



Conference Comments

Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services

2008 Annual State Conference

March 12-14, 2008

New Orleans

State Conference

The annual Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services (LCHSS) State Conference is scheduled for March 12-14, 2008 at the Royal St. Charles Hotel, 135 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA. They are offering hotel rooms at \$89.00 + tax per night for up to four people per room. The Royal St. Charles 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. For more information visit www.royalstcharles.com. Call 1-800-265-1856 Monday thru Friday between 8:00 a.m thru 5:00 p.m. or Saturday between 9:00 a.m. thru 12:00 p.m., to make reservations. The deadline to make reservations at the special rate is February 12, 2008. Please reference Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services when making your reservation.

You may pre-register for Conference by mailing the registration form found on the last page to LCHSS, St. James Parish OFS, P O Box 2000, Lutcher, LA 70071, or by downloading the form from our website at www.lchss.org and e-mailing it to Maria Antonio at mantonio@dss.state.la.us.

Registration begins at noon on Wednesday. Elections will take place during Conference. You can obtain your ballot during registration. If you do not plan to attend Conference, you may vote by requesting a ballot from Wendell Young no later than February 21, 2008 and returning it to him no later than March 2, 2008. Wendell may be reached by e-mail at wyoung@dss.state.la.us or by mail at 926 Hwy 190, Eunice, LA 70535.

The President's Reception begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by the dance. See

the attached agenda for the remaining Conference events.

Attend Conference FREE!!!

Everyone who registers for, pays for, and attends Conference this year, will have a chance to have all Conference fees, hotel room for two nights, and membership fee for one year paid by LCHSS. Tell your friends. You do not need to be a member prior to attending conference. All name tags of those who meet the above criteria will be placed in a drawing that will be held Friday morning. You must be present to win. Someone has to win; it could be you.

Since the silent auction was such a hit at State Conference the last few years, we are doing it again. Bidding will end promptly at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. No exceptions!!

Priorities

Scholarship

Our permanent priority project is the \$1000 scholarship award given to a student who is the child of an active LCHSS member. You may join LCHSS and submit a scholarship application. The deadline for submitting the scholarship application is February 29, 2008. You can download an application from our website or request an application from Julie Miller. Julie can be reached by e-mail at jmiller1@dss.state.la.us or by mail at 41326 Crown Drive Ext., Ponchatoula,

LA 70454. Join us at Conference to witness this year's scholarship award.

LCHSS donated \$750 last year to Habitat for Humanity which was one of our priorities in a previous year.

The \$100 bill raffle funds each of these worthy projects. See your Regional chairperson to buy your raffle tickets and be a part of the team of those LCHSS members supporting our priorities.

George Freeman and LCHSS Distinguished Service Awards

The George Freeman and LCHSS Distinguished Service Awards are presented at the LCHSS State Conference in March. The George Freeman award memorializes the late Mr. Freeman, a Shreveport businessman who made an outstanding contribution to human welfare in Louisiana. 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. The LCHSS Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated committed, continuous, and exceptional service to LCHSS.

Membership Report

Alexandria	23
Baton Rouge	74
Lafayette	119
Monroe	43
Shreveport	36
Thibodaux/Orleans	37
State Total	332

Your membership renewal date is located at the bottom of your mailing label. Please remember to renew your membership. You can also renew your membership at Conference.

Have you checked out our website lately? Go to www.lchss.org. The website is full of information about LCHSS. See our bylaws, past Distinguished Service Award and George Freeman Award winners, our priorities, pictures from Conference last year, each Region's own webpages, and more. The website is updated periodically.

Board Members

State Officers

Virginia Cardot, President
Carolyn Bolt, 1st Vice President
Monica Ward, 2nd Vice President
Wendell Young, Treasurer
Julie Miller, Secretary
Allison Shortess, Publicity
Sammy Guillory, Membership

Appointed Board Members

Debbie Arrant
Brenda Pikes
Tara Prejean
Peggy Reddoch

Members at Large

Phoebe Landreneau
Mona Leblanc
Nancy Wright

Regional Chairpersons

Rayetta Thompson, Alexandria
Vera "Minnie" Easley, Baton Rouge
Myron Berzas, Lafayette
Holley Carter, Monroe
Karen Hackett, Shreveport
Maria Antonio, Thibodaux/Orleans

Regional News

Alexandria Region

The Alexandria region has scheduled a meeting for February 19, 2008. The theme will be all about Safety Issues. There are speakers lined up to talk about internet safety for our children, defensive driving for motorcycles and cars, financial safety - protect your identity, and health safety - how to avoid staph infections. The meeting will be held at the Pineville Municipal Building. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction and door prizes.

Baton Rouge Region

The Baton Rouge region has scheduled a regional meeting for Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at the Eagle Federal Credit Union main office. There will be speakers talking about children and adult literacy, a speaker from the American Cancer Society, and a speaker from the YMCA. In the afternoon, there will be a speaker from Eagle Federal and one from Louisiana Deferred Compensation. Lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. The meeting will be held from 9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction and door prizes.

Lafayette Region

The Lafayette region had a regional meeting in Crowley on January 17, 2008. There were over 80 people in attendance! The day consisted of listening to entertaining speakers, enjoying great food, and networking with old and new acquaintances. The theme for this year's conference was "New Year, New Ideas, New Beginnings". Lunch was a Hen and Sausage Sauce Piquante, Rice, Green Beans a la Todd, Trimmings, Bread, and Dessert. There was a silent auction and door prizes.

Monroe Region

The Monroe Region held a membership drive on January 23, 2008, at the Ouachita Parish OFS. Regional Chairperson, Holly Carter presented an overview on the organization to interested staff members. April Vivas provided information on the advantages of membership. Cheryl Kelly, past regional Chairperson, provided information on the scholarship program and state conference. Parish Manager, Veda Emerson, shared additional information and insight regarding the organization.

Ms. Emerson also announced that she will draw the name of one of the new members and she will pay their membership fee. There were snacks and goodies, as well as membership and scholarship applications for all those in attendance. 25 new members joined!

Shreveport Region

The Shreveport region will hold a regional meeting on February 13, 2008, at Bossier Parish Community College. The theme is "Hearts on Fire". There will be speakers from the Providence House, Homeland Security, Shreveport Community Renewal, and a psychologist who has worked with Dr. Phil. The lunch will be catered by BPCC's culinary arts department.

Thibodaux/Orleans Region

The Thibodaux/Orleans region is hard at work on State Conference.

A Message from the President

Happy 2008 to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and that the new year is going well. Your State Board has been working hard on State Conference 2008. We have not had a state conference in New Orleans for several years. It is always interesting to visit different cities around the state, and New Orleans is always fun. We have some very interesting speakers for Conference who will give us helpful information. In addition, we will here what has been happening in each region during the past year. I look forward to seeing all of you at Conference!

Virginia

LCHSS STATE CONFERENCE
New Orleans
“Rejuvenate – Mind, Body, and Soul”
March 12-14, 2008
Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. President’s Reception
- 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Dance

Thursday, March 12, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Opening Session
Virginia Cardot, LCHSS President

Welcome to New Orleans

Invocation
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. DHH Agency Update
TBA
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. DSS Agency Update
TBA
- 10:15 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Break
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. William “Bill Ludwig”
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Meet the Candidates
- 11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Welcome Back
Door Prizes
- 1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Eagle Federal Credit Union

- 1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Dr. Rani Whitfield a.k.a. Tha Hip Hop Doc
American Heart Association
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Speaker
TBA
- 3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Silent Auction Results
Door Prizes
- 3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Association Meetings
LASSA
Parish Managers Association
Supervisors Association (Non-members welcome)

Friday, March 14, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:10 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Welcome Back and Early Bird Door Prizes
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Jennifer Ballard
Louisiana Deferred Compensation
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Dian Lusher, Motivational Speaker
"One Small Change"
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Election Results
Scholarship
Awards
Drawings
Door Prizes
Adjourn

**Registration for LCHSS State Conference 2008
New Orleans**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

LCHSS Region (see map) _____

You must be a member to attend Conference. You may become a member when registering at Conference. See the fee schedule below. You do not need to be a member to attend the dance only.

New membership \$15 _____

Renewal \$13 _____

Retiree/Full time student \$7 _____

.....
Full Conference \$50 _____

Daily rates:

Wednesday \$20 _____
Includes reception and dance

Wednesday \$10 _____
Dance only

Thursday \$20 _____

Friday \$15 _____

Grand Total \$ _____



Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services
926 Hwy 190
Eunice, LA 70535