



## DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

Hello to all of our District 3 LP Families. Hope your summer has been a healthy and happy one for each of you. Since coming back from the National Conference, I have been trying to write this letter between inspections and certifications for potatoes going from the State of Maryland into Canada. But now the season is over and we can concentrate on other important things.

### NATIONAL

If you have been having any trouble with contacting the National Office, please be patient. Maureen, our office administrator, had to have surgery just after the Conference and will be out of the office for a little while. In the meantime Joanna and other officers are trying to field the emails and phone calls as best they can. So far they have been doing a great job. If I can help with any questions, please feel free to contact me.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of LPA held in Seattle, Washington, was a huge success, with 2,437 in attendance. Also, there were 430 "first-timers" attending the Conference. I was glad to see so many of our District 3 members there. I hope you all had a great time.

Our own Dee Miller, Delmarva Chapter President, was named the first recipient of the LPA Anna Dixon Award for 2007. This award was created by the LPA Executive Board in memory of Ms. Anna Dixon, a founding member of LPA, who gave so tirelessly to promote the membership and ideals of LPA. Dee is a fitting representative of one who demonstrates compassion and enthusiasm to LPA in her work and all areas of her life.

### Future National Conferences:

2008 in Detroit Michigan	Sat. June 21 thru Fri. June 27
2009 in Brooklyn, New York City	Sat. July 4 thru Fri. July 27
2010 in Nashville, Tenn.	Sat. July 3 thru Fri. July 9

At the National Conference, the Board approved extending the Office Administrator's position to full time (40 hrs. per week).

The Board also approved changing the process for applications to the Kitchens Travel Fund to start January 1<sup>st</sup> each year, with the applicants to be notified 30 days after their application is received in the National Office. The final deadline will be April 30.

Funding was approved in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the LPA A.N.S.I. delegate or alternate (American National Standard Institute) to attend the ANSI meeting in the 2007/2008 fiscal year. I think LPA needs to be active to benefit all of our members.

Erika Okenfuss discussed the Medical Resource Center (MRC) and the ongoing progress in developing the website. She reported that only half of the \$600.00 allocated last year for purchase of a scanner and accompanying software was used. The Board authorized the remaining \$300.00 not used last year to be allocated for use for further MRC expenses.

The Adoption Committee Chair, Colleen Gioffreda discussed that the \$4000.00 allocated last year for creation of an adoption brochure has not yet been used, so the project will continue into next year.

The Dwarf Artists Coalition (DAC) director, Amanda Caschia, discussed points from the DAC report. The Board approved transferring \$600.00 from the LPA General Fund to replenish the expenses for the DAC exhibit at this year's conference.

Jimmy Loyless, President of the Dwarf Athletic Association of America (DAAA) noted that Janet Brown was stepping down as Executive Director due to health reasons. The DAAA has decided they no longer have funding to support an Executive Director position. This year's games were the largest to date, with 240 registered for DAAA events. The DAAA has asked LPA to assist them with website management and running the registration for athletic events at National Conferences. The Board did not take action at this time.

President Lois Lamb read a report from Barbara Spiegel of the Community Outreach Program. The Board approved allocating \$10,000 from the LPA General Fund for training and expenses of volunteers performing community outreach around the country.

Mary Ellen Little, ADN, RNC, Certified in Neonatal Nursing, and the Bereavement Coordinator for LPA, is for supporting LP's and family members who have lost loved ones. They have created a website which they will be linking to the LPA Online website.

Vice President of Finance, Craig Holloway, in his report noted that the "50 for 50" fund-raising has already generated over \$50,000 in donations for January through April, which is more than all of last year's donations. The 2006 Milwaukee National Conference profit was finalized in February with over \$21,000 going into National. Many people have taken advantage of the "3 years for \$100.00" program and investment

income also has been good. The current budget shows a net income of \$70,000, much better than previous years. We must maintain a rainy-day fund.

The Board approved \$1,000 budget for news releases concerning LPA for release to the national wire services.

The Board approved \$500.00 for the OWLS Coordinator, Jim Kay, for shipping prizes for bingo to the 2008 National Conference in Detroit and for a survey of the demographics of the older members and their interests in events for future National Conferences. If you receive ANY SURVEY from LPA (National, District, or Chapter) please take time to fill it out so that LPA can serve all it's members.

The Board approved a Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Statement addressing concerns among the medical community as to whether a physician would fertilize an embryo with a known medical condition, such as dwarfism.

The International Correspondent, Mary Carten, will pursue getting the LPA Brochure and the Welcome letter for new members translated into Spanish. Then she will come back to the Board with specific funding requests for production and distribution.

Executive Director, Joanna Campbell, presented a proposal to hold a mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee and only three delegates selected from the District Directors. The motion was for the meeting to be held in southern California in early February with expenses of \$9,200 to hire an Executive Facilitator and \$5,300 for travel and lodging for those attending. MOTION FAILED (I voted against it. LPA is about all of us, not just the West Coast.)

A second motion was made to hold the mid-year meeting in early 2008 in southern California with expenses of \$9,200 for hiring an Executive Facilitator and \$15,000 for travel and lodging expenses for the Executive Committee and all 14 District Directors and the Parliamentarian. MOTION PASSED. ( I voted yes so that all areas of LPA are represented.)

Executive Director Joanna Campbell introduced Gary Parker, a photographer she has worked with preparing documentation and exhibits for LPA. He has shot photos of little people at conference since 2004. He has asked for part of his expenses for taking photographs at the Seattle Conference. Motion was passed to allocate \$7,000 toward his expenses. All of his photos would be available for official LPA use.

Bethany Ferguson, an LPA member, addressed the Board about her Masters Degree work in Industrial Engineering at Texas Tech on collecting body measurement data of the short stature population for use by those evaluating accessibility standards or developing adaptive products and clothing. The Board approved her project for willing little people at the Seattle Conference.

Chris Naughton, Teens Coordinator, discussed his activities for the year, particularly the many events planned for the Seattle conference week. He will be stepping down this year, as he will be starting college, and will assist with finding a replacement.

The Board announced this year's Distinguished Service Awards at the banquet on Thursday night. They are:

DSA, Regular Member	Freida Valuckas - Dist. 11
DSA, Teen Member	Lucy Williams - Dist. 12
DSA, Auxiliary Member	Jim Davis - Dist. 2

The Board awarded the Lee Kitchens Meritorious Service award posthumously to Billy Barty.

### Elections

The National elections will be in the Spring of 2008, with the winners announced at the 2008 National Conference in Detroit. Announcements for National officers and proposed ByLaws amendments must be received by the National Election Committee 120 days before the start of the National Conference, in even-numbered years. The deadline this year will be Sunday, February 24, 2008. The National Election Committee Chairman is Ron Piro. Email: [ronpiro@aol.com](mailto:ronpiro@aol.com)

### DISTRICT

Our District membership numbers are back up to where we were in 2005. Let's all keep up the good work in bringing back our LP Family members that are missing. If you know of a member that has not renewed, please contact them and invite them back into the Family. Or you can contact me or your Chapter President, if you want us to help.

Our LPA ByLaws state that each Chapter will hold it's elections for Chapter Officers in the even numbered years. So Chapters must hold their elections next year, 2008, The Bylaws also state that no one can serve for more than two (2) consecutive elected terms and that no members can hold more than one office at a time, whether Chapter, District or National. And you must be a paid member to run for any office.

The Districts (14) will have elections in alternate 3 year periods. District 3 elections will be held at our Fall Regional in 2008. If you are thinking about running for any elected office, either Chapter, District, or National, now is the time to make your decision.

With our new chapter chartered, the Blue Ridge Chapter, and the Colonial Chapter being reorganized, we will now have 5 chapters in District 3. At our officers meeting at the Fall Regional we will need to discuss our boundaries, so that no one is

encroaching on another Chapter's area. So please bring your Chapter Bylaws and local or State maps designating your boundaries to the Regional. I cannot change any boundaries, only the Chapter can by voting at a chapter meeting, just like any other changes in your Bylaws. As District Director, it my responsibility to make sure the chapter boundary lines to not overlap.

With 5 active chapters, I will be setting up a new District Regional rotation for our chapters.

Blue Ridge Chapter #69 – The Blue Ridge Chapter received their Charter at the Seattle National Conference. The Chapter's last meeting was early August. Their chapter website is [lpavafamily@comcast.com](mailto:lpavafamily@comcast.com). David Meador, President

Carolinian Chapter #45 – The Carolinian Chapter is in the midst of final planning for the District 3 Fall Regional in Charlotte, NC, Sept. 21-23, 2007, and Registration packets have been mailed. Hope to see many of you there. If you have not yet received your packet, please contact us at [carolinianchapterlpa@yahoo.com](mailto:carolinianchapterlpa@yahoo.com),

We've also had two successful weekend getaways. Many of our members attended the National in Seattle and had an active part in some of the activities of the week.

Stephanie Brandon, President

Ches-Del Bays Chapter #64 – Our Chapter has not had a busy summer, other than the National Conference, but we have some big plans for the fall and winter, starting with our meeting on Sept. 9. Pat Connolley, President

Colonial Chapter #48 – After nearly four years of inactivity, the Colonial Chapter is being restarted. Three mothers of little people, Leta Krieger (co-president), Cathy Hughes (co-president) and Lisa McDowell (treasurer), have joined forces to reactivate and reunite the chapter. Leta Kreiger lives in Virginia Beach, Cathy Hughes lives in Cary, NC and Lisa McDowell lives in Durham, NC, so we are spread around the Chapter and can coordinate all areas of our chapter.

Soon after announcing that the chapter was being restarted, we were delighted to hear from over 30 chapter members wanting to participate in chapter events. We had a big kick-off event on August 18 that was well attended and enjoyed by all in Roanoke Rapids, NC. We are planning a harvest festival in October on a farm in Durham, NC, complete with pumpkin picking, hay rides, corn mazes, barnyard animals, and more.

The officers are looking for input and involvement from chapter members, and plan to ask interested members to step forward to fill other chapter positions soon. The chapter website is <http://geocities.com/colonialchapter/>

Leta Krieger, Co-president  
Cathy Hughes, Co-president

Delmarva Chapter #17 – The Delmarva Chapter is getting reorganized again with regular meetings and activities. We are also busy planning to host the District 3 Spring Regional in 2008.  
Dee Miller, President

District Parent Coordinator – Parents within the District have coordinated a “playgroup” for families. The purpose of these meetings is to give parents the opportunity to build relationships with one another. We want to encourage families within our District to meet other families and build friendships with one another. We also want to teach our kids that they are not alone. We want to offer our children the opportunity to really get to know children with other types of dwarfism. The first playgroup took place in Clifton, Virginia, at Penny and Dave Stoney’s home on Saturday, Aug. 4. A group of four families met and enjoyed a wonderful meal together as well as allowed the kids to play and enjoy one another. It was a wonderful experience and we plan to have another meeting soon. If you are interested in joining the playgroup or want more information please contact Susan Rannigan at [susanrannigan@gmail.com](mailto:susanrannigan@gmail.com).

District 3 Teens Coordinator – Michael Hughes. – Many of our District teens attended the National Conference in Seattle, participating in sporting events as well as the fashion show, talent contest and of course the dances. So many medals were won by the district’s athletes that we would not be able to list them all. Among the medalists were Alex Best, Andrew Braun, Chad Davis, Logan Duvick, Michael Hughes, Lucas McCrory and Julia Sims. Laci Wicki did an incredible job entertaining the crowd with her beautiful voice during the talent show; she is an unbelievably talented young lady.

The next Teen event will be at the District meeting in Charlotte, NC, Sept. 21-23. Look for the teen room when you arrive on Friday. Saturday we have tentatively planned to go horseback riding in the morning, have lunch and then off to another activity. Of course, you’ll want to be ready for the evening’s banquet and dance. Sunday morning we’ll have a farewell teen only breakfast.

Teen activities are open to all LP teens, nearly teens and young adults. Haven’t had a chance to join in the fun yet? Send me an e-mail and we’ll get you started. Want to have a District Teen activity in your area? Give me a shout and we’ll plan it together.  
Michael Hughes [ncskierboy@aol.com](mailto:ncskierboy@aol.com)

Hope to see you at the District Regional.

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