

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FAIRS AND FESTIVALS  
MAY NEWSLETTER

CURTIS J. HUE – EDITOR

I have dates for 2010 for these events, but do not have copy to put in the next Guide Book. Please send 30 – 40 words to me prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Buggy Festival of Church Point  
Festival Ra\*La\*Ne  
Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival  
Cajun Hot Sauce Festival  
OLPS Tomato festival  
Little Red Church Food & Fun Festival  
Gonzales Jambalaya Festival  
Sulphur Heritage Festival  
LA Peach Festival  
Celebration on the Cane  
Sabine Parish Fair and Festival  
Roastin with Rosie Bar-B-Que  
Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival  
Evangeline Oil and Gas Festival  
Golden Meadow Family Fishing Rodeo  
Sorrento Boucherie  
State Fair of Louisiana  
Jennings Alive  
Louisiana Swine Festival  
Louisiana Renaissance Festival  
Port Barre Cracklin Festival  
Westwego Cypress swamp Festival  
Cottonport Christmas on the Bayou  
Plaquemines Parish Fair & Orange Festival  
Ozone Camellia Festival  
Zwolle Loggers & Forestry Festival  
Washington Catfish Festival  
Plaquemine Parish Heritage & Seafood Festival  
Plaquemine Parish Fair & Orange Festival  
Iowa Rabbit Festival  
Amite Oyster Festival  
Erath 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
St. Jude Fall Festival  
Marthaville Good Ole Days  
Louisiana Forestry Festival  
Sabine Freestate Fair

## Presidents' Message

Hello LAFF family!

On March 28, LAFF's quarterly board meeting was held in Westwego, LA. I would like to thank the city of Westwego, Westwego Fire Department, Westwego Festivals, Gumbo Festival, and the Catfish Festival for their great hospitality. I would also like to thank the Mayor of Westwego for making me an honorary citizen of Westwego it really warmed my heart.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Mark Bernard, he is the new District 3 Director: Mark will do an outstanding job and bring new ideas to the table. Mark is also a member of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival.

I want to remind each fair/festival and director that the website is up and running, if you have your 2009 event dates, contact information, and entry forms. If you would like to have them posted on the website submit it to the LAFF webmaster @ laffnet.org. Also, when you crown your new queen send her picture to the webmaster to be posted.

Vice President Ronnie Lougon and his committee are working diligently to ensure that next year's convention will be the best! If there are any volunteers willing to lend a helping hand at the convention please contact your director or Vice President Mr. Lougon.

When the LAFF convention packets are completed for 2010 you will also be able to download these forms off the LAFF website: Queen of Queen's entry form, Marketing Awards entry forms, and Trade Show entry forms.

This year has been flying by, but I have been enjoying various events as the time has past. On April 11, 2009 I had the pleasure of going to the Railroad Days Festival. My husband and I enjoyed great food and friendly people. The weather was beautiful and there was a wonderful turnout. April 19, 2009 I went to the Etouffee Festival pageant and had a good time. Remember if there's anything I can assist you with please let me know. And until next time I hope everyone has good weather, good health, and God Bless.

## Vice President's Message

Spring is officially in the air and the Festival Trail is officially on the way. I have not made any festivals in the last several weeks but we are firing up the motors and getting ready. Breaux Bridge crawfish crew are gearing up as we speak for first weekend in May. June will bring several festivals including Opelousas Spice and Music and Church Point Buggy Festival in our area.

Mark Bernard has recently been elected to finish the District 3 Director's post and I have no doubt that he will do a great job. I wish him the best. We would both like to remind you that LAFF Directors are always willing to help you in any capacity possible but we need to know that you need help. Just contact your Director and he will be more than happy to meet with your festival. As a reminder, I am also available to help any of the area festivals.

As a reminder, plans are underway for **"Laff on the Hunt"** and the room reservation date also has come and gone. In speaking with the hotel, it appears that registration was much smoother this year. We want to remind you to book your Queen's room and any other delegate room as soon as possible if you are not already booked. If

you have had a problem with booking a room, please let me know and we may be able to assist you and your festival. We do not anticipate a room problem with the opening of the Holiday Inn Express on site, however, we will be speaking to other nearby hotels to try to get special pricing. Anyone staying at the Holiday Inn Express on site will have access to shuttles, etc. in the event of in climate weather. Pease do not procrastinate so we can take care of any problems ahead of time.

If I can be of assistance to any of you or your event, do not hesitate to contact me. “D-3 Still Rocks” Get your camo ready!

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### Secretary’s Message

I attended the IAFE Zone 6 meeting in Baton Rouge earlier this month. Lot of good information was given. Two great examples were: 1) the Spanish language is spreading at an alarming rate and maybe events should think about have a Spanish night with Spanish entertainment. Suggested that maybe a Mexican Restaurant could sponsor the night or the band. 2) Newspaper circulation is decreasing at a very great rate. People are reading the newspaper on the web in greater numbers everyday. Start a newsletter for your event and send it out. Every time you send it out ask the reader to forward it to a friend, then your email increases by double every month. Later in the year start two newsletters per month and when your event get closer and closer, increase your newsletter more often with updates of what is going on at your event. As entertainment contracts are signed, include that in your newsletter. This will be free advertisement. This system is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the nation. Big events started this but small events have been successful with this also.

Check the list at the beginning of the newsletter to see if your event is listed. I have dates for these events, but I need advertising copy for the Fair and Festival Guide. I have met with the Lt Governor and his Special Assistant this month. They have both advise they will do all they can to print the book again for us at no cost to LAFF.

### IMPORTANT

Seating at the 2010 convention will be very much like the 2009 convention. There is only one change. There will be NO extra chairs at the back of the room on either Saturday or Sunday. With every delegate registration paid, each event will be allowed one extra ticket for each ticketed function. All delegates and extra tickets holders will be seated at round tables of 10 per table. If you don’t understand this new system, please contact me or any board member for an explanation. Our hope is to have a great fair and festival convention and banquet.

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND FESTIVALS  
2009 MARKETING AWARDS WINNERS

**DIVISION 1**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Awards	Name of Fair or Festival
Volunteer of the Year – Festival	Gueydan Duck Festival – Steven Plaisance.
New Event of the Year – Festival	Think Pink Festival
Classic Award – Festival	Gueydan Duck Festival

MARKETING AWARDS

Poster	Plaquemine Parish Fair & Orange Festival
Brochure	Louisiana Yambilee Festival
Program Book	Gueydan Duck Festival
T-Shirt	Think Pink Festival
Pin/Button	Louisiana Swine Festival
Cap	Gueydan Duck Festival
Website	Louisiana Yambilee Festival
Marketing Items-Open	Gueydan Duck Festival

*PLEASE CHECK THE LIST OF FAIRS AND FESTIVALS THAT HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE INFORMATION FOR THE 2010 GUIDE BOOK. THIS IS THE BEST ADVERTISING YOU CAN GET FOR YOUR BUCK. I NEED THIS INFORMATION PRIOR TO JUNE FIRST.*

Curtis J. Hue  
Secretary/LAF

## District 5 Director News

It's that time of the year again for fairs and festivals to start gearing up for the year. Hope everyone will have a great and successful run. I have attended the Zone 6 IAFE meeting in Baton Rouge earlier this month and while I was there we traveled to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival and had a great time. It is amazing how a town all comes together for such a great event and treated us like we were one of their own.

Thanks.

Brandon Keene  
District 5 Director

## District 7 News

As the spring makes way for the hot and humid days of summer, February and our 2010 convention is on the front burner for the board of LAFF. Planning is well underway under the direction of our Vice-President Ronnie Lougon, and all chairpersons have their tasks well in hand. Ronnie is an organizer as well as the leader of the quacks, and keeping us all in line. AS we "Hunt" for adventures, we look forward to an educational and fun-filled convention. The website is being revamped and will soon be totally undated with all your information. If corrections are necessary, send in the correct info to the Webmaster at "laffnet.org" and he will make sure the info gets updated. The website is a sales tool for all of us, and it can only be useful if YOU send in the information that you want on it. So check your info and send your information for the 2010 & 2011 event dates so we can get the information in for the next Fair and Festival Guide.

District 7 activities are getting underway, as you read this newsletter, the French Quarter Festival, VOL Cajun Festival, St. Joan of Arc Spring Festival and OLPS "Pot Pourri" Festival will all be history, but well remembered for great food, great fun and outstanding Musical entertainment. May brings the District in FULL SWING, May 1 – 3 with the Little Red Church Food and Fun Festival in Destrehan, The Tomato Festival in Chalmette, St. Hubert's Rosary Festival in Garyville, and ending the month with the Plaquemines Parish Heritage and Seafood Festival in Belle Chase. The middle of the month in District 7 gives us time to travel to other areas of the state to enjoy the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of our LAFF families, as they provide the engine of state tourism and the drive of what makes Louisiana and it's Fairs and Festivals unique. I do hope to see many of you along the way, and please try to visit other Events to support and network with our LAFF member to learn more about the unique and diverse cultures of our own state. Try being a tourist in your own state, I can assure, you will walk away with knowledge and culture beyond belief.

Lots of planning is underway for my festivals and I will be busy doing those along with additional planning for LAFF. Please remember to confirm our reservations for your Queen's rooms for the convention, and start planning to attend the 2010 convention in Baton Rouge. If you have never attended a LAFF Convention you don't know what you are missing, and if you have attended, you know what you will miss if you don't attend.

I am hoping to visit with as many festivals as possible and offer my help if it is needed. I enjoy being involved so all you have to do is ask.

Warren Deemer  
District 7 Director