

June 2011

The LAFF Crier

A monthly Newsletter of the
Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals

Upcoming Events:

June 3-5

Church Point Buggy
Festival

Gheens Bon Mange
Festival

Opelousas Spice and
Music Festival

June 10-12

Louisiana Corn Festival
Bunkie

June 11-12

LA Honey Bee Festival
Walker

June 12

Greater New Orleans
Floral Trail

June 24-26

Beauregard Watermelon
Festival

June 30-July 4

Erath 4th of July
Celebration

July 1-4

Greater Mandeville
Seafood Festival

July 4

Let Freedom Ring
Thibodaux

Celebration on the Cane
Natchitoches

Marksville 4th of July
Celebration

Red White Blue and You
Festival
Lake Charles

President's Message – Warren Deemer

As the spring brings May flowers, the Festival and Fair season is in full swing. Many fairs and festivals that have already been held saw great weather, great profits and super attendance.

I attended the Louisiana Crawfish Festival and had trouble parking, but once on the fairgrounds I became part of a mass movement. When you wanted to move, you had to step into the flow of people moving, it was packed and everyone had a great time. Cisco and the Knights of Columbus again has done a fantastic job on their festival and should be commended for not only bringing St. Bernard back to life after Katrina, but for continuing to assist in the continued growth of the parish with their Festival. Cisco and company congratulations on a job well done.

Many events are coming up and I do hope that you will take the time to visit the Fairs and Festivals of our state, to enjoy the cuisine and culture that each area of our state is so proud of. I have had the opportunity to visit Fairs and Festivals in Mississippi during these past few weeks. The coast area is coming back strong in Mississippi and they are looking for new ideas and concepts to expand their events. If you happen to visit Mississippi and see a festival going on, why not stop by and see what they have to offer, you might get some good ideas for your own event.

As the convention planning is coming together, the Board of YOUR organization is working hard to give you information and ideas to improve your events, but also creating an atmosphere of fun and networking for all events to exchange ideas. Be sure to talk to the attendees from other events in OUR organization to compare notes on successes and failures that can make your event more profitable. Please start planning for the 2012 convention it will be here before we know it. The theme for the convention is "Louisiana a Southern Tradition", so use your imagination and enjoy the theme night in your favorite costume of southern tradition. That leaves a very wide array of choices.

The L A F F Board is here to work for you, your ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please convey any information to your board members through the L A F F e-mail and website. If you'd rather speak with a member of the board, the numbers are listed on the website: www.laffnet.org. We are here to assist you, so contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

Have a safe and profitable Event

LAFF CONVENTION February 2-5, 2012

Vice President - Faron Molaison

Fairs & Festival season is in full swing, hope all is well. During the month of April we had our quarterly meeting in Morgan City and the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum festival did a wonderful job hosting the meeting as always. After the meeting I visited my friends with the Patterson Sawmill Festival, the weather was great and we had a wonderful time with David and his crew and Gus Mitchell. It's always a pleasure to be in their company. Also In April I visited with Jeff at the Strawberry Festival, it was sunny and hot and the crowd was huge. Jeff and the strawberry board have a lot to be proud of. Thanks Jeff for the warm welcome. I also attended the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival pageant in April. Angelique Bernard did a great job as usual. Congratulations to Jena Domingue the BBCFA Crawfish Queen. She is the daughter of my friends Tammy and George Domingue.



**Have you
made your
room
reservations
for the
annual
convention?
Call today
and reserve
your rooms!**

In the month of May we visited the Thibodaux Fireman's Fair where on Sunday we worked the stand for South Thibodaux Fire Co. The weather was beautiful all weekend and the crowds were great. The next weekend I visited with Mark and his crew in Breaux Bridge for the Crawfish Festival. I spent the day Saturday with Jeff, Kaye and Mimi, it was very nice being in their company. On Sunday I returned to judge the Crawfish Ettoufee cooking contest with Chris Savoie. We tasted over 20 different servings and had a full belly when we left. Thanks to Jimmy, Byron and Mark for allowing us to experience the great food.

I have been working with Leslie and Jill at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge on the room reservations etc. for the 2012 convention. I hope everyone is gearing up for a fun filled weekend in 2012. Warren, Mark and I will be meeting with the hotel in July to get the food prices for the 2012 convention, so at our July meeting in Westwego we can discuss and adjust accordingly.

If you have a particular idea for convention for the organization, or would just like to lend a helping hand at convention, just give us a call.

Reminder on the poster and essay contest, please get with your local schools on the essay and poster contest. This is a good opportunity to get your community involved. The essay theme for the 2012 convention is "What Is Your Favorite Southern Tradition & Why".

If you are looking for something to do on the weekends, please visit our website at www.laffnet.org to see the LAFF associations' upcoming 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.

***LOUISIANA: A SOUTHERN TRADITION
FEBRUARY 2-5, 2012***



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Secretary – Kaye Ladner

Now that I have a working computer, I AM WORKING. Most of my time has been spend loading data.

As you all know it is time for the Tourism Brochure to be printed. I never thought it would be so difficult to make contact with all of you and get the dates for your events. The Tourism Brochure is the very best tool you have for promoting your event. For that reason I have made every attempt available to get the dates of your events. I want to thank the District Directors who have been working on their lists. And I surely want to thank Equilla Victorian for her help. She has contacted many of the events and has sent in the dates for you.

The following is a list of those events that have PAID dues but have not sent dates:

- Battle of Pleasant Hill (6)
- Bridge City Gumbo Festival (7)
- Buggy Festival of Church Point (3)
- Cochon de Lait Festival
- Cut Off Youth Center Hurricane Festival (1)
- Dogwood Festival (6)
- Evangeline Oil & Gas Festival (3)
- Festival of Charities (7)
- Festival in the Park (4)
- LaSalette Fleur De Lis Festival
- Louisiana Farm Festival (6)
- Louisiana Honey Bee Festival (4)
- Louisiana Mardi Gras (3)
- Louisiana Tournoi de la Ville Platte (2)
- Much Christmas Festival (6)
- Mardi Gras of SWLA (2)
- Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival (6)
- North Louisiana Crawfest & Trade Days (5)
- North Louisiana Cotton Festival (5)
- Once Upon a Christmas Parade (1)
- Opelousas Spice & Music (3)
- Plaquemines Parish Heritage Seafood Festival (7)
- River Parishes Fall Festival (7)
- Sabine Parish Fair & Festival (6)
- St. Charles Parish Festival (7)
- Simmesport Atchafalaya River Festival (6)
- Sorrento Boucherie Festival (4)
- Sulfur Heritage Festival (2)
- Washington Catfish Festival (3)
- West Louisiana Forestry Festival (6)

If your event is listed above PLEASE let us know your event dates. You don't want to be left out of the 2012 Tourism Brochure.

Our next LAFF board meeting will be July 23, in Westwego. In order for the LAFF board to do the best job we can do we need your ideas and welcome your suggestions. Make plans to attend and be heard.

Are there students in your area that are great writers? Find them and submit their work for the annual Essay Contest!

Past President – Ronnie Lougon

Hope everyone out there is doing great!

I have been enjoying my semi retirement and for the first time in several years have not been chasing festivals every weekend. However that does not mean that I have not been busy. We have been very busy gearing up for Duck in about 90 days. We are in the process of building a new Hospitality Room and have been working nights and weekends.

I also recently met with Lake Arthur town officials who have been gearing up for 4 new festivals in Lake Arthur. They have resurrected the Regatta which was held last weekend for Memorial Day and plan 3 additional festivals throughout the year including a July 4th festival. The Regatta used to be a large festival and this year proved that it can be even larger with the right planning. They have shown interest in joining LAFF. These 4 festivals should be a good addition to District 2.

Kaye, we are all happy that you have your computer back. See everything can be fixed!

Sorry I had to miss Crawfish but I ended up in the emergency room that Saturday with a mild concussion after taking a spill off a ladder. I hear it was a great festival with perfect weather and fantastic crowds. Go D3.

If I can be of assistance to you or your festival, do not hesitate to contact me. I always have time for LAFF.

Have an idea for a workshop for convention? Let your District Director know.



District I – Johnny Louviere

On April 2nd I attended the first board meeting for the year in Morgan City. I would like to thank Mr. Lee, the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival committee, the Mayor of Morgan City, the Mayor of Berwick for their great hospitality and the Cajé Jo Jo crew for the great service & foods that we had. The board meeting was pretty interesting. After the meeting was over we crossed over the bridge to visit the Patterson Sawmill Festival which has been years since the first time that I had been there. Mr. David Bourdier & his committee met us with open arms, even Gus Mitchell with Mitchell Bros. & Sons who treated us like family. David had took us on a tour around the grounds showing different things that was going on and we even got to watch log cutting, rolling and craving. Again David and Gus thanks for the hospitality and the cooling refreshments that you all provide for the hot sun that we walked around under.

On Saturday April 9th we took a trip over to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival there we met up with board member Mr. Jeff Wright of the 4th District. Boy talk about some people there. We met up with some young ladies who wondered if this was the festival area we then told them they had to walk a couple of blocks down to get to the fairground area. Jeff thank you for the hospitality and cool refreshments during this long hot day.

Well the Thibodaux Firemen's Fair we made 3 of the 4 days of the fair, being they are our neighbors to the south of us from Chackbay. They had some good food and we met a lot of our friends we went to school with and also a lot of our brother fire fighters. Like years before we got together with the South Thibodaux fire company to help them out in their stand while their company walked in the parade on Sunday.

To all the Fairs & Festivals I hope the weather continues to keep giving us beautiful weekends were we all make a lot of money for the organization we are working so hard for. Most of all that the weekend of October 21, 22, & 23 is like what we been getting but a little cooler so we can make another great year. If any of District 1 Fairs and Festivals need any help or has something to bring up at the next board meeting you can e-mail me at louvierejp@yahoo.com or the lagumbofest.com my cell phone 985-637-9391.

One last thing we still have 65 paid members who have not sent in event dates. If dates are not received by June 6, the event will not be listed in the brochure. Please contact your events and get the dates. The state is paying for printing the brochure and it would be a shame to leave out any paid member. The following is a list of the events in District 1 who have not submitted their dates:

- A Bayou Christmas
- Cut Off youth Center Hurricane Festival
- Family Fun Festival
- French Food Festival
- Louisiana Gumbo Festival of Chackbay **
- Houma Mardi Gras
- Once Upon a Christmas Parade



**How many
posters will
your event
submit this
year for the
annual
Poster
Contest?**





We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.laffnet.org

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Warren Deemer

Vice President
Faron Molaison

Secretary
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Johnny Louviere

District II
Amanda Thille

District III
Mark Bernard

District IV
Jeff Wright

District V
Peggy Swindle

District VI
Alisa Yelverton

District VII
Lonny Taylor

Carnival Director
Deltus Mitchell

Entertainment Director
Aaron Brasseaux

Supply Director
Neal Horaist

District III – Mark Bernard

I hope all of you are doing well. I am just finishing up with the Crawfish Festival. It was nice to see so many of you from LAFF attend our festival. I thank all of you for coming, and wish we could have spent more time with you, but as you know we were busy. I am please to tell you we had a huge success, and I would like to thank God for the beautiful weather he sent us.

I hope and pray that he can send the same weather to each event for the rest of the year. Anyone in District 3, please contact me if you need anything at all at (337) 224-7824 cell or at my email marklbernard56@yahoo.com. Also anyone outside of District 3 please contact me as well if you need me.

Beginning in June, several festivals in District 3 are coming up and I do plan to attend as many as possible. Don't forget out next meeting is July 30th in Oberlin, LA. Please try to attend if you can. I will send an e-mail with the exact location when available. If you can attend, and you have something you would like to mention, please let me know.

District IV – Jeff Wright

While we are all trying to get into the summer vacation and enjoying some family time, don't forget to take a "stay"cation and visit one of the many fabulous events in this great state.

Though our annual Louisiana Association of FAIRS and FESTIVAL's convention is nine months away, it is not too early to find a volunteer from your event to oversee the Poster contest and Essay contest that is open to the students of Louisiana. If you would like more information about the poster contest, please contact me.

While we are in the planning stages of convention, I again ask you for your input of what topics you would like to see a workshop offered for this year. Please e-mail me your thoughts and ideas on them.

I have been able to visit only a few of District IV events this past spring, but looking forward to hitting the road again to visit the upcoming events in our district.

June 11-12	LA Honeybee
June 18	LA Strawberry Queen Pageant
June 25	Independence Sicilian Heritage Ball
July 1-4	Greater Mandeville Seafood Festival
July 15-17	Swamp Pop Music Festival

Again, if there is anything that I can help you with for your event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

District VII – Lonny Taylor

The festival season is well underway with some wonderful weather. Since last LAFF board meeting in Morgan City, I stayed overnight to attend the Patterson Cypress Sawmill Festival and had a great time. Thanks again to Morgan City's Shrimp and Petroleum Festival for their great hospitality for the LAFF Meeting. Everything was wonderful.

I attended the OLPS Potpourri festival in Westwego. I attended the St. Charles Farm Bureau Pageant in Destrehan. I attended the Plaquemines Seafood Festival in Belle Chasse. The weather was great and the hospitality was wonderful.

I would like to remind everyone that the next LAFF board meeting will be hosted by Westwego Cypress Swamp Fest at the Westwego Volunteer Fire Department at 677 Avenue H in the hall upstairs in the back. This is the second time we are hosting. It should be a great time. I would like to see as many festivals from the 7th district come if possible. If anyone is interested in doing something for the meeting just give me a call.

Thanks to the 7th district festivals for letting me represent them at LAFF. Remember I am just a phone call away if you need anything.

Hoping that everyone has a safe and profitable festival this year.

About Our Organization...

The purpose of this corporation is to avail the members of the formation of a non-trading and non-profit corporation to foster encourage the holding of fairs, expositions, festivals, displays and to adopt a program to encourage and demonstrate agricultural, dairy, livestock, industrial, commercial and educational arts, exhibits, displays and to assist and encourage the advancement of the natural resources, material prosperity and progress of the State of Louisiana, its several parishes, the fairs, festivals and expositions therein.

