



The Message of LPA

Every officer of LPA needs to have this information, and be able to recite or explain it when asked. It is important that all officers be able to consistently explain LPA's mission and purpose.

Here's how we describe our organization....Little People of America is a national non-profit support organization for people with dwarfism and their families. We provide peer and parent support, medical resources, social opportunities, advocacy and scholarships.

We are known for three distinct features...

- 1) We were started by actor Billy Barty in 1957 when 20 people gathered at a meeting place in Reno, NV and formed what became Little People of America.
- 2) LPA encompasses all ages. We welcome and provide support for all phases of life; from newborns with dwarfism and average-height parents, to children, teens, young adults, career and family years, to seniors.
- 3) Each year LPA has a National Conference which occurs in a different spot in the US. We average an attendance of 2000 people for a week of social events, medical support from our Medical Advisory Board, workshops and athletic events with our sister organization, the Dwarf Athletic Association of America (www.DAAA.org)

Here are 5 fast facts...

- 1) Over 80% of people with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings.
- 2) There are over 200 distinct types of dwarfism. Some are recessive, some are dominant.
- 3) A child with dwarfism is born 1 per 10,000 births.
- 4) Most types of dwarfism do not have any type of mental impairment.
- 5) Little People of America is the worlds largest dwarfism organization with over 6500 members worldwide.

The two stories we tell are.....here it is appropriate for the officer to interject two stories of how LPA has made a difference in someones life, locally (chapter) or within your District.

Our mission is..... 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.

For more information contact:

•www.lpaonline.org

National office in Northern California 1-888-LPA-2001