

District 6 News & Events

Spring 2008 Newsletter

A District 6 Update from April:

Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and that your new year is off to a great start. Things have been quite hectic here for me. I started a new job and bought a new car; all in about 2 weeks time. Wow, lots of changes!

2008 is turning into a very busy time for LPA as well. At the 50th National conference in Seattle it was approved to hold a mid-year board meeting. The weekend of February 1st-3rd, I traveled to Irvine, CA. While there we did some strategic planning for the next 3 years. I will discuss the meeting at the regional.

On February 16th I held an all day officer retreat in Rockford, IL. I wanted to get everyone up to speed on National news as well as work on some outstanding District 6 topics. As a group we came to agreement on several issues. A meeting summary starts on the bottom of the page. **Some changes and new regional guidelines have been implemented so, PLEASE read all the important updates!**

I hope everyone is doing well and I look forward to seeing you at the spring regional in Green Bay! The registration sheet and schedule of events is enclosed.

April

District 6 Officers Meet in Rockford!

After the Lombard regional it was decided the chapter presidents needed to get together and discuss some LPA business. On Saturday February 16th we met in Rockford for an officer retreat. Unfortunately Tom Lash was unable to make it; he was busy doing taxes, but the rest of the D6 chapter presidents were there. A variety of topics were covered ranging from an overview of National and a summary of the midyear Irvine meeting to local events and finances. I have included some important notes that came out of the meeting below. These will be discussed in more detail at the Green Bay regional. Please refer to the National news update located inside.

- **District Boundaries** - This mainly concerned the Michigan UP being merged with the Northern Lights chapter or they having their own chapter. The UP is currently apart of District 5 and they and they are working hard to become their own chapter. We will continue discussions about this before anything is decided. We also discussed the large area that the Little Prairie covers.

LPA & District 6 Dates to Remember:

March 8th, 2008

Chapter Bowling Party
Chicago Area

March 29th, 2008

Adults Night Out
Bravo Restaurant
Brookfield, WI

April 11th – April 13th, 2008

Spring Regional – Green Bay, WI
Best Western Midway Hotel

April 19th, 2008

Dana Thomas House
Little Prairie Chapter

May 16th & 17th, 2008

Assistive Technology Expo
State Fair Park
Milwaukee, WI

June 20th – 27th, 2008

51st LPA National Conference
Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center
Detroit, MI

September 27th, 2008

Brewer/Cub Game
Miller Park
Milwaukee, WI

October 2008

Fall Regional – Springfield, IL
Hilton Springfield

Contact Information:

April Brazier

5425 Patriot Drive

Madison, WI 53718

Phone: 608-217-6935

Email: brazierapril@yahoo.com

More discussions about boundaries as well as national approval will have to take place before any changes are made.

- **Lack of volunteering at the chapter level** - As a group we noticed that the same people volunteer to host events. We also acknowledged as a district we are bouncing back from the huge volunteer responsibility of holding a national conference. We recognize people are busy, so instead of trying to hold lots of small events that people try to attend we will concentrate on our standard events such as the bowling party in the Chicago area. We will work on getting those events stronger and continue to encourage people to hold events. This is not something that can change overnight or be corrected with a simple solution. We also came up with a survey to ask our membership how we can encourage volunteering and attendance. Over the next several months we plan on analyzing these survey suggestions to come up with some new ideas for events and encourage more attendance!
- **District 6 2008 Theme: “Getting to Know District 6”** – First off I’d like to thank Allison for bringing the start of this idea to our officer meeting. Earlier this year she mapped out her chapter’s membership based on location, status and age. The results were very informative and she could use this to plan events in better locations and more customized to that area’s age group. From this we decided it would be extremely beneficial to do this for our entire district. I’ve already started this project and Allison is going to come for a visit and help me complete it. The results will be presented at both the Spring and Fall 2008 regionals. I will also include a summary in the next newsletter.
- **Finances** – This topic was mainly tabled because Tom our district treasure was not present. It currently appears all chapter presidents will be at Green Bay and an in-depth discussion will take place during the officer meeting. Before the Green Bay regional a report of our current finances will be created. After the meeting a detailed financial report will be given to District 6 members. With the completed surveys and our project to analyze District 6, we’re hoping to make some financial decisions to benefit members.

REGIONAL NOTES – Please read this some changes will take place starting at the Spring Regional ! Each item was unanimously agreed upon by all present chapter presidents.

1. A lower registration fee for students and senior citizens.
 - a. Student Registration is \$10 a person. A copy of the valid student ID must be enclosed with the members registration form and/or present onsite.
 - b. Senior citizens are \$10 a person or \$20 a couple – a senior citizen is 65 and older.
2. Registration fees will remain unchanged for 2008.
 - a. Paid Members are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for households
 - b. Non-Paid Members are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for households
3. Onsite Registration will be \$5 on site per category as well as \$5 more per event IF that event can be purchased onsite. For example if banquet is \$20 a meal it will be \$25 onsite.
4. Registration will only be available during set times. If you cannot make it to registration during these times you MUST make prior arrangements. For Green Bay it will be:
 - a. Friday Registration: from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
 - b. Saturday Registration: From 8:00 AM to 10:30 AMRegistration will not be available during the general assembly meeting. Once the meeting is over ½ of the regional is over therefore registration is closed. Again if you do NOT plan on getting there until the afternoon arrangements can be made and you will be able to register sometime Saturday afternoon.
5. Bracelets will now be required to get into the dance on Saturday night. If you do NOT register for the regional you will not be permitted into the dance; unless you pay for the dance specifically. Chapter presidents will be monitoring the door.

6. If you choose not to register for the regional and come just for the dance it will be a \$10 cover charge. Please contact April with concerns. Please see “What does registration pay for?”

What does Regional Registration Pay For?

Many times I get the question “Why do I have to pay to come to a regional?” Listed below are what your regional registration goes to pay. Since most of the charges generate from the dance we will charge a cover charge to offset those costs.

- DJ – The average cost is between \$300 - \$500 depending on the location
- Hotel Fees – Room set ups \$100 or more per room; installing the dance floor \$550 (labor cost)
- Banquet decorations – If used minimal costs
- Audio/Visual fees if we use AV
- Name tags or badges
- Wrist bracelets
- Paper & printing costs for tickets, schedules, agendas, registration envelopes, etc
- Hospitality room food – In Lombard the fee for Friday night did NOT cover the cost for the food
- Kids room supplies and snacks
- Supplement Attic when necessary
- Guest expenses – For example when Dr. Pauli comes any food or beverage he wants

Regional Reminders- These have been long standing regional guidelines and serve as a reminder.

1. If you use a different hotel room discount such as AAA the room does not count towards the LPA room block. LPA is fined if we do NOT make our room block. Please let me know if you are making a reservation outside the room block because of pricing and I will work with the hotel. FYI: In Lombard we did NOT make our hotel room block and LPA was fined \$1500, this was actually ½ of the original fine. However at the WI Dells regional we exceeded our room block by more than 20 sleeping rooms that weekend. The room block is hard to determine please make your reservation in LPA’s block.
2. The Kids Room is designed to provide a place for children to interact with their peers while parents participate in LPA related meetings. Parents are expected to stay at the hotel and pick up their children in the Kids Room at the designated time. We want to appreciate volunteers that assist us with the Kids Room so please be considerate of their time.
3. Regional Payment: Please send checks or money orders payable to LPA for mail in registration. These checks are NOT deposited until after the regional, in case there’s a problem with your registration. For onsite registrations cash in the amount will be accepted. In the event that your check is returned for insufficient funds, a returned check fee of \$15 is applied. You cannot attend another regional until payment of the original amount and the \$15 fee are received.

District 6 Announcements

New Baby For The Ingelse Family

Congratulations to Jamon and Julia Ingelse on the birth of their daughter Saige Adalynn. Saige was born on August 10th at 1:11 P.M.; she was 7 pounds 8 ounces and 21 inches long. Cade is a proud big brother and seems to like his baby sister. We look forward to seeing the Ingelse family at future LPA events!

Another Verscha?!

Jenn and Dan Verscha from Rock Island, IL are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy. Noah Daniel was born January 2nd, 2008. They are both excited first time parents and we wish them all the best!

Tekki Lomnicki will present a new show in July!

Tekki is currently working on a new show set to start in July. The dates have not been confirmed but when they are an update will go out. In November Tekki performed in SIX STORIES UP IN WONDERLAND presented by Tellin' Tales Theater. The show was a madcap look at perception, disability and acceptance. The show was November 9th through the 18th at the Viaduct Theater in Chicago. We had an unofficial LPA night on Saturday and after the show went out for pizza. Several District 6ers were there and fun was had by all.

Windy City Bowling Party ~ March 8th

Our annual party is once again upon us. This year's get together (hoping to avoid winter's wrath) will be on Saturday March 8, 2008 at Comet Lanes 308 Theodore Street in Crest Hill, Illinois. There will be open bowling from 1:00-4:00 (bumpers will be available). Of course non-bowlers are certainly welcome as they can come and enjoy the FREE pizza & soda that will be provided by the Chapter. This is a great opportunity to come together & discuss plans & events for the upcoming year. So plan on bringing your bowling apparel & appetite to Comet Lanes & enjoy one of the more popular chapter events. If you are planning on coming we ask that you RSVP Dave Partak (815-722-1601) or dapartak@sbcglobal.net.

Badger Chapter Adults Night Out ~ March 29th

The Next Adults Night Out will be held on Saturday, March 29th at Bravo Italiana in Brookfield. We will meet at our normal time of 6 pm. The average dinner will cost approximately \$10-12. If interested in attending this event, please RSVP with Jason Rasa by Tuesday, March 25th at 262-513-8919. In the event of bad weather or lack of participation, this event may be cancelled.

Little Prairie Outing to the Dana Thomas House ~ April 19th

Little Prairie Chapter is touring the Dana Thomas House on April 19, 2008. We are then going to Chuck E. Cheeses for lunch at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome. Contact Joyce Funkhouser at 309-925-3885 for more info.

District 6 Annual Brewer/Cub Game ~ September 27th, 2008

The second annual Brewer/Cub game for district 6 will be Saturday September 27th, 2008. Game start time is 12:05pm. District 6 will be reserving a block of tickets so everyone can sit together again. As the time gets closer a tailgate will be organized for those interested. The cost of tickets will be about \$30. Please notify April if you are interested. Tickets will only be reserved for you once they are paid for. A set price will be determined in the next 2 weeks and an update via email will go out also more information in Green Bay.

Assistive Technology Expo in Milwaukee, WI – May 16th and 17th, 2008

The Assistive Technology Resource Center at the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute is holding a series of FREE Assistive Technology Expos around Wisconsin. More locations will probably be added at their website. The next scheduled one is at State Fair Park in Milwaukee on May 16th and 17th, 2008. Visit <http://wiatrc.org> to find out more information.

"This event is free and open to the public. There will be technology displays, hands-on trial of equipment, information about funding and community resources and educational, training opportunities."

The Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum

The Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (WI YLF) is Now Accepting Applications! The 8th Annual Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (WI YLF) - An opportunity for high school students with disabilities to improve their leadership and self-advocacy skills, increase their career awareness, learn their rights and responsibilities and meet other youth leaders from throughout the state all while having fun.

Who: Current high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities (i.e. students with an IEP or 504 plan)

Where: Edgewood College Campus, Madison, WI When: June 22 - 27, 2008

Cost: No cost to attend

What You Can Do: Please contact Caroline Leung, WI YLF Director at carolinebleung@yahoo.com or (414)736-0972, for an application and pass on to students, teachers, or other school personnel who may have an interest in the YLF.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 21, 2008

Other Info: The application process is competitive and includes completing the application itself, responding to 2 essay questions, and obtaining 3 letters of recommendation. The top 30 applicants will be invited to attend the YLF. An additional 10 are selected as alternates.

Please contact Allison at Allison@lourash.com with any questions or to get an application from her!

District 6 Yahoo Groups

The number of members on our District 6 Yahoo group keeps growing, we now have 90 members! If you want to get the most current information about District 6 and its events please become a member today! It's easy to do, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/lpadistrict6>. When you join you can choose individual messages or digest format. This is a low volume group mainly used by District 6 members; only 6 messages have been posted since the start of 2008. If you have any questions about this or are having trouble becoming a member do NOT hesitate to contact April. She can send you an invitation to join which takes you right to the page!

Renew Your LPA Membership

It's easier than ever to renew your LPA membership. Either call LPA at 1-800-LPA-2001 or visit www.lpaonline.org to renew your membership online. Simply go to the main site, click on membership benefits in the top tool bar and from the drop down menu choose Pay Now. From here you can choose to either print the form out and mail it in with payment or pay online. If you have any questions about this please contact April Brazier.

Spring Regional 2008

Green Bay, WI

Hotel Contact Information:

Best Western Midway Hotel

780 Armed Forces Drive ~ Green Bay, WI 54304

Phone: 920-499-3161 or 800-780-7234

[Http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=50025](http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=50025)

Reservations & Room Rate: \$80.00 + tax - hotel reservations must be made by Friday March 21st, 2008. Attendees can start making their hotel reservations now. Please mention the group Little People of America when calling to get the \$80 a night group rate.

Fee Waiver: For those attending their first regional conference or those that might find it difficult to afford the cost of a regional please contact April Brazier for a waiver of the registration fee. The fee waiver only applies to LPA registration costs. Hotel and meal costs are the responsibility of the attendee.

Hotel Information: The Best Western Hotel - Green Bay is located in the heart of the entertainment district within walking distance of Packer Hall of Fame, Lambeau Field and the Resch Center. This recently renovated Wisconsin hotel is located minutes from downtown Green Bay and is close to activities such as casino gambling, cross country skiing and 13 different golf courses. Many of Green Bay's attractions are located near the hotel including Shopko Hall, the National Railroad Museum and the Green Bay Botanical Gardens.

Guests can enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast in the morning and after-dinner drinks at the onsite cocktail lounge. On Friday and Saturday nights karaoke is available in the hotel lounge for anyone who can hold a tune, or thinks they can! Other hotel amenities include an indoor pool, spa, steam room, sauna, fitness center, dry cleaning services and game room featuring pool tables and ping pong.

Airport/Shuttle Service: The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to and from Green Bay's Austin Straubel Airport. Please contact the hotel directly at 920-499-3161 to arrange for this. The shuttle is NOT handicapped accessible and it seats up to 6 people, not including luggage.

Outside the Hotel: Visitors to Green Bay will be minutes from Neville Public Museum, Heritage Hills State Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. Green Bay Packers fans will appreciate being 0.2 miles from the Packers Hall of Fame and Lambeau Field.

Oneida Casino and Bingo offers a shuttle to and from the hotel for those interested in gambling. Visit <http://www.oneidabingoandcasino.net/> to find out more. This may be an adults outing contact April Brazier or follow up at registration in Green Bay.

Regional Schedule

(Dates, Times and Events are subject to change without notice)

Friday Night

Hospitality Suite **6:00pm – 9pm**
Snacks, refreshments and plenty of conversation are found here. Please pick up your registration here.

Attic **6:00pm – 9pm**
A \$5 fee will be charged for each teen attending the attic to cover the cost of activities and light snacks. A TV will be set up with DVDs and a Playstation.

Icebreaker in the Attic **8:00pm**

Adult trip to Oneida Casino (this will be canceled if there's a lack of interest) **9:00pm - TBD**
Please indicate you are interested in attending this and more details will be sent to you individually. Pricing and transportation depends on the number of people interested.

Saturday

Children's Room **8:30am – 12:15pm**

Attic **8:00am – Noon**

Parents Meeting **9:00am – 10:15am**
As always parents are encouraged to bring questions and/or concerns with them to this informal discussion. Heather and Suzie, our parent coordinators, will offer insight on raising a child with dwarfism.

Attic Workshop **10:30am**
Allison will conduct a teen themed workshop during the general assembly meeting.

District Meeting **10:30am – Noon**
You don't want to miss this district meeting; many topics will be covered! The theme for District 6 this year is "Getting to know District 6". We will discuss the results from our survey, that is/was included in the spring newsletter. We will also cover information about our district membership and what it means for volunteering and planning future events. Finally a summary of what was covered at the midyear meeting in Irvine, CA.

Teen (and Family) Pizza Pool Party **12:00pm – 1:00pm**
Come to the hotel pool at lunch for a pool and pizza party. Pizza will be coming from a local pizza place and it's free for those who registered in the Attic! A reserved table to hang out for the teens will be available. For anyone else that wants to have pizza while playing in the pool, it'll be \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. Onsite registration will NOT be available for this event.

Hall of Fame/Lambeau Field Tours **2:00pm – 4:00pm**
Want to see what makes Green Bay famous? Visit Lambeau Field! Hall of Fame and Lambeau field tours are available at a group rate. You can do either tour or both if you want. The group tour starts at 2:00pm on Saturday. Onsite registration is NOT available for this.

Dinner Brett Farve's Steakhouse

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Instead of the usual hotel banquet style dinner at the hotel I have made reservation for our group at Brett Farve's Steakhouse across the street from our hotel. Our group will be dining in the Hall of Fame room which is the most unique room there. It includes an original mural by Wisconsin artist Jim Hartell, featuring all of the Green Bay Packer players and coaches that have been inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame. A trophy cases feature football memorabilia from days gone by.

Below are the dinner choices and a children's option. Please remember the children's meal is ONLY available to those 12 and under. A cash bar will also be available.

This dinner option is only available to the FIRST 50 people that register for it! The Hall of Fame room has a seating capacity for only 50 guests; I cannot make exceptions to this. Onsite registration for this will be available if the 50 person limit is not met.

All dinner items include a spring green salad, choice of dressing, suggested potato, Chef's seasonal vegetable, bread and coffee, tea and iced tea.

- 8oz. Filet Mignon Served with Garlic Mashed potatoes
- Chicken Oscar Marinated breast of chicken grilled and topped with fresh asparagus & crabmeat. Finished with Hollandaise and served with wild rice
- Herb Encrusted Cod Atlantic cod topped with herbs & breadcrumbs. Served with wild rice
- Grilled Vegetable Pasta Fire roasted tomatoes, roasted artichokes, & kalamata olives tossed with Penne & Parmesan
- Children's Option Chicken fingers and fries

DJ Banquet

8:00pm – Midnight

Come dance the night away with DJ Rob. You must be registered for the regional to enter the dance. If you wish to come to the dance only and you're not registered a \$10 cover will be charged.

Sunday

District Breakfast

8:00am – 10:00am

Reserved table seating will be available for our district to have eat breakfast together before leaving. Continental breakfast is still complimentary; however if you wish to have the breakfast buffet which includes a variety of hot breakfast items the cost is \$5. This options will NOT be available at onsite registration.

Northern Lights Chapter Meeting

9:00am - 10:00am

Allison will be hosting a quick Northern Lights Chapter meeting before everyone heads home. Location will be given out at registration.

Officer Meeting

10:00am – 11:30am

All chapter presidents are requested to attend. I will let you know what room this will be in on Friday. I will try to have this done before 11:30 so people can get on the road. Thanks!

Registration Form

District 6 Spring Regional 2008

The main contact will be the person called if there's a problem with your registration. Double check the contact information!				
Main Contact Name:				
Main Contact Phone:				
Main Contact Email:				
Adult Attendees List all persons 18 & over; include relatives and guests.				
First Name		Last Name		
1.				
2.				
3.				
Teen/Tween Circle Yes to register for the Attic; its \$5 per person.				
First Name		Last Name	Age	Attic (Circle)
1.				Yes or No
2.				Yes or No
Total:				
Children's Room List all the children attending. Circle Yes if your child will be in the kid's room				
First Name		Last Name	Age	Kids Room
1.				Yes or No
2.				Yes or No
3.				Yes or No
Total:				
Included Events – I just need a count of members for planning				
Hospitality Suite # of people:				
Attic Teens for Pizza # teens:				
General Assembly # of people:				
Interested in Oneida Casino:				

Registration			
PAID Members			
Individual \$20:		Household \$30:	
Students \$10:		Seniors Single \$10:	
		Seniors Couple \$20:	
		SUBTOTAL:	
NON Members			
Individual \$30:		Household \$40:	
Students \$10:		Seniors \$15/\$20	
		SUBTOTAL:	
On Site Events			
Adults for Saturday Pool Party:		X \$5	=
Kids 12 & under Sat. Pool Party #:		X \$2	=
Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffet		X \$5	
		SUBTOTAL:	
Off Site Events (Kids are 12 and under)			
Lambeau Field ONLY:		SUBTOTAL:	
Adults:	\$9.50 X	=	Kids: \$6.70 X =
Hall of Fame ONLY:		SUBTOTAL:	
Adults:	\$8.60 X	=	Kids: \$3.80 X =
Both Lambeau and Hall of Fame:		SUBTOTAL:	
Adults:	\$16.20 X	=	Kids: \$9.50 X =
Banquet			
Brett Favre's Steakhouse Dinner			
• 8oz Filet	\$32	X	=
• Chicken Oscar	\$22	X	=
• Herb Encrusted Cod	\$23	X	=
• Grilled Pasta	\$17	X	=
• Kids Chicken Fingers (12 & under only)	\$7	X	=
		SUBTOTAL:	
GRAND TOTAL:			

All Registrations must be postmarked by April 1st otherwise they will be processed as onsite registration and additional charges will be applied.
 All Checks should be made out to LPA District 6 and mailed to: April Brazier 5425 Patriot Drive Madison, WI 53718. Use the back for additional people.

Chapter

List your Chapter: _____

7. Do you have any needs that are currently not being addressed at a regional event?

8. At a chapter level what do you see as our strengths and weaknesses?
 - Strength:

 - Weakness:

9. What is something District 6 could do to encourage you to host chapter events?

Communication

10. What information do you wish you would have received in your first regional registration packet that you did not? (This is the regional information that comes out in the newsletter for pre-registration; this could maybe have made you feel more welcomed or answered general questions.)

11. What is the primary way you receive information about LPA events? (listserv, emails, newsletter or word of mouth)

Finances

12. If you were given \$500 to spend on items for District 6 what would you buy?

13. What is one thing you would like to see Milwaukee conference money spent on.

LPA National News & Update

2008 National Conference: Detroit, Michigan ~ June 20th – June 28th, 2007

LPA will host its 51st Annual LPA National conference in Detroit. All of you should have received the registration packet in the mail. If you have NOT gotten it please go to www.lpaonline.org and download it!

Hotel: Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center

Phone: 800-228-9290 or direct at 313-568-8000

Room Rate: \$99 a night + tax

DAAA Events: Wayne State University will host all DAAA events.

A Special Note from the 2008 Conference Committee:

2008 Conference Update

The Detroit Renaissance Marriott Hotel is ready and waiting for us to arrive June 20-27, 2008. For the first time, conference attendees will be able to make their own on-line LPA Conference Registration and Hotel Reservations.

Conference attendees will be required to first make a \$65 deposit towards their LPA Conference Registration to get the necessary password to make hotel reservations. Deposits will be accepted through our on-line system, by mail and by phone. The hotel will not accept reservations at the LPA rate without a valid password.

We look forward to everyone coming to Motown in 2008!

Some important things to note:

- Early registration ends April 15th.
- Check your road construction. Many of the people from District 6 will be driving. The most update road construction info can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdot
- General assembly will be Monday June 23 and Tuesday June 24th.
- Medical workshops go Monday June 23rd through Wednesday June 25th.
- Casino Night will be Saturday June 21st

April Brazier
LPA District 6 Director
5425 Patriot Drive
Madison, WI 53718

