general assembly. I am not seeking re-election. It is time to bring forth new talent to share the load and try a new approach to leadership. I have truly enjoyed being your District Director. Most challenging and rewarding is putting together the newsletter and communicating with all the district and the chapter officers. We can be proud of what we have accomplished. I want to personally thank my fellow officers. John Mayeux for being on top of the mail list and listening to my ideas and questions. Aileen Miller for keeping up with quarterly/annual financial reports from our chapters and district. Chris O'Neill, as Assistant District Director, and especially for stepping in at the Tampa Regional and helping in mailing the District 4 Newsletter with his extended family. Of course, I can't forget the many chair positions of our committees. You all have done a terrific job. Thanks!

Hope to see you all in Gainesville.

Yours truly *Robert Van Etten*

Director's Corner

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presented on the Banquet Night. LPA is funding 5 new programs: a photo Library, an Outreach Program to elementary schools, an LPA server to host our LPAOnline website, audio recording equipment



Fall Regional 2003, Ft. Lauderdale



Boston National Conference 2003

LPA National
www.littlepeopleofamerica.org/
LPA District 4
www.lpad4.org
South Florida Mini Gators:
www.southfloridaminigators.org
Central Florida Mini Gators:
www.geocities.com/mini_gators/
Toll Free Information line:
 1-888-LPA-2001

Scholarships & Funds

Scholarships, Kitchen's Travel Fund and the Bach Medical Grant are now available to those who are needed a little help out there. Scholarship fund is for tips who are attending college, trade school or vocational school. The Kitchen's Travel Fund is for 1st time National Conference attendees. The travel fund was awarded to # households last year. If you plan on attending the National Conference in Boston, MA, you will need to make your reservations now. The award will be granted and you will be notified in May. **The scholarships and travel fund have a deadline of APRIL 1st.**

The Boch Medical Grant is for anyone having difficulty paying for medical bills that insurance would not cover due to any dwarfism. This grant has no deadline, however funds are limited. Please contact any officer for applications and requirements.

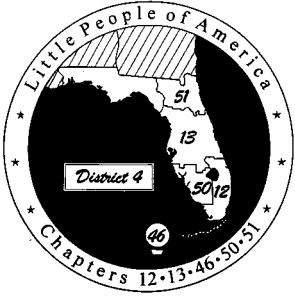
Download Forms from District 4 Website

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