

Fall 2008

November 22 2008



DISTRICT 8 TEXAS & LOUISIANA

Happy Fall Y'all!!!

Little People of America District 8

Howdy!

At the last district meeting, Robyn Farris resigned as District Director due to personal reasons. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn for her time effort during her time as the Director. On that note, I can not tell you how excited I am to be your new district director! I am a life member of LPA look forward to the opportunity to give back to LPA which has given so much to me! Let me tell you a little about myself and my goals for the district.

I was born in the small town of Lake Jackson, Texas to Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Breen (who now live in central Texas) both average size. My parents met with many doctors and medical experts when I was born one being Jackie Hecht who introduced my family to LPA. I attended my first chapter meeting in Houston when I was 1 month old and have not missed too many since! I have been active in the San Antonio/Austin chapter for the past 23 years and now I am active in the Houston chapter. I graduated from Texas State University in May 2007 with a BS in Family & Child Development. I work at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital as a Certified Child Life Specialist in the special care unit. A Child Life Specialist helps children and families cope with the smallest stress to the largest trauma of being hospitalized. They also educate and support children and families during various procedures and new diagnosis through hands on explanations and play. Being a Child Life Specialist is one of the most rewarding and fun careers one could have!

A Leader is only as good as the support behind them. I have many goals for the district that I would love to see reached which include: encouraging more young adult involvement at all levels of LPA and hosting a retreat/camp for LP children and their siblings in Kerrville. I encourage all of you to contact me with ideas and be ready to help when we need you. There is no feeling better than the feeling of giving back to help others and pave the way, by example, for our next generation to sustain our organization.



FALL REGIONAL REPORT FROM CORPUS CHRISTI /

NORTH PADRE ISLAND!

Thank you to the San Antonio/Austin chapter for planning such a fun-filled and relaxing weekend for all to enjoy! Friday night everyone arrived unpacked and hit the beach which was right outside the hotel's door step. On Saturday we had a successful Parent's meeting which introduced us to new members and covered topics from school, jobs and life all around! During the day, members hit the beach searching for seashells and building sand castles. The group also enjoyed sight seeing and touring the many attractions Corpus Christi and Padre Island had to offer. Saturday night was filled with karaoke, dancing and a game of beach ball/dodge ball while the hotel lights were out!

About 75-100 people attended and each left with a smile and a lot of memories to share!

The general meeting was held Saturday evening. Robyn Farris announced her resignation as District Director which called for the election of an interim director. Joy McKenzie and Leigh Ann Breen were nominated and elected officers are as follows:

Interim Director— Leigh Ann Breen

Assistant Director—Brian Templeton

Treasure—Joy McKenzie

Please feel free to contact any of the officers if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding District 8.



Spring District Meeting

- March 2009
- San Marcos, TX
- Parents Meeting
- San Marcos Outlet Malls
- More Information to come...

Send in your photos of chapter meetings, district meetings, or your child's accomplishments for inclusion in the newsletter!

Announcements

New York New York!!

The national convention will be held July 4-10, 2009 at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge at the Brooklyn Marriot. Room Rates are \$179/night and reservations will begin December 1, 2008. To book a hotel room at the LPA rate a Conference Registration Deposit will need to be made directly with LPA. For more information visit lpanyc2009.org for more information.

Some convention highlights:

Saturday, July 4 - BBQ and Fireworks

Sunday, July 5 - Welcome Reception

Monday, July 6 - Talent and Fashion Shows

Wednesday, July 8—Broadway themed Banquet Night

Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10 - New York sightseeing



AMAZING LAW SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

Law School Free for UC Irvine's Entering 2009 Class

Posted Oct 22, 2008, 09:34 am CDT

www.law.uci.edu.

By [Debra Cassens Weiss](#)

Students who enroll at the University of California's new law school in Irvine next fall will get their legal education for free. The law school is giving full tuition scholarships worth about \$100,000 to its first 2009 class of about 60 students, the [National Law Journal](#) reports. Charles Cannon, assistant dean of development and external affairs at the law school, told the publication UC Irvine hopes to attract high-quality students with the offer. The free tuition is expected to cost the school about \$6 million, he said. The school is seeking donations to cover the scholarships and has so far raised about a third of the money. The story also reports that the law school had originally called itself the Donald Bren School of Law in honor of a \$20 million donor, but the school is dropping the name. It will be called the University of California, Irvine, a name that is parallel to other UC schools.

National Scholarships

Scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors.

<http://www.lpaonline.org>

*As part of our service to people with dwarfism and the community at large, LPA offers educational scholarships to prospective and current students attending college or vocational school in the United States. Awards can range from \$250 to \$1000 (sometimes more). A scholarship committee, headed by LPA's Vice President of Programs, will selectively review all scholarship application packets.

*Scholarships are given in order of preference to:

- members of LPA who have a medically diagnosed form of dwarfism
- immediate family members of dwarfs who are also paid members of LPA
- people with dwarfism who are not members of LPA
- disabled students in general
- non-disabled students who can demonstrate a need for financial educational assistance

*Contact your local chapter president, district director, or the national office to obtain scholarship applications. Applications may also be downloaded from the LPA website. Deadline is April 22 so hurry!



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Visit us on the Web:
www.LPA8.org
www.lpaonline.org

LPA, Inc., is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations. Hundreds of dedicated LPA volunteers throughout the US seek to improve the quality of life for short-statured people everywhere.

Little People of America, Inc, is a national non-profit organization that provides support and information to people of short stature and their families. We are the only dwarfism support organization that includes all 200+ forms of dwarfism. There are an estimated 30,000 people with dwarfism in the United States, and 651,700 in the world. No other non-profit in the world provides more resources, support and information for people with dwarfism.

Membership is offered to those people who are usually no taller than 4'10" in height. Their short stature is generally caused by one of the more than 200 medical conditions known as dwarfism. Membership is also available to relatives and interested professionals who work with short statured individuals.