



Conference Comments

**Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services (LCHSS)
February 2009**

State Conference 2009

The Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services (LCHSS) Annual State Conference is scheduled for March 11-13, 2009, at the Quality Inn Hotel, 2000 South Morrison Boulevard, Hammond, LA. They are offering hotel rooms at \$70 + tax per night for up to four people per room. The Quality Inn is offering a complimentary continental breakfast each morning and it is quite a spread. Call 1-985-345-0556 to make reservations. The deadline to make hotel reservations is February 11, 2009, to get this rate. Please reference LCHSS when making your reservations.

You may pre-register for State Conference by mailing the registration form found on page 7 to Office of Family Support, Program Integrity and Reporting Section, P.O.Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9065, ATTN: Tara Prejean, or by downloading the form from our website at www.lchss.org and e-mailing it to Tara Prejean at tprejean@dss.state.la.us.

A tentative agenda for State Conference can be found on page 5. The theme for State Conference is "Fitting Into Changing Times". State Conference begins with a Board Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, where Board members will vote on the

best student applicant for the LCHSS Annual Scholarship. The Scholarship is \$1000. The President's Reception, compliments of Eagle Federal Credit Union, and the Dance follow on Wednesday evening. There is a live band, Vu Du Kru, lined up to play at the dance.

Thursday morning begins with a welcome and invocation, followed by Agency updates by DSS and DHH. Bill Ludwig from the USDA will then speak. You will then get a chance to "Meet the Candidates". After lunch, Eagle Louisiana Federal Credit Union will make a presentation. Liz Reno, a life coach, will conduct two different sessions. The silent auction ends at 3:30 Thursday afternoon. Association meetings will be held after the general session is complete. Thursday evening, we will have a tailgate style party outside of the hospitality rooms where Todd Soulieau and Wendell Young will cook a hearty Jambalaya for dinner. Join us for good food, fun, and fellowship.

Wake up Friday morning to learn about "How Money Works", news about elderly affairs, and hear keynote speaker, Shellie Tomlinson. Awards will be then be presented. Drawings for the three \$100 bills and free conference will take place.

The election results and door prizes will wrap up State Conference.



You may be able to attend State Conference Free!!! All you have to do is attend conference and be present when we draw the winning name. The

winner will be reimbursed for all conference fees paid and the price of the hotel room. Could it be you?

Scholarship

It is not too late to apply for the LCHSS Annual Scholarship. The deadline is February 28, 2009. To qualify the applicant must be a full time entering freshman attending a Louisiana university, must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4 point scale, must have a minimum ACT score of 20, must be a child of someone who is an active member of LCHSS and must be of good character as shown by recommendations and participation in church, school and community activities. An application form can be found on page 4. You must send the following with the completed application form: 1. A complete high school transcript through 12/15/08. 2. A copy of ACT score. 3. List of all clubs, offices held, awards, honors and activities in which the student participated. List should be verified by school officials. 4. A list of all community and church activities and any employment positions held. 5. Two (2) letters of recommendation.

Completed Applications can be mailed to:
LCHSS Scholarship
41326 Crown Drive Ext.
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Regional News

Alexandria

There will be a regional meeting held on February 12, 2009 at the Martin

Community Center in Alexandria, LA. There is no cost to attend the meeting. There will be speakers from the food bank, one about estate planning and wills, and one about stress in the workplace.

Baton Rouge

The region is working diligently on State Conference.



Lafayette

Regional Conference was held on January 22, 2009 at the Holy Cross K.C. Hall in Lafayette. The theme was "Welcome to the Neighborhood" to tie in with the new Neighborhood Place Program. The registration fee with lunch was only \$8.00 (\$3.00 without lunch). The agenda included guest speakers, a silent auction, door prizes, and entertainment.

Monroe

Regional Conference was held on January 21, 2009 with a tailgating theme. We had about 40 people in attendance. Our speaker from Monroe Police Department, Detective James Clark, not only spoke to us about Identity Theft but also other fraud schemes going on in the area and brought counterfeit money for us to look at. The OFS Cheerleaders made an appearance and our last speaker, Katrina Jordan gave us information on how to recognize the strengths our clients have instead of focusing on their weaknesses. Our door prizes included overnight stays at Riverwalk Casino in Vicksburg and Diamond Jacks Casino in Shreveport, and a home entertainment system. We had a really nice day.

Shreveport

Regional Conference is scheduled for February 4, 2009 at the Bossier Community College. The theme is: "Back, Back, Back to the Future". The fee will be \$10.00 and it includes lunch

catered by the culinary institute at the college.

Thibodaux/ Orleans

The region is struggling to boost membership. The chairperson plans to go to each parish office to meet and greet employees and try to get some new members.

Elections



Elections will take place at State Conference for State President, 1st Vice-President, and 2nd Vice-President. The following regions will also be electing new officers: Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Thibodaux/Orleans. Members will be given an official ballot upon payment of all applicable dues and registration fees at the annual State Conference. To vote, the member must complete the ballot and place it in the ballot box no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Those members who will not attend the annual state meeting may request an official ballot from the State Treasurer, Myron Berzas, no later than March 2, 2009. Such absentee ballots must be returned to Myron no later than March 11, 2009. Nominations are still being taken for elections. Please e-mail your nominations to Nancy Wright at nwright@dss.state.la.us or Brenda Pikes at bpikes@dss.state.la.us by February 28, 2009.

Publicity Update

Our website at WWW.LCHSS.ORG has been updated. We have a **lot** more space on our new site, so as one of my final activities as the Publicity chairperson, I have created some new web pages dedicated to keeping a history of LCHSS. From the new Conference Comments

Archives page, you can view Conference Comments from as long ago as 1982. I just started high that year! You can also see pictures and more from as far back as State Conference 2001 on the new Past State Conferences page. After eight long years of creating these newsletters and updating the website, I am passing the torch to Renee' Broussard. Good luck, Renee'.

Allison

Membership Report

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Alexandria | 54 |
| Baton Rouge | 88 |
| Lafayette | 128 |
| Monroe | 56 |
| Shreveport | 38 |
| Thibodaux/Orleans | 21 |
| Statewide Total | 385 |

A Message from the President

Greetings to everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying a happy new year! I look forward to seeing all of you at State Conference in Hammond in March. We have a great program planned, and everyone should have an informative and fun time. At State Conference we will be holding elections for President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. It has been my honor to serve as your President for the last four years. The state officers and regional chairpersons have worked hard for you. The regional conferences have provided useful information to those in their region. My thanks to all of you for making LCHSS a strong and wonderful organization!

Virginia

LCHSS Scholarship Application

Last Name First Middle

Home Address

City, State, & Zip Telephone Number

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Father's Name Occupation

Mother's Name Occupation

Please submit the following with your application form:

1. Complete high school transcript through 12/15/08.
2. Copy of ACT score.
3. List of all clubs, offices held, awards, honors and activities in which you participated. List should be verified by school officials.
4. A list of all community and church activities and any employment positions held.
5. Two (2) letters of recommendation.

Completed Applications can be mailed to:

LCHSS Scholarship
41326 Crown Drive Ext.
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Deadline: Applications must be received by 2/28/09.

LCHSS STATE CONFERENCE
Hammond
"Fitting Into Changing Times"
March 11-13, 2009
Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Board Meeting |
| 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | President's Reception |
| 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. | Dance – "Vu Du Kru" Band |

Thursday, March 12, 2009

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Welcome & Invocation |
| 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | DHH Update |
| 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | DSS Update |
| 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. | Door Prizes |
| 1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Eagle Federal Credit Union |
| 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | "Attitude First" Liz Reno, Life Coach |
| 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. | Break |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | “Change, Change, CHANGE” Liz Reno, Life Coach |
| 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. | Silent Auction Results/Door Prizes |
| 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Association Meetings |
| 4:45 p.m. | Hospitality – Jambalaya |

Friday, March 13, 2009

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Welcome/Early Bird Door Prizes |
| 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | “How Money Works” Shannon Bernard |
| 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | “Elderly Affairs” Dr. Jay Bulot, Director Office of Elderly Affairs |
| 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | “TBA” Shellie Tomlinson |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Awards Scholarships Election Results Drawings |
| 12:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

**Registration for LCHSS State Conference 2009
Hammond**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

LCHSS Region _____
(see map at www.lchss.org)

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
P. O. Box 706
Port Barre, LA 70577