

APRIL 2005 Edition

PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

Spring is here and with it comes new opportunities and many events to attend throughout the year. I look forward to making as many as possible across our great state and if there is anything we can do to help your event in any way, please do not hesitate to call us. We are here for each and every one of you to work together for the good of our association.

Saturday March 5th, we started our day attending the Petite Lapin Pageant for the Iowa Rabbit Festival. Their director, Mrs. Faye Bergeron, did an outstanding job having 123 contestants. We then headed east to Ray*La*Ne and a visit with Cheryl McCarty. It was a very nice day and Cheryl had a good turnout for their event. Thank you Cheryl for your hospitality. We met up with Dennis and Natalie Mouton and together, we headed further east to Amite Oyster Festival Queens' Pageant.

Carol Glasgow, the Pageant Director for Amite Oyster, and her committee did an incredible job on their pageant and had beautiful set decorations. Congratulations to their newly crowned royalty: Deb Oyster is Logan Travis; Teen Oyster is Chelsea Henton; and Miss Oyster is Meghan Sharkey.

On Friday night, March 18th, I attended the Iowa Rabbit Festival. Although it was forecast to rain, the weather held up fairly well. It was cold but at least it was dry. We visited with Faye and Donald Vest, Pageant Directors; and Johnny Guillory, President of the Iowa Rabbit Festival. They had good music and a good crowd. Thank you for the hospitality as well.

On Saturday night, March 19th, we headed to the Westlake Family, Fun and Food Festival Queens' Pageant held in Westlake. Betsy Granger, Pageant Director, had a good

turnout for her pageant with three contestants in the Teen, three in the Ms and nine in the Miss. Congratulations to their new royalty, including a close friend of ours, Mitzie Sanders, who won the Ms Title.

Sunday, March 20th, we were the host for the annual Cajun Music Children's Easter Party and Easter Egg Hunt held at Pinderosa Park in Westlake. We had 40 children in attendance to hunt eggs, and plenty of good food and great Cajun Music provided by Mr. Mack Manuel for everyone to dance to and enjoy. We were so very thankful that the President for 2005 and will be seeing many of you at your events. Remember, I can work a food booth, judge just about anything, sell tickets, or do whatever you may need.....just call me and we will do our very best to be there.

May all your events be filled with sunshine and large crowds.

s/Rob Piraro

CORRECTION

In last month's story on Queen of Queens there was some incredibly bad editing. Inadvertently left out were two queens. That part of the newsletter should have been:

First runner up was Shannon Hinton representing LA Crawfish Festival (Chalmette). Second runner up was Chanté Rice representing Festival in the Park (Bogalusa). **My apologies ..ajd**
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VICE-PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

A special thanks to every board member and festival member in District III for doing a great job promoting your fairs and festivals. It has been an honor serving you as your District III Director. I had the opportunity to work with so many great individuals who support their organization 110%.

I really thought that I would continue in the capacity as District III Director, but I was approached with an opportunity that I could not pass up. I was asked to run for LAFF Vice-President. It was a hard decision for me to make, but I knew that I would continue to have everyone's support, and as a team we could accomplish this goal. Now I will be able to support all fairs/festivals and assist all District Directors.

I have begun my journey as Vice-President and I look forward to a very exciting year ahead. After the excitement of Queen of Queens I started traveling to meet with different fairs/festivals members and pageant directors. I traveled to Ray*La*Ne Festival and Jr. Pageant, Amite Oyster Festival Pageant, Washington Catfish Festival and Pageant, Iowa Rabbit Festival, Patterson Cypress SawMill Pageant, and Southdown Marketplace Festival. If you like to shop for arts and crafts this is the place to visit Southdown Marketplace in Houma, La. The next Festival will be held on November 5, 2005.

Congratulations to our newly crowned Queen of Queens, Lana Blair Meche. I know Lana personally and I know that she will do a great job representing LAFF. Again, Congratulations, LANA. To all the contestants who participated in the LAFF pageant everyone did an exceptional job.

As Chairman for the 2006 LAFF Convention, which will be held in Baton Rouge on February 16th -19th; we are planning on having our first board meeting on April 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the Erath Community Building. We have already begun making preparations for the 2006 convention. The theme for the 2006 Convention is "Freedom Rings with LAFF". Show your red, white and blue spirit.

If there is anything that I can do for any festival or fair, do not hesitate to contact me by phone 337-937-0691 or you can email me at: dcmouton@cox.net

Gale LuQuette, the web-site looks fantastic....Everyone check out the LAFF web-site www.laffnet.org to obtain the most updated information on what is going on in the State of Louisiana (Fairs/Festivals) and upcoming events. Also has information on upcoming pageants.

s/ Dennis Mouton

PAST-PRESIDENT's MESSAGE

How do you say thanks for such a wonderful year? I must first begin with thanking the Membership of LAFF for their confidence in allowing me to serve as President of this Great organization for the past year. I must also thank the Officers and Directors of LAFF for their cooperation and understanding during this past year of medical ups and downs that I experienced and for their continued support in making this year and especially this past convention so memorable for me. To the Westwego Cypress Swamp Festival, my home festival, thanks for your support and confidence over the years. To our 2004 Queen of Queens, Taryn Sanford; thank you for representing us so well and for shining like the star that you truly are. To Rhonda and Mike Sanford, thank you for allowing us to have your lovely Daughter represent us during her reign. Now maybe Mike can again have his daughter around on weekends to brighten his life as she has brightened our entire LAFF family.

No one could ever make me believe that a year could go by so quickly, especially when you are having so much fun and meeting such fantastic people from throughout this great state of ours. I truly appreciate all the invitations that I received during my Presidency, and believe me, the wife and I thoroughly enjoyed every event. I do wish to apologize for any event that I couldn't attend, but sometimes there were too many and too far apart.

this organization is a great success!
In Queen's Love,

s/ **Lana Meche**

EVENTS TO ATTEND

March 29 - April 3
Patterson Cypress Sawmill Festival

March 31 - April 3
Louisiana Crawfish Festival - Chalmette

April 1 - 3
Boggy Bayou Festival - Pine Prairie

April 1 - 3
Cajun Hot Sauce Festival - New Iberia

April 2
Brimstone Historical Society - Sulphur

April 2
Grant Dogwood Festival - Pollock

April 2 - 3
Festival Des Families D'Erath Pepper
Festival

April 3
Christmas Under the Oaks Festival -
Sulphur

April 5 - 27
Jubilee Festival of the Arts &
Humanities of Nicholls University -
Thibodaux

April 7 - 9
Louisiana Railroad Days Festival -
DeQuincy

April 8 -10

French Quarter Festival, Inc. - New
Orleans

April 8 - 10
Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival

April 9
Franklin Parish Catfish Festival -
Winnsboro

April 10
CFMA Acadian Charter Chapter Festival
Eunice

April 15 - 17
Bayou Teche Bear Festival - Franklin

April 15 - 17
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Potpourri
Festival
Westwego

April 15 - 17
Sausage Cook-off - Lafayette

April 16 - 17
Lawtell Crawfish Boat Festival

April 20 - 23
Festival International de Louisiane -
Lafayette

April 22 - 24
Etouffee Festival - Arnaudville

April 22 - 24
Family Fun Festival - Larose

April 22- 24
St. Joan of Arc Spring Festival - LaPlace

April 22 - 24
Independence Italian Festival

April 26 - May 8

Contraband Days Festival - Lake
Charles

April 28 - May 1
Thibodaux Volunteer Firemen's Fair

April 29 - May 1
Spring Fling - Natchitoches

April 30 - May 1
Cajun Woodstock for St Jude's - Church
Point

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“Let Freedom Ring with LAFF”

**Holiday Inn Select
Baton Rouge
February 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2006**