



Little People of America

District 3 Newsletter

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

Spring Regional in Dover

I want to start by congratulating and thanking the Ches Del Bays Chapter for hosting the 2005 Spring Regional in Dover, which was their first Regional ever hosted. A great time was had over the entire weekend. On a sad note though, we lost a valued member, Norman Rust during the planning of the Regional. He will be greatly missed. The final numbers and all remaining monies have been turned in to the District from the weekend. We had a loss of \$164.84 in which the Ches del Bays have offered and paid for half of the loss. The reason for the loss was mainly due to a low turnout for the weekend. If the membership wants to continue to have Regionals, then we need to have more people getting involved and showing up.

At the District meeting we discussed different issues within the District. Here is a run down of some of the things that were discussed.

We discussed the Outreach Brochures that have been put together by District 11 with a grant they received from the state of Oregon. The District membership approved the purchase of 300 brochures. I have given each Chapter President a list of families that have an LP child in Elementary School within their Chapter with a brochure to be given to each of those families. The Chapters have also been given the option to purchase 50 brochures from the District to distribute within their Chapter. All of the Chapters except for the Colonial have purchased them.

It was decided to allocate the Director or his proxy \$500.00 to help offset the costs for the Orlando Conference.

We discussed and approved for the District to purchase a \$65.00 ad in the National Conference Program guide.

At an earlier Regional several years back held in Raleigh, NC, a motion was made and passed for the District Director to receive comped rooms during their stay at the Regionals. I suggested to the membership that the it was no longer financially feasible for the District to pay for the rooms anymore due to the situation of the District finances. It was discussed and voted to no longer pay for the Director's room.

Colleen reported that the District's general account was down to \$400.00. There is \$2800.00 still in the Sam Fund, but that is a restricted fund that can't be withdrawn for general operations. It was approved to transfer \$1000.00 to the general account from the Sam Fund for operating expenses. The reasons for the money getting so low are due mainly to the losses we have been incurring at the Regionals, and the lower renewals that we are getting.

We also discussed the finances of future Regionals. It was decided that the finances of all future Regionals will be split between the hosting Chapter and the District. In the past, the District took all responsibility for the expenses, good or bad. From now on the hosting Chapter will have more responsibly to make sure we make a profit or else they will share in the loss. The Ches Del Bays chapter did not have to pay half of the loss on the last Regional due to it being decided during their Regional, but they have offered to pay half of the debt anyway.

At the last Regional in Wilmington, it was decided that the District and Chapter would go in together to buy flowers for members that have passed away. Due the financial situation of the District, it was decided to let the Chapters by themselves pay for any flowers that need to be bought.

National News

The Board of Directors have approved a motion for LPA to design and sell a 2005 Calendar as a fundraiser to help fund the new Executive Director position. Each District is responsible for one month in which they contribute a photo of something that represents their District. Our very own District 3 has the month of March. They are taking orders for the Calendar now, so make sure you get one. If it is a success then it will be offered again for 2006.

News Around the District

Congratulations go out to Justin Rick from the Carolinian Chapter on graduating from the Victory Christian Academy on May 20th, 2005. He made the Beta Club and also won the Christian Music Award. He has been accepted and awarded a 2 year Scholarship at Johnson and Whales University School of Culinary Arts in Charlotte, NC.

Congratulations also go out to Stephanie Brandon, the Carolinian Chapter Vice President on her graduation from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, NC on May 7th, 2005 with a major in Computer Information Systems with a minor in Business.

As of this writing Priscilla Shealy is recovering from her recent back surgery she had done in Atlanta. Also, Arthur Evans is recovering from his neck surgery that was done at Hopkins recently. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Chapter Web Site

Some of you may have noticed the changes being done to the District 3 web site. Colleen has been playing around with it, making some changes and adding some things. Please feel free to contact Colleen or myself if you have any ideas for the site. We are going to try to put the newsletter and also the Regional packet on the website once it is put together.

Boccia Ball Sets

When the District bought a Boccia Ball set, the Delmarva Chapter also purchased two sets. I am in possession of the District's set, but no one knows the whereabouts of the other two. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these sets, please let me know. The District set is missing one of the balls. It is probably in one of the other sets.

New Chapter in Roanoke

I am really glad to announce the possible formation of a new Chapter within District 3 in the Roanoke area. I have been in contact with Melanie Helms about forming a new Chapter up there in western Virginia. Melanie has talked with some of the members in the area and is excited about the response she has been getting. She is planning a cookout on August 13th at 2:00 to discuss whether there is interest in forming a Chapter and what needs to be done. If you are in the Roanoke area and would like to attend and participate in the forming of a Chapter, you can contact Melanie at Mslp2u2002@aol.com.

District Elections

The District membership will elect District Officers at the next Regional in Greensboro. If you would like to run for a District officer position, let me know what office you are interested in running for. At this time, we have 3 people who have decided to run for office. They are as follows, Jeff Sims - Director, Keith Connolley - Assistant Director, and Craig Shealy - Treasurer. If anyone else would like to run for a Officer position, please let me know before August 13th. If there is more than one candidate for a certain position, then a Ballot will be sent out.

Wilmington Regional

At the Regional in Dover, the Proxy for the Colonial Chapter announced to the District members that the Wilmington Regional made a profit of \$311.00. As of this writing a final report nor the announced proceeds have been turned in to the District. According to the only numbers we do have on the District books, there was a loss of over \$300.00 for the Regional.

2005 Fall Regional

The Carolinian Chapter is proud to announce that the Fall Regional will be at the Holiday Inn Greensboro-Airport in Greensboro, NC on the weekend of October 7th - 9th, 2005. We are going to have a Track Event at an area High School on October 8th of the Regional. I have talked to DAAA, and they are going to sanction the event, so any records broken will be recorded. The details are still being worked out, but as of now there are plans to have various sprints, and relays and more for all ages. To reserve a room now you can contact the Hotel at **(336) 668-0421**, tell them you with LPA. If you are planning on participating in the track events, or attending the Regional, you may want to reserve a room now.

Teen News

Hello again!! With summer fast approaching I thought it was time that I drop in and let you all know what is going on in the world of teens in LPA. I hope everyone is enjoying their spring and summer. I know that I am really enjoying this gorgeous weather. We recently had our spring regional; it was held in Dover, DE. Big thanks go out to the Ches Del Bay chapter for hosting such good regional. There were five teens at this regional, despite the low attendance of teens we still had a good time. Friday night was spent in the teen hospitality room eating pizza, listening to music and catching up. We then moved into the pool and swam for a while. Saturday was spent at a nearby mall and a carnival. The banquet and dance was a blast, we danced the night away to some great songs.

For me this regional wasn't all fun and games. Being a district officer I attended the officers meeting. Jeff came up with a great idea for the upcoming fall regional. He suggested that the teens do a workshop for the younger kids, talking about how to deal with teasing or any other problems that LP kids are faced with. I look forward to working with Jeff to organize this workshop. To get this workshop going though there is something that we need, and that is a higher attendance of teens at the regional. I promise you that if you come to the regional we will show you a good time. If we get one more teen to come to every regional and you go back and tell another LP teen about the fun you had soon we'll have a lot more teens attending the regionals. So please come to the Fall Regional in Greensboro.

If you have any questions or ideas on how to get more teens involved please feel free to contact me. My email is luv2bshort19@yahoo.com and my aim screen name is shortfairy3 I am always available to chat.

2005 National Conference in Orlando

For those of you that could not make it to Orlando, you missed a great time, even though the weather was pretty warm. We had many members from all over District 3 in attendance. The Conference had a record turnout with more than 2000 people that had registered during the week, with the farthest participant coming from South Africa. As for the meetings, it was nothing like it used to be in the past with many days of meetings. We were able to wrap up everything in just 2 days. Here is a rough rundown of the meetings.

The 49th LPA Conference will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the week of June 30th—July 8, 2005. The room rate is \$99.00 plus tax per night. They will begin accepting reservations starting on July 15th, 2005. You can make a reservation by calling the hotel at (414) 271-7250 or 1-800 HILTONS (1-800-445-8667). A deposit of one night stay will be made on your credit card. You can get more information by checking out the Milwaukee Conference website at www.lpa2006.org.

Orlando Continued

The Outreach Program is starting to take off with a lot of school presentations being made. If anyone within the District is interested in learning how to give a presentation in a area school near you, contact Barbara Spiegel at bspiegel@mainerr.com, and she will get you set up to be able to do them.

The Attic is continuing to be a big success at the Conference. The Teens were selling bracelets as a fundraiser to help pay toward the cost for the room for the week. There were numerous events planned throughout the week for the Teens.

The deadline for submissions for the Conference issue of LPA Today is July 31st. If you have a picture or a write-up from the Conference you would like to be submitted and considered, then send it to Dan Okenfuss before the deadline. Dan is the current Editor, but is looking for someone to take on the job as Editor. If you are interested in being the LPA Today Editor, then let Dan know.

Our very own Colleen Gioffreda gave a report on the Adoption Committee. She had asked for the Board to help in funding some ideas that the committee would like to do. The Board approved her requests for the funding of numerous ideas like upgrading the Adoption web site, and putting together and mailing out a brochure on adopting.

During the Conference, LPA and DAAA with the help of District 3's Barry Ginn put together a golf tournament in which netted donations in the amount of \$24,500, which will be split between DAAA and LPA. If there is interest within District 3 to play, maybe we can plan a golf Tournament with the help of DAAA at a future Regional.

The Kitchens Fund was able to help 11 people to attend their first Conference this year. There were 40 members that were given a Scholarship award in which the Greenberg Center gave out \$10,000.00 toward it.

District 1's Ron Piro was presented the Regular Distinguished Service Award. The Teen DSA was presented to Josh Maudlin, the District 10 Teen Coordinator. The Auxiliary DSA went to Elizabeth Bennett from District 10.

District 1 now has a Chapter within its boundaries. The Patriot Chapter has been unanimously awarded a Charter at the Conference. Our former District 3 member Barb Spiegel is the President of the new Chapter.

The Board approved for the National Database to be upgraded with Blackbaud Remote Access to allow the Directors to have access to their District Rosters. If everything works out with the access to the Directors, then the Chapter Presidents will be set up to access their Chapter Database at a later date.

When the Board raised the Membership dues to \$50.00, I thought that the \$10.00 discount for early renewals was a permanent thing. Upon talking to other Directors, I found out that it was only a one time thing. During the Board meeting, I made a motion to reinstate the \$10.00 discount for early renewals. After some discussion, it was unanimously approved. As your renewal date draws near, you will receive your MRF. If you send in your dues before your membership expires then you only have to pay \$40.00. If you wait until after it expires, then it will cost you the full \$50.00.

These are pretty much the highlights from the meetings in Orlando. The Official Minutes will be coming out soon. When the Board approves them, they will be available for any member to see. If you would like a copy of the Minutes, just let me know. They should be available at the Regional.

An update from the Adoption Committee...

Hello, there again, District 3!

Jeff Sims was nice enough to give the committee some room to talk about the happenings, and we appreciate it very much. We'd like to let everyone know what's been going on in the past year...

We are proud to report that there have been 18 successful adoptions since August 2004, and there is more to come! We are also working on fundraising issues in order to help families with the costs of adoption. And don't forget, if you are an LPA member, you can apply for the adoption assistance grant through LPA to help with the adoption of your child.

What we most need is families. If you feel like you would like to adopt, please let us know – our email address is **lp_adoption@yahoo.com**.

Here are the available children as of July 2005:

- 14 year old boy from the US
- 15 year old from the US
- 2 year old boy from Nepal
- 3 year old girl from the Ukraine
- 3 year old girl from China
- 13 year old girl from India
- 2 year old girl from China
- 2 year old girl from India
- 6 year old boy from Russia
- 10 year old girl from Russia
- 2 year old boy from Russia
- 1 ½ year old from the Ukraine

Thanks very much for all of your support. We would love to see families for these children!

District 3 is proud to finally be able to bring a Track Event to North Carolina. To pull this together along with the Fall Regional at the same time is going to take many volunteers and money. I am writing this in hopes of reaching out to you for any tax deductible donation you can give to help offset the expenses to put this on. We understand if you cannot give a donation at this time, but at least we would ask for you try to make an attempt to join us in Greensboro for a fun filled weekend to be had by all.

I would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to **District 3 Fall Regional**)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please tear off on the dotted line and mail with your check to:

District 3 Fall Regional
C/O Jeff Sims
1220 Birch Hill Dr.
Kernersville, NC 27284

