

Conference Comments

Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services

www.lchss.org

June 2007

State Conference 2007

The 2007 Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services (LCHSS) held its annual State Conference at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, March 21-23, 2007. There were 172 people in attendance and we all "Kicked It Up A Notch With LCHSS". In keeping with healthy lifestyles, Paragon Casino ensured that everyone got some exercise. It was quite a trek from the hotel to meeting space due to the renovation.



Voting took place during registration again this year. Those who could not attend



Conference were able to have a ballot mailed to them in order to vote. The Alexandria Region worked really hard to create a fantastic and enjoyable Conference. Thanks!

Conference began with the Board Meeting. Those who arrived Wednesday afternoon enjoyed visiting with old friends and new ones at the President's Reception. After freshening up, Conference goers



attended the dance where the DJ Terry Laborde had people out on the dance floor.

Thursday morning, Virginia welcomed everyone to Marksville. The DHH Agency Update was given by Dr. John Naponick. The DSS Agency Update was given by Adren Wilson, OFS Assistant Secretary. Bert Fife presented "I Am FIRST for You".

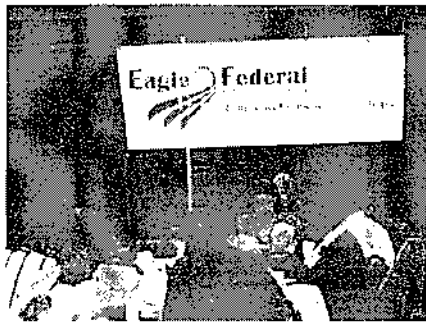
F - Friendly

I - Interested

R - Resourceful

S - Supportive

T - Thankful



A healthy lunch of gumbo or potato soup

and salad was served, compliments of Eagle Federal Credit Union. Thanks Eagle Federal! We really appreciate your continued support.



After lunch, LCHSS Regional Chairpersons gave Regional Updates. Then we met the candidates who were

running for office. The afternoon ended with Dr. Mike Brunet's presentation of "Common Myths about Weight Loss", the silent auction,



and door prizes. The silent auction was a big hit again this year.

LCHSS raised over \$400 this year and used the money to help defray the costs of State Conference.

Friday morning began with a Healthy Financial Presentation by Mike, Kelly & Joseph from Ameriprise Financial. Following them were Karen Davis and Cheryl Laugand from Louisiana Spirit Stress Management.

Weight Loss Challenge

The winner of the Weight Loss Challenge is Monica Trahan, who lost 36 pounds! The Lafayette Region



awarded Monica with \$60 and the Board awarded her with \$50. Congratulations!

Scholarship



LCHSS had a tough choice this year when awarding the annual scholarship. There were six very worthy applicants.

Alexander Hollier was chosen as the 2007 LCHSS Scholarship Winner. Alex is the son of Judith Hollier, a Social Services Analyst in Evangeline Parish. Alex scored a 24 on the ACT and graduated from St. Edmund Catholic School with a 4.125 GPA and ranked third in his class. Alex is a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, a Boy's State Delegate, a member of National Honor Society, the ACT 22+ Club, Beta Club, French Club, St. Edmund Baseball Team, and St. Anthony Church Youth Group Band. He plans to attend LSUE in the fall as a full time student and pursue a degree in radiology. This summer he is employed full time in Eunice. Alex will receive the \$1000 scholarship upon registration in college. Congratulations Alex!

Free Conference Winner

LCHSS held a drawing for one lucky person to be able to attend

Conference free. All those who registered and paid for the full



Conference had a chance to have their Conference fees, hotel room for two nights, and membership fee for one year paid by LCHSS. Lucky Lisa Rideaux won.

Distinguished Service Award Winners



Anne and Reggie Devillier are the 2007 LCHSS Distinguished Service Award winners. Anne and Reggie have participated in LCHSS and contributed to the success of this organization in many areas. Both have served and worked with the state board and local region.

Anne has continued to serve as a state representative on the executive board after retirement. She has filled a much-needed role as mentor to those around her by sharing experiences and

encouragement. With a calm, quiet approach to leadership, Anne has kept the board and membership focused and on target with the vision and purpose of what LCHSS is all about.

Reggie, serving in his position of Regional Administrator in the Lafayette Region for OFS, provided an environment that was supportive and enthusiastic to LCHSS. This support and encouragement is one reason the Lafayette Region is one of the largest and most active chapters of our organization today. There was no job too large or small for Reggie. He has always been there to do whatever task is required; servant or leader. Reggie is there. This support did not stop with retirement. Reggie continues to provide leadership, service, and commitment to LCHSS.

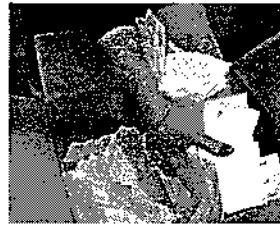
Reggie and Anne are faithful to attend every LCHSS function and both serve as role models for the LCHSS leadership who follow in their path.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated committed, continuous, and exceptional service to the organization. Reggie and Anne Devillier meet these.

\$100 Bill Raffle

The three lucky winners of the \$100 bill raffle this year were John Geier of Port

Allen, Tabby Wright of Rayville, and Phoebe Landreneau of Ville Platte. The



\$100 Bill Raffle funds our annual Scholarship of \$1000 as one of our priority projects. We also

donated to Habitat for Humanity again this year. We were able to donate \$750 this year to Habitat of Humanity North West Louisiana in Shreveport.

Membership Report

Alexandria	67
Baton Rouge	65
Hammond	15
Lafayette	125
Monroe	27
Shreveport	45
Thibodaux/Orleans	46
State Total	390

Election Results

We have reelected our President, Virginia Cardot ! Carolyn Bolt was elected as 1st Vice President and Monica Ward as 2nd Vice President.



Elected Regional Members

Baton Rouge Region

Vera "Minnie" Easley, Chairperson

Erah Ford, 1st Vice-Chair

Stacie Albin, 2nd Vice-Chair

Shreveport Region

Karen Hackett, Chairperson

Tilda Revelett, 1st Vice-Chair

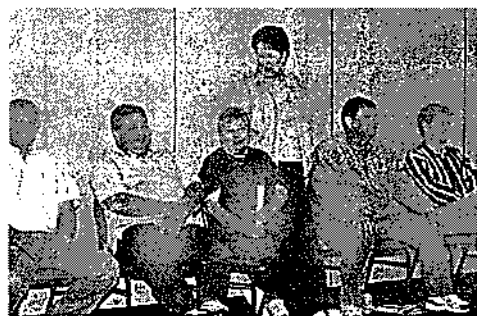
Jarrett Demint, 2nd Vice-Chair

Thibodaux/Orleans

Maria Antonio, Chairperson

Joan Hoover, 1st Vice-Chair

Nancy Ocmund, 2nd Vice-Chair



A Special Thanks from Rayetta

While there were a few problems, overall I was pleasantly surprised at how well things went considering they were in the middle of the renovation. I would really like to say a special thank you to my folks because they did work hard. You can't begin to carry off something as large as state conference without a good team behind you. Sandy Sanders gave us a lot of support and my staff worked hard at gathering

door prizes and silent auction items. I was also appreciative of the other offices that called me and offered to help. Carolyn Bolt and her staff from Allen came early to help with registration. Todd Soileau called me and offered his help as well. When we couldn't get to Lafayette, Trent Roy went by and picked up the fruit for us. So there were others outside our region that helped as well.

I also would like to say a special thank you to Eagle Federal for the lunch and their help with the speaker. I guess we could say this conference was definitely a team effort. That is what makes working with Louisiana Conference fun.

Rayetta



A Message from the President

Greetings to everyone! I know that all of you join me in thanking the Alexandria region for the wonderful job they did at State Conference 2007! Rayetta Thompson and her staff put a lot of work into the conference. The speakers were wonderful, and we all gained new knowledge! I know we all

enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. State Conference is a great time to renew old acquaintances. Eagle Federal Credit Union is a wonderful sponsor to LCHSS, and we appreciate their contributions to us. The luncheon they provided on Thursday was delicious!

Congratulations to our new State and Regional officers. I am honored to serve as your state president. Each region is unique and plans different events throughout the year. Get involved in your region to make a difference in LCHSS. If I can assist you in any way, please contact me.

Virginia



State Conference 2008

State Conference 2008 will be held March 12-14, 2008 at the Royal St. Charles Hotel, 135 St. Charles Avenue. They are offering hotel rooms at \$89.00 per night for up to four people per room. They will charge \$10.00 per vehicle per night for valet

parking, which is half of their regular rate. They are also offering a complimentary breakfast. Please visit www.royalstcharles.com for more information.



New Board Member

The Board appointed Tara Prejean to the Board. Tara takes Monica Ward's place, since Monica was elected as the 2nd Vice President.

Website

The Board voted to expand the space on our website. Now more information and pictures can fit on our website. Check out www.lchss.org for more information about our speakers and to see lots of pictures. If you were at Conference, chances are there is a picture of you on the website.

Expired Renewals

The date listed on your mailing label indicates your membership renewal date. If your membership has expired, please send in your renewal.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services. Enclosed is my check for:

- \$7 Retired or student
- \$13 Regular renewals
- \$15 New members or renewals over 30 days

Please make check payable to LCHSS and mail to:

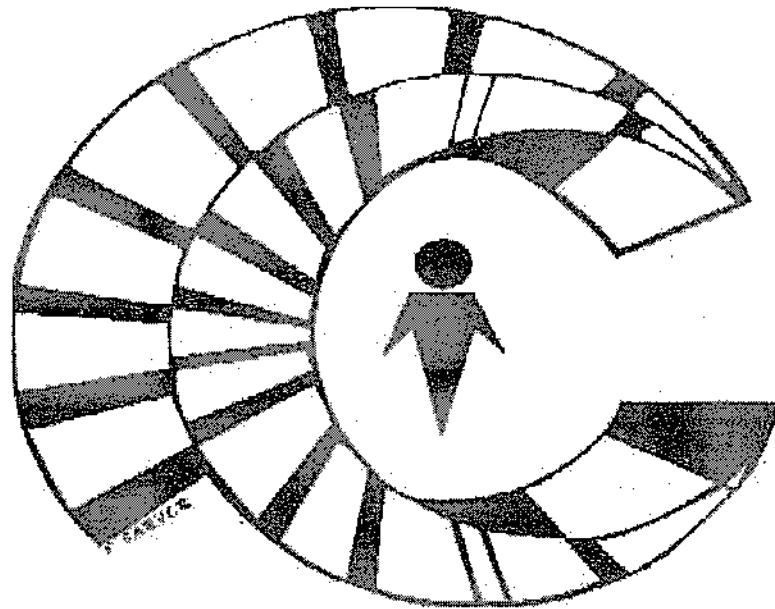
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City and Zip code _____

Agency and Region _____



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