

OCTOBER 2005 Edition

PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

As we keep another close eye on the Gulf as Hurricane Rita heads West, our thoughts and prayers are with so many of our friends and LAFF family affected by Hurricane Katrina.

I have received telephone calls from as far away as the California Fair Association wanting to know what they can do to help us.

Your LAFF Board is working on several ideas for ways they can help as well. We will post these ideas on the website and keep everyone informed. All information and ideas will be discussed in greater detail at our next Board meeting scheduled for October 29th in Shreveport.

What I would like to have everyone do is please contact me, or your district representative, and let us know what your fair or festival needs and how your association has been affected.

In view of the challenges brought on by the storms; please check the website (laffnet.org) for any updated information on events/associates, and new member information

What damage has your fairgrounds suffered and what can all of us do to help each and every one get back on their feet for next year.

Several have asked if their reigning queens can retain their titles for another year and still compete in Queen of Queens. The answer is definitely **yes**

Once I get the list of fairs and festivals affected and what they need, I will send out a letter to IAFE and others to tell them what is needed for Louisiana's fairs and festivals. We will then also put together good old fashion "barn raising" weekends to come and help with as many volunteers as possible. We are all in this together and LAFF is here to help.

If your association has changed its' schedule, please post it on the LAFF website: www.laffnet.org to keep people informed.

Since the last newsletter, I had the privilege of judging the Gueydan Duck Festival Queen's Pageant. Although all our minds were on the future course of Hurricane Katrina at that time, we had a great time and enjoyed working with Ronnie and his crew. What a tremendous group they have and they were very fortunate to get their event in just in time. Congratulations on having ESPN there as well. Congratulations to their new queen, Misha Moore.

On Saturday, September 17th, I headed up to Kinder to serve as Auditor for the Junior Miss Allen Parish Fair Queen's Pageant. Thank you Equilla Victorian for inviting me and you did a great job.

Remember, LAFF is family and we all work together. Whatever you need, call and let us hear from you. My number at home is 337-478-2355 or email me at robpiraro@aol.com. As it looks at the time of writing this, we here in Southwest Louisiana may get a bit of rain and wind, but we should be okay as long as Rita stays west. In the meantime, stay safe.

s/Rob Piraro

VICE-PRESIDENT's MESSAGE:

Hope everyone is okay; surviving Hurricane Katrina, my thoughts and prayers are with you. With the devastation of the hurricane it is hard to focus on our future plans, but we are still going to have our 2006 LAFF convention. With everyone's help and support I know that it will be a great success.

Due to the circumstances of the hurricane if you know that your queen will not be participating in the Queen of Queens Pageant please contact me.

We plan on getting the packets out by the 10th of October. If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me, or any other LAFF board member.

Welcome home to the Louisiana National Guard that has made it home safely.

Holiday Inn Select is currently booked. **You may want to place your name on a waiting list in case there are cancellations.** The other hotels are still taking reservations. To get the reduced "convention rate" you must use the below listed "group code"!

Hampton Inn 225-926-9990 Room rates \$83.00 + 13% tax = \$93.79 for double occupancy. (IMPORTANT! Use group code #LFF to get this rate)

Embassy Suites 225-924-6566 Room rates \$94.00 + 13% tax = \$106.22 for

double occupancy. (IMPORTANT! Use group code #LAF to get this rate)

s/ Dennis Mouton

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TREASURER's REPORT:

Katrina has definitely affected the Louisiana tourism industry, hasn't she? I truly sympathize/empathize with those Fairs and Festivals that have been cancelled or postponed. And it seems that Rita may damage parts of Louisiana as well.

I have had a very slow month. I attended the International Acadian Festival Queen's Judging/Reception on August 27 in Plaquemine. Neal, Kaye Ladner, Al Dupré, and Mooney Moss were the judges. We had royal treatment from Mickey Rivet and his committee. Thanks, Mickey, for the grand meal at Nottoway Plantation.

All my other activities have been related to the Louisiana Cattle Festival, which will be held (hopefully) on September 28-October 2 in Abbeville. We had a BB Gun Shoot on September 11, pageants for babies through teens and Miss Abbeville on September 17, and a BBQ cookoff on September 18.

Please send invitations for visiting queens to:

Miss Abbeville	Teen Cattle Queen
Jacye Wildblood	Danielle Richardelle
8704 Sand Pit Road	14928 Dove Road
Abbeville LA 70510	Erath, LA 70533

Should anyone need any help with judging, etc. for their fair/festival, please

feel free to call upon Neal or me at bnhoraist@aol.com or 337-893-6328.

s/ **Barbara T. Horaist**

SECRETARY's REPORT:

I want to thank Mickey Rivet and the entire International Acadian Festival for asking me to help judge their Pageant. All the judges and guests were made to feel special by Mickey and his committee. Thanks, Mickey, for the great day.

If I can help your event in any way; information, pageant judge, whatever; just Email (laffadupre@yahoo.com) or call 985-637-5487.

s/ **Al Dupré**

QUEEN of QUEENS

During the last month, Louisiana has been through immense tragedy and devastation. Our beautiful state was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina's torrential winds and rain, leaving many of Louisiana's citizens without homes; greatly affecting family members, cities and our overall way of life. It pains me to know that many of the places that I've traveled this year are completely destroyed or underwater. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and compassion to all LAFF members who have felt the direct impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Due to the hurricane, many of the events that I was scheduled to attend were

cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled for later dates.

However, I judged the Jr. (Teen) division of the Allen Parish Fair Pageant, Cajun-danced at the Lafayette CFMA Festival at Acadian Village, visited Zwolle for the Tamale Festival Luncheon and Pageant, and "moooved" on over to Abbeville for the Cattle Festival & Queen's Pageant.

Until next time,

s/ **Lana Meche**

TOURIST COMMISSION REPORT

Notes from last Commission Meeting

Louisiana's welcome centers are starting to offer vending machines service to visitors. While not all centers have the machines, in time all centers should "come online" with this service. Visitors to our welcome centers increased by 1.4% and visitors to Louisiana's State Parks and Historic Sites increased by 1.7% (comparing the first six months of 2004 and 2005)

Our international markets are growing. We have representatives in the Netherlands, France, Japan, Guatemala, England, Mexico, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica.

The Tourism Commission reports that hotel room usage in Louisiana is up 4.3% (while it is up 3.3% across the nation). They also report an increase in gambling at Riverboat/land based casinos and slots at racetracks.

Inquiries for state information are up to 3,294,886; up from 2,804,807 inquires for last “tourism year”.

The Commission reports that all segments of Louisiana tourism offices report a strong increase and more people are coming to Louisiana than ever before. The Commission hopes that citizen pride in the state continues to increase and will lead to increased tourism for all segments of the state.

It has been a pleasure to serve you on the Tourism Commission for the last ten years and I hope to keep serving you in the future.

Curtis J. Hue
Tourism Commission Member

ELECTION GUIDELINES

Requires that an individual **MUST** be or have been a “board member, officer, staff person Chairperson and presently a member in good standing” of their Fair or Festival in order to be nominated for the LAFF officer or board election.

Once elected to a LAFF officer or director position the individual may serve out their term.

Nominations **MUST** be made in writing by the Convention delegate (or a current officer) of the LAFF member fair or festival to the nominating committee anytime prior to the closing of the Friday business session of the annual meeting or 5 P.M. which ever is the latest.

Nominating committee shall present a slate of candidates for all officer and board positions no later than the Friday business session of the annual meeting.

Nominations from the floor may be made **ONLY** by a voting Convention delegate (or a current officer) of the LAFF member fair or festival.

Nominations from the floor will be done **ONLY** at the Friday afternoon business session and nominations will close at the closing of the Friday business session of the annual meeting or 5 P.M. which ever is the latest.

The Secretary will prepare a ballot for the election of Officers. The Secretary will prepare a ballot for the election of Directors, that will include the names of the Officers nominees where more than one person is nominated.

It is required that Directors be elected from designated areas of the state.

It is required that candidates for Treasurer and Secretary is bondable.

By-laws requires that the president “appoint the nominating committee for the election of officers and directors consisting of not less than three (3) members but no more than five (5) members.

The State of Louisiana will be divided in seven (7) LAFF Districts for the election of board members.

2005 Elections will be held in District 1 & 5; 2006 Elections will be held in District 2, 6 & 7; 2007 Elections will be held in District 3 & 4; 2008 Elections will be held in District 1 & 5; 2009 Elections will be held in District 2, 6 & 7

District elections will be held every three years in the same order as stated above. Only members of the individual districts will be allowed to vote in these districts.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN L.A.F.F. HALL OF FAME (Revised 7.05)

- 1. Must be a current or past member, living or deceased, of a fair/festival association which belongs to and is in good standing with L.A.F.F.
- 2. Must have contributed to L.A.F.F. in terms of (1) service, (2) making a tangible donation and/or (3) providing an unselfish act or deed benefiting L.A.F.F.
- 3. Must have belonged to an L.A.F.F. member fair /festival association for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- 4. Must be nominated by a current member fair/festival of L.A.F.F.
- 5. Unless superseded by the L.A.F.F. Board of Directors, only one new member of L.A.F.F. Hall of Fame will be inducted each year.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE FOR L.A.F.F. HALL OF FAME

- 1. State nominee's name and home address, including zip code.
- 2. State nominee's fair/festival affiliation (if associate, state business).
- 3. State nominee's length of membership in L.A.F.F.
- 4. List nominee's accomplishments in L.A.F.F.
- 5. List nominee's accomplishments with local fair/festival.
- 6. State, in 25 words or less, why nominee is a candidate for Hall of Fame honors.
- 7. State your name and address (including zip code) and telephone number (including area code).
- 8. If possible, include a photo of the nominee and some newspaper clippings of any events featuring the nominee in a fair/festival-related setting.
- 9. Send nominations to L.A.F.F. Secretary.
- 10. Entry Deadline: December 30th.

POSTER CONTEST RULES

- 1. Subject of poster shall be: "My Fair/Festival". Name, location and date of event must be on poster.
- 2. Any public, private, or parochial school student may participate.
- 3. Poster will be judged in four categories:
 - A. Grades 1 – 3; B. Grades 4 – 6;
 - C. Grades 7 – 9; D. Grades 10 - 12
- 4. Poster must be displayed on 14" X 22" white poster paper. (½ sheet of standard poster paper).
- 5. All work must be vertical. Nothing horizontal will be judged.
- 6. All lettering must be free-hand. Do not use Stencils.
- 7. Medium used shall be: Crayon; Water Color; Acrylics, Felt-Tip Pen; or Oil. Neither Cut-outs nor Collage.
- 8. First, Second, and Third place winners in each category are eligible for state competition.
 - Limit of Twelve (12) posters per event.
- 9. Posters will be judged and points awarded as follows: Originality 35%; Theme 25%; Neatness 25%; Spelling 15%
- 10. Poster Prizes:
 - Third Place \$25.00; Second Place \$50.00; First Place \$75.00;
 - One Best Overall \$100.00
- 11. Information cards (5X7 index cards) should include the following:
 - Name; Address; Telephone; Parents; Category; Fair/Festival
 - This should be placed on the left top corner of poster in such a way that it can be flipped over from front to back.
- 12. All posters must be presented by 5:00 PM on Friday of the annual convention.
 - Chairman: Kaye Ladner; LAFF District IV Director; 27280 R. F. Ball Rd.; Franklinton, La; 707438
 - (985)-848-5937; Fax 985-839-9164;
 - Email: wpfairlady@yahoo.com



ESSAY CONTEST

Theme: "What is the cost of Freedom?"

Rules and Regulations:

1. Essay must contain between 500 and 800 words.
 2. Name of contestant **MUST NOT** be written on the essay but must be written on a separate sheet and clipped, not stapled to the essay.
 3. On a separate sheet, contestant should follow this format:
 Name: Address: Grade: Phone:
 Parent's Name: School Name: Fair/Festival Represented:
 4. Essay may be handwritten or typed.
 5. Spelling, grammar, phraseology, general interest, continuity and adherence to theme will be determining factors for selecting the winning essay.
 6. The categories: A. Grades 6-8; B. Grades 9-12.
 7. Information used from sources should be acknowledged in a bibliography.
 8. Pictures or diagrams can be included within contest of essay or in appropriate appendix.
 9. Essay must be in the hands of Chairman no later than January 6, 2006.
 10. Criteria for judging:
 Content (adherence to theme) 40%
 Grammar (punctuation, capitalization) .. 25%
 Continuity (introduction, body, sentence structure, conclusion) 20%
 Spelling 15%
 11. Essay Prizes (State Level)*
 1st. \$150 2nd. \$100 3rd. \$50
 *All fairs should use this theme on the local level for elimination purposes; only the top three winners should be submitted on state level.
 12. All essays become the property of LAFF. The first place winners will be published in a collection by groups.
- Chairman: DAVID BOURDIER
 P. O. Box 762
 Patterson, LA 70392
 985-395-3720



EVENTS TO ATTEND

With the recent storms, information has been updated as available, always call before going; especially this year!

**September 28 – October 1
Allen Parish Fair – Oberlin**

**September 30 – October 1
Robeline Heritage Festival**

**October 1 – 8
Red River Revel Arts Festival – Shreveport**

**October 1
Hungarian Harvest Festival – Albany**

**October 2
Cajun Country Festival – Labadieville**

**October 4 – 8
Beauregard Parish Fair – DeRidder**

**October 7 – 9
Gretna Heritage Festival**

**October 7 – 9
LA Shrimp & Petroleum Fest – Morgan City**

**October 9
Jennings Alive**

**October 13 – 15
International Rice Festival – Crowley**

**October 14 – 16
International Acadian Festival – Plaquemine**

**October 14 - 16
Sorrento Boucherie Festival**

**October 14 - 16
LA Antique Tractor & Equipment – Simsboro**

**October 15
Heritage & Timber Festival – Lake Charles**

**October 15 – 16
Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival – Madisonville**

October 16
LA Tournoi – Ville Platte

October 16
St. Martinville Kiwanis Pepper Festival

October 19 – 22
Washington Parish Free Fair – Franklinton

October 21 - 23
LA Cattle Festival & Fair-Abbeville

October 21 – 23
St. John Andouille Festival – LaPlace

October 23
Westwego Cypress Swamp Festival

October 26 – 30
LA Yambilee - Opelousas

October 27 – November 5
State Fair of Louisiana – Shreveport

October 28 – 30
French Food Festival – Larose

October 27 – 30
LA Gumbo Festival – Chackbay

October 29 – 31
Hammond Fest

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**“Freedom Rings with LAFF” Holiday
Inn Select – host hotel - with Hampton
Inn and the Embassy Suites Baton
Rouge February 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2006**