



*Little People of America*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



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# LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA CELEBRATES ITS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## REFLECTIONS ON HOW FAR WE HAVE COME, AND HOW FAR WE HAVE YET TO GO

By Meg Dedman and Joanna Campbell

Sixty years ago, actor Billy Barty invited people of short stature across America to join him in Reno, Nevada. In a landmark event, Mr. Barty and 20 others gathered for a week – sharing their hopes, ideas and experiences, and Little People of America, Inc. (LPA) was born.

The first LPA meeting was monumental for a group of people who were severely mislabeled and misunderstood by society. Media coverage reflected the attitude of the times...“the small people here today are endowed with that good quality that takes them out of the realm of oddity into the realm of humanity...” (*San Francisco News*, April 1957). Clearly, Barty and his colleagues had a lot of work to do.

Whether it be dwarf, midget, little person, small person, having dwarfism, person of short stature or the wealth of other haphazard descriptives, public understanding of what dwarfism actually meant was incomplete and inaccurate, so much so that revising dictionaries was an action item in LPA’s first meeting minutes.

Barty’s belief in recognizing people with dwarfism as people first and his desire to promote awareness about the challenges presented to people of small size guided LPA on its mission of education and advocacy. Though not without challenges, each decade of LPA’s existence has been marked by progress – within our organization itself and society as a whole.



**RIVERSIDE HOTEL - RENO, NEVADA APRIL 3, 1957**

**Back Row: Launa Shelton, James Robinson, Lillian Johnson, Waino Johnson, Paul Dolinajec, Emil Kranzler, Mark Balluck**

**2nd Row: Albert Anderson, Minnete Anderson, Robert Hinkson, Frank Delfino, Robert Preston**

**1st Row: Billy Barty, Hilda Lange, Stan Osborne, Dan Turner, Robert Shoemaker,**

## **1960's**

In the 1960's, LPA established its constitution, formed Committees to support key initiatives – adoptions, education, employment and resources for new parents/LP children. They also established their motto, “Think Big”. LPA's involvement with the medical community began – bringing much-needed medical expertise to LP families and laying the foundation for today's Medical Advisory Board.

Formed in 1963, LPA's Medical Advisory Board (MAB) now includes more than 25 highly respected geneticists, genetic counselors, orthopedists, neurologists and researchers who specialize in treating people with dwarfism. To be admitted to the MAB a doctor must demonstrate, over time, their on-going commitment to the dwarfism community, be extremely knowledgeable in their medical discipline and the various types of dwarfism, and be voted in by their peers.

On its 10th anniversary in 1967, Art Linkletter, a popular talk show host, invited all LPA Convention attendees to his CBS show *House Party*, for a discussion about the issues facing little people.

**LPA MEMBERSHIP NEARLY DOUBLED FROM 663 IN 1966, TO 1071 IN 1969**

## **1970's**

The 1970's saw continued growth in membership, development of the LPA Foundation, a fundraising arm for LPA, and the first Short Stature Symposium at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1972. Local chapters also began to emerge.

In 1972, LPA conducted the first employment survey of little people. Results revealed that LPs were employed in a broad range of occupations in many career fields – further proof that people of short stature were people first, capable of pursuing any profession.

**LPA MEMBERSHIP GREW TO OVER 2,100 MEMBERS IN 1974**

## **1980's**

The 1980's were a pivotal decade for LPA largely due to the beginning of efforts to support other dwarfism-related organizations throughout the world, as well as obtain mainstream media coverage.

The 25th Anniversary of LPA was celebrated in 1982 with a return to Reno, Nevada with 600 people in attendance. The value of LPA's contribution to self-esteem was evident. Charter Member Lillian Johnson, then 74, said of LPA: “There are so many more things Little People can do with their lives. When I was a child, it was either the circus or fairs. I'm very thankful for LPA.”

The First International Conference of Little People was held in 1982, in Washington D.C. Delegates from seven nations and the U. S. attended the conference. In 1985, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico was the site of the first LPA Conference held outside the United States. Italy was the host of the International Conference on Achondroplasia (the most common form of dwarfism) held in 1986.

On the television front, Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey featured people with dwarfism on their programs, spurring inquiries for information about LPA as well as LPA membership growth.

Despite these positive developments, there were still setbacks. Dwarf tossing was introduced in Florida and some other states. However, a strong response from LPA and its members resulted in a ban of this activity in Florida and other states.

## MEMBERSHIP ROSE FROM 2,150 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DECADE, TO 4,734 BY THE END OF 1989

### **1990's**

In the 1990's, LPA membership continued to climb. Crucial medical study findings regarding dwarfism were released, along with legislation that benefited people of short stature.

The Americans with Disabilities Act became federal law in January of 1990 and was enacted by many states to provide access to services, buildings, and employment for disabled individuals including individuals with short stature. Later in the decade, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) adopted 48 inches as the standard height in new and remodeled structures. Members from LPA have participated in the ANSI hearings to advocate for our needs specifically. What works for a person in a wheelchair is not necessarily going to work for a person with dwarfism.

The practice of limb lengthening was introduced into American medical practice and immediately resulted in questions and concerns from the leadership of LPA. A position statement authored by LPA's medical advisory board, "Extended Limb Lengthening – Setting the Record Straight", reviewed the pros and cons of the procedure as well as recommendations for those considering it. The document was revised in 2006.

In 1994, scientists discovered the gene responsible for achondroplasia. This revolutionary discovery raised concerns about when and how such information would be used. LPA reviewed the findings and immediately presented a position paper "Little People of America Comes to Terms with Genetic Testing."

### **2000's**

A major focus of LPA activities during this decade was fundraising to support key programs and initiatives. In the public arena, the launch of a reality show featuring an LP family active in LPA made an enormous impact on public perceptions across the globe.

*Little People – Big World* debuted on The Learning Channel in 2006 and followed the lives of the Roloff family – the parents (little people) and their four children (1 LP and three average height). The series continues to be a milestone for people of short stature because it appears on mainstream television and presents LPs as people first, just as Billy Barty and his fellow Charter Members intended. Today the show continues with specials and spin-offs following various family members.

## LPA HAS ALMOST 6,000 MEMBERS

In an effort to be proactive in encouraging public awareness and positive stories of the dwarfism community LPA initiated Dwarfism Awareness Month in 2009. Today the movement involves a celebration of October 25 (Billy Barty's birthday) as International Dwarfism Awareness Day. People around the world post pictures, hold interviews, and host events to further the awareness and acceptance of dwarfism in all countries.

## 2010's

With the leadership of President Gary Arnold and Executive Director Joanna Campbell, the focus of these recent years has been integrating LPA and dwarfism into the greater disability community, development of LPA as a strong non-profit organization with proper practices and well-established programs, and developing a larger international presence and furthering relationships. LPA organized the first International Dwarfism Leadership Summit in October 2016 in Berlin, Germany. One hundred people from 22 countries and 25 organizations attended the Summit. In December of 2017 two LPA members attended the First International Meeting of Achondroplasia Associations hosted by the National Association for Growing Problems (CRECER) in Madrid, Spain.

LPA MEMBERSHIP IS SOLIDLY AT 6500 MEMBERS AND 2600 HOUSEHOLDS, WITH HALF OF THE HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING A LIFETIME MEMBER

Pharmaceutical developments have also become an issue for LPA and our community to grapple with. Drugs from multiple pharmaceutical research companies are in development for achondroplasia and predicted to be on the commercial market by 2020. With these new developments come many challenges that LPA and its members must face. What was once a far off idea is now close to being realized and the drugs impact on our community is certain to be a source of many conversations and emotions – worry, relief, sadness, hope, concern. The Medical Advisory Board published the “Genetic Biotechnology Research Position Statement” in 2012.

As reality TV grew this decade, so have shows featuring people with dwarfism. From documentaries to reality TV to mainstream entertainment, actors and individuals with dwarfism opened the door to viewers to life as a little person.

Advocacy has become an important part of LPA in the 2010's. With the advent of social media and the ability to communicate and respond rapidly and on a large scale with a mobilized membership, LPA has been able to make our voices heard on important issues.

As the world's foremost advocate for individuals with dwarfism, LPA provides educational scholarships, medical resources, adoption grants and social opportunities for its members. LPA also offers invaluable emotional support and medical expertise for people of short stature and their families.

Through its 60-year history as a volunteer organization, countless members and officers have selflessly given their time and talent, working together to achieve a common vision – support and acceptance for physical differences.

What began as a casual conversation among friends gave birth to an organization that serves as an invaluable source of information, support and hope for people with dwarfism.

For 60 years Little People of America, Inc. (LPA) has been providing support to people with dwarfism. We look forward to continuing the work and enhancing the mission established by our founders and our leaders throughout our history.



## A MESSAGE FROM LPA'S PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sixty years of Little People of America!

It may be hard to believe, but in 2017 we reached that impressive and meaningful milestone.

In the pages of our 2016-17 annual report, we have attempted to honor our past while embracing our future. In this year's annual report, you'll find a salute to our first 60 years and our founder Billy Barty, a summary of LPA programs and events, and an abbreviated financial report.

As we enter into our 61<sup>st</sup> year, we see exciting things happening in LPA. We are reaching out to others around the world and offering support and information, but we are also listening and learning from our international connections about their societal constructs, medical developments and hopes for the future. The dwarfism community is more connected than ever, and what affects our friends in other parts of the world, also affects us.

The public's interest in dwarfism continues to be at an all-time high, and with information available almost instantly through a Google search we now have the ability to reach more people than ever before. Diagnosis occurs quicker, information is available faster, advocacy issues are addressed rapidly and broadly, and support is available anytime, either through a social media site, email or a phone call.

It makes us proud to see the long list of accomplishments that LPA has achieved over the last 60 years. As a large, primarily volunteer organization, LPA would not be where we are today without the countless hours of dedication from our members throughout the United States.

Here is to continued years of growth and success!

Best regards,

**Mark Povinelli**

President

**Joanna Campbell**

Executive Director (2006-2017)



# LPA TIMELINE

- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1957 | Membership began with 20 members   | 2000 | Death of Billy Barty  |
| 1961 | LPA Incorporation, Indianapolis, Indiana   | 2003 | Death of Lee Kitchens   |
| 1961 | LPA began assisting individuals wishing to adopt children with dwarfism  | 2004 | National Headquarters Office opened in Hillsboro, Oregon  |
| 1962 | The general membership participated in voting for the first time   | 2005 | National Conference attendance exceeds the 2,000 mark, Orlando, Florida   |
| 1962 | LPA's first national newsletter was published  | 2005 | Transportation Security Administration (TSA) delegate attends meetings representing little peoples' needs in new airline passenger safety regulations |
| 1964 | First chapter organized Dal - Worth, Texas   | 2006 | LPA hires Executive Director, Joanna Campbell   |
| 1964 | Parents Auxiliary organized  | 2007 | Blue Ridge, Virginia - most recent chapter to be chartered (69th)   |
| 1965 | Membership at 736  | 2007 | Record attendance of 2,437 at national conference in Seattle, Washington—the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of LPA                                      |
| 1967 | Annual Conference, Hollywood, California 300 in attendance   | 2008 | LPA Headquarters moves to Tustin, California and hires 2 new employees  |
| 1968 | Medical Advisory Board formally established  | 2009 | LPA declares October Dwarfism Awareness Month   |
| 1972 | First Short Stature Symposium Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland  | 2009 | Little People of America Facebook page begins   |
| 1975 | Membership at 2,200  | 2009 | LPA joins National Disability Leadership Alliance Steering Committee, a national, grassroots, membership coalition run by people with disabilities    |
| 1976 | 15th chapter chartered - San Antonio/Austin, Texas   | 2010 | Membership at 2,902 households and 6,800 people   |
| 1982 | 25th Anniversary Convention - Reno, Nevada   | 2012 | LPA airs PSA in Times Square in New York for the summer   |
| 1984 | LPA members appear on Phil Donahue Show and Oprah Winfrey Show   | 2012 | LPA Advocacy thwarts a legislative attempt to reverse a ban on dwarf tossing in Florida   |
| 1985 | 40th chapter chartered - Mid Hudson, New York  | 2014 | Board of Directors restructured from 20 to 11 members   |
| 1985 | LPA National Convention held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  | 2015 | LPA receives \$2.4 million dollar bequest, distributed over 40 years  |
| 1986 | LPA became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and changed the name of "conventions" to "conferences"   | 2016 | LPA organizes and hosts the first International Dwarfism Leadership Summit in Berlin Germany with 22 countries in attendance                          |
| 1986 | Dwarf Athletic Association of America (DAAA) held its first National Games in conjunction with the LPA National Conference in Dearborn, Michigan | 2016 | National Conference in Boston hosts 2,315   |
| 1988 | American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Delegate attended Access Standards meetings representing little people's concerns and needs         | 2017 | Membership at 2,659 Households and 6,582 people   |
| 1990 | Dwarf tossing outlawed in Florida  | 2017 | LPA office relocated to Sonoma, California  |
| 1993 | First World Dwarf Games - Chicago, Illinois  |      |   |
| 1994 | Gene for achondroplasia discovered   |      |   |
| 1995 | Membership at 5,345  |      |   |
| 1997 | LPA Online website began operation   |      |   |
| 1998 | National Conference in LA exceeds 1,500 in attendance  |      |   |
| 1998 | First paid employee began work with LPA at Lee Kitchen's house in Texas, Monica Pratt  |      |   |

## A FIRST GATHERING

## INTERNATIONAL DWARISM

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



## LPA FOUNDER BILLY BARTY



William John Bertanzetti was born on October 25, 1924 in Millsboro, Pennsylvania.

Naturally outgoing and incredibly cute, Billy chanced into a career in

show business. He appeared in his first Hollywood feature in 1927 at the age of three, and his performing career spanned eight decades, from vaudeville to Las Vegas, from radio and television to Broadway and feature movies.

Billy moved to Southern California in 1927 when his family relocated from the coal mines of Eastern Pennsylvania. Billy was an athlete, playing football, baseball, gymnastics and basketball in high school and college. He majored in journalism in college, thinking

perhaps he would be a sports writer or announcer.

In the mid-1950s, Billy was asked by a PR man for a Reno, Nevada hotel to host a convention for "midgets." Billy agreed, and on April 3, 1957, 21 people of short stature representing nine different states met in "The Biggest Little City in the World." The media loved the event, headlining them as "The Midgets of America," which concerned Billy.

"It bothered me because, first and foremost, we are people. We aren't sub-human, we didn't leap from the pages of a storybook or from an enchanted forest. We are people with all the hopes, dreams, passions, and faults of everyone else. We are your brothers, your daughters, your friends. We just happened to have been wrapped in a smaller package. I wanted the name of our group to reflect this truth."

Politically active for the rights of disabled people, Billy represented

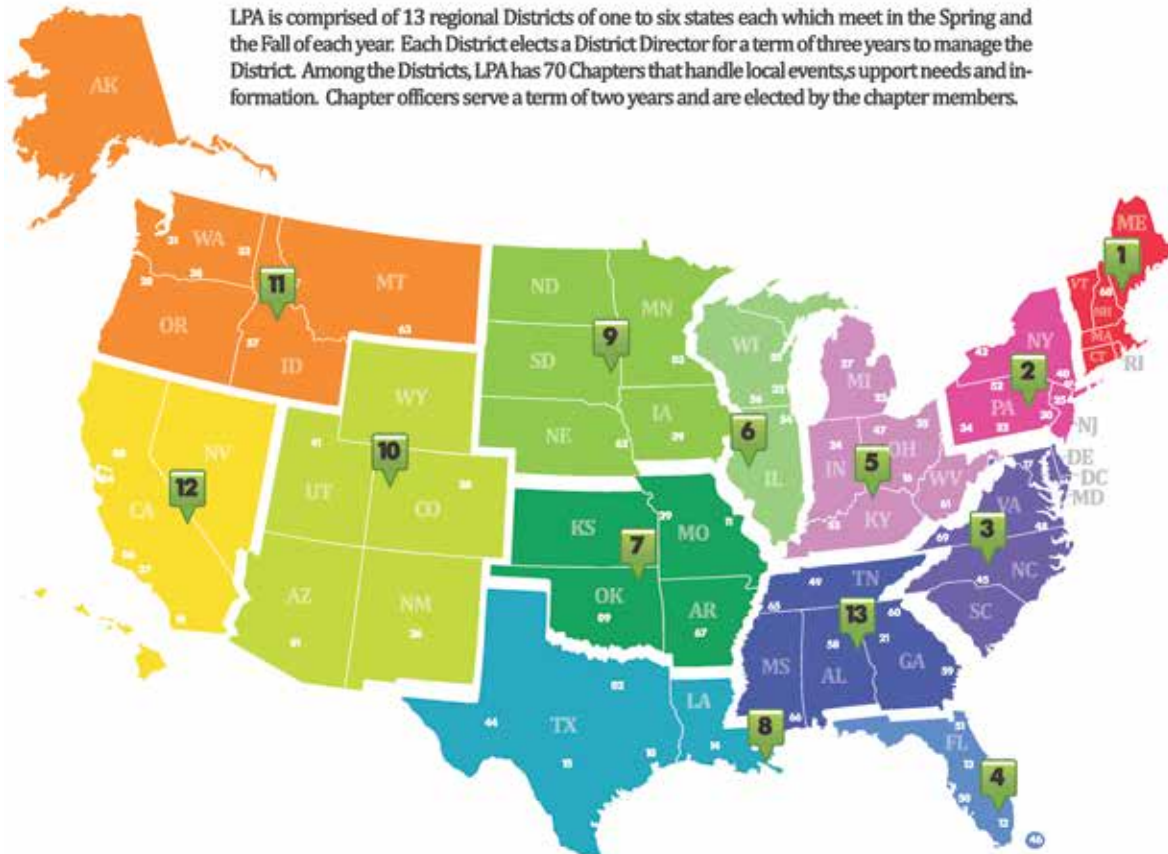
the needs of little people in government accessibility groups all across the country.

Billy was happily married to Shirley Bartly, the woman he vowed to marry the moment he met her. They had two children: Lori, a little person, and Braden, who is average-height at six-foot one inch. When asked about his family, Billy said, "So this is my family. We are very close and loving, and have had many blessings from the Man Upstairs. Shirley is an angel from heaven and she is the reason life is worth living for me. As far as our physical descriptions go, Braden is average, I'm a Cartilage Hair Syndrome Hypoplasia, Shirley is a Multiple Epipesial Dysplasia, Lori is a Turner's Syndrome and our dog is a Maltese."

Billy passed away on December 23, 2000. Shirley passed away on November 4, 2007.

## REGIONAL DISTRICTS AND LOCAL CHAPTERS

LPA is comprised of 13 regional Districts of one to six states each which meet in the Spring and the Fall of each year. Each District elects a District Director for a term of three years to manage the District. Among the Districts, LPA has 70 Chapters that handle local events, support needs and information. Chapter officers serve a term of two years and are elected by the chapter members.





# LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

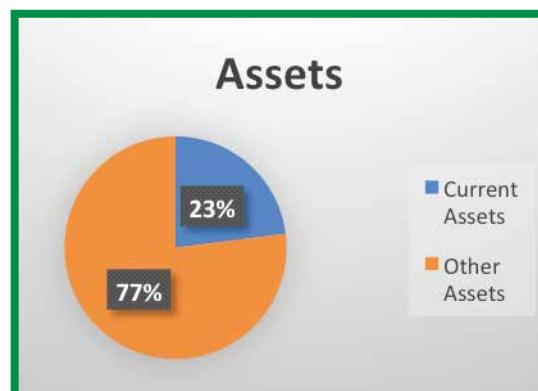
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### ASSETS

Current Assets (checking/savings)	\$ 291,941
Other Assets (investments)	\$ <u>978,512</u>
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$1,270,453</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$ 52,604
Equity	
Restricted Funds	\$1,052,129
Retained Earnings	\$ 232,385
Net Income	\$ <u>-66,666</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,217,848</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b>	<b>\$1,270,453</b>



### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

#### INCOME

Total Contributions	\$ 262,146
Membership Dues	\$ 46,174
Net Conference Income	\$ -65,652
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,090
Investment Income	\$ <u>55,184</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$ 299,942</b>

#### EXPENSE

Program Services	\$ 125,195
Payroll	\$ 90,862
Software / Tech Support	\$ 11,423
Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$ 10,083
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 2,443
Insurance	\$ 4,457
Postage and Printing	\$ 31,975
Supplies	\$ 3,070
Professional Fees / Contract Labor	\$ 15,371
Rent	\$ 17,649
Telephone & Other Office	\$ 5,581
Travel	\$ 18,099
Director, Officer & Committee Expense	\$ 27,992
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>2,408</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSE: \$ 366,608**

**NET INCOME: \$ -66,666**



# LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA



If you've attended an LPA National Conference, you know the life-affirming impact it has on your life.

You also know how big it is, with daily events from 7:00 am to 1:00 am at night. There are multiple tracks of workshops, dedicated rooms for kids and teens, on-site doctor appointments and at night there are spaces for everyone: the large dance, the Barty Room, the teen room, Bingo, talent show, fashion show, etc... Many events have DJ's and professional audio / visual. These activities are just the tip of the iceberg. All of this requires planning and resources.

For example, 2016's Boston Conference had a \$361,000 budget. Your LPA Board is

committed to three conference goals and have charged the CMC that conferences should be: 1) accessible to as many of our members as possible, 2) affordable for the majority of our members, and 3) financially solvent over the long-term.

**1) Accessible to our Members** — Several years ago, the Board made a conscious decision to plan geographically diverse conferences. We already had data showing that coastal conferences had the highest attendance and generally the most net profit. It would have been easy and profitable to have conferences in CA and NY annually, but we wouldn't be reaching our entire membership. Therefore, we planned St Louis, Denver and Austin.

# A NATIONAL CONFERENCES



**2) Affordable** — LPA base registration for our last conference was \$140. Compare that to a corporate conference where registration can run thousands of dollars for half the time and fewer activities to meet fewer age ranges and interests. We can do this through the help of our dedicated volunteers. However, our margin for error is extremely tight. The CMC and the Board are committed to keeping costs affordable, while putting on a professional event that meets the needs of all our members and the experience that you have come to expect.

**3) Financial Results** — We recognize some conferences will have larger attendance and “profits,” while other conferences will be smaller with less “profit”. In 2017, the

Denver conference was the least attended conference since at least 2003, and frankly, less attended than we had planned for. That resulted in fewer rooms reserved than we had blocked out – which we were financially responsible for and resulted in our largest loss to date. But over the last 15 years, 11 conferences have ended in the black and more than offset the four “loss” years during that time period.

Looking ahead, the CMC is working hard to minimize future losses, while keeping conference costs affordable and geographically diverse for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando in 2018, and in the many years after that!

# MAJOR PROGRAMS

LPA carries out its purpose through a series of programs designed to serve our members and their families. Our major programs include:

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

LPA is committed to building awareness about dwarfism throughout the United States and internationally. We do this through the work of our Advocacy and Community Outreach Committees and our Advocacy Director. These members are available to provide information about dwarfism, conduct community outreach workshops in local communities, and communicate LPA's position on national policy and issues. LPA also established October as National Dwarfism Awareness Month in 2009. Many of our nation's 50 states, along with Puerto Rico, have officially recognized October as Dwarfism Awareness Month to date, with efforts for other states to do so currently underway. During National Dwarfism Awareness Month, local chapters hold awareness events, encourage local press coverage about dwarfism, and more. Over the past year, LPA has also begun to exhibit at various genetics conferences. Because of the pharmaceutical developments over the last 5 years, it is vitally important that LPA maintain a powerful presence and enable education and conversations with researchers, biotech companies, and clinicians.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

LPA provides educational scholarships for college or vocational training, adoption resources and grants, and travel assistance funding for first-time conference attendees. We have a variety of programs and donors in each of these 3 areas. Some funds are general and some are donor directed. We are very thankful to be the recipient of a yearly on-going gift from the Barbara B. Highland Charitable Remainder Trust that funds three of these programs. They are: a program specifically for graduate students, a first time conference fund available to individuals 18 and over, and [www.lpaonline.org](http://www.lpaonline.org) | 12

an adoption fund targeted towards placing older children with larger support grants. The Highland Charitable Trust also pays for the Medical Clinic that is provided by our MAB at the National Conference each year.

## ADOPTION RESOURCES AND GRANTS

LPA's Adoption Program is the best adoption program in existence for a patient-advocacy non-profit organization. Having a focus on finding children with a certain or probable diagnosis (dwarfism) from many countries around the world, and also having the ability to connect waiting, hopeful, and prepared families is unique in this area of the adoption world.



Although we are not an adoption agency, the Adoption Program was one of the very first programs LPA initiated in the late 1950's. Today our adoptive children come primarily from Asia, but when we started our children came from the US. As times have changed, so have our abilities and focus. In the last ten years, our Adoption Coordinator has helped more than

155 children find their forever families and has advocated for 300 children.

## MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Our Medical Advisory Board is comprised of more than 25 respected geneticists, genetic therapists, orthopedists, neurologists, and researchers. Our Medical Advisory Board donate their time at each annual National Conference, and may attend district conferences as well. They hold workshops and consult with patients free-of-charge. This is a vital lifeline for many of our members who do not have adequate access to specialists in dwarfism due to geographic or insurance limitations. Very few other organizations have such a well-developed and successful relationship with the medical community interested in their diagnosis. The MAB has also been instrumental in educating and supporting the LPA Board and members in emerging treatments.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

LPA's two websites, [lpaonline.org](http://lpaonline.org) and the Medical Resource Center, are highly regarded, comprehensive tools that receive thousands of hits a month from members and nonmembers, people of short and average stature, the media, researchers, medical professionals, and others. The LPA site contains national and local

contacts, information on membership, local meetings, national and regional conferences, scholarships and grants, LPA publications, adoption resources, adaptive products, organizations in other countries, and sites for specific dwarfism types. Our Medical Resource Center is a comprehensive collection of medical articles and sites featuring many of the 400 types of dwarfism. By Spring of 2018 both sides will be mobile-optimized. LPA also has an official Facebook page with nearly 15,000 friends, and a few specific Facebook pages for Special Interest Groups and a Parents Page.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The LPA annual national conference attracts as many as 2,500 people for a week full of fun, sharing, learning and peer support. Our conferences occur in a different U.S. city each July. The conference includes more than 30 workshops, daily parent meetings, teen events, children's activities, fashion and talent shows, a celebration banquet, athletic events through our sister organization, the Dwarf Athletic Association of America (DAAA), and nightly dancing. A free medical clinic is offered by world renowned specialists in dwarfism. Workshops cover a variety of topics, such as disability rights, advocacy, medical issues, sibling concerns, adaptive living, and employment.



# YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO LPA

LPA is thankful to the hundreds of members and friends whose contributions provide critical funding for a number of LPA's programs and services. Donors contribute to our annual \$50 for 50 More Years Campaign, fund scholarships through their yearly contribution, and leave a lasting legacy for LPA by making a gift through their will or estate plan. In addition, businesses and individuals also provide financial sponsorship for select aspects of the national conference, such as education tracks, receptions or nightly events, each year.

In 2016-17, hundreds of donors contributed over \$292,000 to LPA. This amount included \$86,000 in gifts made specifically to our annual fundraising program, the \$50 for 50 More Years Campaign, and several bequests to LPA. Over the last decade LPA has received \$468,877 in donations specifically towards our \$50 for 50 More Years annual appeal, and \$1,636,714 in donations overall.

Thanks to our friends' and members' support over the last decade we have granted \$95,000 in adoption support, awarded 270 scholarships totaling \$258,054, and helped nearly 300 first-time families and Individuals attend a national conference with grants totaling \$200,000.

Over the last decade LPA has been the beneficiary of many wonderful major donations through family foundations or bequests. We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge these organizations and individuals who have donated \$25,000 or more over the last 10 years: the John Curci Family Foundation, the Alverin M. Cornell Foundation, the Bock Medical  
[www.lpaonline.org](http://www.lpaonline.org) | 14

Trust and Thibault Family, Deb and Dan Dagit, Dr. Samantha Spencer, the Petruzzelli Family, Cari Shaffer, the Alan and Kathryn Greenberg Center for Skeletal Dysplasias at Johns Hopkins Hospital, the John B. and Nelly Llanos Kilroy Foundation, the Vain and Harry Fish Foundation, the Barbara B. Highland Charitable Lead Trust.



We also need to mention LPA Member Danh Trang, who through his personal fundraising in support of his running the Boston Marathon has raised more than \$25,000 for LPA.

To make a gift to LPA, please visit [www.lpaonline.org](http://www.lpaonline.org) and click on the green "donate" button on the right. For information about including LPA in your will or estate plan, please visit [www.lpaonline.org](http://www.lpaonline.org) and click on "about us," then "planned giving."

# 2016-2017 BOARD LISTING

Due to an election cycle, eight of our eleven board members changed during the fiscal year. Both sets of officers are listed.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Officer	2016 to July 1, 2017	July 2, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2017
President	Gary Arnold	Mark Povinelli
Senior Vice President	April Brazier	Jon North
Finance Director	Danh Trang	Bryce Schelhaas
Membership Director	Mark Povinelli	Ben Woika
Programs Director	Jon North	Danielle Frank
Public Relations Director	Leah Smith	Cuquis Robledo
Advocacy Director	Michelle Kraus	Michelle Kraus
Development Director	Eileen Norman	Ethan Crough
Eastern Regional Representative	Joe Zrinski	Joe Zrinski
Central Regional Representative	Becky Roach	Becky Roach
Western Regional Representative	Angie Giuffre	Angie Giuffre/Jon Welch

## STAFF

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Joanna Campbell	Executive Director
Vicky Schulte	Membership and Office Manager
Sandy Taylor	Conference Planner/Chair, LPA Today Coordinator
Angie Giuffre	Administrative Manager

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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Amy D'Avia	District 1
Michael Petruzzelli	District 2
Stephanie Brandon	District 3
Christopher O'Neill	District 4
Dee Dee Allemon	District 5
Daniel Verscha	District 6
Chandler Crews	District 7
Ruth Stratton	District 8
Shannon Ciardelli	District 9
Gaill Blackburn	District 10
Kathleen Snyder	District 11
Jon Welch	District 12
Jacob Brasfield	District 13

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Adoption Coordinator	Colleen Gioffreda
Bereavement/Double Dominance	Mary Ellen Little, Mark Trombino
Bylaw and Policy Manual	Ron Piro
Community Outreach	Ethan Crough
Dwarf Artists Coalition	Sofiya Cheyenne
Employment Chair	Allison Lourash
Finance Chair	Gary Arnold
Historian/Archives	Jim Kay
International Liaison (English-speaking countries)	Joanna Campbell
Hispanic Affairs Committee	Amanda Hernandez, Olga Marohnic
LPA Today Online	Joanna Campbell
LPA Today, Editor	Jody Yarborough
Medical Resource Director	Ericka Okenfuss
National Conference Management	
Committee Chair	Sandy Taylor
Parent Coordinators	Leslie Vanderpool, Jill Moe
OWLS Coordinator (Seniors)	Linda Morris
Teen Coordinator	Faith Pederson
Young Adult Coordinator	Danielle Frank



## OUR MISSION

LPA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism throughout their lives while celebrating with great pride Little People's contribution to social diversity. LPA strives to bring solutions and global awareness to the prominent issues affecting individuals of short stature and their families.

Little People of America  
617 Broadway #518  
Sonoma, CA 95476 • 714-368-3689

1-888-LPA-2001

[WWW.LPAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.LPAONLINE.ORG)