

**L A F F Newsletter**



**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**April Newsletter  
President's Message**

The planning for the 2012 convention is in full swing. Vice-President Faron Molaison is working his magic to bring everything into perspective early, so if you want to assist in this convention, contact Faron and let him know. This convention theme is "Louisiana A Southern Tradition", will give you many aspects of costuming and the Queen's will have fun on theme night dressing as Southern Belle's. The Board of L A F F has worked together to make your organization bigger and better, but we could still use your input to continue. Instead of grumbling and groaning about rumors, give us some input so that we can know your feelings and ideas. It's easy to criticize others, but your effort would be better placed constructively instead of destructively. If you hear that I or anyone on the board has said (whatever), E-mail that person and ask, get the story from the main source, not the opinion of, "I heard that somebody said that somebody else overheard a conversation about"....., just go to the source, usually the Board or Director and present your feelings where it counts, instead of the rumor mill. Remember, If you hear a rumor about something that the Board said or did, don't believe it, if I didn't start it.

The reservations for Hotel rooms will be accepted on April 5, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.; not before. So please do not start at 12:01 A.M. on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the reservations will only be taken after 10:00 A.M. When you make reservations, please remember that the Queen's that attended the 2011 convention will have rooms blocked for them, all you have to do is give the queen's name and a credit card to hold that room for your queen's 2012 convention stay. The Hotel will honor your special requests as best they can, but, PLEASE, advise the hotel if a handicapped accessible room is needed for an attendee, it

is difficult to change a room after it is assigned, so please remember all special needs when making your reservations.

The Board of your organization has been working diligently to make your conventions the best possible. Sometimes as we grow, it becomes necessary to make changes that are not always popular to everyone, but are necessary in the best interest of the organization. Please understand that not all change is popular, but most change is for the benefit of the entire group. Every year we receive suggestions as to how to make the convention better, and we try to honor your opinions, so please continue to make suggestions, don't become discouraged if your first request is not changed to your particular wishes, remember we are working to make this work for everyone.

If any of the Board or Executive officers can be of assistance to your organization, contact us through the website and ask away, if it's possible I'm sure we will do the best we can to assist.

Take Care Ya'll  
Warren Deemer, President

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT** *Louisiana Association Of Fairs & Festivals*

**From: Vice-President Faron Molaison**

**First, I want to send my thoughts and prayers out to Cheryl Richard, the Rayne Frog Festival, Festival Ray-La-Ne and the community of Rayne. During the Mardi gras weekend they had a Tornado touch down in Rayne that left a lot of destruction in its path. I know that they will come back strong.**

**Well the 2011 fair & festival season is well underway. During the month of February I visited my friends with the Church Point Courir de Mardi Gras for their pageant on Saturday February 19. Then I returned on March 5 the give a helping hand at the festival. The weather was a little cool and some rain in the area but all in all it was a great success. I want to thank Mimi Doucet and her crew for the warm hospitality. It's always a pleasure to be in there company.**

**I have started working with Leslie at the Crown Plaza Baton Rouge on the room reservations etc. for the 2012 convention. I hope everyone is gearing up for a fun filled weekend in 2012. I'm sure Jeff & Amanda will again have some wonderful workshops planned. If you have a particular idea for convention or the organization, or would just like to lend a helping hand at convention, just give us a call. We have a great open-minded and hardworking committee in place of the**

**2012 convention and any help would be greatly appreciated. If you don't have your Friday night costumes ready don't wait to late, this will be a great opportunity for you to show your favorite Southern Tradition.**

**Just a reminder that April 5, 2011 is the first day that the hotel will be taking reservations for the 2012 convention.**

**Also please get with your local schools on the essay and poster contest. This is a good opportunity to get your community involved. Last year we had plenty participants and hopefully more this year. The essay theme for the 2012 convention is "What Is Your Favorite Southern Tradition & Why".**

**I'm looking forward to the April 2 board meeting, which is being sponsored by our friends with the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival, and ending the day going visit some more friends at the Patterson Sawmill Festival.**

**If you are looking for something to do on the weekends, please visit our website at [laffnet.org/](http://laffnet.org/) to see the LAFF associations up coming fairs & festivals in your area. I can assure that they all will have good Louisiana Cooking for your taste buds and great dancing music for your feet. I cannot think of a better way to spend the weekend with the family and friends.**

**If there is anything the LAFF board and directors can do for you, please let us know we are just a phone call or email away. Until next month I hope and pray that all the fairs and festivals have great weather and a successful event.**

**Faron Molaison  
LAFF Vice-President**

## Secretary's Message

Only a month into the position of LAFF secretary and I can already tell that I did not have enough respect for Curtis Hue and the job he has done for this organization for so many years. Curtis, Gail, Genee' and I met in his home on March 12th in an effort to acquaint myself with the details of the job ahead of me. He had everything written in detail as a guide for me to go by for the coming year. He has kept very good records and he very graciously gave me everything he had. With this as a guide and Curtis as close as the telephone, how can I fail? I am excited and looking forward to working with each and everyone of you.

It is very important to get information in about your fair or festival if you want to be listed in the Fairs & Festivals 2012 guide. If you have not paid your dues, please do so now. Along with your dues payment please send a brief description of what your event is all about. This information will attract visitors to your area.

Our next LAFF board meeting is Saturday, April 2, 2012 in Morgan City. I would like to encourage everyone who is a member of LAFF to attend. Please contact me if I can be of assistance with your event.

Kaye Ladner  
27280 R.F. Ball Road  
Franklinton, LA 70438  
985-848-5937  
985-515-9139  
[wpfairlady@yahoo.com](mailto:wpfairlady@yahoo.com)

## Secretary Emeritus Message

As this will be my last newsletter as editor, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone of the Officers that I have served with in the past 22 years. To all the members that I have made contact with during my years as a member of LAFF, thanks for making me welcome at functions and conventions. I know that sometimes I have stepped on some toes and for that I am SORRY. However, I know that as I travel around Louisiana and need help there is always someone in that town or city that I can turn to for help. That is how many friends I have made since my first convention in 1979.

To my wife number two (Barbara Horaist) for all the help and friendship you have meant to me for the seventeen years as Secretary. Neil, I know that you know what I am talking about and so does most of the past and present board members.

As I say GOODBYE to my fellow board members, I will never forget you and hope to see you at many more meetings and convention. You have my work so much easier by being such FRIENDS.

To Kaye Ladner, my friend for many years, Good Luck with you as SECRETARY. I will always be as close as you telephone. I will help in as many ways as I know the answer to the questions you will ask

Our next board meeting will be held in Morgan City on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cajal Jo Jo at 502 Front Street. Meeting will begin at 10 am.

THANKS to the ASSOCIATION for the honor of making me SECRETARY EMERITUS. I am not sure I deserve it, but it was an honor to be honored as the first SECRETARY EMERITUS.

Curtis J. Hue  
Secretary Emeritus  
LA Assoc. of F/F

## Queen of Queen's Report

Greetings to all LAFF members,

I would first like to say thank you to all members of LAFF for welcoming me with open arms as the 2011 Queen of Queens. I have heard so many kind words and congratulations since I was crowned and wanted to take the time to say thank you. I appreciate it more than you know. Since I was crowned, I was able to attend the Louisiana Mardi Gras pageant events in Lafayette. We were able to enjoy king cake, which one of the wonderful traditions of Mardi Gras! My next event was the Strawberry Festival Queens' Weekend. I enjoyed picking strawberries, decorating a cupcake to represent LAFF, and of course eating strawberries! We also danced the night away in Ponchatoula for the Strawberry Ball. The next stop was Patterson for the Cypress Sawmill Pageant. It was a beautiful day in Patterson as well as a beautiful pageant. It was a privilege to be escorted by the LAFF President, Mr. Warren Deemer, to introduce myself.

I would like to say congratulations to all of the newly crowned royalty that has been crowned in the past month and also to all of the past royalty on a great year. Also, thank you to all of the festival associations for working hard to promote your fairs and festivals and for all of the hospitality you give to the queens when we visit.

Jada R. O'Blanc

2011 Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queen of Queens

## District 4 News

Spring has sprung and a lot of fairs and festivals are upon us. I hope that all the events were or will be successful. I look forward to another busy year visiting as many events as possible.

District IV has already had some events. In February the Italian Festival held their annual ball as did the Strawberry Festival in March. The Independence Sicilian Festival had a very successful third year with over 25000 people attending the festival. Amite Oyster Festival was blessed with beautiful weather and had a great year under the new leadership of Scott Gay.

Upcoming events in District IV:

March 23-27	Zfest	Zachary
April 2-3	Kite Fest	Baton Rouge
April 8-10	Strawberry Festival	Ponchatoula
April 8-10	Festival in the Park	Bogalusa
April 29-May 1	The Italian Festival	Tickfaw

So if you are looking for something to do on these beautiful weekends, make plans to attend one of the events or an event near you. Check out the LAFF website for a calendar for a list of the all the events.

If there is anything I can assist your organization with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Jeff Wright,  
LAFF District IV Director*

Greetings to the 7<sup>th</sup> District and everyone else,

First I want to apologize for my report not making it in the newsletter. There was a problem with my email and next time I will double check that it makes it. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at this years LAFF Convention. I know I sure did. I want to thank everyone who helped in any of the duties I was responsible for. I had a chance to talk to some of you in my district at Convention. If I missed any of you in my district, I apologize. I will make an effort to try to talk to each and everyone of you in the near future about some of the issues we are having at Convention. Don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns that you may have. I have a goal this year to try to get as many festivals involved in LAFF as possible. You can help me by letting me know about those festivals who are new or who are not members of LAFF. I would appreciate it. I met with Warren and organizers of a possible Snowball Fest in New Orleans east. They are some go-getters organizing this fest. Hope to make them a new member. The Crawfish Fest is happening this weekend in Chalmette. It will be a huge event this year.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Potpourri Fest will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> in Westwego. Well we are about to get real busy this spring with all the festivals planned and I am looking forward to it. This Quarterly LAFF meeting is in Morgan City on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend. Location and time should be on the website or somewhere here in this newsletter. If you have any concerns about what was discussed at Convention and you would to give me your opinion or ideas about it, I am open to anything that will work. Just give me a call and we can discuss it and I will bring it up at the meeting.

Thanks and be safe,  
Lonny Taylor  
District 7 Director  
Cell: 504-909-3433  
[districtdirector7@laffnet.org](mailto:districtdirector7@laffnet.org)

Visit these events during March

March 23 – 27 – Zfest --- Zachary

March 26 – 27 - Oak Alley Plantation Arts and Crafts Festival - Vacherie

March 26 – 27 – Merryville Heritage Festival – Merryville

April 1 – 3 – Patterson Cypress Sawmill Festival - Patterson

April 1 - 3 - Boggy Bayou Festival – Pine Prairie

April 2 – Dogwood Festival – Pollock

April 2 – Louisiana Doll Festival – DeRidder

April 2 – Kite Fest – Port Allen

April 7 – 9 – Louisiana Railroad Days Festival – DeQuincy

April 8 – 10 – Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival – Ponchatoula

April 8 – 10 – French Quarter Festival – New Orleans

April 8 – 10 - St. Joan of Arc Fair – LaPlace

April 8 – 10 – Potporri Festival – Westwego

April 8 – 10 – Family Fun Festival - Larose

April 9 – Franklin Parish Catfish Festival – Winnsboro

April 9 – 10 – Labadieville Sprig Festival – Labadieville

April 9 – 10 – Natchitoches Jazz R/B Festival – Natchitoches

April 10 – Festivals of Charities – Destrehan

April 14 – 16 – Simmesport Atchafalaya River Festival

April 15 – 17 – Magnolia Festival - Kenner

April 16 – Downtown Lake Charles Crawfish Festival

April 26 – May 8 – Contraband Days – Lake Charles

April 28 – May 1 - Thibodaux Firemen's Fair – Thibodaux

April 29 – 30 – Ashland Spring Festival

April 29 – May 1 – Etouffee Festival – Arnaudville

April 29 – May 1 – Little Red Church Food & Fun Festival – Destrehan

April 29 – May 1 – Tomato Festival – Chalmette

April 29 – May 1 – The Italian Festival – Independence

April 30 – Zwolle Loggers & Forestry Festival – Zwolle