

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WELFARE - *Your Professional Organization*

1996 STATE CONFERENCE

The 1996 LCSW State Conference was a huge success! The informational and fun-filled event was held in Baton Rouge, LA, March 20-22, 1996. A total of 336 persons attended. The President's Reception and Dance Wednesday evening was enjoyed by all who attended. Trilogy played just the right mix of music to keep everyone dancing. Thursday night, Rob Rue kept us enthralled with his illusions.

Thursday morning Dr. Christel Slaughter enlightened the audience on new developments in management during her keynote presentation on "Understanding A New Tomorrow." Madlyn B. Bagneris, Secretary, Department of Social Services gave an overview of her expectations for the future of DSS. The various workshops offered information on several pertinent subjects. Friday, Bobby Jindal, Secretary, Department of Health and Hospitals, presented details on his goals and objectives for the Medicaid program. Randy Gurie, Assistant to the Chancellor, LSU wrapped up the conference with "Let's Start Our Tomorrow Today".

The 1996 conference offered information and motivation for everyone. The 1997 State Conference is scheduled for March 5-7, 1997 in Alexandria, LA. We hope to see you there. Bring your friends!



*Baton Rouge Mayor, Tom Ed McHugh, welcomes
LCSW attendees*

ELECTION RESULTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Cecil Duplechin
Ken Reynolds
Reggie Deviller

LAFAYETTE REGION

CHAIRPERSON	Gerald Butaud
1st V-CHAIRPERSON	Debbie Soileau
2nd V-CHAIRPERSON	Mona LeBlanc

MONROE REGION

CHAIRPERSON	Brenda Randall
1st V-CHAIRPERSON	Beth Whatley
2nd V-CHAIRPERSON	Pam Williams

ALEXANDRIA REGION

CHAIRPERSON	Linda Amberg
1st V-CHAIRPERSON	Pamela Mitchel
2nd V-CHAIRPERSON	Rayetta Thompson

HAMMOND REGION

CHAIRPERSON	Scottie Millard
1st V-CHAIRPERSON	Pat Gowland
2nd V-CHAIRPERSON	Brenda Johnson

NEW ORLEANS REGION

CHAIRPERSON	Dotty Arnone
1st V-CHAIRPERSON	Mary Jo Scott
2nd V-CHAIRPERSON	Steve Carter

A special "Thank you" to outgoing Board Members, Shannon Anderson, Vera Easley, Rhonda Martin, and Rayetta Thompson, for your dedication and service.

\$100 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of \$100 bills awarded at the State Conference!

Sharon Tucker
Judy Persinger
Ardella Bridges

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Membership awards were presented at State Conference to the two regions that had the largest increase in membership since last year. The winners were:

1st Place: Alexandria Region

2nd Place: Monroe Region

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEMBERSHIP

LCSW has enrolled 96 new members since the awards were determined. Sounds like we are off to a great start with next year's competition. LCSW now has a total of 698 members.

In April 18 members were removed from our LCSW membership list. We are on the verge of losing others if their membership dues are not paid. CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. If your membership has expired, please mail your dues to LCSW, P.O. Drawer 789, St. Martinville, LA 70582. We don't want to lose you!

REGIONAL TOTALS

Alexandria Region	58
Baton Rouge Region	178
Hammond Region	53
Lafayette Region	143
Lake Charles Region	84
Monroe Region	66
Orleans Region	70
Shreveport Region	46
TOTAL	698

We do not have current addresses for Lovenia Hoffpauir of Esterwood, LA or Leonard Sharp of Bossier City, LA. If anyone has communication with them, please have them contact their regional chairperson or Linda Zito at (504) 342-5670 (linc 421) 22755 Talbot Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70764.

REGIONAL NEWS

The Alexandria Region held an annual meeting January 30, 1996. Everyone lived up to the theme "CARPE DIEM - SEIZE THE DAY". Barbara Anderson received the Hilda Simon Award for her dedication and service to LCSW.

The Baton Rouge Region's February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The meeting will be rescheduled. The region needs a new 2nd Vice-Chairperson due to the resignation of Richard McKnight as Chairperson. The position would be appointed until the term expires (4/1/97). Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact Kermit Menard, State Chairperson at (504) 342-3916. Pam Brown is now serving as Chairperson with Greg Alford as 1st Vice-Chairperson.

The Lake Charles Region is looking forward to "HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME" with our 1996 Regional Meeting scheduled for May 17, 1996 to kick-off the much longed for summer. The meeting will be held at the Esterwood KC Hall (just off I-10) in Esterwood. We are planning an agenda of informational speakers, humorist, and a crawfish boil. All LCSW members are invited to come join the fun.

The Shreveport Region is planning a committee meeting May 24, 1996 to brainstorm innovative ideas to increase membership. Plans are also being made for an after-hour function. Members are urged to contact Veda B. Emerson at (318) 263-2815 ext. 23, or P.O. Box 598, Arcadia, LA 71001, if you have any ideas.

LCSW SCHOLARSHIP

The Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare decided in 1995 to present an annual scholarship to a deserving high school senior, who had a minimum 3.0 GPA, a minimum ACT score of 20, possessed good character as demonstrated by recommendations and participation in church, school and community activities was a dependent of an active member of LCSW. The second annual scholarship winner was announced at the 1995 State Conference in Baton Rouge, LA.

The second annual LCSW Scholarship was awarded to Robyn Barrios daughter of Phillip and Barbara Barrios of Meraux, LA. Barbara is a supervisor at the Jefferson Parish Office of Family Support. Robyn is currently a senior at Chalmette High School where she is very active in all school activities including the dance team, Homecoming Court, Beta Club, Senior Council, class officer, and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Sorority. She has danced with the All American Dance Team at the Super Bowl for the past two years. She has even performed with the All American Dance Team in London, England. She has a 3.5 GPA. LCSW wishes Robyn, "Congratulations and Good Luck!".

PRIORITIES UPDATE

NEWS FROM LASERS

Lasers Board voted to provide a cost of living adjustment for retirees' monthly benefit that will be payable beginning 7/1/96. Excellent performance and careful management of investments makes this possible. Retirees who were retired one year as of June 30, 1995 are eligible for this COLA. The monthly COLA is calculated based on: \$1 increase for each year retired; \$.50 increase for each year active service; \$1 increase for each year active service over 30 years. This formula aids the longer retired persons who had lower retirements and also the career employees.

The 1996 PreRetirement Education Program (PREP) schedule is ready and all those with only ten years or less left before retirement are encouraged to attend. The PREP line, 504-922-0670 (LINC 427-0670) is available for inquiries.

The interest rate paid to eligible DROP accounts for the FY ending 6/30/95 is 8.99%. Interest begins accruing on DROP accounts after the participation period ends. DROP statements are mailed to participants annually around December of each year.

1996 is the "Year of the Retiree", as proclaimed by Governor Foster. It will also be LASERS 50th anniversary. LASERS is making plans for a July open house to celebrate.

GROUP BENEFITS NEWS

Group Benefits is working toward getting an interactive voice response phone system to provide information on eligibility for PPO providers and where questions can be answered by computer for plan members for questions such as deductibles being met, claims been received, etc.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Rhonda Martin spoke with Mr. Alton Hadley, the recently appointed Assistant Secretary of The Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Mr. Hadley shared the following information and goals of his office: ** A state managed care system would provide his agency more flexibility in offering the most appropriate care to the individual. Also, reducing treatment days from 32 to 20 would ultimately reduce the current waiting list of 300. ** It is important to recognize that tobacco is a drug and to concentrate on prevention, especially in the school system. The average age of "that first puff" in Louisiana has gone down to nine (9) years old. ** He was proud to announce the opening of the Baton Rouge Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center in Jackson at the East Louisiana State Hospital. The 21 day treatment center operates on a fee scale (income determines fees), and will serve all Louisiana citizens. Mr. Hadley expressed interest in the priorities of Louisiana Conference of Social Welfare and offered any assistance and support he can provide.

STATE CONFERENCE PHOTOS



DSS Secretary, Madlyn B. Bagneris



Rob Rue entertains the crowd (or was Reggie doing the entertaining?)

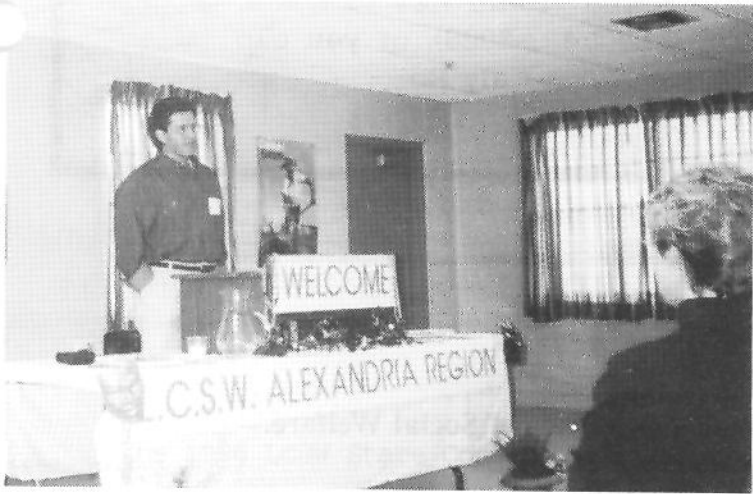


The over 300 attendees kept registration busy



Dr. Christel Slaughter "Understanding A New Tomorrow"

ALEXANDRIA REGION PHOTOS



David Kinsey "To Travel Hopefully is Better Than to Arrive... - Are We There yet Syndrome"



Barbara Anderson receives the Hilda Simon Award



The Gourmet Chefs



State President, Kermit Menard, addresses the audience

If you have news to report or pictures you would like to share, please contact Liz Reno at 504-922-3026 (LINC 427-3026), or you can send the information directly to Liz at 43281 North 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

P. O. Drawer 789

St. Martinville, LA 70582



RENO, ELIZABETH
43281 N. LITTLE ITALY RD.
HAMMOND, LA 70403
2/97