

What A Regional!

Tampa, FL, Sept. 29-31



By

Angel Shields

Chapter 13 President

The Fall Regional was a huge success with 128 in attendance! From Friday night till late Sunday morning, everyone had a blast.

The hotel was a great location and all the parents raved about the great Pirate kids' pool where the children spent most of their day. The kids also had a great time on Saturday morning in the children's room where they were all entertained with arts and crafts and games. The Youth group from St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Clearwater did a wonderful job helping to supervise and entertain the children. Of course, the kids also enjoyed playing bocchia ball in the afternoon, winning prizes in the children's raffle, eating a special kids' meal at the banquet and dancing to a fun DJ. Some of the older kids and teens brought in their outgrown clothes to pass on to the younger ones.



Danny & Debbie Melrose

The hospitality room was a great gathering place throughout the weekend. Everyone socialized, ate lots of food and had fun during the Welcome hours on Friday night. Saturday morning the

officers held their meeting there with breakfast donated by Dunkin Donuts. On Saturday night, after the dance, everyone moved to the Hospitality room for Karaoke and some great sing-alongs guided by new members, Cherie and Sabas Murillo, with Sabas on the guitar and Randy Bradford entertaining us with a solo! Lauren Mayeux also played some lively fiddle tunes for us, while we munched on all the great donated food and snacks.

During the day we had a lively discussion at our District 4 business meeting run by Chris O'Neill, filling in for Robert Van Etten (you'll hear more about the meeting in the next newsletter). We also enjoyed having Randy Bradford, all the way from Washington, representing LPA National (Sr. VP). After the meeting, some of the adult LP's learned to play bocchia while others played in a fierce competition of skill. We thank the Danbergs and DAAA for coordinating and coaching the bocchia event for us! Our afternoon options also included attending the very first ever District 4 Expo with vendors exhibiting small, custom-made furniture for LP's, custom-made shoes, mobility products, tailored clothing, cell phones and mortgage services.

The reception and banquet were well attended, and provided lots of opportunity for socializing with old and new friends. The food was great and we enjoyed watching old videos from 1991 – 1993 of our previous District 4 Regionals! Needless to say, we had a few embarrassed people who were surprised to see these much younger versions of them-

selves on the *large* screen. The silent auction and the kids & adult raffles were a great success. Everyone walked away with some wonderful items and we made over \$1,000 profit on the auction and raffles! Thanks to all those who donated or fundraised items and a special thanks to Kathy Garret for managing the Silent Auction and to Eric and Laura Meunier who fundraised most of the vendor-donated items sold in the Silent Auction.

Everyone that I talked to said they really enjoyed the regional and we did a fantastic job. We've received lots of emails from the other chapters thanking us for the great regional. So again I thank each and **everyone** who did their part to make our Chapter's Regional such a huge success. Thanks to our Regional Director, Robert Van Etten and Assistant Director, Chris O'Neill for their support and guidance in the planning process. Although it took many volunteers to make this event a success, I extend a *special* thanks to our conference coordinator, Eric Meunier who spent countless hours fundraising and working on the event, as well as his Mom, Laura, who also worked very hard to make this all happen.



Chris O'Neill, Debbie Koury & Marianna Ayers at Officer's Meeting