



Little People of America

District 3 Newsletter

Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina

There have been many things going on within LPA since the last newsletter. The main one that affects all of us within LPA is the resignation of Rick Spiegel from the Presidency. Rick has decided to resign due to the stress that was affecting his health. I would like to thank Rick for all the work he has devoted to LPA during his time in office. Tricia Mason has agreed to step up to the President position to fulfill the current term. Cara Egan has been nominated and approved by the BOD to be the new Sr. Vice President.

Most of the members in the District should have their MRF's by now. If you joined or renewed in the later part of last year, you will be receiving it later in the year. I have been hearing that the renewal percentages are down from last year. I have been hearing that a lot of people feel that it is not worth the \$50.00 to only receive one LPA Today since the Conference. I totally agree. There was a major breakdown in the leadership in the overseeing of getting the Conference issue of LPA Today done and out. It has been announced that Dan Okenfuss is now the Editor of LPA Today. Please renew your memberships, LPA is trying to move forward to the next level, but without a membership we will not be able to nor will it be worth it.

Fall Regional in Wilmington, NC

A big thank you goes out to the Colonial Chapter for hosting the Fall Regional. There were around 100 people that came in for the weekend. We had the honor of having Dr. Clair Francomano and Dr. William G. Mackenzie available at the Regional, doing a workshop and seeing patients.

At the District meeting we discussed many different things that are going on in the District. Here are some of the things that were discussed:

- 1) We discussed if the District would be interested in selling the LP Actors Calendars. If we were to sell them, the District would receive a portion of the money. It was decided that the District would not take part in selling the Calendars.
- 2) The Colonial Chapter has finished their Bylaw boundary change to now be a 100 mile radius of Greenville, NC.
- 3) One of the new National Bylaw changes is that when you renew your membership, it will good until one year from the date that you renew.
- 4) A motion was made and passed for the District to pay \$55.00 for the District 3 ad in the 2004 National Convention booklet.
- 5) We discussed a motion that passed from the previous Regional on the District forming a Hospitality committee. It was decided that the individual chapters would form their own Hospitality committees.
- 6) The District and individual Chapter will jointly purchase flowers in the event of a death of an immediate family member of District 3.
- 7) At the next Regional, \$100.00 will be allocated toward a teen event. The District is continuing to try to find ways to get the teens more active within the District.

A final report has not been submitted as of the writing of this newsletter on whether the Regional in Wilmington made a profit or took a loss. Hopefully a report will be done and submitted before the next Regional in Dover.

2005 Spring Regional

The Spring Regional will be held at the Sheraton Dover Hotel in Dover, Delaware on the weekend of April 15th - 17th. This is the first Regional that the newly formed Ches del bays Chapter has hosted. The registration packet and other info is included in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars with the dates to make sure you are able to attend.

Members Passing

It is with a sad heart that I am writing about the following members or family members of our membership that have passed away. Please keep them in your hearts and prayers.

Jeanette Whitaker from Colonial Heights, VA	June 28, 2004
Dixie Hanel from Portsmouth, VA. (mother of Jill Bryan)	August 30, 2004
Orpha Beiler from Pa. originally from District 3	October, 2004
Sophie Dempski from NJ (mother of Stella Causey)	November 17, 2004
JR Caldwell from District 8 in Texas (step-father of Susie Campbell)	November 28, 2004

For those of you that have not heard, Anu Trombino, a former Delmarva Chapter President was in a bad car accident on December 10, 2004. The National officers took up a donation to buy a food certificate for her and her family. I sent in a check on behalf of District 3 and the Del marva Chapter. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Outreach Brochure

When Matt Roloff was the LPA President, he applied for and received a \$10,000.00 grant for an outreach program in Oregon. With some of the money, they were able to put together a brochure for elementary school students with dwarfism to give to the school to answer the different questions about dwarfism the school and other children might have. Due to the grant paying to get the brochure put together, the individual Districts were able to purchase some for their members at a price of \$1.00 a piece. I have ordered 150 copies to be distributed to LP's in District 3 that are in elementary school. I am planning on handing them out at the District meeting in Dover, so please make sure you attend the meeting. After the Regional, I will then be mailing them out to the remaining families on the list that were not able to attend.

Mid-year Meeting

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors had a mid-year meeting this past January in Orlando. The topic we worked on was putting together a strategic plan for the future of LPA. A lot of good ideas were brought up throughout the weekend on Finances, Programs, Communications, and Operations. We were broken down into four groups, with each group to list goals and strategies they would like done within each category. The Strategic Planners are writing up and organizing everything that we discussed and are going to be sending it to the officers to hopefully be acted on. I believe that the cost for this weekend was well spent if we as a Board can come together and put our ideas into action.

District Elections

The District will be having its elections for officers at the 2005 Fall Regional to be hosted by the Carolinian Chapter. I will begin accepting nominations beginning at the Regional in Dover. Personally, I have not made a decision yet on whether or not I will run for the Director position. If anyone would like to run for any officer position, please let me know during or after the Regional in Dover.

Scholarship Applications

The Scholarship Fund and the Kitchen's Fund Applications are now available. You can get them by contacting me or your Chapter President. The deadline to submit the Scholarship Fund application is April 22. The Kitchen's Fund deadline to submit is April 30, 2005. LPA is again in a joint partnership with the Greenberg Skeletal Dysplasia Center in giving out scholarships to members of LPA. We also have the Bock and Health Advocacy Fund Applications. These funds are accepted anytime, because there is not a deadline for these funds.

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District Officers

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