Join us at Camp Victory Junction

We are very excited to announce that we are now working together with Camp Victory Junction for a family weekend for those with skeletal dysplasia to be held October 23rd-25th. The camp is located in Randleman, NC and spread across 84 acres, allowing children to do what they do best - be kids, play, imagine, make friends, and enjoy the adventures and experiences of camp life. It’s purpose is to enrich the lives of children with medical conditions in a medically-sound environment at no cost to the camper or their family. The only thing the family will need to pay for is the transportation to and from the camp. The camp provides your rooms, meals, towels, and bed linens.

We are doing a family weekend October 23rd-25th so that means families with a child who has skeletal dysplasia/dwarfism the age of 6-16 can come to camp. The entire family can come as cabins can sleep up to 8 family members.

Stephanie and some officers went to see the camp back in May and were very impressed with the camp. As Peg Nelson
Letter from the District Director

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all having a great summer so far. Hard to believe that school will be starting soon. It was nice seeing some of our members at the St. Louis conference for those who missed it it was a great time. You can read the recap by the President of LPA, Gary Arnold, in the newsletter on page 4.

Also, I’m very excited to announce our partnership with Camp Victory Junction for a skeletal dysplasia week. There are other camps around the country that have the same kind of program so I’m excited that one is now in our neck of the woods.

In member news I would like to congratulate Sam Boggs and Zach Stephens who got married in Raleigh, NC on April 11th, 2015. Also, congratulations to our students who received a LPA scholarship for the upcoming school year: Julia Sims, Dan Mallon, and Kelsey Fadness. Congratulations!

As always if you ever have any questions or comments feel free to email me at sbrandon@d3lpa.org and I look forward to seeing you soon!

-Stephanie Brandon
District 3 Director

District 3 Treasurer’s Report - 2nd Quarter 2015 ending June 30, 2015

Respectfully Submitted by Cathy Hughes

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<th>Description</th>
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Concord General Assembly Meeting

The meeting was called to order by District Director, Stephanie Brandon, at 10:33AM. She welcomed everyone and advised that the group photo would be taken tonight at 8:30pm.

Previous Fall 2014 Regional minutes were not read as they were published in the last newsletter. Jeff Barfield made a motion to accept the minutes as published, Claire Campbell seconded it, all were in favor and the motion was approved.

Stephanie thanked the Carolinian Chapter for hosting the regional and advised that 187 people are registered for this regional so far.

The Treasurer’s report was posted on screen and reviewed with the membership by Greg Lawrence for the absent Cathy Hughes, District 3 Treasurer.

1) $28,974.63 in Assets/ $1,769.33 in Expenses/ $12,863.58 Income

2) Sally Grubb made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as published, Claire Campbell seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the report was approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall 2014 Regional netted a profit of $265.62. There were 92 in attendance.

Facebook- the District’s FB page has 404 members & growing. Each chapter has its own page. Greg Lawrence does the approvals for individuals wanting to join the District page. He advised he does deep research on each individual.

E-Newsletter conversion to email is going well. There were 40 paper copies of the last newsletter mailed. Spring Regional Packet sent to unpaid members had an open rate of 29.9% and a click rate of 4.8%.

Good Samaritan Fund aids members in need of financial assistance. The committee currently consists of Cathy Hughes, Wendy Seichepine, Colleen Gioffreda, Stephanie Brandon, and Sylvia France.

Eyler Geddie Fund- Update from Jim Davis, chairman, has reported that he has ongoing discussions with educated advisors regarding draft guidelines and fundraising ideas. He and the other 4 committee members; Dee Miller, Stephanie Wolf, Tim Best and Colleen Gioffreda will be reviewing all input. The fund should be available by the fall.

The current membership drive deadline is the Fall Regional (2015).

LPA Scholarship applications are being accepted January 1st through April 22nd. Awards are limited to two awards for undergraduate studies and one for graduate studies.

National Update- the Board of Directors met to adopt strategic directives. The focus being on strengthening and diversifying membership and LPA’s relationship with the Medical Advisory Board.

2015 National Conference Update-dates are July 3rd-9th at the Hyatt at the St. Louis Arch. Online registration ends April 1st. Clair Campbell is the volunteer coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS:

Camp Victory Junction- We were contacted by Ashely Seeley, Camp Recruiter. The camp is located in Randleman, NC (south of Greensboro). Officers will be visiting the camp to talk with Ashely on April 25th. The camp would be like the Painted Turtle or Camp Little People in PA. The camp was founded by the Petty family of NC.

The District 3 website has been set up. All officers have D-3 email addresses. Content is being continuously added. The site is being set up for easy transition from the current leadership to the new leadership in 2017.

Story continues on page 5 titled “Concord”
St. Louis Recap
By Gary Arnold, LPA President

The conference kicked off on Saturday and Sunday with meetings of the Council of Directors and meetings of the Board of Directors. The Council of Directors met on Saturday morning. They were joined by at least half of the 11 member Board of Directors. The majority of the agenda covered organizational issues and procedures that would benefit Little People of America if a protocol were developed that would create a more centralized system of following these procedures. The meeting also included a presentation on the Regional 101 Handbook that has been created by Angie Giuffre as a tool kit for regional leaders planning events, and a discussion about the round of national conferences after 2017. The Conference Management Committee will soon begin scouting out sites for the 2018 Conference and beyond.

A few key takeaways from the meeting include:

The Regional At-large Representatives are working to create a system that would centralize event information for all Districts. The goal is to give members a simple way to access information about upcoming events, and to give Districts a simple way to update their calendars.

The Council voted in favor of adding the National Director of Finance on to all bank accounts for recording purposes. This will make the IRS Reporting Process and all internal reporting processes much more efficient and safe for the organization.

The Board of Directors met on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. A few highlights from this meeting included:

Discussion about mental health and depression: The board welcomed a guest, who spoke about her own challenges with depression and put on the table the question, “What can the organization do?” What followed was a brainstorm about resources Little People of America could provide for the membership.

Attendance at the 2015 Conference was much lower than previous years. The question on the table was: Should LPA only secure contracts with 1st Tier Cities, will not want to miss this great opportunity.

Please see the link: [http://victoryjunction.org/how-to-apply/](http://victoryjunction.org/how-to-apply/) to view the steps to the application process.

We will also need a limited number of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering the weekend of the camp, Please contact info@d3lpa.org and let us know you are interested.

If you would like to view the camps website for more information check out [www.victoryjunction.com](http://www.victoryjunction.com) and to apply for the camp go to: [http://victoryjunction.org/how-to-apply/](http://victoryjunction.org/how-to-apply/)

Camp

continued from cover page

says, “This isn’t camping. This is glamping!” which means glamours camping.

The camp was started by the Adam Petty foundation so everything is NASCAR themed. There will be activities such as: archery, crafts, music, and Catch, Kiss and Release where the camper will have to give a fish a kiss before returning it. There will be activities planned all weekend so you
coordinator and she is currently calling for volunteers. Stephanie will be attending the Council of Directors Meeting. She requested funds of $600 be allowed for her expenses. Sally made a motion to grant district funds to Stephanie, Tina seconded the motion and asked to increase the stipend to $800. All were in favor and the motion passed for the District to grant the Director $800 in funds from the treasury for her National expenses.

Fall 2015 Regional will be held September 25th through 27th at the BWI Airport Marriott in Baltimore, hosted by the MarValous Chapter. Room rate is $119 a night. There will be an indoor pool, Bingo, and an MAB panel discussion. The theme is “Fall into Autumn”

Chapter Maps were displayed along with population locations.

CHAPTER UPDATES:

**MarValous Chapter**

Clair Campbell presented. They are planning meetings for every month in the year. The April meeting will be in McLean, VA. They are planning for the Fall 2015 Regional activities.

**Carolinian Chapter**

Calli Heimbach gave the update. They also have meetings planned each month of the year, in April two events are planned.

An overnight Glamping trip in Cheraw, SC and the April 25th Chapter meeting in High Point, NC.

**Colonial Chapter**

Jeff Barfield presented. Meetings scheduled April 11th in the Outer Banks, May 2nd a combined meeting with the Carolinian Chapter in Wilmington NC. A June VA Beach water park event and August 1st annual Roanoke Rapids annual meeting. They are planning the next annual Raise a Little Awareness fundraiser for 2015.

**Ches Del Bays Chapter**

No officer was in attendance. Wendy has advised they are planning their chapters Dwarfism Awareness Event in October.

**Blue Ridge:**

They are currently inactive. A committee is being formed to plan how to help the members of the chapter.

Regional notes- Group Photo will be taken at 8:30. Lanterns will be lit and released at 8:45. Volunteers are needed to help set up for the banquet. Please meet at 3pm in the Falling Timbers room.

Stephanie asked for questions or comments. Tim Best asked if there are any new members to the district. One family from Greensboro, NC. Also Mason Coffee’s first regional.

Gift card drawing was held and the winner was Caroline McGee.

Superlatives were called for…the closet member in attendance was the Ballard Family, and the member traveling the furthest distance to attend was Clair Campbell. Both were presented with small gifts.

Calli Heimbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Lutz seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:23am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia France
District 3 Secretary
Chapter Updates

MarValous Chapter
The MarValous chapter has been busy planning the Fall 2015 and looks forward to seeing you in Baltimore September 25th-27th. The packets will go out soon after this newsletter is sent out.

Carolinian Chapter
The Carolinian Chapter would like to thank everyone who cam to the Spring Regional in Concord, NC. has been busy with chapter events each month. Most recent event was a weekend at the beach in Hilton Head Island. Be sure to check the calendar of events page on the www.d3lpa.org for our events for the rest of the year.

Colonial Chapter
The Colonial Chapter has been beach bound. In April, we enjoyed a day with puffer fish and stingrays at Jeanette’s Pier in Nags Head NC. In May, we held our first joint event with the Carolinian Chapter...a weekend at the beach in Wilmington NC. A big thanks to Jennifer Edwards for planning this wonderful event! In June, we headed to Virginia Beach to enjoy a day at Ocean Breeze Water Park.

Planning is underway for the Raise a Little Dwarfism Awareness Event. The event will be held in Holly Springs NC at Bass Lake Draft House at Holly Springs Crossing on October 10th from 1-6 pm. Be sure to check out the Raise a Little Dwarfism Awareness Event Facebook page.

We would like to send a special thanks to our two new appointed parent coordinators, Leta Krieger (VA) and Lindsay Thomas (NC). Thanks for volunteering!

Ches Del Bays Chapter
The chapter is busy planning their Dwarfism Awareness Event in October.

Blue Ridge Chapter
The chapter had an event in May and hopes to have another event soon.
which promise higher attendance, or should LPA continue to contract with 2nd tier cities every third year. Doing so gives families that don’t typically attend conference a chance to do so. St. Louis is a great example – nearly 25% of attendees were attending their first ever conference. The Board overwhelming agreed that it is important to continue the system of contracting with second tier locations in order to reach the most possible sections of the LPA membership.

The Board, along with the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board, had an open discussion about how to communicate with, and work with Bi marin, and other companies that are developing “treatments” for dwarfism. Though even what appears to be a simple strategy of open communication presents significant challenges, the Board wants to try to pursue open communication and information sharing.

Typically, the General Assembly is a time for the board to present on issues that were covered during the board meeting and to introduce the leadership to the LPA membership. This year, LPA brought in a keynote speaker, Bill Klein, to speak on issues of bullying and depression. The meeting was a success. More people attended that event before in my experience with the Board of Directors.

LPA followed up with the General Assembly with a workshop that allowed members to share their own experiences with bullying and strategies for addressing the issues. This is part of a longer term strategy to develop resources for the membership.

Less a month before the conference, organizers thought that there might not be a fashion show because the person originally in charge was no longer available. In a few short weeks, Sandy Taylor, Becky Curran, and Lauren Humphries put together a wonderful event that combined a typical fashion show with insightful monologues on the issue of beauty and perception.

The hotel that housed the conference was less than 40 miles from a high school with the “Mighty Midgets” as a mascot. A group of LPA members delivered a petition to the school asking the School Board to change the name of the mascot. This effort earned national attention. A week later, seven local members of LPA attended the Freeburg School Board. Against a difficult, large, sometimes unforgiving crowd of at least 300 people, the seven members reinforced the message of the petition.

Of course, there was so much more to this conference. Once the board minutes are approved in September, they will be available to the public.

Congratulations to the Conference Management Committee and the National Office. Against tough odds (considering construction and low attendance), they put together and ran a spectacular conference, what many say is one of the best ever because of the bonds that were formed and attention paid to important issues.

Upcoming Nationals
2016
Boston Sheraton
Boston, MA

2017
Denver Sheraton
Denver, CO
Little People of America is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism throughout their lives while celebrating with great pride Little People’s contribution to social diversity. LPA strives to bring solutions and global awareness to the prominent issues affecting individuals of short stature and their families.