

Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festival is saddened by the death of our 2007 Hall of Fame Mr. Robert "Bob" LeBlanc. Bob passed away on Saturday, February 21th. He was employed in the Tourism business for many years. He attended the LAFF convention during the 1980's and 90's. LAFF would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Jacqueline (his wife) and children.

President's Message

I was so sorry to hear about the loss of Mr. Henry Penn, he was a devoted member of the Strawberry Festival. My deepest sympathy goes to his family and the festival.

I hope everyone had a great time on the red carpet as LAFF said Hello to Hollywood at the 2009 convention. I laughed so hard when I was told that someone asked the front desk if it's true that Dolly Parton was sighted here at the Crown Plaza? But look out 2010 convention when the ducks, I mean Ronnie Lougon takes LAFF on it first hunt. "LAFF on a Hunt" is the theme and I can't wait!

I look forward to serving the members of LAFF as their president this year. I am also a team player if there's anything I can assist you with let me know. If you feel there's something the board needs to address let us know and we will do our best. Your ideas and opinions are valued.

I would like to say congratulations to our new Queen of Queen's and her court. She is Miss Kacey Michelle Brister of the Beaugard Parish Fair in DeRidder. I would like to welcome back Barbara Horaist, our Treasurer, Curtis Hue, our Secretary, Alisa Yelverton, District 6 Director, and Warren Deemer District 7 Director. And last but not least our new Vice President Ronnie Lougon from the Gueydan Duck Festival. Ronnie will have the honor of planning our convention. Ronnie will be selecting his convention committees at the March 28th meeting.

Ronnie Lougon's seat for District 3 is vacant, it has a one year term left. If you're in District 3 and interested in filling the seat have your fair or festival submit a letter nominating you for the District 3 position before the deadline date of March 14, 2009. The board will vote on this nominee at the March 28th meeting. Send your letter to Curtis Hue, 601 Oak Lane, Thibodaux, LA 70301.

As requested by the board Warren Deemer our hotel research chairman, Vice President Ronnie and myself attended a meeting at the Crown Plaza on March 17, 2009. At that meeting we reviewed and signed a 3 year contract with the hotel. The hotel will start taking reservations for 2010 convention on March 2, 2009.

Equilla Victorian
LAFF 2009 President

Vice President's Message

I hope everyone had a safe trip home from the Convention and would like to thank everyone for your vote of confidence in my bid for Vice President. With your help and support, I am certain that we will have a wonderful year and a great 2010 Convention. Planning is already underway and we have some new ideas to make everything more interesting.

It is time to start preparing for this year's Fairs and Festivals with several of them just around the corner and hope to see more of you this year as I will expand my area outside of District 3.

Our 1st Quarterly meeting is just around the corner and I would like to remind district 3 to submit your choice for Director. I would also like to invite anyone interested in attending the March 28th meeting to contact your District Director to find out the exact location in Westwego as we near that date.

If I can be of assistance to any of you or your event, do not hesitate to contact me.

Ronnie Lougon
"District 3 Still Rocks"
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Secretary's message

Thanks to all who allowed me to serve as Secretary of LAFF for one more year. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If there is anything I can do for you as your Secretary, please call me at 985-446-1462, or email at laffhue@bellsouth.net or at LAFF, 601 Oak Lane, Thibodaux, LA 70301.

The theme for year 2009 and Convention 2010 will be "LAFF on the Hunt". LAFF on the Hunt according to Ronnie, can be hunting anything.

Elected to the Board of Directors of Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals at the 2009 convention were:

President Equilla Victorian – ejv@centurytel.net
Vice President Ronnie Lougon – rlougon@priorityappraisals.com
Treasurer Barbara Horaist – bnhoraist@cox.net
Secretary Curtis Hue- laffhue@bellsouth.net
District 2 Director Amanda Thille – athille@louisianatournoi.com
District 6 Director Alisa Yelverton – yelvertonalisa@yahoo.com
District 7 Director Warren Deemer – districtdirector7@cox.net
Carnival Director Deltus Mitchell – itsmegusm@yahoo.com
Talent Director Aaron Bresseaux – aaron@ieagencyinc.com
Supply Director Neal Horaist – bnhoraist@cox.net

Other board members for 2009 are Past President Jim Meaux, Faron Molaison District 1 Director, Kaye Ladner District 4 Director, Brandon Keene District 5 Director. District 3 Director will be elected at the Board Meeting on March 28, 2009.

Selected as Queen of Queens was Kacey Michelle Brister of the Beauregard Parish Fair.

Since the convention I have sent letters to all fairs and festivals in District 3 for nominations to the board of directors to be selected by the board on March 28th. I have sent letters to 77 members of LAFF that have not renewed their dues for 2009. Most of these members will renew their dues. I have also sent a list of all fairs, festivals and associates to all members, whether the dues were paid or not.

MOST OF ALL, PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE AT LAFFNET.ORG UNDER THE TITLE EVENTS. CHECK YOUR FAIR OR FESTIVAL FOR ERRORS. SHOULD THERE BE A MISTAKE PLEASE EMAIL THE CORRECTION TO THE WEBMASTER@LAFFNET.ORG AND REFER TO THE EVENT AND THE CORRECTION NEEDED. THEN ALL CORRECTIONS CAN BE MADE. IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE WILL BE CALLING FOR CORRECTIONS TO THE QUEEN'S SECTION AS WELL. PLEASE WAIT UNTIL WE REQUEST THE INFORMATION ON THE QUEENS SECTION UNTIL YOU ARE NOTIFIED.

If you know of a fair or festival in your area that is not a member of LAFF ask them to join. An application for LAFF fairs and festivals is available on the website. An application LAFF Associates is available under the heading of Associates. It will be the last item under this section.

Our next board meeting will be held in Westwego at 10:00 AM on March 28th at the Westwego Fire Station at 677 Avenue H. All nominees for the 3rd District Director are invited when the board makes its decision on the next director. All members are always invited to any of our meetings.

Curtis J. Hue
Secretary LAFF

District 1 News

Hello, from District 1. By the time you read this newsletter, Mardi Gras will have come and gone and hope everyone had a safe Carnival Season. First, I want to congratulate our new Queen of Queens Kacey Michelle Brister. I hope you have a wonderful, enjoying and safe year as you travel our great State. I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the LAFF convention this past February. Mrs. Equilla, you did a great job as our Vice President and Convention Chairperson, and I know you will do a great job as LAFF President.

We had a good response for the essay contest and I hope that this year's contest will be even better. I will again be handling the essay contest for 2009 convention; I will also be taking on the marketing awards for our new Vice President Mr. Ronnie "Jell-O" Lougon.

I want to thank the fairs and festivals in district 1 that contributed to the district basket at convention. If you would like to participate in the 2010 convention district

basket, I can be reached at 985-633-9949 or 985-803-0170. Hope to be hearing from you in the future.

On February 16th I had the opportunity to attend the LA Shrimp and Petroleum Festival board meeting. That night they honored Mrs. Peggy Acosta for being the volunteer of year for Division 3. By the way the LA Shrimp and Petroleum Festival was named the festival of the year for Division 3 and received the award for open marketing best cap. Congratulations and keep up the good work in your community.

Warren Deemer and I will be putting together a joint workshop for District 1 & 7 in the near future. I will contact all district 1 fairs and festivals at a later date. If any fair or festival would like me to mention something in the newsletter, please feel free to call me. Also if anyone has questions, concerns or even comments just give me a call. If I can't answer your questions I will find someone who can. Until next time be safe and live life to the fullest.

Faron Molaison
LAFF District 1 Director
Home: 985-633-9949
Cell: 985-803-0179

District 7 News

As we begin another LAFF year, I would like to thank the members organizations of District 7, for their vote of confidence in allowing me to represent your District for another term. I assure you, I am working in the best interest of OUR organization, and YOUR Board of Directors and Executive Officers are working diligently to make LAFF the greatest organization possible. I want to commend Jim Meaux on his outstanding year as President, and also Vice President Equilla Victorian on her outstanding success on a very informative and entertaining convention. The Decorations on stage and in the Ball Room, done by Kaye Ladner and her associates were outstanding. The entire board is to be commended for a job well done to make this convention both entertaining and educational. Congratulations, to our New President Equilla Victorian, Vice President Ronnie Lougon, New Board member Amanda Thille and all returning officers and board members, as we continue to work together, our organization has no where to go but UP!!!

Congratulations also to our new Queen of Queens Kacey Brister, she is one lovely lady and I can assure she will do us proud. Special thanks also to all member organizations that contributed in any way to make the convention such a success, no matter how large or how small, together, we can all make a difference.

We are again asking for ideas for workshops for our next convention, if you have any suggestions, please, contact any board member and they will bring your suggestion to the full board. Our next Board Meeting will be held in District 7, on March 28, 2009 at 10:00 A.M., the exact location will be posted on the website shortly.

Warren Deemer
District 7 Director