A Totally Awesome Time in Charlottesville, VA!

Like it was totally the “Awesome Eighties” all weekend long April 4th-6th in Charlottesville, VA.

As a District we know how to have fun! From the Eighties trivia contest everyone enjoyed Friday night, to the General Assembly Saturday morning, and the banquet and Eighties dance Saturday night, we know how to rock! There were also great off site activities from Teen Bowling to Monticello! Thanks to all the members whose planning and help we would have been completely lost without!

Join us next time in Newark, DE at the District 3 Fall Regional October 3rd to the 5th. Hope to see all of you there!

Girls just want to have fun! Angie showing off her cool shades at the District 3 Fall Regional in Charlottesville, VA

Rad Cara showing off her vest she made at the kids room.
Hello everyone. I hope you are all doing well and are finally getting some nice warm weather after that long cold winter we had this year.

With this last regional in Charlottesville we accomplished a major milestone. We successfully held online registration for those who elected to register onsite. With the success of the onsite registration we will be proud to offer online registration for our Fall 2014 Regional. So, where will that regional be? Well, the Ches Del Bay chapter will be hosting it in Newark, DE October 3rd-5th at the Hilton Wilmington Christina!

It’s hard to believe that my officers and I have already served 3 years and it’s time for District 3 elections. District Elections will be held at the Fall 2014 regional. Details about the election process can be found in the article titled, “District and Chapter Elections” on page 3. Chapter Elections will also take place this year between August 1st and December 1st. I know I wouldn’t be in this position if I hadn’t taken the role as a chapter Vice President and then President. It really is a great rewarding experience and a way to give to a volunteer organization that gives so much back to it’s members.

Take care!

-Stephanie Brandon
District 3 Director

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**District 3 Treasurer’s Report - 1st Quarter 2014 ending March 31, 2014**

Respectfully Submitted by Cathy Hughes

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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District and Chapter Elections

Have you ever wanted to give back to the organization that has given so much to you? Well, this is a great time to get involved with Little People of America. 2014 is an Election Year for Little People of America in both the District and Chapter levels. Four members sit in the officer roles for the District and all four seats are up for election. A District officer term is three years and each position has a two-term limit. Serving as an officer is a rewarding experience. The Officers attend the spring and fall regionals.

All members of District 3 are invited to review the positions and the eligibility criteria for the positions. Qualified members are encouraged to run for a District 3 officer position. The deadline for declaring intent to run for a position is July 1st, 2014.

To declare intent, send an email to Stephanie Brandon (District 3 Director, LPADistrict3@yahoo.com) and Sylvia France (District 3 Secretary, kitnsitr@yahoo.com). Include in the email your full name, contact information and the position you are interested in.

District 3 Officer Positions:

District Director

1. Shall have primary responsibility for the continuance of activities in the district and the solicitation of membership.
2. Shall screen applicants for membership.
3. Shall appoint all committee chairpersons in the district.
4. Shall oversee local area chapters and their officers in respect to ongoing activities.
5. Shall serve as a member of the Council of Directors.
6. Shall work for the formation of local chapters.
7. All District Directors are limited to activities within the boundaries of their respective districts with respect to membership and dues.
8. Shall provide financial reports for the District and Chapters within the District as per the LPA Policy Manual.
9. Shall train the district director-elect.
10. Shall assist with the preparation of Form 990 each year by the timely providing of the requisite financial information for the district to the Board of Directors, or other person designated by the Board of Directors to prepare the Form 990.
11. The Council of District Directors (as that term is defined in Article VIII, Section 1) shall meet with the Board of Directors, by phone or in person, at least 2 times per year, at a time and place to be determined by a majority of the Council of District Directors. In addition, during a Council Meeting (as that term is defined in Article VIII, Section 6), a majority of the then-present District Directors may request additional meetings with the Board of Directors to address any specific concerns about any decisions of the Board of Directors.
12. District Directors shall continue to receive and/or have access to minutes of all Board of Director meetings. Board of Director meetings are open to the public unless the Board is in a “closed session.”

Assistant Director

Assistant District Directors duties are delegated by the Director.

Secretary The duties of the district secretary are:

1. Take minutes at all district meetings.
2. Publish the district newsletter.

Treasurer The duties of district treasurer are:

1. Keep records of all district financial transactions
2. File quarterly financial reports promptly (refer to district director duties)

According to the LPA National Bylaws all chapter elections are to be held between August 1st and December 1st of 2014. Please see your chapter bylaws for the qualifications to run for a chapter officer position and the roles and responsibilities of each position. If you have any questions feel free to contact Stephanie Brandon (District 3 Director, LPADistrict3@yahoo.com) or your current chapter officers.

District 3 Officers
Sylvia, Cathy, Dave and Stephanie have served as your District Officers for the last three years.
Charlottesville General Assembly Meeting

The meeting was called to order by District Director, Stephanie Brandon, at 10:47AM.

She thanked the volunteers who put together this Regional and advised total attendance is 71. The group photo would be taken tonight before the dance at 7 PM at the staircase by the pool area.

In lieu of reading minutes from the November 2013 Regional in Cary, NC a motion was made by Dee Miller to accept the minutes as published in the District 3 2014 Winter newsletter. Jim Davis seconded, no objections were made and the motion was passed.

The Treasurer’s Report was posted on screen and reviewed with the membership by David Miller for the absent Cathy Hughes, District 3 Treasurer.

1. $24,551.05 in Assets/ $13,750.59 in Expenses
2. The Spring Regional included 219 in attendance and netted a profit of $4,435.26.

Feedback has been positive from the surveys completed

OLD BUSINESS:

Facebook- the District’s FB page has 355 members & growing.

Newsletter conversion to email is going well. Open Rate of the Fall Recap was 60.2%, of the Winter Newsletter 46.4% and of the Spring Regional packet 50%. Unpaid members 27.0% open rate. There are 60 paper copies mailed.

District 3 Policy Manual Revisions. The amended version was mailed out 3/4/14. Stephanie asked for a motion to accept the manual revisions. Katie Miller made the motion to accept the revisions, Lia McNeilly seconded, and all were in favor. Motion was passed.

Eyler Geddie Fund-Jim Davis is chairman, 4 committee members have been selected and they are Dee Miller, Stephanie Wolf, Tim Best, and Colleen Gioffreda. The fund is at almost $14,000. The team will meet this weekend to start working on guidelines and procedures. The committee will report to the District Director. Order of recipients will be MarValous Chapter, District 3, and then National membership. This is separate from the Good Samaritan Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections- all positions within LPA will be up for re-election this year. National ballots will be mailed in May. District Election will be held at the Fall 2014 Regional. Chapter Elections are to be held between 8/1 and 12/1/2014. In the next newsletter we will call for nominations for the District 3 offices and the summer newsletter will announce who is running in the District 3 Election.

National Conference Dates are July 4th – 10th. Location is the Manchester Grand Hotel. Rate is $159 plus tax per night. Conference books have been mailed. There are already over 1000 people registered. Clair Campbell, the conference Volunteer Coordinator spoke and advised volunteer sign up will be online this year. They are looking for seasoned attendees to sign up. The kid’s rooms will be set up by age groups. There may be another D-3 “meet-up” organized.

Chapter Maps- Stephanie is using Google Maps to clean up the locations of the chapter boundaries. The map was shown to the members showing membership in each chapter. We will not be re-defining the chapter boundaries.

Story continues on page 5 titled “Minutes”
O’Connell was the first member to use it and said it was “seamless.”

CHAPTER UPDATES:

**MarValous:** Chapter Vice President Bailey O’Connell presented. They held a meeting in March at the Speiss-Hinkle family home. Friday 4/7 will be a playdate in Potomac. May 23rd there will be a fundraiser at Smokey Joes.

**Carolinian:** Chapter President Calli Heimbach gave the update advising the chapter held its annual Christmas party on 12/7/13. The 1/25/14 meeting reviewed the Chapter’s Bylaws. The 2/8/14 meeting in Murrel’s Inlet further reviewed and the 3/8/14 lunch in Charlotte voted on the amended bylaws! They have been passed and sent to National for final approval. The next meeting will be 4/26/14 in Cheraw, SC. The calendar for 2014 is full.

**Colonial:** Lia McNeill advised that a Holiday party was held in Weldon, NC and they are working on future events.

**Ches Del Bay:** They have not been active in six months. They will be meeting after Easter

**Blue Ridge:** Currently restructuring. Look for their Face Book page.

Housekeeping — Sign up for banquet tables with Katie or Nick.

Monticello tour group will meet at 12:15 in the lobby, drive separately and arrive at Monticello at 1pm at the Visitor Center where our tickets will be switched for actual tour tickets. Jim Davis spoke and thanked the Regional Planning Committee for their hard work.

Drawing for a Starbucks gift card took place and Ashley Saltz won.

Lia McNeill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Lawrence seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia France
District Secretary
Chapter Updates

MarValous Chapter
Saturday, June 21st from noon till 5pm there will be a Pool Party in Calvert County, MD. This will be great event for all ages so encourage your tween and teens to come and hang out! Then on Saturday, August 2nd around 1pm the McKnight family will be hosting a chapter meeting in Baldwin, MD.

Carolinian Chapter
The Carolinian Chapter recently had a great time at the Charlotte Knight baseball game in May. Their next meeting will be held on June 21st in Weaverville, NC. The chapter already has all the chapter events planned out for the rest of the year so be sure to check out their website, www.carolinianlpa.org for details.

Colonial Chapter
Join us June 28th at King’s Dominion amusement park near Ashland, VA. Please let Wendy Brockwell at thisbusymommy@yahoo.com know if you are able to come so they can plan on getting the group rate of $33/ticket. The chapter will be offsetting some of our parking costs.

Ches Del Bay Chapter
The Chapter is busy planning the fall 2014 regional in Newark, DE and looks forward to everyone coming up to the area and have a great time! If you would like to volunteer to help out at the regional be sure to contact Wendy Seichepine at seichepinewe@yahoo.com.

Chapter Officers

MarValous Chapter
Sasha Puyans
LPAMember@gmail.com
The Chapter consist of Washington, D.C., the Western part of Maryland and the top part of Virginia.

Carolinian Chapter
Calli Heimbach
carolinianchapterlpa@yahoo.com
The chapter consists of all of South Carolina and the Western part of North Carolina.

Colonial Chapter
Jeff Barfield
jb.lpa1@yahoo.com
The chapter consists of 100 mile radius of Emporia, VA.

Ches Del Bay Chapter
Wendy Seichepine
seichepinewe@yahoo.com
The chapter consists of the state of Delaware, the Eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, east of the Chesapeake Bay, North-Northeast to the Susquehanna River to the Pennsylvania state line.

Blue Ridge Chapter
Emily Meador
emeador@shentel.net
The chapter consists of the Western part of Virginia.

*For exact list of counties in chapter please contact a District or Chapter Officer
Advocacy Through Friendship: Spreading the Word about "The Word"

by Jill Lutz, mother of Blake (11 AH) and Brea (5 Achon)

I have never doubted that I have the best friends in the world. I do not have any relatives on Hilton Head Island; the closest would be my father who lives five hours away. I have considered relocating nearer parents and siblings whom I love dearly during some tough moments over the 15 years I’ve made this island my home. However, I have ultimately realized we are surrounded by incredible support right here; these friends ARE family.

Twice in the past few months, friends have demonstrated in awesome ways how much they have our back by standing up for what is right for Brea and the LP community. And by doing so, they have initiated changes that were long overdue.

During fall baseball season, my son had the unfortunate experience of hearing a coach instruct boys to "punch the midget." Apparently this is baseball slang for kids who are stealing bases. As you can imagine, Blake was mortified. He shared the story with me immediately after practice, and I was so appalled that I was unsure how to handle it. I expressed my concern to a friend, and she then informed her husband, who also coaches. He immediately wrote an email to the board of directors and all the coaching staff of Hilton Head Baseball Association about how antiquated and offensive this term was, bringing attention to the fact that one player in particular has a sister who is a little person. As a result, the term will not be used by HHBA henceforward. The coach who made the remark honestly wasn't aware of how inappropriate it was but emphatically apologized.

Another time I received a forwarded email from a friend in Charleston who took it upon herself to also battle the "m-word." Her two boys compete in the US Track and Field League there and she noticed that one age division still used the label midgets. She wrote to a board member about how contrary it seemed for an organization who is inviting to all participants to use a term that is "highly offensive and cruel," asking them to consider changing the group’s name. The response was quick and positive. "... it is certainly not appropriate in today's world. There are many ways we can identify age divisions using friendly and welcoming names... and I assure you that this will be changed immediately."

LPs and those of us who have LP children often feel we are waging war on "the word," and though many times we are successful in educating against ignorance, sometimes we meet indignant resistance. But we are making a difference, as are many people who pay it forward for us. True friends accept and respect each other. Regardless of height, we all have the same sized heart!

Member News

Mrs. Irene May Nitkowski Best, age 86 passed away April 21st in the Hospice Home at High Point.

Mrs. Best was born September 26, 1927 in Chicopee, MA to Joseph S. and Josephine Toten Nitkowski. She retired in 1990 from her teaching career in Springfield, Mass where she taught Kindergarten for forty years. Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Francis Edward Best, a daughter, Cheryl Irene Todd, and a sister, Jane Meyers. Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law; Timothy Francis Best and Joyce Bacik Best of High Point. Mrs. Best has three surviving sisters; Dorothy Daboul of Springfield, MA, Helena Cooley of Palatka, FLA. and Joanne Locke of Harleysville, PA. There are two grandsons, Alexander Best of High Point, Craig Chapman of MA. and one great-granddaughter, Aubrey Mae Chapman of MA.
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.

The Ches Del Bay Chapter invite you to the District 3 Fall Regional at The Hilton Wilmington/Christina Newark, DE October 3rd-5th 2014

Registration packets will go out in early August