



Conference Comments

Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services



September 2003

State Conference 2003



The board meeting kicked off Conference this year on Wednesday afternoon. Afterwards the excitement began for everyone else Wednesday evening at the President's Reception.

Look at all that food.



The 2003 Annual Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services State Conference was held at the Paragon Casino Resort Mari Center in Marksville, Louisiana, March 12-14, 2003. 208 people were in attendance this year. Conference was quite a smash!

Amy Thevis, who is the Alexandria Regional Chairperson, would like to extend a special "thank you" to the Alexandria Regional Committee and the Alexandria Regional members and to the Executive Board for all their help in making the conference such a success.

The dancing began at 8:00 Wednesday evening and lasted throughout the night.



Out on the dance floor.

Thursday morning, Ann Williamson from DSS gave an agency update. Loida Kellgren and Lynn Nicholson from DHH gave an agency update.

The keynote address was given by Cheryl Prestley, who is a TANF success story. She is a former welfare client who with help from the State received the education and skills to become a paralegal. She makes you feel good about what you do.

Then Kent Faulk from DHH talked about the Medicaid Buy-In program. After lunch, Marsha Young from Doug Young Nurseries gave a talk called "Stress Relief through Horticulture".

Wanda Ozier from Hope House of Alexandria talked to us about "Community Case Management for Success".

Wrapping things up for Thursday were the Association meetings.

Bright and early Friday morning Dean Navarre, a former Lions Club Children's Camp camper, gave a warm and insightful talk entitled "Overcoming Adversity". Mr. Navarre was born without arms, but that did not stop him. He was the first person in Louisiana without arms to get a driver's license and the second one in the United States. He is the first one to get artificial arms in Louisiana and has

helped make advances in the use of artificial limbs, although he prefers not to use them. He said that everyone has limitations.

Mr. Navarre said that the Lions Club Camp didn't give them anything other than an opportunity and a chance. He said the staff did amazing things to help. The Camp allowed them to learn to do things.

Curt Boudreaux, a Cajun humorist also known as "the motivation man", talked about "Dealing in Excellence". He has catchy phrases like "whatever the mind can conceive and believe you can achieve" and "live an attitude of gratitude." His advice is to focus on what you do have, not what you don't have.

Election Results

Pam Brown, President
Kimberly Cezar, 1st Vice President
Lisa Trahan, 2nd Vice President

Baton Rouge Region

Freddie Womack, Chairperson
Pat Brown, 1st Vice Chair
Blanche Lindsly, 2nd Vice Chair

Lake Charles Region

Gwendolyn Garner, Chairperson
Margaret Brooks, 1st Vice Chair
Deidra Mitchell, 2nd Vice Chair

Shreveport Region

Virginia Cardot, Chairperson
Kristy Altazan, 1st Vice Chair
Sondra Alexander, 2nd Vice Chair

Check out our website at WWW.LCHSS.org for more pictures!!

\$100 Bill Raffle

We had 3 lucky winners to each win a \$100 bill. They were Kathy Davidson, Diane Smith and some other lucky person who no one knows about.

LCHSS Scholarship Award



Erin E. Brown was awarded the 2003 LCHSS scholarship. Erin is the daughter of our president, Pam Brown. Erin graduated first in her class from Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee with a GPA of 3.9. Erin has a composite ACT score of 28.

Erin has many academic achievements, including Who's Who Among American Scholars, United States Achievement Academy Awards, District Rally, Administrator's List, and Student of the Year, to name a few. Erin was also very active in athletics. She was Most Valuable Player in volleyball, and received many other volleyball awards. Erin also received letters in basketball, softball, and football. Erin was on the Homecoming Court, a member of the student council and Senior Beta Club. Erin has served as a Eucharistic Minister and has volunteered as a Peer Tutor, Toys for Tots, Relay for Life, and a decorator at St. Ann's Church.

Erin started LSU and is pursuing a double major in Psychology and Sociology with an emphasis on Criminology. Erin also received a LSU Board of Regents scholarship and has a research job on campus working with Cecile Guin, a forensic social worker who assisted in criminal profiling in the serial killer case. LCHSS wishes Erin the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Membership

Alexandria	24
Baton Rouge	73
Hammond	29
Lafayette	133
Lake Charles	61
Monroe	34
Orleans	15
<u>Shreveport</u>	<u>28</u>
Statewide Total	397

Some of you may have gotten a membership renewal form, something you may not have seen in a while. You have a grace period right now to send in your renewal for the \$13 fee. If your mailing label on this newsletter is highlighted, this means your membership has lapsed and you need to pay your dues. Please continue to support this worthy organization.

George Freeman Award

The George Freeman Award is presented to an individual who, above the requirements of employment, has demonstrated a committed and continuous service in the broad field of Social Welfare by playing an active role in defining and mitigating various social problems and needs. This could include an individual who has concluded a

lifetime of exceptional service in a particular job, combined with extensive contributions in other areas of social welfare. An individual who is a candidate for public office is not eligible for this award. The award committee reviews all nominations and recommends the top two nominees to the State Board, which makes the final decision. Nominations need to be submitted to Lisa Trahan by December 19, 2003. Lisa's e-mail address is Latrahan@dss.state.la.us.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated committed, continuous, and exceptional service to the organization. Nominations for this award need to be submitted to Lisa Trahan by December 19, 2003.

Priority Update

LCHSS collected so many stuffed animals this year for the Louisiana Lion's Club Children's Camp, Bob Andrepont said his van was overflowing with toys for the children. Thank you to everyone who brought a toy or Mardi Gras beads for use at the camp.

LCHSS also made a \$500 donation to the Acadiana Alzheimer's Association. This money will be used to help purchase *Safe Return kits*.

Delegate Assembly

The legislative body of Louisiana Conference consists of the State Officers, elected and appointed State Board members, the Regional Chairperson, and a delegate from each region. Delegate

Assembly convenes in the fall every other year to determine the goals of the Conference for the next two years. After due consideration of recommendations presented at the Assembly, the delegates select and establish the priorities of each goal. This year, Delegate Assembly will be Oct. 23-24, 2003 in Baton Rouge.

Regional News

Alexandria Region is looking for new members and plans to have a regional meeting soon.

Baton Rouge Region is looking for those who would like to take part in the Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area *A Walk/Run to Remember* in downtown Baton Rouge, October 18. A regional meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2004. Look for info coming out soon.

Hammond Region plans to have a regional meeting in January 2004.

Lafayette Region is gearing up for State Conference 2004, which will be held at the Lafayette Holidome, March 17-19, 2004. See you there. The Acadiana Memory Walk will be held on September 27 in Lafayette. Contact Mona LeBlanc at 337-937-5951 to join the team.

Lake Charles Region has a regional meeting scheduled for October 9 at the multi-purpose building at the fairgrounds in Jennings. They have Cliff LeJeune, a motivational speaker, lined up. Wendell Young will be cooking his infamous sauce picante. The cost for attending the "*Well Fair Working it Out*" conference is \$5 to cover the cost of the meal. They will also have a public service project where they

will be a collection for the needy which will be donated to Caring Hands.

Monroe Region members plan to walk in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk to be held on the ULM campus October 4. Contact Nancy Burris to join the team.

Orleans Region is looking for new members. Contact Leslie Vincent to join.

Shreveport Region is planning to have a regional meeting in January 2004.



From the President's Desk

State Conference was, judging from the feedback I received, an unqualified success! Other than a few rooms with water problems, the hotel accommodations were great and the price was definitely right. The speakers were well received. Special favorites were my old "pard" Curt Boudreaux ("Make yourself a good day, cher!") and the "Plant Lady". Anyone who missed Dean Navarre's talk really missed out. Talk about "Dealing in Excellence"!!

You will be happy to know your State Board members are already hard at work planning next year's State Conference which will be held in Lafayette, March 17-19, 2004. The Lafayette Region's planning committee would appreciate your help if you are in that region. There are many, many tasks that must be completed so let Phoebe Landreneau, Mona LeBlanc or Anne Devillier know you are willing to lend a hand.

We will also be conducting Delegate Assembly this fall to select the LCHSS priorities for the next two years. Speakers representing those priorities will be featured at State Conference.

For those of us employed by DHH, you will be happy to know you will not have to choose between attending the Medicaid Association meetings and the LCHSS meetings, since the state conferences will no longer be held concurrently. Both are excellent organizations for state employees to join. This way, we won't have to miss out on anything.

Please continue to support LCHSS as an active member, with both your suggestions and your presence at Regional and State meetings. When you fail to attend, you are missed and you miss out on great information and fellowship.

Pam Brown

State Board Members

President - Pam Brown
1st Vice President - Kimberly Cezar
2nd Vice President - Lisa Trahan
Treasurer - Wendell Young
Secretary - Julie Miller
Publicity - Allison Shortess
Membership - Sammy Guillory



Elected At-Large Board Members
Anne Devillier
Mona LeBlanc
Rayetta Thompson



Appointed Board Members
Rose Green
Debra Jones
Brenda Pikes
Peggy Reddoch

Immediate Past President
Gerald Butaud

Regional Chairpersons
Alexandria - Amy Thevis
Baton Rouge - Freddie Womack
Hammond - Ida Norred
Lafayette - Phoebe Landreneau
Lake Charles - Gwen Garner
Orleans - Leslie Vincent
Monroe - Nancy Burris
Shreveport - Virginia Cardot





Membership Application

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

- ❖ \$ 7 Retired
- ❖ \$ 13 Regular renewal
- ❖ \$ 15 New member

made payable to LCHSS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip code _____

Agency and Region _____



See you next year at Conference....

Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services
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Eunice, LA 70535

Allison Shortess
1640 Fairview Drive
Port Allen LA 70767

3/1/2004