

JANUARY 2005 Edition

PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

As we begin another year, I hope you all had a blessed holiday season. With the holidays over, we now look forward to the 2005 convention. The Holiday Inn Select has been booked solid, so if you have not already made reservations, you will have to make arrangements in our overflow hotel. Rob has worked hard with his committees and I promise you that you won't be sorry for making this convention.

As most of you know, I have been in the hospital from November 19th through December 14th. I have been diagnosed with Guillains-Barre Syndrome. I have been confined to a wheelchair until the muscles in my legs and arms can be strengthened and allow me to walk. I apologize to the Claiborne Parish Christmas Parade and the Plaquemines Parish Orange Festival for being unable to attend. I would like to thank the Officers for filling in doing my absence. It is most annoying to be unable to ambulate on my own. No one knows what it is like to be walking one moment and then having no leg strength at all. All I ask for is your prayers so that I will soon be able to walk again and be my old boisterous self once again.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2005 conference in Baton Rouge, and hope you are all ready for good education and fun times. I hope you all have gotten into the swing, and are ready for our Friday Night theme party and dinner. I also hope that you will be ready to support your queen in the Queen of Queens competition on Saturday.

Please remember the Officers of this organization are here to serve you. Even though I am becoming a member of the Past Presidents, if they accept me, I am available as a pageant judge or for anything you feel I can assist you with. I again look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming convention. So keep your smiles bright, your shoes shined, and your costume for our 30's and 40's theme ready to go.

s/Warren Deemer

VICE-PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we all get our top hats and canes and our ladies select their finest wear as we prepare to go "STEPPING OUT WITH

LAFF” for 2005, let us stop to take time to remember all our military so far away from home to keep us free and safe.

May God grant them peace and keep them safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them and their families.

I had the privilege of representing LAFF at the IAFE Convention in Las Vegas November 28th thru December 2nd. This was my first time to attend IAFE and I was amazed at how much there was to learn. Al Dupré and I coordinated events and workshops in order to get the most information available. We also inquired into purchasing the tapes for our LAFF Library. This will be discussed at the LAFF Board meeting on January 22nd.

The Holiday Inn Select notified us on December 8th that it is sold out for our convention. The Embassy Suites and the Hampton Inn are located adjacent to the Holiday Inn Select. I have been in contact with the Embassy Suites and they are prepared to offer us a \$92 rate, which includes a continental breakfast and evening cocktails. The Hampton Inn has also been contacted but has yet to return any information on rates or availability as of this time.

Janet had her back surgery on December 17th and we are happy to report she is doing fine. She guarantees me she will be up and running by Convention. She made her doctor guarantee her that she could be sitting up at the computer during the month of January to complete all the necessary paperwork plus the

Pageant Program book. We’re sorry that her injury prevented us from attending events during this past month but we are ready and willing to get back on the road as soon as possible.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Warren Deemer, our President, as he continues to improve on his health as well.

We encourage everyone to get your registrations and ticket orders in early to Al Dupré, Jr. because these too are going fast. **NO TICKETS WILL BE HELD FOR ANY ONE so get your orders in NOW!**

Make certain your queen has sent in her paperwork and photograph as well. **The deadline is JANUARY 15, 2005** and it will be here before you know it. If your queen’s picture is not received in time, it will not be in the Pageant Program book.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Convention 2005 and wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

s/Rob Piraro

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SECRETARY’S REPORT

First of all, you should have received your convention packet. If you have not, let me know NOW! Remember to get your completed convention packet orders in soon - as your Friday and Saturday evening seating is determined by when your packet (with check) is received. Also, I expect Saturday night to be “sold out” before we get to convention.

I want to thank the association for allowing me to attend the IAFE convention. I attended both the State Secretaries workshop/meeting in addition to the general convention workshops, roundtables, programs and trade show. I brought back information and some ideas for LAFF.

The next LAFF business meeting will be January 22nd at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge. If you have some thing for the agenda, please let me know.

Mona & I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at the convention.

s/ Al Dupré



DISTRICT #3 DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. My wife Natalie and I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling this year to different fairs and festivals, meeting new friends, and meeting with old friends.

See you at the 2005 Convention.

s/ Dennis Mouton
D3D



PAGEANT COORDINATOR

We encourage every organization to make certain they have booked the hotel room for their queen. It is heart-breaking for any queen when she arrives at the hotel to find out she has no room. Please, check with your pageant directors to be certain your queen has a room.

There are several changes we made for the pageant this year from our Directors' meeting held on Friday night. Queens are asked to bring only one gift this year for the Queens' Chinese Christmas party on Saturday rather than 75 items for ditty bags. In addition, we are still asking for each queen to bring something from her fair or festival to be put into the Queen of Queens' trunk for the young lady that will be selected in 2005.

Another change is that the judges will not be in the banquet room on Friday night. This way, the girls can really have fun and just enjoy the moment.

Please make certain that your queen has sent in a 5 x 7 black and white, or color, photograph that is vertical for the program book. Every year I have to make telephone calls to try to get every queen's picture in the program book. **I NEED ALL THE PICTURES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15TH**. Late entries will not have their pictures in the program book.

All pageant program book ads should also be received by January 15th. Remember that we give an award for the most ads sold as well. Our ads are very reasonable and much appreciated.

If you have any pageant questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The entry form is on our LAFF website – www.laffnet.org.

s/ Janet Piraro
Pageant Coordinator
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EVENTS TO ATTEND

January 6 - 8

**Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival
Cameron**

January 8

**Rice Capital Championship Gumbo Cook-Off
Crowley**

February 4 - 8

**Eunice Mardi Gras Celebration
Eunice**

February 6

**Courir de Mardi Gras
Church Point**

March 5

**Festival Ray*La*Ne*
Rayne**

March 16 - 20 (pre-event)

**Jubilee Festival of the Arts &
Humanities of Nicholls University
Thibodaux**

March 18 - 20

**Iowa Rabbit Festival
Iowa**

March 18 - 20

**Washington Catfish Festival
Sunset**

March 19

**Southdown Marketplace
Houma**

March 26

**Ashland Spring Festival
Ashland**

March 29 - April 3

**Patterson Cypress Sawmill Festival
Patterson**

March 31 - April 3

**Louisiana Crawfish Festival
Chalmette**