



# CONFERENCE COMMENTS

JUNE 1995

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WELFARE - *Your Professional Organization*

## VINCE LAMENDOLA

This issue of Conference Comments is dedicated to Mr. Vincent Lamendola who passed away July 10, 1995. Vince began his tenure with state employment as a Pointe Coupee Field Worker in 1939 and retired as the Region II Regional Administrator in 1977. During the intermittent years he was a Welfare Visitor and Public Welfare Director/Parish Administrator. Vince was a devoted member of LCSW for over 40 years. Vince won both the George Freeman and LCSW Distinguished Service Awards and held various positions on the LCSW Board including Vice President and President. Vince served in the United States Navy and was a WWII Veteran. His community involvement included membership in Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Usher Society and the Louisiana Credit Union Board. We will miss Vince dearly and express our deepest sympathy to his family.

## DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Delegate Assembly is to be held in Baton Rouge (\*\*Please note site change!\*\*) October 19 - 20, 1995 at the Holiday Inn South. The Board was unable to get accommodations in Lafayette.

Delegate Assembly consists of Statewide Officers, Regions Chairpersons, elected and appointed State Board members, plus one delegate for up to the first 75 members in the Region on May 1st. The Delegate Assembly is responsible for determining LCSW priorities for the upcoming year.

Agreed upon topics include:

Welfare Reform/Block Grants  
Employees Assistance Program  
Teen Problems

SECURE  
Group Benefits  
Substance Abuse Awareness

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## STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Local Arrangements Committee for the Baton Rouge Region is already hard at work planning to make the 1996 State Conference the best ever. The conference will be held March 20-22, 1996 at the Holiday Inn South in Baton Rouge. "We have assembled a great committee of knowledgeable, hardworking people who know how to get things done" stated Pam Brown who is heading the committee on behalf of Baton Rouge Regional Chairman, Dickie McKnight. "We plan to utilize the expertise of last year's committee to avoid past problems and streamline the process of putting on State Conference, which is an undertaking of mammoth proportions."

Pam is asking that any LCSW members in the Baton Rouge Regions who are interested in helping out should contact her or the chairperson of the committee they would like to work on. "It's a great way to get involved in LCSW and get to know other members. It's also a good way to persuade your supervisor that your conference leave just has to be approved!"

### Committees and Chairpersons are:

Registration	Linda Zito	342-5670
Exhibitions	Greg Alford	342-0494
Hospitality	Rhonda Menard	379-5840
	Connie Gaut	922-1645
Dance	Carroll Hebert	342-5446
	John Carriere	925-7018
Decorations	Jo Ellen Carruth	683-5142
Publicity	Topper Johnson	342-9926
Door Prizes	Liz Reno	922-3055
Program Agendas	Julie Howard	342-3853
Welcome & Invocation	Deck McKnight	342-3535
Workshop Monitors	Sharon Tucker	922-3022
	Emmy Jo Denham	387-4315
Ditty Bags	Cynthia Fitch	342-5951
Continuing Education	Bill Coffee	

Antionette Dykes, Linda Carpenter, Willene Mire, Tara Nelson, Martha Wyly and Carmen Weisner have already graciously volunteered to serve on various committees. Their enthusiasm for LCSW work is commendable!

The LCSW Baton Rouge Region includes the following parishes: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Ascension, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, St. John, St. James, and St. Charles. Pam would like very much to have volunteers from each parish. There will be things you can do, even if you don't live in Baton Rouge.

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## REGIONAL NEWS

The **Lafayette LCSW Region** is busy planning its annual conference which will be held on September 29, 1995 in New Iberia. Feature presentations will include SECURE and LASERS. A cajun humorist has also been booked as an added attraction. As always a good meal will be prepared by world renowned Chef Wayne LeBlanc and his able bodied assistants. Staff is encouraged to attend!

The **Monroe Region** has plans in the making for a regional meeting to be held on Thursday, November 9, 1995 at the Holiday Inn West in Monroe. This year's theme is "Drugs, Sex, and Violence" (We lied about the sex!). Michael Duffy, a registered nurse and manager of the inpatient substance abuse program at Southern Oaks Addiction and Recovery Unit, will speak on the signs and symptoms of drug abuse, its effects, and what TO and NOT to do. After lunch our own Mark Falcon, an attorney, will speak on violence in the workplace and home.

These topics will be of interest to present LCSW members, as well as, potential new members. To add further attraction to new members, the committee has arranged for the meeting to count as continuing education hours. The committee is also contacting hospitals, mental health units, health units, and others to inform them of the availability of continuing education hours for ONLY a \$12.00 membership to LCSW.

The **Orleans Region** will hold a meeting on Friday, October 6, 1995 at Children's Hospital from 1:30 until 4:00 P.M. Scheduled speakers include Ms. Dexa Alexander from the Department of Health and Hospitals, Ms. Victoria Hippard, BCSW, and Ms. Geraldine Levy from the YWCA's Battered Women's Program.

The **New Orleans Region** is now going through a rebuilding period with new involvement, new committees and more social functions. The meeting promises to be informative and fun, so plan to attend. Refreshments will be served.

The **Shreveport Region** is conducting a membership drive with flyers disseminated to agencies and associations in the region. The Regional Conference is scheduled for October 20, 1995, from 8:30 AM until 2:45 PM at the Sheraton-Bossier. The theme is "Resolving Family Issues Through Effective Communication." Several guest speakers will address issues that pertain to families. Door prizes will be awarded at the conference.

## ANNUAL AWARDS

The LCSW Distinguished Service and George Freeman Awards are presented at the LCSW State Conference each year. The **LCSW Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an individual who has demonstrated committed, continuous and exceptional service to LCSW. The **George Freeman Award** is awarded to an individual who, above the requirements of employment, demonstrates a committed and continuous service to the broad field of social welfare by playing an active role in defining and mitigating various social problems and needs.

Please contact the LCSW Chairperson in your Region with nominations for either of these awards by November 30, 1995.

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**THANK YOU!**

President, Kermit Menard and the rest of the LCSW Board would like to express sincere appreciation for **Tara Nelson's** dedication and dependability while serving as the Publicity and Membership Chairperson. Unfortunately it was necessary for Tara to resign both positions due to time constraints. Tara held both positions simultaneously for almost three years. During this time Tara did an exemplary job. Everyone is delighted Tara will remain an active member of LCSW.

Special "THANKS!" also to all outgoing Board Members! Particularly: **Diane Guillot** who has served in many positions, the most recent being 2ND Vice Chairperson of the Shreveport Region; **Velma LeBlanc** who did an exceptional job as Chairperson of the Lake Charles Region; and **Rhonda Menard** who diligently performed her duties as Secretary. Everyone will miss their presence on the Board but will enjoy their continued participation as active members of LCSW.

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## SIX REASONS NOT TO ATTEND STATE CONFERENCE

1. I don't have the time.

Pam's answer: Everyone has the same 24 hours a day. You just have to use them wisely--LCSW State Conference is a very wise choice and you get conference leave!

2. I don't know any of those people.

Pam's answer: Bet you do! We have members from DHH, OCS, SES, DDS, and OFS, both active employees and retirees. And if you really, truly, don't know a soul, that won't last for long. LCSW members are just naturally friendly. By the way, do you like to dance?

3. It costs too much! I can't afford it.

Pam's answer: Compared to other conferences, such as APWA or National Eligibility Workers, LCSW is a bargain! There are approximately 14 pay periods before State Conference--start an LCSW savings plan and put away a set amount each payday. You'll be surprised how much you have saved by March 20. Bring three friends to share the cost of a room and save even more! If you live in or near Baton Rouge, consider attending the daytime activities only. Stay with relatives. Brown bag it. Contact me for more money saving ideas!

4. I have too much work.

Pam's answer: Don't we all! And it will still be there when we are dead and gone! Seriously, you learn all the latest program news, attend workshops on work-related topics, and have numerous opportunities to network with others in your field--maybe even your program or department head. Pick up tips on how to work smarter, not harder. Plan ahead for work coverage in your absence. Work like the devil before you leave and when you get back. Believe me, it's worth it! Just ask any one of the 200 people who attended last year!

5. My boss won't let me off.

Pam's answer: See #1. See related article on Conference Committees. If you ask the week before, you may get a negative answer. But if you plan now, you will have a good reply for every objection your supervisor could possibly present and he or she will be suitably impressed with how seriously you take your work. Be the first in you office to request conference leave for March 20-22, 1996!

6. I HATE to meet new people, make lifelong friends, learn new ideas, hear nationally known speakers, eat, drink, dance and have fun!

Pam's answer: You're right! You should probably stay at the office and let one of your co-workers go.

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If you have news to report or pictures you would like to share, please contact Liz Reno at 504-922-3055 (LINC 427-3055), or you can send the information directly to Liz at 43281 North Little Italy Rd., Hammond, LA 70403.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare.

Enclosed is my check for:  \$12.00 Individual Membership  
 \$ 6.00 Retirees and Students

Please make checks payable to Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare and mail it to: Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare  
P.O. Drawer 789  
St. Martinville, LA 70582-0789

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY AND ZIP CODE:

AGENCY:

JOB TITLE:

WORKPHONE:

### Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare

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