

Little People of America



2026
CONFERENCE
GUIDE

Emma's Story



"It's clear that we are surrounded by the foremost experts in achondroplasia."

When Emma was diagnosed with achondroplasia, her parents were left feeling overwhelmed and turned to online mom groups for support. "Every single one of them urged us to contact Nemours Children's Hospital," says her mother, Megan.

At Nemours, Emma's team of orthopedists, neurosurgeons, and pulmonologists collaborate on her care, while also taking time to help mom and dad as they navigate this new journey. "We're so grateful for this team walking alongside us every step of the way."



Scan to learn more about our multidisciplinary Skeletal Dysplasia program program.



Nemours.org

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We made it! After what feels like a thousand loads of laundry, a million hours of work, and a billion emails in our inboxes, we're finally together for the Little People of America's 2026 National Conference.

This is Louisiana's very first time in hosting LPA's national conference. We thought it was about time to bring some jazzy dwarfism culture to New Orleans, which also happens to be the birthplace of jazz. We are so excited to introduce our favorite organization to this vibrant, cultural, and unique city.



The schedule beginning on page 34 will be your go-to guide for our action-packed week. While we have done our best to finalize every detail, a few updates are inevitable between the publication of this Registration Guide and the moment we welcome you through the hotel doors. We ask you to check the online app that we try to keep updated during the week, but mostly we are letting you know this because we ask for your patience and understanding that this week happens because of the dedication of so many that are volunteering - from those that give a couple of hours of their week to those that spend the entire year volunteering for LPA out of LOVE for this amazing community.

Some changes you should know about:

- Registration is now opening Friday, July 10th at 8:00pm (a new time!). Don't worry, everyone will have the chance to go to the first dance without delay.
- There was an additional Pontoon tour added on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:00am. Please pay attention to what your ticket in your packet says. We are unable to exchange times because both tours are full.
- The schedule beginning on page 34 will be your go-to guide for our action-packed week. While most daily activities remain the same, please review the times listed in this guide and online to help plan your week.

One of the biggest events that's happening during our time in New Orleans is our beloved tradition of celebrating our week at our "Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler" Banquet. We are so thrilled to announce our keynote speaker is our very own Zach Shattuck, who has proven to be an outstanding leader with compassion, integrity and grit. If you haven't bought tickets yet, fix that immediately. There will be an impressive lineup of surprises throughout the night - don't miss it.

If you're new here, please check out the Icebreaker events on Friday and Saturday, as well as the Newcomer's Reception. You can always ask people at the Information Center for more guidance as well - we want all of our first-timers to feel right at home! While you're here, try something you've never tried before. If you've never been to a DAC event, check one out - you'll be glad you did. If you've always been wondering what it's like to talk to a doctor who truly knows their LP stuff, schedule to speak with one of the specialists. If you like to win big, check out the bingo room. If you think music and friendship sounds like a fun time, check out the dance or the Barty Room. Oh, yeah, and if you would like to learn some stuff, attend one of the fifty-plus workshops we are offering. There is something to do every minute of the day (and a lot of the minutes of the night, too!)

Welcome to the 2026 LPA National Conference - we hope it's one of the most beautiful weeks of your life.

Laissez Temps Rouler!

Colleen, Bailey, Michael & Sandy

Your Friendly LPA Conference Management Committee



Letter from Eileen Norman **President of Little People of America**

Friends, Families, and Fellow LPA Members,

Welcome to New Orleans!!

There is perhaps no city in the world quite like New Orleans. For centuries, NOLA has been a place where cultures, languages, and traditions converge. It's a true American melting pot of the country and so much more. New Orleans has such a rich history of different groups coming together, and everyone who arrives here quickly feels that belonging. For that very reason, it's the perfect place to welcome our LPA community!



Like this great city, LPA is made up of people from all walks of life — members from every corner of the country and from communities around the world. We span generations, backgrounds, diagnoses, and experiences. And yet, every year, we come together as one. That is what makes this conference unlike anything else.

This week, you will have the opportunity to celebrate who we are and how far we've come. You'll learn from medical experts, from advocates, from researchers, and from each other because some of the most valuable knowledge in this community lives in the people sitting right next to you. You'll make new friends you'll carry with you long after you leave New Orleans, and you'll reconnect with old friends who feel like family. You'll become stronger allies and more effective advocates for the issues that matter most to our community: issues of access, representation, dignity, and opportunity.

And yes -- you'll eat really, really good food. If you haven't yet had a beignet or gumbo while some good jazz plays in the background, consider this your directive to make time for both. NOLA does not disappoint.

The days ahead will be full of laughter, full of learning, full of music drifting in from somewhere nearby. The week will go fast. It always does, even here in "The Big Easy." Make sure to make the most of it. Say yes to new experiences. Sit with someone new at dinner. Wander a little. Let the city and the company remind you why this community is so extraordinary.

We are so glad you're here. Now let's make it a week to remember. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!!*

Eileen

President, Little People of America

MAYOR HELENA MORENO
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

June 5, 2026

Dear Friends of the Little People of America,

It is my honor to welcome you to New Orleans for the Little People of America National Conference. New Orleans prides itself on being a city that is truly Built to Host. I am thrilled that you have chosen us as the location of your national conference for your 69th year.

Your mission to provide social interaction, educational resources, medical guidance, and advocacy to ensure that individuals with dwarfism can lead fulfilling lives is so important. New Orleans is a city known for its resilience, creativity, and deep sense of community. These are qualities that resonate strongly with the mission and spirit of LPA.

New Orleans takes pride in being a truly welcoming city, and we are excited to be the backdrop for your conference. As you participate in workshops, medical sessions, athletic events, social programming, and family activities, we hope you will also take time to enjoy the music, food, and culture that make our city so unique.

We know the connections and relationships built during your conference will last long after you leave the city, and we're proud to be the starting place for that collaboration.

Thank you for bringing this meaningful event to New Orleans for the very first time! We extend our hospitality and best wishes for a productive, joyful, and memorable week.

Warmly,



Mayor Helena Moreno

City of New Orleans



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WELCOME FROM LPA'S PRESIDENT & NOLA'S MAYOR

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you for your generous contribution to LPA and for helping make this conference possible. Your support means so much to the community and helps create a welcoming, memorable experience for all who attend.



NEMOURS
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Conference Committee

Conference Management Committee

<i>Who we are</i>	<i>What we oversee</i>
Colleen Gioffreda	Chair; Registration, Hotel Liaison, Medical Advisory Board Liaison, Publications, Communications, DAAA Liaison, Fashion Show, Talent Show, Finances, Spanish Liaison, A/V
Bailey O'Connell	Co-Chair; Banquet, Children's Banquet, Decor, Registration issues, Rule Enforcement, Photographer, OWLS
Michael Petruzzelli	Co-Chair; Offsite Events, Transportation, Volunteers, Barty Lounge, Lee Kitchen's Corner, Badge Patrol, Opening Celebration, Bingo, Expo, Caught in the Middle (CITM), Teens, Archives, Dwarf Artists Coalition Liaison
Sandy Taylor	Co-Chair; Space Planning, Food and Beverage, Receptions, Children's Room, Meet & Greets, Workshops

LPA'S INFORMATION Center

How to find out about...

- a workshop
- a great place to eat
- where to find the best beignets
- what the teens are doing today
- how to buy tickets to a cool offsite

FOUND IN THE REGISTRATION BOOTH, 2ND FLOOR - COME VISIT!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

Conference Committee Leads

<i>Average Height Youth Coordinator</i>	Katharine Cartwright
<i>Audiovisual</i>	Michael and Cherylle Mallinson
<i>Archives</i>	Jim Kay
<i>Banquet Producer</i>	Bailey O'Connell
<i>Barty Lounge</i>	Michael Petruzzelli / Joy Stilen
<i>Bingo</i>	Rebecca and Danny Fava
<i>Caught In The Middle (CITM)</i>	Michael Petruzzelli / Daniel Beaubouef
<i>Children's Room</i>	Lou Ann McKay
<i>Children's Banquet</i>	Cathy Breen / LeighAnn Cutting
<i>Conference Decor</i>	Nicole Ronchetti
<i>Conference Information Center</i>	Rebecca Fava
<i>Conference Logo & Graphics</i>	Colleen Gioffreda; Rebecca Fava
<i>DAAA-LPA Liaison</i>	Dan Hamill
<i>Dwarf Artists Coalition</i>	Margaret Drew
<i>EXPO Coordinator</i>	Jamie O'Meara
<i>Fashion Show Coordinator</i>	Lakshmi Shyamakrishnan
<i>MAB Clinic Coordinator</i>	Colleen Gioffreda
<i>Offsite Coordinator</i>	Michael Petruzzelli / John Tassone
<i>OWLS Liaison</i>	Carole Henley
<i>Parent Meetings</i>	Kelsie Hankins Hughes / Joseph Tateoka
<i>Peer Support Leader</i>	Michelle Kraus
<i>Public Relations</i>	Jennifer Crumly
<i>Registration Team</i>	C. Gioffreda, J. Hankins, B. O'Connell, S. Taylor
<i>Security</i>	Brandon Chursciel, Chris O'Neill
<i>Shipping Coordinator</i>	Emily Guillory
<i>Sponsorship Team</i>	K. Braithwaite, A. Giuffre, G. Smyrlian, J. Welch
<i>Talent Show Coordinator</i>	Ryan Gioffreda, Keaton Povinelli
<i>Teen Events</i>	Ally O'Neill
<i>Tournament Sports</i>	Jake Petruzzelli
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	Amy Simon
<i>Workshop Coordinator</i>	Mary O'Neill
<i>Young Adult Coordinator</i>	Sha Jameson

LPA National Board of Directors

LPA Board of Director Position	Elected Official
President	Eileen Norman
Finance Director	Tanya Morato
Membership Director, Outgoing	Rachel Keller
Membership Director, Incoming	Crystal Perry
Programs Director	Stephanie Farfan
Public Relations Director	Jennifer Crumly
Advocacy Director	Samantha Rayburn-Trubyk
Development Director	Gary Smyrlian
Inclusion Director, Outgoing	Maria McClellan
Inclusion Director, Incoming	Chloe Purcell
Eastern Regional At-Large Representative	Joshua Maudlin
Central Regional At-Large Representative	Allison Lourash
Western Regional At-Large Representative	Lee Uniacke

LPA Employed National Staff

Staff Position	Name of Staff
Executive Director	Deb Himsel
Administrative Manager	Ross Stebbins
Administrative Coordinator	Angelina Nastasi
Communication Coordinator	Nichole Shaw



District Directors

District	Location	Director
District 1	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont	Barbara Malinowski
District 2	New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania	Rebecca Fava
District 3	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia	Ken Barrett
District 4	Florida and Puerto Rico	Brooke Chea
District 5	Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia	Michael Spears
District 6	Illinois and Wisconsin	Sarah Hill
District 7	Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma	Katey Barnett
District 8	Louisiana and Texas	Shelley Rodriguez
District 9	Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota	Grace Ciardelli
District 10	Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming	Mark Trombino
District 11	Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington	Alex Foos
District 12	California, Hawaii, and Nevada	Julio Maldonado
District 13	Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee	Brandy Mugford

LPA Committee Chairs

National Committee	National Committee Chair
Adoption Coordinator	Colleen Gioffreda
Advocacy Committee	Samantha Rayburn-Trubyk
Bereavement Committee	Mary Ellen Little / Mark Trombino
BioTech Industry	Michael Hughes
Bylaw & Policy Manual	Ron Piro
Camp Little People Director	Sarah Little
Dwarf Artist Coalition	Margaret Drew
DAAA President	Zach Roloff
Employment Chair	Amy Dinofrio
Finance Chair	Tanya Morato
Historian/Archives	Jim Kay
Inclusion Committee	Maria McClellan / Chloe Purcell
International Liaison	Darcy Painter
Hispanic Affairs Committee	Brenda Martinez
LPA Today & E-Newsletter Editor	Nichole Shaw
Medical Resource Director	Ericka Okenfuss
National Conference Chair (CMC)	Colleen Gioffreda
Parent Coordinators	Kelsie Hankins / Joseph Tateoka
OWLS Coordinator	Leslye Sneider
Rainbow Committee Chair	Bekah Bailey
Universal Design Committee Chair	Kori Allen
Young Adult Coordinator	Sha Jameson

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Neurosurgery • Ophthalmology

Orthopedics and Rehabilitation

Pulmonology • Sleep Medicine

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Virtual visits available.



LPA Scholarship Donors

LPA is very grateful to this year's Scholarship donors who help LPA fulfill its mission of enhancing the lives of little people through education. In addition to the many donations LPA receives each year that benefit the Scholarship Fund, we would like to thank these donors for their generous gifts.

Aring DeVolt Scholarship Fund

Ellen Fernandez Scholarship Fund

Greenberg Center Scholarships

Little People of America Scholarship Fund

Cari Shaffer Scholarship

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Shriners Children's brings a compassionate, innovative team approach to caring for children with skeletal dysplasia. Our goal is your goal: giving your child the best quality of life possible.

To learn more about Shriners Children's skeletal dysplasia care, visit shrinerschildrens.org or call 800-237-5055.



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Children's™**



Little People of America's Medical Advisory Board

LPA is very fortunate to have a team of doctors throughout the United States and internationally who have taken an interest in skeletal dysplasia. We are very thankful to the Fernandez family for sponsoring the MAB workshops and individual meetings through the Ellen Fernandez Fund. We are also very fortunate as an organization, because each year the MAB doctors **pay their own way** to the National Conference and meet with members for **free** to help individuals and families in our community. Please take a moment to stop by the medical clinic or stop them in the lobby to say "thank you". Through their knowledge, our members get access to the best care possible.



Medical Individual Meetings

Sponsored by The Ellen Fernandez Fund

River Tower, Room 2330 for Check-in

Monday, July 13 8:30am - 5:00pm

Tuesday, July 14 8:30am - 5:00pm

Wednesday, July 15 8:30am - 12:00pm

Meetings with medical professionals are available from members of our Medical Advisory Board. Most meetings were scheduled in advance; please check with the Registration Crew on Saturday morning at LPA Registration (Studio 9 & 10) or Monday afternoon, after 3pm in the MAB Clinic (Meeting Room 2330), for additional meeting availability.

LPA Medical Advisory Board Members in Attendance

Dr. Julie Hoover-Fong, Chair	Johns Hopkins University	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Gary Bellus	Geisinger Medical Center	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Michael Bober	Nemours Hospital	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Jeffrey Campbell	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Neurosurgery</i>
Dr. Ricki Carroll	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Palliative Care</i>
Colleen Ditro	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Nurse Practitioner</i>
Angie Duker	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Kim Fine, OT CHT	West Kendall Baptist Health	<i>Occupational Therapy</i>
Dr. Clair Francomano	Indiana University	<i>Genetics</i>
Colleen Gioffreda	Johns Hopkins University	<i>Administrator</i>
Dr. Mari Groves	Inova Hospital	<i>Neurosurgery</i>
Dr. Jacqueline Hecht	University of Texas Houston	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Dan Hoernschmeyer	University of Missouri	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Christina Jacobsen	Boston Children's Hospital	<i>Endocrinology</i>
Dr. Deborah Krakow	University of California - LA	<i>OB /Gyn</i>
Dr. Michael Kropf	Cedars Sinai Hospital	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Janet Legare	UW - Madison	<i>Pediatrics</i>
Mary Ellen Little	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Nursing</i>
Kira Lurman	Johns Hopkins University	<i>Nursing</i>
Dr. W. G. Stuart Mackenzie	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Peggy Modaff	UW - Madison	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Ericka Okenfuss	Kaiser Sacramento	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Amy Patterson	Johns Hopkins University	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Dr. Caleb Rogers	Oregon Health & Science U.	<i>Genetics</i>
Andrea Schelhaas	Genetic Support Foundation	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Dr. Samantha Spencer	Boston Children's Hospital	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. George Tiller	Kaiser Los Angeles	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. David Tunkel	Johns Hopkins University	<i>ENT</i>
Karen Turner	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Physical Therapy</i>
Dr. Klane White	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Orthopedics</i>



Additional Physicians in Attendance

Dr. Jennifer Arnold	Boston Children's Hospital	<i>Pediatrics</i>
Dr. Lorenzo Botto	University of Utah	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Jenna Briddell	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>ENT</i>
Dr. Tsulee Chen	Akron Children's Hospital	<i>Neurosurgery</i>
Dr. James Farmer	Hospital for Special Surgery	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Jessica Fernandez	Johns Hopkins University / KKI	<i>Rehabilitation Medicine</i>
Dr. Catherine Gooch	Washington University	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Mahim Jain	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Jason Laufman	Akron Children's Hospital	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Amelia Lindgren	Cedars Sinai Hospital	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Francis Lovecchio	Hospital for Special Surgery	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Bryan Menapace	Shriner's Hospital for Children	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Blake Montgomery	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Rosa Ortiz DeLuna	Hospital General Norberto Trevino	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. David Rodriguez-Buritica	University of Texas - Houston	<i>Genetics</i>
Dr. Anthony Scaduto	University of California - LA	<i>Orthopedics</i>
Dr. Andy Stadler	UW - Madison	<i>Neurosurgery</i>
Dr. Isum Ward	Sanford Health – Sioux Falls	<i>Genetics</i>

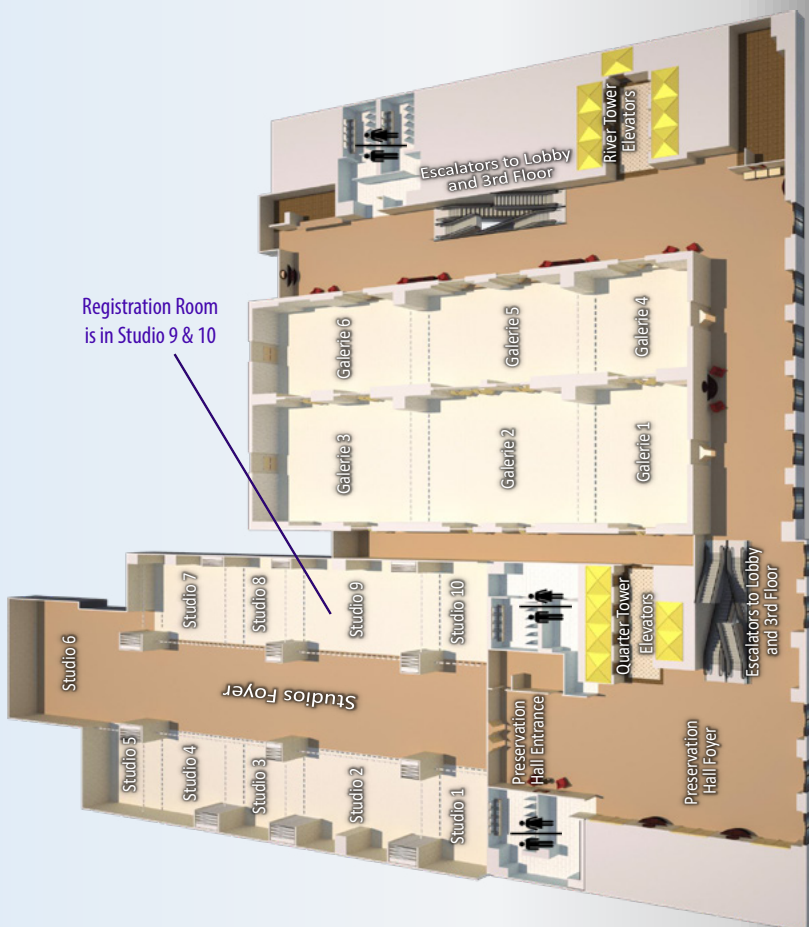
Additional Medical Staff in Attendance

Kasie Bares	University of Wisconsin - Madison	<i>Nurse Manager</i>
Janet Bell	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Genetic Counseling</i>
Niki Buckler	University of Missouri	<i>Orthopedic Assistant</i>
Dawn Earl	Seattle Children's Hospital	<i>Nurse Practitioner</i>
Amanda Gerard	Texas Children's Hospital	<i>Genetic Counselor</i>
Katie Harp	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Social Work</i>
Sungmin Kim	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Research Coordinator</i>
Andree Kropf	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	<i>Nursing - Orthopedics</i>
Sarah Little	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Physician Assistant</i>
Deborah McInerney	NY Hospital for Special Surgery	<i>Nutrition</i>
Shannon Persick	Nemours Children's Hospital	<i>Genetic Counseling</i>
Elizabeth Rausch	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Physician Assistant</i>
Nancy Reilly	Boston Children's Hospital	<i>Nursing</i>
Katharine Scanlon	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Nursing</i>
Rachel Volesky	Children's Hospital Colorado	<i>Administration</i>
Catherine Wells	Shriner's Hospital for Children	<i>Case Management</i>



Meeting Space

Second Floor



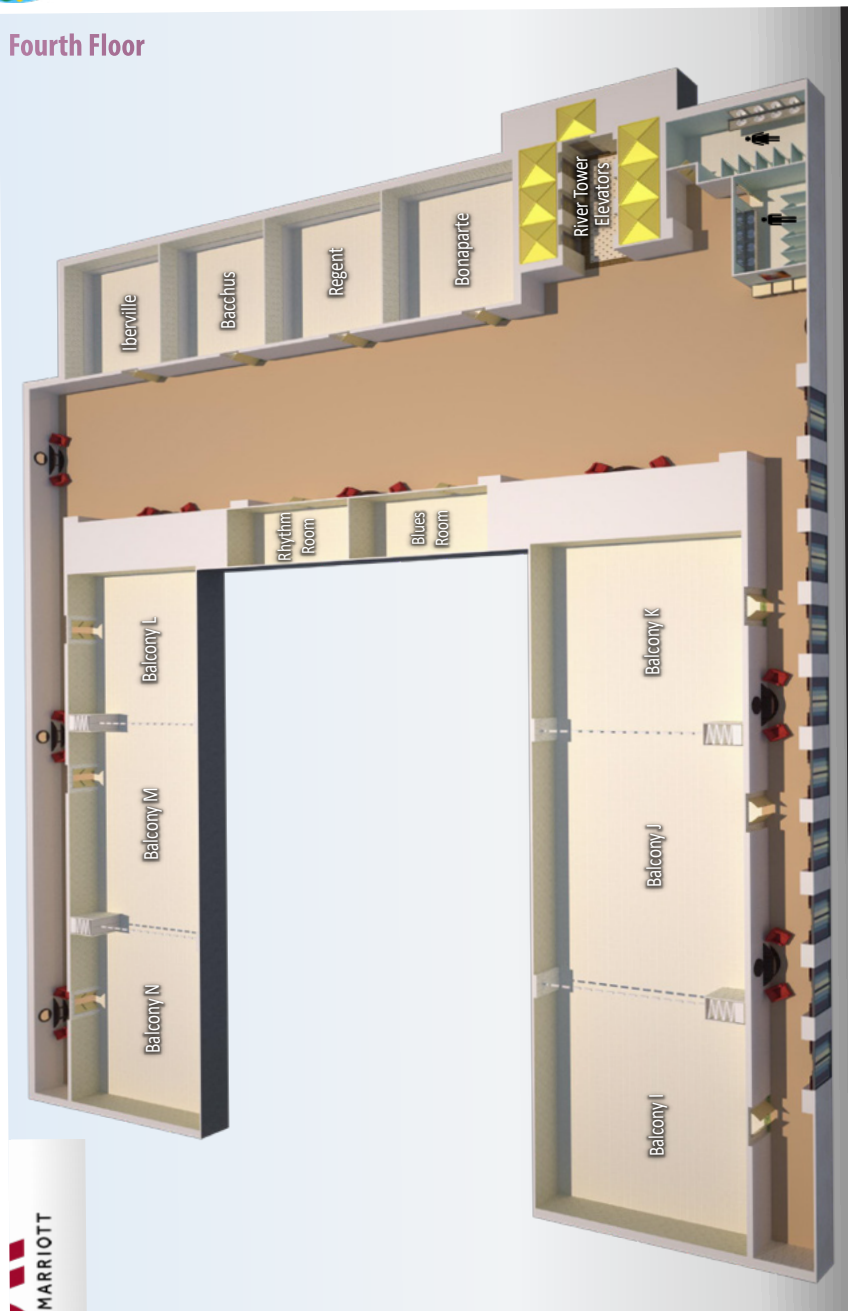
Third Floor

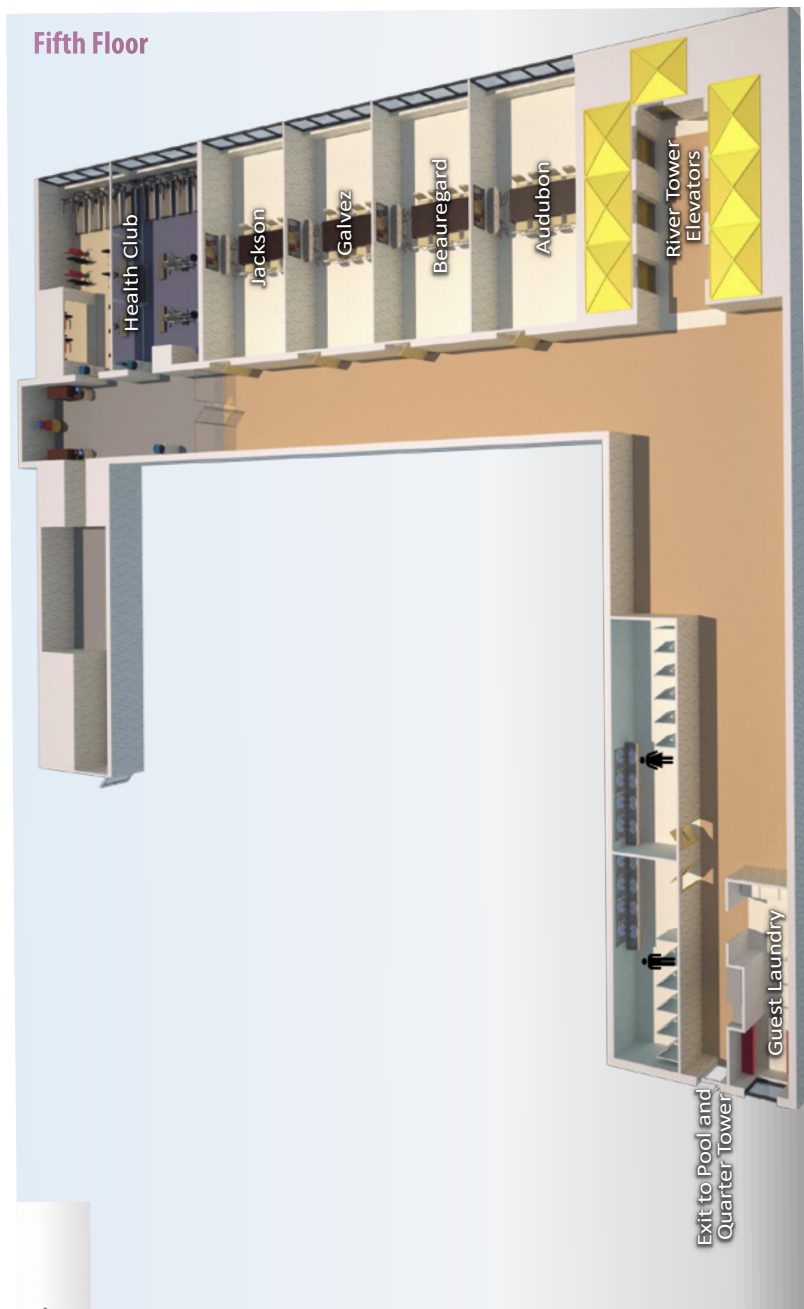




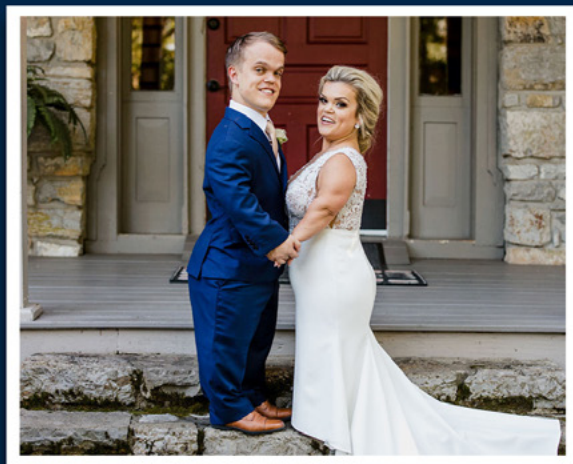
Meeting Space

Fourth Floor

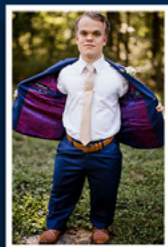




Why write an advert for Apsley Tailors when your customer says it so much better?



"As individuals with dwarfism, finding clothes that truly fit has always been a challenge. Working with Apsley Tailors was completely different. From the first fitting, every detail was designed around us—our proportions, our preferences, and how we want to look and feel."
—Michael Hughes



Apsley Tailors will be at the 2026 LPA National Conference Expo — we'd love to meet you!

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or scan the QR code for the website and contact details


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Meeting Space

Forty-First Floor





LPA National Conference Policies

Non-Discrimination

LPA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, and diagnosis or disability status in its programs and activities, with respect to admission, access, treatment, benefit and/or employment. LPA also does not condone any form of harassment.

Smoking

Please respect your fellow LPA members with health conditions. The New Orleans Marriott is smoke-free. Designated smoking areas are located outside the building.

Prohibited Conduct

LPA members and other attendees of LPA functions may be disciplined for grievous behavior during or related to an LPA function, including the national conference by eviction, membership probation, revocation of membership, and/or other actions deemed reasonable. Any official action by LPA does not preclude legal recourse by the hotel or outside entity. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to, illegal use of alcohol and/or drugs, sexual harassment, destruction of hotel or private property and harassment.

Sexual Harassment

Little People of America is committed to providing a safe environment for all its members free from any harassment including sexual harassment. Little People of America will operate a zero tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment at the National Conference, treat all reports seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment. Any person found to have sexually harassed another will face disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the conference and membership suspension.

Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome or unwanted sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature from someone in the LPA community that creates discomfort and/or interferes with the Conference attendance.

Complaints of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and treated with respect and in confidence. Reports of sexual harassment should be brought to an LPA Board or CMC member or hotel security.

LPA National Conference Policies

Alcohol Use Under the Age of 18

The legal drinking age in Louisiana is 21 years old. If it is determined by hotel security, police, or an LPA officer that an individual under the age of 18 is under the influence of alcohol at an LPA National Conference, then that individual may not be allowed to attend a LPA National Conference without at least one parent or their legal guardian in attendance until age 18. They will not be allowed to designate a Conference Guardian. Parents will be contacted immediately regarding the individual's alcohol consumption and resulting behavior. If parents are in attendance at the National Conference, then the underage individual shall be prohibited from attending the next National Conference. If the person has a second infraction, with or without their parents present before they are 18 years of age, then they will not be allowed to attend LPA National Conference until they are 21.

Alcohol Use Between Ages 18 and 21 – Zero Tolerance

Individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 (or the legal drinking age where the Conference is being held) who are determined by hotel security, police, or an LPA official to be under the influence of alcohol at an LPA National Conference event shall not be allowed to attend another LPA Conference until age 21 and they may be removed from the current Conference site. Additionally, LPA will consult with hotel security and/or local law enforcement agencies on reporting the underage consumption of alcohol or marijuana use.

Providing Alcohol to Minors

Little People of America, its officers and Conference Committee, will not tolerate anyone of any age providing or purchasing alcohol for minors. This includes the purchase of alcohol in bars or clubs, cash bars or providing of alcohol at individual parties in private hotel rooms. If an individual is found to be in violation:

1. They will be reported to the hotel security and local law enforcement officials for the legal action of the host Conference site.
2. They will be removed from the current LPA Conference.
3. They may not be allowed to attend the next two LPA Conferences.

A committee consisting of not less than the following individuals: the LPA Executive Officers, the current National Conference Chair, and their current or past District Director and/or Chapter President will determine their attendance at National Conferences thereafter. They may also lose their membership to LPA for an undetermined length of time.



LPA National Conference Policies

Disruptive Behavior

If a person of any age participates in the destruction or damage of any public or private property, disorderly conduct, verbal or physical fighting, harassment or abuse of individuals while at an LPA National Conference, that person will be subjected to disciplinary action by the local civil authorities and/or LPA Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Also Note - Under 21 years old will be checked

For all onsite and offsite events that require participants to be over 21, registrations will be checked against LPA records. You may need to provide identification.

LPA is Harassment Free

LPA is a Harassment Free Place. At LPA we do not tolerate any discrimination, harassment or bigotry towards people based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, diagnosis, or disability status. Please abide by our Code of Conduct, that you signed at registration. If you have experienced harassment or discrimination at LPA, please find a Board Member or go to the Conference Information Center and ask for support.

Peggy O'Neill



Transformational Coach



Build Resilience



Reduce Stress. Increase Joy



Feel Alive Again

Book your FREE 30-min 1:1 Discovery session! >



LPA National Conference Information

Conference Name Badge

We are excited to continue to partner with Field Drive, a technologically advanced software company that will be printing badges onsite. Every attendee, at every age, must go to the registration room to ensure they are registered for a badge, and then have their photo taken. We have been able to upload information on all pre-registered attendees to expedite the check-in process. There will be three kiosks waiting to take your beautiful photo - please note you get limited amount of "re-dos", so smile on your first attempt! Please realize that we used the information you entered when you registered, so if you spelled your name a certain way, that will be what is on your name badge. Official LPA Conference name badges are required of all attendees at all times. Name badges **MUST** be worn at all events. Failure to wear the name badge may result in the conference committee denying you admission to conference events. The committee reserves the right to ask individuals to show their legal identification; i.e. state licenses, ID, or Passport. Any attempt to falsify, counterfeit, ***use someone else's or share a name badge*** is considered a violation of the attendee's signed code of conduct and will result in consequences from the Conference Committee and LPA Executive Committee, including and not limited to loss of the right to attend events or the conference itself.

Conference Information Center

2nd Floor, Registration Booth

Information Center volunteers will be able to answer any questions you may have during the conference. This is also the place where we will be selling conference t-shirts, tanktops, and conference related souvenirs. If you pre-purchased a shirt, please pick it up in the registration room (Studio 9 & 10).

Media at the 2026 Conference

All media **MUST** have LPA approved media credentials. These can be obtained through LPA's Director of Public Relations, Jennifer Crumly, at jennifer.crumly@lpaonline.org. If someone from the media does not have LPA approved credentials, please direct them to LPA Conference Registration (Studio 9 & 10, 2nd floor). Approved media will only be allowed to cover the following conference events:

- General Assembly – Monday, July 13th
- LPA Expo – Tuesday, July 14th
- LPA Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler Banquet - Wednesday, July 15th



LPA National Conference Information

Sale of Goods at Conference

Sales of any goods outside the LPA Expo are strictly prohibited. LPA Conference items are for sale at the LPA Information Desk. LPA Event tickets that are for sale may be posted on the designated bulletin board outside of registration. Individuals selling items such as jewelry, souvenirs, or other products, may be required to leave the conference.

Use of Razor Scooters at the Conference

Razor scooters are a very popular way for LP kids and teens to quickly get from one place to the other. If you or your child has brought a scooter to the conference, please ride slowly indoors and be mindful of others. The hotel has graciously allowed LPA attendees to use scooters for mobility purposes only, not for play. Please be respectful of the hotel's policies, or LPA attendees risk the use of these scooters at the Marriott, as well as all future LPA Conference hotels. Thank you for your help and consideration in making the hotel a safe place for everyone.

Lost Items? Have Tickets to Sell?

Lost items may be turned into the Conference Information Center or hotel security. Please give time for items to be turned in or check back periodically.

LPA Event Tickets that individuals wish to trade may be posted outside the Conference Information Center. LPA does not refund any individual purchased event tickets onsite. All trades are between individuals, and LPA does not take any responsibility for those transactions.

Group Photo

Monday, 6:00pm, Pool Deck, 5th floor

The Group Photo will be organized and taken at 6pm on the Pool Deck on Monday, July 13th. Please show up at 6pm if you would like to be part of this memory of NOLA. It takes a few minutes to organize so many people for a fantastic keepsake. If you happen to be in the pool at the time, cool! Just make sure you have a coverup or a towel available to jump out and join the fun.

Banquet Photos

Our professional photographer Monwell Frazier will be excited and ready to take high-quality photos of fancy-you for purchase on our Laissez Bon Temps Rouler Banquet night. There will be a step and repeat that you can take your pose. Make sure to pack and wear your Mardi Gras magic for the evening! Sparkles are in this year. (I mean, let's face it. They're in every year.)

Conference Veterans

Please be on the lookout for brightly-colored "First Timer" ribbons attached to name badges and make our first-time conference attendees feel welcome. Please introduce yourself and engage them in conference activities.

Bus Loading & Unloading

Front Entrance, Lobby. All buses load directly in front of the New Orleans Marriott. You are strongly encouraged to come 10-15 minutes early to assist with easy access loading for off-site events and activities where busing is provided or otherwise noted.

Photo Release and Conference Rules

By attending the LPA conference you hereby agree to follow the rules set forth in the General Conference Information and LPA Policies sections of this booklet and hereby give your permission to Little People of America and their designated agents to take and use any photograph, a recording of you or your voice for publication or reproduction in any advertisement, public relations or fundraising efforts of the association, its programs or agents.

Registration Room and Information Center

LPA Registration is located on the 2nd Floor in Studio 9 & 10, right next to the Information Center, which is located in the Registration booth. Below are the hours you can find our friendly registration volunteers. Please treat them kindly; they are so excited you are here at the conference.

Date	Registration Room Hours	Info Center Hours
Friday, July 10th	8:00pm - 11:00 pm (please note - new time!)	See registration room
Saturday, July 11th	9:00am - 5:30pm; 9:00pm - 11:00pm	1:00pm - 4:30pm
Sunday, July 12th	8:00am - 6:00pm	1:00pm - 4:30pm
Monday, July 13th	8:00am - 4:00pm	11:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday, July 14th	9:00am - 1:00pm	11:00am - 2:00pm
Wednesday, July 15th	9:00am - 1:00pm	12:00pm - 2:00pm
Thursday, July 16th	9:00am - 11:00am	See registration room

BARTY ROOM



Must be 21 years old to enter

SCHEDULE 10pm to 1am

Saturday, July 11 - DAC Open Mic Nite

Sunday, July 12 - Baile Latino*

*from 8:00pm-10:00pm all ages welcome. After 10:00 21+ over only.

Monday, July 13 - Speakeasy Night

Tuesday, July 14 - Little Big Band

Wednesday, July 15 - Karaoke



Must be 21 and over to enter. Conference badges will be checked.

We reserve the right to check ID



Welcome to New Orleans!



Be Smart. Stay Safe.

New Orleans is an amazing city full of so many things to do. Like in any city, please be aware of your surroundings and have common sense when enjoying this historical and beautiful place.

Safety Tips

- Travel in groups, especially at night
- Stay on well-lit, busy streets
- Avoid displaying expensive jewelry or electronics
- Keep your phone charged and share your location
- Use rideshare — don't walk alone after dark
- Be aware of your surroundings

We're so happy you're here.



Getting Around New Orleans

New Orleans' streetcar lines are accessible and close to the Marriott. The closest stops are at the Canal St and Camp (going towards the Riverfront), or Canal at Carondelet or Bourbon, all stops just about a 5 minute walk. The stop at Carondelet has an option for the St. Charles Avenue line as well as the Canal Street line. All streetcars on the Canal Street lines (**red line**) are accessible. Streetcars on the St. Charles Avenue line (**green line**) have **some** accessible cars that are marked. All streetcars are air-conditioned, with the EXCEPTION of the **green** line. (Please plan ahead and hydrate!)

For your convenience, the CMC has purchased Jazzy Pass cards, which include a 1- day pass fare. These can be bought for \$3 each at the Information Center (and if you use them again, you can reload them right at the trolley stop). For more information and maps, check out the New Orleans website: <https://www.neworleans.com/plan/itineraries/streetcar-itinerary/>

Accessible Transportation

While some Uber and Lyft services are accessible, attendees may prefer to reserve an accessible van ahead of time. The CMC found it to be a long wait for the accessible Ubers. Click on the links for more information about the other services.

Alert Transportation Services

<https://alerttransportation.com/>

Phone: (504)-362-4145

Super Shuttle

www.supershuttle.com

Phone: 1-800-258-3826

Your Angel Transportation Services

<https://yourangeltransportation.com/>

Phone: (504)-444-2833

Sylvan Transportation LLC

<https://sylvantransportation.com/>

Phone: (504) 206-1725

We Lift Transportation Services

<https://www.weliftrideshare.com/>

Phone: (504)-444-2833

One Bunch Hookup

<http://onebunchhookup.com/index.html>

Phone: 504-309-1973

Driving and Parking Information

The New Orleans Marriott does not provide on-site self-parking, but several public garages are available within a short walking distance for those who prefer to self-park. Valet parking is typically around \$62 per night (subject to change) and has a maximum vehicle height of 7 feet, so oversized vehicles may need to use an off-site garage. LPA conference attendees will receive a 20% reduction on their valet parking at the hotel. There is a self parking garage at Canal Place (333 Canal Street) for \$38 per day (subject to change). The hotel is encouraging our members who have pedal extensions or hand controls to use the Canal Place garage, if possible, due to space restrictions in the hotel garage.

Rail Information

The Marriott is less than two miles from the New Orleans Union Passenger terminal train station which is served by Amtrak. Station address: 1001 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans.

New Orleans Streetcar Map





LPA Conference Schedule of Events

FRIDAY – JULY 10TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
3:00pm - 4:30pm	<i>Offsite Teens: Discovering NOLA through Beignets</i>	Meet in Lobby
3:00pm - 4:30pm	CITM: Poolside meet and greet	Pool Deck
5:30pm - 6:30pm	BOD Reception	Balcony L, M, N
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Volunteer Training and Sign up	Balcony IJK
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Cornhole Practice Tournament	Acadia
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Icebreaker - How to navigate conference?	Balcony IJK
8:00pm - 10:00pm	DAAA Check in	Studio 1
8:00pm - 11:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
9:00pm - 1:00am	Dance	Carondelet

SATURDAY– JULY 11TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
7:00am - 9:00am	DAAA Check In	Studio 1
8:00am - 5:00pm	DAAA Indoor Futsal	Loyola University
9:00am - 4:00pm	BOD Meetings	St. Charles
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 5:30pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
10:00am - 12:00pm	Volunteer Training and sign up	Studio 2
10:00am - 5:30pm	CITM - Hanging out and games	Balcony IJK
11:00am - 1:00pm	Average Height Youth: Scavenger Hunt	Balcony L
11:00am - 12:00pm	Teens: Pool Day!	Pool Deck
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Icebreaker - Finding your People	Studio 2
1:00pm - 2:30pm	LPA information center (Concierge)	Booth next to Registration
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Zumba class	Mardi Gras Ballroom
2:00pm - 4:00pm	Young Adult Ice Breaker - Pool Day	Pool Deck
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Parents and Family Reception	Bissonet
4:00pm - 5:00pm	MOPD Meet & Greet	Balcony L, M, N



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

SATURDAY– JULY 11TH (CONTINUED)

TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Recepción para Hispanos	Studio 2
5:00pm - 5:30pm	Children's Room Open House	Galerie 5 & 6
5:30pm - 9:00pm	<i>Offsite: Opening Celebration: Mardi Gras World</i>	Meet in Lobby
9:00pm - 11:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Bingo	Galerie 1,2,3
9:00pm - 1:00am	Dance - Green Out Night!	Grand Ballroom

SUNDAY– JULY 12TH

7:00am - 9:00am	DAAA Check In	Studio 1
7:30am - 9:00am	OWLS: Morning Walks with Carole (Hosted by Lil' Cajuns)	Meet in Lobby
8:00am - 12:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
8:00am - 12:30pm	DAAA Swimming (transport leaves 7 am)	Loyola University
8:00am - 6:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
8:00am - 9:00 am	Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop	Pool Deck
8:30am - 10:30am	Psychosocial Parent Meeting	Studio 7 & 8
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 10:00am	AA Meeting	Audubon
9:00am - 12:00pm	CODD Meeting	St. Charles

SUNDAY– JULY 12TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
10:00am - 11:30am	AH Youth: Game Day!	Balcony L
10:30am - 3:00pm	Offsite: NOLA City Tour	Meet in Lobby
10:45am - 11:45am	MAB Workshops - Session A	
	Achondroplasia and Hypochondroplasia	Studio 6
	Adult LPs - Growing Older and Wiser with a Skeletal Dysplasia	Studio 2
	Advanced Directives and Why They Should be Considered	Regent
	Everything Genetic about Skeletal Dysplasias	Galerie 1,2,3
	Taller Médico / Pain Management (Spanish workshop)	Bonaparte
	Menopause: Women's Health and Aging	Galerie 4
	Osteoarthritis, Joint Replacements and More	Salon A & B
	Pain Management	Studio 3 & 4
12:00pm - 4:00pm	Platinum Expo	Acadia
12:30pm - 5:00pm	DAAA Volleyball	Loyola University



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

SUNDAY– JULY 12TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
1:00pm – 2:00pm	MAB Workshops - Session B	
	Just the Facts, Ma'am (/Sir): The Latest Information on Controversial Topics of ELL, Drug Trials, and Voxzogo	Galerie 1,2,3
	Limb Alignment Issues in Skeletal Dysplasia	Studio 6
	Neurosurgical and Orthopedic Issues of the Head/Neck/Spine	Studio 7 & 8
	Nutrition 101	Salon A & B
	Pain Management	Studio 3 & 4
	Parental Discussion of Medical and Genetic Information with Pediatric Patients and Siblings	Studio 5
	Physical Therapy Concerns for Infants through Middle Schoolers	Studio 2
	Reproductive Issues	Galerie 4
	Respiratory Issues and Sleep Apnea	Salon C
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
1:00pm – 4:00pm	CITM - Sunday Funday Pool Day	Pool Deck
1:00pm – 4:30pm	LPA information center	Booth next to Registration

SUNDAY— JULY 12TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
2:15pm - 3:15pm	MAB Workshops - Session C	
	Achondroplasia and Hypochondroplasia	Studio 6
	Adult Cervical and Spinal Stenosis	Studio 7 & 8
	Hearing Loss	Salon C
	Osteogenesis Imperfecta and Related Conditions	Studio 5
	Pediatric Foramen Magnum Stenosis, Spinal Stenosis, and Hydrocephalus	Studio 3 & 4
	Physical Therapy Concerns for High School Years through Adulthood	Studio 2
	Pseudoachondroplasia, Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia Cartilage-Hair Hypoplasia, Ellis van Creveld, and Related Conditions	Galerie 4
	Research Results To Use In Everyday Life	Galerie 1,2,3
	SED, SEMD and Kniest	Regent
	Weight Loss 101	Salon A & B
3:00pm - 4:00pm	DAC Social- Screening of "VERONICA" with Selene Luna	Mardi Gras Ballroom



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

SUNDAY– JULY 12TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
3:30pm - 5:30pm	MAB Reception*	Riverview I & II
4:00pm - 5:00pm	International Reception	Balcony L, M, N
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Newcomer's Reception	Bissonet
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Grandparents Meet & Greet	Salon A
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Lee Kitchens Corner: Live Entertainment	Pool Deck
5:00pm - 9:30pm	<i>Offsite - Riverboat City of New Orleans Cruise</i>	Meet in Lobby
6:00pm - 8:30pm	<i>Off-site: Ghosts of the French Quarter</i>	Meet in Lobby
6:00pm - 10:00pm	DAC Visual Art Display	Acadia
6:00pm - 10:00pm	LPA Product & Career Expo & Platinum Expo	Acadia
8:00pm - 9:30pm	Rainbow Social	St. Charles
8:00pm - 1:00am	Special Barty Lounge: Latin Dance / Baile Latino	Mardi Gras Ballroom
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Bingo	Galerie 1,2,3
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Young Adult - Young Adult Karaoke Warm up	Riverview I
9:00pm - 1:00am	Dance - Blast to the Past (70s-00s)	Grand Ballroom

MONDAY - JULY 13TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
7:30am - 9:00am	OWLS: Morning Walks with Carole (Hosted by Lil' Cajuns)	Meet in Lobby
8:00am - 9:00 am	Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop	Pool Deck
8:00am - 12:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
8:00am - 4:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
8:30am - 10:00am	Parents Meeting	Studio 7 & 8
8:30am - 5:00pm	MAB Medical Meetings	River Tower, Suite 2330
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 1:00pm	DAAA Rowing	Balcony L, M, N
10:00am - 11:30am	AH Youth: Paint and Chat	Galerie 1,2,3
10:00am - 11:30am	General Assembly	Mardi Gras Ballroom
10:00am - 12:00pm	CITM - Painted Turtle - Arts and Crafts	Balcony IJK
10:00am - 1:00pm	DAAA Powerlifting	Loyola University
10:00am - TBD	<i>Offsite: World War II Museum</i>	Meet in Lobby
11:00am - 3:00pm	LPA information center (Concierge)	Booth next to Registration
11:15 am - 12:00pm	Reunion de padres en español	Bonaparte
1:00pm - 3:30pm	<i>Offsite: Teens - Historic Voodoo Museum</i>	Meet in Lobby
1:00pm - 4:30pm	LPA information center	Booth next to Registration



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

MONDAY - JULY 13TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
1:00pm - 1:45pm	General Workshops - Session I	
	Basic Science Series 101: Genetic Inheritance	Galerie 1,2,3
	Genetic Update for MPD	Salon A & B
	I'm Different to Make a Difference...	Studio 6
	Running for Public Office. Dwarf representation from your town to DC	Studio 3 & 4
	Taller en Español: Ableismo Internalizado	Bonaparte
	The Best Kept Secret in Disability Financial Planning: Able Accounts 101	Studio 2
	The Living Library	Galerie 4
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Fashion Show Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom
2:00pm - 2:45pm	General Workshops - Session II	
	Basic Science Series 101: Understanding Research	Galerie 1,2,3
	Dwarf Parents: Raising the Next Gen.	Galerie 4
	LP Moms of 3 & Under Playtime	Salon C
	Voice for Victory INC & LGI	Studio 7 & 8

MONDAY - JULY 13TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
2:00pm - 3:30pm	Chapter Officer's Workshop	Studio 3 & 4
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Average-Height Caregivers: Perspectives on SD Treatments	Studio 2
3:00pm - 4:30pm	OWLS Reception & Group Picture	Napoleon
4:00pm - 6:00pm	DAC Telephone Reception: Phoenix Rising	Mardi Gras Ballroom
4:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Offsite: Young Adult- Trip to Sazerac House</i>	Meet in Lobby
4:30pm - 5:30pm	CHH Meet & Greet	Iberville
4:30pm - 5:30pm	OI Meet & Greet	St. Charles
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Acromesomelic Meet & Greet	Bonaparte
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Donor and Board Reception*	Riverview I & II
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Pseudo Meet & Greet	Balcony L, M, N
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Morquio Meet & Greet	Salon A & B
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Diastrophic Meet & Greet	Studio 6
5:00pm - 7:00pm	OWLS: Dinner Meet-Up	Hotel Restaurant
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Lee Kitchens Corner: Live Entertainment	Pool Deck
6:00pm - 6:45pm	LPA Group Photo	Pool Deck



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

MONDAY - JULY 13TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
6:00pm - 10:00pm	DAC Visual Art Display	Acadia
6:00pm - 10:00pm	LPA Product & Career Expo	Acadia
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Fashion Show: Jazzy Jamboree	Grand Ballroom
9:00pm - 10:00pm	College Scholarship Reception	Riverview I & II
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Bingo	Galerie 1,2,3
9:00pm - 1:00am	Dance	Grand Ballroom
10:00pm - 1:00am	Barty Lounge: Speakeasy Night	Mardi Gras Ballroom
TUESDAY - JULY 14TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
8:00am - 9:00 am	Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop	Pool Deck
8:00am - 12:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
8:30am - 10:00am	Parents Meeting	Studio 7 & 8
8:30am - 5:00pm	MAB Medical Meetings	23, 24, 25 floor
8:45am - 2:00pm	Offsite: Bayou Discovery Pontoon Tour	Meet in Lobby
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 11:00am	CITM: Painted Turtle - Cabin Chat/Nerf	Balcony IJK
9:00am - 11:00am	LPA Talent Show Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom

TUESDAY - JULY 14TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
9:00am - 1:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
10:00am - 11:00am	Average Height Youth: Workshop 8 - 12 yrs	Balcony L
10:00 am - 11:00am	Reunion de padres español	Bonaparte
10:00am - 5:00pm	DAAA Badminton	Loyola University
11:00am - 2:00pm	LPA information center (Concierge)	Booth next to Registration
11:00am - 4:00pm	<i>Offsite: Second session - Bayou Discovery Pontoon Tour</i>	Meet in Lobby
11:30am - 3:00pm	<i>Offsite: OWLS event - Lunch at the Delacroix and Riverfront walk (formerly The Vue)</i>	Meet in Lobby
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
1:00pm - 1:45pm	General Workshops - Session III	
	Basic Science Series 101: Your Mind-Body Connection	Galerie 1,2,3
	Health and Wellness for LPs	Salon C
	Learn to Tell Your Story Part I	Studio 5
	MPD Family updates w/ Potentials	Salon A & B
	Sticks and Stones can break...	Galerie 4
	Taller en Español: Manejo del Dolor	Bonaparte



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

TUESDAY - JULY 14TH (CONTINUED)

TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
2:00pm - 2:45pm	General Workshops - Session IV	
	Basic Science Series 101: The Bare Bones about Bones	Galerie 1,2,3
	Learn to Tell your Story Part II	Studio 5
	Little Women Shaped in Confidence	Studio 2
	LP Moms	Salon C
	Real Talk: LP Professionals Share Their Career Journeys.	Studio 3 & 4
	Walking Tall	Regent
2:30pm - 5:00pm	CITM: Laser Tag	Balcony IJK
3:00pm - 3:45pm	General Workshops - Session V	
	Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations	Studio 2
	Adapting Your Environment for you	Bonaparte
	All about Camp! A panel discussion about summer camp opportunities	Studio 7 & 8
	Double Dominance & IVF Support	Galerie 4
	LPA Men's Group Workshop	Salon A & B
	Mindfulness Workshop Grounded Through Plum Village Practices	Studio 5

TUESDAY - JULY 14TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Panel Community Discussion on Skeletal Dysplasia Treatments and Lived Experience	Galerie 1,2,3
4:00pm - 5:30pm	SED / Kniest Meet & Greet	Studio 6
4:00pm - 6:00pm	OWLS Trivia Tuesday	Napoleon
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Districts Meet & Greet	Salon A, B, C
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Lee Kitchens Corner	Pool Deck
5:15pm - 6:30pm	Honoring our Roots - a Historical Dinner Celebration	Riverview I & II
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Adoption Reception	Balcony L, M, N
6:00pm - 7:00pm	AA meeting	Audubon
6:00pm - 10:00pm	DAC Visual Art Display	Acadia
6:00pm - 10:00pm	LPA Product & Career Expo	Acadia
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Talent Show: The World is Your Oyster, New Orleans	Grand Ballroom
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Bingo	Galerie 1,2,3
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Young Adults: Trivia & Pizza Night	Riverview I
9:00pm - 1:00am	Dance	Grand Ballroom
10:00pm - 1:00am	Barty Lounge: LBB	Mardi Gras Ballroom



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY - JULY 15TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
7:30am - 9:00am	OWLS: Morning Walks with Carole	Meet in Lobby
8:00am - 1:00pm	Children's Room	Galerie 5 & 6
8:30am - 10:00am	Parents Meeting	Studio 7 & 8
8:30am - 12:00pm	MAB Medical Meetings	Suite 2330
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 1:00pm	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
10:00am - TBD	Offsite: Aquarium	Meet in Lobby
10:15am - 11:30pm	General Workshops - Session VI	
	College Bound Students Students Only	Galerie 4
	Know your rights. Equal Opportunities & Non-discrimination...	Studio 2
	Loving an Addict	Salon C
	SED, SEMD, SMD, & Kniest	Regent
	Women's Group Meet-up	Studio 6
	Your Journey to College Parent Group	Salon A & B

WEDNESDAY - JULY 15TH (CONTINUED)		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
11:00am - 12:00pm	DAC Adult Improv Workshop	Mardi Gras Ballroom
11:45am - 1:00pm	Workshops Session VII	
	Accessing Services & Supports	Studio 2
	Car Seats and Skeletal Dysplasia - the Things Parents Should Know	Studio 3 & 4
12:00pm - 1:30pm	OWLS: Lunch Meet-Up	Hotel Restaurant
12:00pm - 2:00pm	LPA information center (Concierge)	Booth next to Registration
1:00pm - 3:00pm	NOLA Mask Making	Galerie 1,2,3
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Teens: Aquarium with Group	Meet in Lobby
5:00pm - 6:00pm	LPA NOLA Cocktail Hour	Acadia
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Lee Kitchens Corner: Live Entertainment	Pool Deck
6:00pm - 8:00pm	LPA Children's Banquet: Beads and Fun Party!	Galerie 5 & 6
6:00pm - 8:30pm	LPA Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler Awards Banquet	Grand Ballroom
9:30pm - 1:00am	Dance (New Orleans Night)	Grand Ballroom
10:00pm - 1:00am	Barty Lounge - Karaoke & Final Countdown	Mardi Gras Ballroom

LuskinOIC UCLA Health Skeletal Dysplasia Clinic: Expert Care for All Ages

LuskinOIC is proud to support the LPA National Conference and community. Our team of expert professionals provide compassionate, world-class care for skeletal dysplasia.



Anthony A. Scaduto, MD
President &
Chief Executive Officer



Services

- ✓ Coordinated Care: One-stop access to orthopaedics, genetics, endocrinology, and more.
- ✓ Comprehensive Expertise: Collaboration with neurology, cardiology, and therapy for mobility, heart, and breathing issues.
- ✓ Tailored Treatments: Prenatal diagnosis, bracing, medications, physical therapy, and sleep apnea care.
- ✓ Surgical & Nonsurgical Options: Monitoring and interventions for optimal bone health.



LPA Conference Schedule of Events

THURSDAY - JULY 16TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
8:00am - 5:00pm	DAAA Boccia	Grand Ballroom
9:00am - 10:00am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Napoleon
9:00am - 11:00am	LPA Registration	Studio 9 & 10
10:00am - 12:00am	Jazz-A-Tazz Brunch	Riverview I & II
11:00am - 3:00pm	Offsite Teens: Museum of Illusions	Meet in Lobby
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Dodgeball	Balcony IJK
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Offsite: OWLS Sazerac House Tour	Meet in Lobby
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Cornhole Tournament	Balcony IJK
9:00pm - 1:00am	Last Dance (Light up the Night NEON)	Grand Ballroom
FRIDAY - JULY 17TH		
TIME	FUNCTION	LOCATION
9:00am - 10:00 am	OWLS: Coffee Chat	Hotel Starbucks
All day	"See ya later, don't forget to write, I'll never forget you, this was the best week of my life, I'm definitely coming back next year... I'll even volunteer too..."	Hotel Lobby



Sunday, July 12th

Sunday Pool and Parent Workshops

Special Early Bird Workshop Session I: 8:00am – 9:00am

Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop

5th Floor Pool Deck, 8:00am - 9:00am

Presenter: Cecilie Rose, volunteer swim teacher with the Special Needs Aquatics Program

Start your morning with gentle water exercises designed specifically for Little People. A fun, refreshing way to move your body and connect with others in a supportive environment.

Sunday Parent Workshop: 8:30am - 10:30am

Parent Meeting: Psychosocial Issues in Children

8:30am – 10:30am,

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd level

Presenters: Janet Bell, M.S., C.G.C., Angela Duker, C.G.C., Peggy Modaff, M.S., C.G.C., Ericka Okenfuss, M.S., C.G.C., Amy Patterson, M.S., C.G.C., Shannon Persick, M.S., C.G.C., & Andrea Schelhaas, M.S., C.G.C

An open discussion group for parents of LPs, moderated by counseling professionals. Discuss the psychological and social aspects of dwarfism, i.e. talking to family, friends and strangers about your child's difference; dealing with staring, comments, teasing and the social stigma of short stature. Adult LP's are welcome to attend and provide a personal perspective on growing up as an LP. Due to the confidential and personal nature of this Parents Meeting, please do not bring children or infants.

Sunday, July 12th

Medical Workshops

LPA is pleased to offer a variety of medical workshops this year. Medical workshops are primarily on Sunday, July 12th, and then the doctors meet with members on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. General Education workshops will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. As attendees, you are expected to be respectful of the content discussed in the workshops and not discuss personal stories or information shared during presentations by other participants. Being respectful of the presenters and arriving on time would be appreciated. We always are so appreciative of our medical community sharing their knowledge and time with us, each and every year.

Medical Workshops Session A: 10:45am - 11:45am

Achondroplasia and Hypochondroplasia

Studio 6, 2nd floor

Presenters: G. Bellus; K. Lurman*; E. Okenfuss*; I. Ward*

This workshop will focus on a variety of diagnosis specific questions regarding medical issues related to both achondroplasia and hypochondroplasia.

Adult LPs - Growing Older and Wiser with a Skeletal Dysplasia

Studio 2, 2nd floor

Presenters: J. Farmer; J. Legare; A. Patterson*; A. Stadler*

This workshop will discuss unique issues that the LP population faces as members age, and strategies to deal with the changing body and everything that goes with it. Decisions regarding surgery, pain, as well as overall healthcare will be discussed.



Sunday, July 12th

Medical Workshops Session A: 10:45am - 11:45am (continued)

Endocrine Issues including Hypoglycemia, Bone Health and Growth in Patients with Skeletal Dysplasias

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Presenters: M. Bober; C. Jacobsen**

This workshop will focus on endocrine problems that may occur in some patients with skeletal dysplasias including hypoglycemia, bone health, growth hormone deficiency and others. Dr. Jacobsen will review the features of these endocrine disorders and how to recognize and treat them.

Everything Genetic about Skeletal Dysplasias

Galerie 1,2,3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: J. Bell; L. Botto; J. Hecht; C. Rogers*; G. Tiller**

In this workshop, principles of inheritance and the genetic cause of skeletal dysplasias will be discussed. The presenters will help to answer questions such as "Will the same diagnosis happen again?" It will also provide an update on the genetic understanding of various bone growth conditions and how that knowledge is used to diagnose and treat people.

Manejo del Dolor / (Pain Management)



Bonaparte, 4th Floor

Presenter: D. Rodriguez-Buritica

Discutiremos de forma general cómo identificar y manejar los dolores asociados a la talla baja. Dolores musculares, artritis, o compresión de nervios, podrían manifestarse de acuerdo a la displasia ósea de cada persona. Aprenderemos a identificar el tipo de dolor que sentimos, productos farmacológicos y no farmacológicos y posibles tratamientos.

Menopause: Women's Health and Aging

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: D. Krakow; C. Gioffreda*; M.E. Little*

This workshop will discuss medical issues related to LP women's health in the perimenopausal and postmenopausal stages of life. Topics discussed will include osteoporosis, reproduction, sexual health and general self-care as we age.

Osteoarthritis, Joint Replacement, and More

Salon A & B, 3rd Floor

Presenters: S. Spencer; K. White**

In this workshop, presenters will focus on problems in the joints that are the result of abnormal joint formation, excessive joint deterioration and arthritis. We will discuss management of chronic joint pain and surgical options.

Pain Management

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: R. Carroll; C. Francomano*; M. Jain; S. Little*

This workshop will include the causes of pain for people with short stature, including musculoskeletal, myofascial, and neurogenic (for example, caused by muscle spasm or arthritis, myofascial trigger points and nerve compression). We will discuss how to recognize which type of pain you may be experiencing and various strategies, both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic, to treat it. We will also suggest health care professionals who are best suited to assisting with pain management.



Sunday, July 12th

Medical Workshops Session B: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Advance Directives and Why They Should be Considered

Regent, 4th Floor

Presenters: C. Ditro; K. Harp; M.E. Little*; S. Little*

Advance directive is a document/process that allows you to make your health care wishes known before any decisions need to be made. We will talk in this workshop about why everyone but especially anyone with a skeletal dysplasia should make their health care wishes known so their loved ones are not guessing. We will go over the 5 wishes document and other resources that will allow you to make informed decisions about your future. This interactive session explores how individual advocacy evolves throughout life. Participants will learn the importance of making informed healthcare decisions, including the creation of advance directives. The workshop emphasizes the value of being prepared—especially in medical emergencies—and equips attendees with the tools to confidently navigate their own care as they grow and mature.

Just the Facts, Ma'am (/Sir): The Latest Information on Topics of Extended Limb Lengthening (ELL), Drug Trials, and Voxzogo

Galerie 1,2,3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: C. Gooch; J. Hoover-Fong*; C. Jacobsen*; P. Modaff**

The goal of this session is to discuss the medical facts about topics in the LPA community. Medical professionals will discuss the latest information and data about Extended Limb Lengthening (ELL), the medication Voxzogo, and several clinical trials designed to study the effects of pharmaceuticals on patients with a variety of skeletal dysplasias.

Limb Alignment Issues in Skeletal Dysplasia

Studio 6, 2nd Floor

Presenter: D. Hoernschemeyer; A. Scaduto; S. Spencer**

This workshop will focus on lower extremity bowing, malalignment, joint instability and pain. Surgical timing and expected recovery related to these lower extremity issues will also be discussed.

Neurosurgical and Orthopedic Issues of the Head/Neck/Spine

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Presenters: J. Campbell; T. Chen; M. Groves*; S. Mackenzie*; A. Stadler*

This workshop will discuss potential spinal cord issues in children and adults with skeletal dysplasias. This may include problems with a small foramen magnum, spinal stenosis, hydrocephalus and other complications that may occur. Surgery performed to correct problems and expected outcomes will be highlighted.

Nutrition 101

Salon A & B, 3rd Floor

Presenter: D. McInerney

In this workshop, we will discuss making good food choices and optimizing diet and nutrition for health and longevity.

Pain Management

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: R. Carroll; C. Francomano*; M. Jain*

This workshop will include the causes of pain for people with short stature, including musculoskeletal, myofascial, and neurogenic (for example, caused by muscle spasm or arthritis, myofascial trigger points and nerve compression). We will discuss how to recognize which type of pain you may be experiencing and various strategies, both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic, to treat it. We will also suggest health care professionals who are best suited to assisting with pain management.

Parental Discussion of Medical and Genetic Information with Pediatric Patients and Siblings

Studio 5, 2nd Floor

Presenters: J. Bell; A. Duker; A. Patterson**

Many parents of children diagnosed with a skeletal dysplasia have questions about how to discuss the diagnosis with their child and/or their child's siblings. In this workshop, we will talk about strategies and resources to help parents navigate discussing medical and genetic information with their children.



Sunday, July 12th

Medical Workshops Session B: 1:00pm – 2:00pm (*continued*)

Physical and Occupational Therapy Concerns for Infants through Middle Schoolers

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenters: K. Fine; K. Turner**

This session is an open forum with a physical therapist and an occupational therapist to discuss sports and recreation options that can be modified for the LP. Discussion will also include information on the aquatic/pool environment and how it is uniquely suited for the LP. Leaders will additionally facilitate discussions with LPs and their families to identify specific environmental obstacles and to share potential functional solutions or adaptations.

Reproductive Issues and Questions

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: D. Krakow; A. Schelhaas**

This workshop will discuss medical issues related to fertility and pregnancy. Topics discussed will include fertility issues and inheritance of skeletal dysplasias, how pregnancies may affect LP bodies differently than average-statured women, potential complications of pregnancy and risks to the fetus, reasoning for Cesarean delivery and types of anesthesia used. Prenatal diagnosis options will also be discussed. This is a workshop that is inclusive of all women, LP and average stature.

Respiratory Issues and Sleep Apnea

Salon C, 3rd Floor

*Presenters: J. Briddell; D. Tunkel**

This workshop will discuss medical issues related to sleep apnea, a common but often overlooked medical issue in the skeletal dysplasia community. Different types of sleep apnea will be discussed, with a focus on obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), where airway blockages cause repeated interruptions in breathing during sleep. Symptoms will be covered such as excessive daytime fatigue, loud snoring, and difficulty concentrating, as well as the long-term health risks, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Attendees will learn about diagnosis methods, including sleep studies, and available treatment options like CPAP therapy, lifestyle modifications, and surgical interventions. Additionally, we will address how sleep apnea may affect people with skeletal dysplasias differently and explore specialized solutions for managing symptoms effectively.

Medical Workshops Session C: 2:15pm – 3:15pm

Achondroplasia and Hypochondroplasia

Studio 6, 2nd Floor

Presenters: G. Bellus; E. Okenfuss*; C. Rogers*; A. Scaduto; A. Schelhaas*; I. Ward*

This workshop will focus on a variety of diagnosis specific questions regarding medical issues related to both achondroplasia and hypochondroplasia.

Adult Cervical and Spinal Stenosis

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Presenters: M. Groves; J. Farmer; A. Stadler*

This workshop will include cervical and spinal stenosis in adults with skeletal dysplasias. Surgery performed to treat these problems and their expected outcomes will be highlighted.

Hearing Loss and Ear Issues

Salon C, 3rd Floor

*Presenters: J. Briddell; D. Tunkel**

The workshop will focus on issues specific to hearing loss in LPs, for adults as well as children. The topics covered will include risks of hearing loss within the LP population, how to monitor for hearing issues and management of hearing loss and other inner ear issues.



Sunday, July 12th

Medical Workshops Session C: 2:15pm – 3:15pm (*continued*)

Osteogenesis Imperfecta and Related Conditions

Studio 5, 2nd Floor

Presenters: C. Gooch; M. Jain

Speakers in this workshop will address questions from the audience regarding medical issues related to Osteogenesis Imperfecta and related skeletal dysplasias.

Pediatric Foramen Magnum Stenosis, Spinal Stenosis, and Hydrocephalus

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: J. Campbell; T. Chen; K. White**

This workshop will include spinal stenosis and hydrocephalus in both children and adults with skeletal dysplasias. Surgery performed to treat these problems and their expected outcomes will be highlighted.

Physical and Occupational Therapy Concerns for High Schoolers through Adults

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenters: K. Fine; K. Turner**

This session addresses the evolving physical and occupational therapy needs of individuals with skeletal dysplasias from high school through adulthood, with an emphasis on maintaining mobility, independence, and quality of life. It explores strategies to manage pain, fatigue, joint health, and functional adaptations while supporting transitions to higher education, employment, and independent living (adulthood).

Pseudoachondroplasia, Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, Diastrophic Dysplasia, Cartilage-Hair Hypoplasia, Ellis van Creveld, and Related Conditions

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: J. Hecht; D. Hoernschemeyer**

Speakers in this workshop will address questions from the audience regarding medical issues related to CHH, EVC, and other rare skeletal dysplasias. Though there are fewer people with these specific dysplasia diagnoses, many of their dysplasia-related medical issues are similar and

may be managed well.

Research Results to Use in Everyday Life

Galerie 1 - 3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: M. Bober; J. Hoover-Fong*; P. Modaff**

The goal of this session is to share the results from important recent skeletal dysplasia research projects including CLARITY, the Skeletal Dysplasia Management Consortium and other global registries that make treatment guidelines. CLARITY is the largest natural history study about patients with achondroplasia. The Skeletal Dysplasia Management Consortium (SDMC) and other global registries have addressed medical care and quality of life treatment in other countries. They also have created treatment guidelines for people with all forms of skeletal dysplasias to manage surgery, pregnancy, sleep apnea, spinal stenosis and other medical problems. We will review some of the guidelines and how you can access this information to share with your local healthcare providers.

SED, SEMD and Kniest

Regent, 4th Floor

Presenters: A. Duker; J. Legare*; S. Mackenzie*; G. Tiller**

Speakers in this workshop will address questions from the audience regarding medical issues related to SED, SEMD and Kniest.

Weight Loss 101

Salon A & B, 3rd Floor

Presenter: D. McInerney

In this workshop, we will discuss strategies for weight management and weight loss methods, challenges, and weight loss nutrition. Weight loss medications (including GLP-1s) and other medical interventions will be discussed.

2026
MEDICAL WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



JANET
BELL, CGC



GARY
BELLUS, MD



MICHAEL
BOBER, MD



LORENZO
BOTTO, MD



JENNA
BRIDGELL, MD



JEFF
CAMPBELL, MD



RICKI
CARROLL, MD



TSULLE
CHEN, MD



COLLEEN
DITRO, DNP



ANGIE
DURKIN, CGC



JAMES
FARMER, MD



KIM
FINE, OT CHT

2026

MEDICAL WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



CLAIR
FRANCOMANO, MD



COLLEEN
GIOFFREDA, CPST



CATHERINE
GOOCH, MD



MARI
GROVES, MD



JACQUELINE
HECHT, PhD



DAN
HOERNSCHEMEYER, MD



JULIE
HOOVER-FONG, MD



KATIE
HARP, LCSW



CHRISTINA
JACOBSEN, MD



MAHIM
JAIN, MD



DEB
KRAKOW, MD



JANET
LEONARD, MD

2026

MEDICAL WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



MARY ELLEN
LITTLE, RN



SARAH
LITTLE, PA



KIRA
LURMAN, RN



W. STUART
MCKENZIE, MD



DEB
MCINERNEY, MS



PEGGY
MODAFF, CGC



ERICKA
OKENFUSS, CGC



SHANNON
PERSICK, CGC



DAVID
RODRIGUEZ - BURITCA, MD



AMY
PATTERSON, CGC



CALEB
ROGERS, MD



ANTHONY
SCADUTO, MD

2026

MEDICAL WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



**ANDREA
SCHELHAAS, CGC**



**SAMANTHA
SPENCER, MD**



**J. ANDY
STADLER, MD**



**GEORGE
TILLER, MD**



**DAVID
TUNKEL, MD**



**KAREN
TURNER, MSPT**



**ISUM
WARD, MD**



**KLANE
WHITE, MD**

**The medical experts who come to our
conference are the best in the world.
Please remember to thank them for
volunteering their time. We appreciate
their support and expertise so much.
Simply amazing!**



Monday, July 13th



Special Early Bird Workshop Session II: 8:00am – 9:00am

Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop

5th Floor Pool Deck, 8:00am - 9:00am

Presenter: Cecilie Rose, volunteer swim teacher with the Special Needs Aquatics Program

Start your morning with a gentle water workout! All levels of fitness are welcome. No swimming skills required, but you should be comfortable in the water. We will do water walking, gentle water aerobics and stretching. Everyone can go at their own pace and comfort. Bring a towel and a smile!

Parent Meetings

Parent Meeting

8:30am – 10:00am

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Facilitators: Kelsie Hankins & Joseph Tateoka

Open forum discussion for all parents with topics ranging from babies to school issues to teaching your child how to advocate for themselves. No topic is off limits - parenting is all about gathering the village around you and jumping in together.

Reunión de Padres

11:15am – 12:00pm,

Bonaparte, 4th Floor

Facilitadora: Brenda Martinez, Ana Soto, Marisol García

Conversación honesta para compartir experiencias, fortalecer identidad y aceptación en un ambiente seguro y empático. Padres y adultos en general de estatura promedio o talla baja son bienvenidos.



General Workshops

LPA is so excited to offer a variety of workshops this year - we have had such an enthusiastic response to our call for fabulous speakers. Individuals are speaking about their personal experiences and their presentations should not constitute medical, legal, or professional advice and are not endorsed by LPA. Being respectful of the presenters and arriving on time would be appreciated.

General Workshops Session I: 1:00pm – 1:45pm

Basic Science Series 101: Genetic Inheritance

Galerie 1 - 3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Gary Bellus, MD; Peggy Modaff, CGC

This is the first of 4 workshops in a new series this year. Wondering about medical terminology or how things work on a more basic level? If you'd like to perhaps relearn the really cool Punnett Square, then this workshop is for you! We will discuss how different traits and medical conditions can be passed down through families. We will focus on genetic inheritance, which is the way parents pass genes to their children.

The Best-Kept Secret in Disability Financial Planning: ABLE Accounts 101

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Allison Scott

In this session, we'll explore the benefits of ABLE accounts, which are a relatively new, tax-advantaged savings option specifically for people with disabilities. ABLE accounts can be a powerful tool for both LP kids and adults, allowing them to save money for the future – for everything from medical expenses to education to housing and beyond – while benefitting from unique tax advantages and without affecting eligibility for government benefits like SSI or Medicaid. No prior knowledge needed—just bring your questions and curiosity!

Genetic Update for MOPD

Salon A & B, 3rd Floor

Presenters: Michael Bober, MD; Angie Duker, CGC; Stuart Mackenzie, MD

Genetic and medical update of findings for microcephalic primordial dwarfism.



Monday, July 13th

General Workshops Session I: 1:00pm – 1:45pm continued

I'm Different to Make a Difference. It's Okay to be Different!

Studio 6, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Chris Hollyfield

As a seasoned motivational speaker with over 20 years of experience, I'm passionate about inspiring audiences with messages of respect, self-love, and anti-bullying advocacy. My work extends to producing documentaries on special needs athletes and authoring the empowering book 'Big Message, Short Story'. Let me bring my unique perspective and energy to your event, empowering attendees to overcome challenges and thrive.

The Living Library by the LPA Inclusion Committee

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Ellen Ereneau, Maria McClellan, Chloe Purcell

Check out a living book! Like a library, but instead of books, "readers" borrow people. These "Living Books"—volunteers with diverse, often marginalized backgrounds—share personal stories in 30-minute conversations to challenge stereotypes, promote empathy, and foster dialogue. We encourage anyone who wants to have intimate conversations with people whose story needs to be told.

Running for Public Office - Dwarf Representation from your Town to DC!

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Rebecca Cokley, President Obama's 3x Presidential Appointee; Tony Soares, former city councilman in Hoboken, NJ

For many years LPs have lobbied their local, state and national elected officials on many topics, from ADA, public education, banning dwarf tossing, lowering ATMs and more. But why not BE the public official that can help change things for LPs and other allied communities? This workshop will tell the stories of those who served from local city halls, state houses and the White House. Tony Soares was a city councilman who beat a local incumbent politician. Rebecca Cokley worked in the White House for President Obama.



Taller de español: Ableismo Internalizado

Bonaparte, 4th Floor

Presenters: David Funes, Social Worker

Ableismo Internalizado. Discutiremos las presiones que la sociedad ejerce sobre el enanismo, ya que puede ser difícil adaptarse a un mundo diseñado para personas de estatura promedio. El taller ofrecerá una introducción al capacitismo internalizado a través de la experiencia de las personas con talla baja, seguido de una discusión abierta sobre cómo esto se ha manifestado en sus vidas. También exploraremos maneras de crear conciencia e identificar herramientas individualizadas que nos ayuden a sentirnos seguros.

General Workshops Session II: 2:00pm - 2:45pm

Basic Science Series 101: Understanding Research and Your Community: Facts, Myths, and Anecdotes

Galerie 1 - 3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Michael Bober, MD; Andrea Schelhaas, CGC

This workshop helps participants better understand how research is designed and how data is gathered. Using real-world examples, it will also explore how to tell the difference between facts, myths, and anecdotes (personal stories). Participants will learn tools for thinking critically about information and talking about research in their community.

Chapter Officer Meeting (*extended time from 2:00pm - 3:30pm*)

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Deb Himsel

All LPA Chapter Presidents and Officers are invited to hear updates from Executive Director Deb Himsel and the Board. Bring your questions and connect with other chapter leaders.



Monday, July 13th

General Workshops Session II: 2:00pm – 2:45pm

Dwarf Parents: Raising the Next Generations

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Ellen Erenea, Stuart Moskovic

An intimate discussion among persons with dwarfism and their spouses/partners (AH or LP) about a range of subjects regarding challenges of first-time parents, parenting with health issues, psycho-social challenges, school issues, etc. This is a good time to connect with other parents and get advice. This workshop is specifically geared for an adult audience with dwarfism.

LP Moms: Three and Under Baby and Toddler Meetup

Salon C, 3rd Floor

Presenter: Allison Wohleb

Join us for 3 & Under playtime for babies and toddlers (both LP and AH) and their parents! Share stories, celebrate the wins, and find a community of parents in the same season of life.

Voice for Victory INC & LGI- The Little Giants Initiative

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Franca Ukpaiama & Victory Ukpaiama

The Little Giants Initiative, a flagship of the Voice for Victory Network, is built on a bold belief: that even the smallest voices, when empowered, can transform systems and reshape the future. We are launching a global movement that protects, includes, and elevates children with disabilities through structured advocacy, inclusive programs, and lifelong Disability Trust security. We want to begin a scalable model for dignity and equity where no child is overlooked, and every “little giant” is equipped to stand tall in a world designed to include them.

Tuesday, July 14th



Special Early Bird Workshop Session III: 8:00am – 9:00am

Early Bird Pool Exercise Workshop

5th Floor Pool Deck, 8:00am - 9:00am

Presenter: Cecilie Rose, volunteer swim teacher with the Special Needs Aquatics Program

Start your morning with a gentle water workout! All levels of fitness are welcome. No swimming skills required, but you should be comfortable in the water. We will do water walking, gentle water aerobics and stretching. Everyone can go at their own pace and comfort. Bring a towel and a smile!

Parent Meeting: 8:30am - 10:00am

8:30am – 10:00am

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Facilitators: Kelsie Hankins & Joseph Tateoka

Tuesday is all about the “Ask Me Anything” Panel, featuring LP and AH individuals that are there to share their perspectives, experiences, and answer any questions. This is an opportunity to get answers to questions you can’t find online... Googling and AI only gets you so far when you’re talking about human experiences.

Reunión de Padres

10:00am – 11:00am

Bonaparte, 4th Floor

Facilitadora: Brenda Martinez, Ana Soto, Marisol García



Conversación honesta para compartir experiencias, fortalecer identidad y aceptación en un ambiente seguro y empático. Padres y adultos en general de estatura promedio o talla baja son bienvenidos.



Tuesday, July 14th

AH Youth Workshops

Average Height Youth: Workshop for 8 - to - 12 year olds, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Average Height Youth: Workshop for 13+ year olds, 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Balcony L, 4th Floor, 10:00am - 11:00am (8 - 12 years); 11:15am - 12:00pm (13+ years)

Presenter: Katharine Cartwright

Meet up with friends that you made during the week to talk about your experiences at conferences and at home. Share your stories and support other average-height family members of LPA. What is it like to have most people remember our LP family member's name, but not necessarily ours? How do we handle people staring or name calling? What's the best part of being a part of this LP community, and where do we fit in? Opportunities to discuss a wide range of topics with candor: family, friends, school, recreational activities, and individual concerns. No parent or adult participation, please.

General Workshops Session III: 1:00pm – 1:45pm

Basic Science Series 101: Your Mind-Body Connection

Galerie 1 - 3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Amy Patterson, CGC

Health is not just physical! Your brain is the most amazing organ you have - it controls everything from your fear of spiders to how you feel pain. How does it make connections between your physical and mental health? A workshop about how your mind works, and how it affects your overall health.

Health and Wellness for LPs

Salon C, 3rd Floor

Presenters: Jessica Markbreiter

Join Certified Athletic Trainer Jessica Markbreiter for an engaging discussion on health and wellness tailored for LPs. Explore fitness accessibility and exercise modifications designed to support individuals of all ages and mobility levels. The session will also cover key topics in nutrition, overall wellness, and mental health, providing practical insights to help you lead a healthier, more balanced life.

Tuesday, July 14th

**Learn To Tell Your Story, Part I***Studio 5, 2nd Floor**Presenter: Gina Etherton*

Everyone has a story worth telling. Sharing a story about yourself is an act of courage and an act of generosity. Your story can cause people to connect to you, build relationships. In fact, storytelling builds community. Come and find commonalities in our shared narratives and their impact.

MPD Family Updates with the Potentials Foundation*Salon A & B, 3rd Floor**Presenter: Christy Jordan*

A collaboration of families and resources available for MPD. Learn from seasoned parents and meet fellow families with MPD.

Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me...or can they?*Galerie 4, 2nd Floor**Presenters: Cecilie Rose and Katherine Harp, LCSW*

Have you heard nicknames, annoying questions, medical terminology or jokes about dwarfism that you wish would go away forever? In this workshop, we will tackle some of these unhelpful words. We will strategize on ways to handle situations where they come up and change the narrative.

Taller en español: Manejo del Dolor*Bonaparte, 4th Floor**Presenters: Laura Casados, Psychologist*

Este taller nos dará la oportunidad de compartir aquellas situaciones que a lo largo de nuestra vida han traído consigo dolor emocional y/o físico, hablaremos sobre el proceso de duelo y se brindarán herramientas para llegar a una mejor aceptación de las mismas.



Tuesday, July 14th

General Workshops Session IV: 2:00pm – 2:45pm

Basic Science Series 101: The Bare Bones about Bones

Galerie 1 – 3, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Angie Duker, CGC; Klane White, MD

This workshop teaches students and families how bones work, how to keep them healthy, and what happens when bones need a surgeon to intervene. We will touch on what bones are made of, how they grow and change, and what kind of surgeries are typical in the skeletal dysplasia community.

Learn To Tell Your Story, Part II

Studio 5, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Gina Etherton

A continuation of Everyone has a story worth telling. Sharing a story about yourself is an act of courage and an act of generosity. Your story can cause people to connect to you, build relationships. In fact, storytelling builds community. Come and find commonalities in our shared narratives and their impact.

Little Women Shaped in Confidence

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Jasmine Lassiter

Little Women Shaped in Confidence™ focuses on restoring confidence and empowering little women to live larger than life with purpose and intention. Through encouragement, education, and authentic conversation, this workshop inspires attendees to embrace their identity, recognize their value, strengthen self-confidence, and confidently step into all they are meant to be. This will help create a more inclusive and informed community. Participants will leave renewed, encouraged, and empowered to create a greater impact within themselves, community and world around them.

LP Moms

Salon C, 3rd Floor

Presenters: Joelle Humes, Allison Wohleb

A time for LP moms to share their journey, make connections, offer support, and come together in this wonderful community as we experience motherhood as LPs.

Real Talk: LP Professionals Share their Career Journeys

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Amy Dinofrio

This session will highlight the wide variety of careers that Little People pursue. Through a facilitated conversation and Q&A, panelists will share their professional journeys, challenges, and successes to help attendees gain insight into different career paths and possibilities.

WALKING TALL: Heightening Confidence and Stepping into Your Greatness

Regent, 4th Floor

Presenter: Peggy O'Neill

As LPs, we all need to be resilient, strong, confident, and optimistic. In a word: Fierce! Come join personal empowerment expert, Peggy O'Neill and learn how you can build inner strength, express yourself skillfully and confidently, and be your AWESOME-self wherever you go!



Tuesday, July 14th

General Workshops Session V: 3:00pm-3:45pm

Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations: Getting Them and Keeping Them

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Kori Allen, Vice Chair of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities & Jon Etherton, LPA Coordinator for Federal Advocacy

Titles I and II of the ADA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act support you as an employee, patient, student and citizen both in the requirement for accessibility and the ability to request accommodations. Come learn the details, differences, and how you can use your power.

Adapting Your Environment for You

Bonaparte, 4th Floor

Presenter: Joelle Humes

A Workshop on making your environment more accessible to your needs. We often adapt ourselves to fit our environment. This workshop is designed to help you think of ways to change your living or work environment to suit your specific goals, lifestyle, and abilities, saving you energy for the fun stuff.

All about Camp! A Panel Discussion about summer camp opportunities

Studios 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Alex Cazmay, Kristen DeAndrade, Sarah Little, Cherylle Mallinson, Leah Smith

Hear from a diverse panel of camp directors serving the dwarfism community. Learn how inclusive, accessible camps nationwide create safe, joyful experiences that promote independence, friendships, and a strong sense of belonging for short-statured children and teens.

Double Dominance and IVF Support

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Kelsie Hughes & Lauren Webnar

Information and support for those who have gone through or are curious about double dominance pregnancy.

LPA Men's Group Workshop*Salon A & B, 3rd Floor**Presenters: Danny Fava, Jackson Santy*

Men's discussion group to provide a closed space for sharing experiences related to being a man with Dwarfism. Participants will explore how we've managed struggles and found successes in our experiences, while discussing ways to promote mental health with our families, partners, friend groups, and wider communities. This discussion aims to foster mutual support, resilience, and advocacy for positive mental well-being among male-identifying members of the Dwarfism community.

Mindfulness Workshop Grounded Through Plum Village Practices*Studio 5, 2nd Floor**Presenter: Michael Giuffre*

This workshop introduces participants to simple mindfulness practices from the Plum Village tradition that can be incorporated into everyday activities such as eating, walking, and sitting. Participants will experience a short sitting meditation, guided walking meditation, and a lighthearted eating meditation while contemplating how mindfulness can be woven into daily life in small, practical ways — even if it is only for a few minutes each day."Michael Giuffre is a special education teacher, mindfulness practitioner, and member of the Plum Village tradition founded by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. Michael has previously facilitated mindfulness workshops within educational and community settings, including mindfulness workshops for Little People of America conference participants focused on bringing mindfulness into everyday life.

Biotechnical Industry Committee Meeting: 4:00pm-5:00pm**Biotech Panel Community Discussion on Skeletal Dysplasia Treatments and Lived Experiences***4:00pm - 5:00pm**Galerie 1-3, 2nd Floor*

An open community session bringing together individuals with skeletal dysplasia, caregivers, and other members of the LPA community for a panel discussion on pharmaceutical treatments. Panelists from the LPA Biotech Committee, joined by select MAB members, will share perspectives shaped by lived experience and clinical insight while engaging with audience questions. The conversation will explore the range of viewpoints and considerations as the community continues to navigate an evolving treatment landscape.



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- Genetics
- Bone health
- Social work
- Rehabilitation medicine
- Physical therapy
- Endocrinology
- Pediatric special care
- Genetic counseling
- Pulmonary and sleep medicine
- Neurosurgery
- Otolaryngology

Learn more at childrenscolorado.org/skeletaldysplasia

Wednesday, July 15th

Parent Meeting

8:30am – 10:00am

Studio 7 & 8, 2nd Floor

Facilitators: Kelsie Hankins & Joseph Tateoka

Open forum discussion for all parents with topics ranging from babies to school issues to teaching your child how to advocate for themselves. No topic is off limits - parenting is all about gathering the village around you and jumping in together.

General Workshops Session VI: 10:15am – 11:30am

College Bound Students - Students Only!

Galerie 4, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Ivy McKnight

This workshop is geared towards high school students planning to go to college. This will be an open question and answer session between current LP high school students and current LP college students (or people who have recently graduated) to discuss accommodations, social life, campus life, planning for mobility needs, etc.

Know your rights. Equal Opportunities & Non-discrimination at Work, at School and in Medical Care.

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Jon Etherton, LPA Coordinator for Federal Advocacy

A framework of Federal laws protects members of the disability community from discrimination in many areas of life, including employment, housing, education and medical care. In addition to providing an overview, this workshop will introduce effective problem-solving and advocacy at the Federal, state and local level in our very dynamic time. There will be time for questions and discussion.



Wednesday, July 15th

General Workshops Session VI: 10:15am – 11:30am (continued)

Loving an Addict - AL(Anon)

Salon C, 3rd Floor

A support meeting for people supporting someone with a substance abuse concern.

SED, SEMD, SMD, AND KNIEST Workshop

Regent, 4th Floor

Presenters: Ronna Gilstrap, PhD; Claire Campbell

Ronna Gilstrap, PhD, is a Licensed Psychologist and retired Director of Student Support Services at a University in St. Louis, MO. Along with Lee Kitchens, she held the first SED workshop at a National Conference 28 years ago. As a Lifetime Member of LPA, she participates in OWLS programs.

Claire Campbell works as a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser. During her over 40 years in LPA, she has held numerous offices: Chapter President, District Director and National Conference Volunteer Coordinator. She is the proud mother of a son (AH) and daughter (LP).

Your Journey to College - Parent Group: Supporting your Student as they take the Next Step

Salon A & B, 3rd Floor

Presenter: Courtney Mulligan

This workshop is meant primarily for parents/family members who want to learn more about the accommodation process and expectations they can have of colleges for their children. I am the Director of Accessibility and Disability Resources at Wellesley College in MA. I have 20+ years of experience in disability and accessibility advocacy, so I should be able to help ease your fears. This is a Parent Workshop on the Journey to College. Parents have been advocating alongside their child with dwarfism since they were born, so preparing for higher education, where that dynamic will change, can be challenging. Come learn the ins and outs of the college accommodation process so that you, and your child, can get the most from their Disability Services Office. Come ask all your questions and encourage your student, or student to be, to attend the student focused session held at the same time.

Women's Group Meet-up

Studios 6, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Rachel Keller

An in-person meetup for the monthly women's group to discuss various topics that may come up in our community life.

General Workshops Session VII: 11:45am – 1:00pm

Accessing Services and Supports

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Presenter: Allison Lourash

There are many community resources available for people with dwarfism to access to live independent lives. Come get questions answered in this open format session on things like Social Security, legal advocacy, vocational rehabilitation, Medicaid and related programs, transition to college and employment, home modifications, and Independent Living Centers.

Car Seats and Skeletal Dysplasia - the Things Parents Should Know

Studio 3 & 4, 2nd Floor

Presenters: Colleen Gioffreda, CPST; Kira Lurman, RN, CPST

This workshop helps parents understand how to keep their child safe and comfortable on every ride. Technicians share practical tips, demonstrate best practices with children with skeletal dysplasia and their car seats, and answer family-specific questions.

LPA's 2026

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LPA's 2026

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LPA's 2026

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A Lifetime of Skeletal Dysplasia Care

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Areas of expertise:

- Ear, nose and throat
- Endocrinology
- Genetics
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Physical therapy

To learn more, visit cedars-sinai.org/skeletal-dysplasia



LPA National Board Meetings

Annual Meeting of the LPA Board of Directors and Council of Directors

Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm & Sunday (COD) 9:00am - 12:00pm; St. Charles, 41st Floor

LPA's Board of Directors and Council of Directors conduct an annual in-person session over the conference's opening weekend. The Board reviews the previous year's activities and creates programs and policies to advance the mission of LPA. Everyone is welcome to attend and listen.

<i>Meeting of the Board of Directors</i>	<i>Saturday, July 11th</i>	<i>8:00am - 4:00pm</i>
<i>Meeting of the Council of District Directors</i>	<i>Sunday, July 12th</i>	<i>9:00am - 12:00pm</i>

General Assembly Meeting

Mardi Gras Ballroom

Monday, July 13th

10:00am - 11:30am

The Board of Directors meet in person to conduct LPA business. During the past year, the Board has continued to work towards accomplishing the short-term and long-range goals to make LPA an organization we can all be proud of. Each member of the Board will share with the community the accomplishments of the recent past and the plans of the Board and the committees they oversee. Finally, the Board will open up a town hall discussion to answer questions from the membership. One of the goals of the Board has been to be available and transparent to the members it serves, and there is no better opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and have your voice heard.

Dedicated Rooms and Daily Events

We have a variety of rooms throughout the hotel that will primarily house one on-going event or activity for the week, or an event that will take place in the same location every day.

Bingo

Galerie 1-3; Second Floor

Saturday, July 11th - Tuesday, July 14th

9:00pm - 11:00pm

Bingo nights are back and packed with fun —four nights, four epic themes, and nonstop chances to win! Each night will feature a door prize, so be sure to arrive early and get ready for the fun!



We will also have a 50/50 raffle, which will be pulled on **Tuesday night** after the last game. Don't miss your chance for BINGO FUN!

Bonus Games Alert:

- On Sunday night, play for a chance to win an iPad
- On Monday night, you could walk away with brand-new AirPods

Bring your luck and get ready for four nights of fun, prizes, and community!

Barty Lounge

Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Saturday, July 11th - Wednesday, July 15th

10:00pm - 1:00am, 21 and over

Get ready to turn up the fun because the Barty Lounge is taking over the Mardi Gras Ballroom at the New Orleans Marriott, and this year's lineup is the best NOLA party vibe ever. Fantabulous Theme Nights:

- Saturday Night: Ragin' Cajun Karaoke Night!
- Sunday Night: Latin Dance!
- Monday Night: Speakeasy Night (LIVE BAND)!
- Tuesday Night: Little Big Band Night!
- Wednesday Night: Karaoke - the Final Countdown!



Dedicated Rooms and Daily Events

Children's Room

Galerie 5 & 6, 2nd Floor

Saturday 5:00pm - 5:30pm, Children's Room Open House

Sunday 8:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Monday 8:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Tuesday 8:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesday 8:00am - 1:00pm

Where kids go for fun! Let the kids play while you attend the educational workshops. (Pre-registration required).

Still need to sign up? No problem! Swing by the Registration Room to get your kiddo entry to the kid action. \$100 sign-up fee for the week. (It's a bargain at less than \$4 per hour! We are not able to sign up per day - the charge is for the entire week, but you can feel free to utilize it as much or as little as you'd like!)

LPA Archives - Oral History Interviews

Iberville, 4th Floor

Saturday, July 11th - Wednesday, July 15th

Time Scheduled by Appointment with Jim Kay, Archivist

LPA, supported by funding from the Warner Foundation and the Ford Foundation, has embarked on an ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. The project will focus on a cross-section of LPA members, including parents, siblings, various dwarf diagnoses, leadership at all levels, and staff. The oral history interviews will provide an opportunity for LPA members to share their life experiences, challenges, and accomplishments.

All oral history interviews were scheduled prior to the conference. Please do not disturb the interviews.

LPA's Calm Space

Rhythm Office, 4th Floor

This space provides a safe environment to retreat to when attendees feel overstimulated or overwhelmed by the LPA crowd.

LPA Expo

Acadia, 2nd Floor

Sunday, July 12th

12:00pm - 4:00pm*

** Platinum Expo Hours*

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Monday, July 13th

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Tuesday, July 14th

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Shop the best in LP-related business and products! What's a vacation without a little shopping? Products are not endorsed or approved by LPA, nor by the LPA Medical Advisory Board.



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2026 LPA National Conference
Products & Adaptive Equipment Expo

FEATURED VENDORS

- Apsley Tailors
- Allure by JB LLC
- Perfect Fit Cycles
- BeadednBlessed
- Little Shoe Store
- Many Bidets
- Shriner's Children's
- UW Health

- Best Lil Extensions
- UCLA Orthopaedics/Luskin
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Cedars Sinai Medical Center
- Nemours Children's Health
- Johns Hopkins University
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Solace Nutrition



Acadia Ballroom
July 12-14, 2026

expo.lpaconference@gmail.com






Dedicated Rooms and Daily Events

LPA Registration & LPA information center

Studio 9 & 10, and the Registration Booth, 2nd Floor

Date	Registration Room Hours	Info Center Hours
Friday, July 10th	8:00pm - 11:00 pm (please note - new time!)	See Registration Room
Saturday, July 11th	10:00am - 5:30pm; 9:00pm - 11:00pm	1:00pm - 4:30pm
Sunday, July 12th	8:00am - 6:00pm	1:00pm - 4:30pm
Monday, July 13th	8:00am - 4:00pm	11:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday, July 14th	9:00am - 1:00pm	11:00am - 2:00pm
Wednesday, July 15th	9:00am - 1:00pm	12:00pm - 2:00pm
Thursday, July 16th	9:00am - 11:00am	See Registration Room

Pick up your registration, purchase additional tickets to events, or begin your on-site registration. These rooms are open for your registration needs, questions, and concerns. The LPA information center is the place to ask a quick question about the conference, and will also be selling LPA items, including t-shirts.

DAAA Check-In

Studio 1, 2nd Floor

Friday, July 10th 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Saturday, July 11th 7:00am - 9:00am

Sunday, July 12th 7:00am - 9:00am

and other times TBD

The Dwarf Athletic Association of America is hosting their national games this year, but you **must be pre-registered to participate**. However, if anyone is interested in going to cheer the athletes on, that's always encouraged!

Medical Clinics, Sponsored by The Ellen Fernandez Fund*River Tower, Room 2330 for Check-in**Monday, July 13 8:30am - 5:00pm**Tuesday, July 14 8:30am - 5:00pm**Wednesday, July 15 8:30am - 12:00pm*

Meetings with medical professionals are available from members of our Medical Advisory Board. Most meetings were scheduled in advance; please check with the Registration Crew on Saturday morning at LPA Registration (Studio 9 & 10) or Monday afternoon, after 3pm in the MAB Clinic (Meeting Room 2330), for additional meeting availability.

Nightly Dance*Grand Ballroom**Friday, July 10th - Thursday, July 16th**9:00pm - 1:00am*

Get ready to party every night of the conference in the Grand Ballroom! Starting at 9pm, we'll keep spirits high with family-friendly favorites—from the Chicken Dance and YMCA to the Macarena—perfect for all ages. Around 11:00pm, the energy shifts as Club LPA takes over with EDM, dubstep, and top club hits to keep the dance floor alive until 1am. Requests welcome (though not guaranteed), so bring your best moves. Remember we are trying out theme nights this year - get into the LPA hype!

Saturday	-	Green Out Night! (DAM celebration!)
Sunday	-	Blast to the Past! (1970s thru 2000s eras)
Wednesday	-	New Orleans Night! (Mardi Gras colors)
Thursday	-	Light Up the Night! (NEON night)

OWLS Room*Napoleon Room, 41st Floor**Saturday, July 11th - Thursday, July 16th*

Who? The OWLS, that's who. Older, Wiser, Little Seniors have their own room this year on the 41st floor. Come on up and check out the views!



Dedicated Rooms and Daily Events

Peer Support Team

Formerly Social Work and Talking

Call 724-572-7928 during the week

Hi everyone! While we are all getting excited about this year's national conference we wanted to make sure that you knew that we are once again providing our awesome peer counseling service called PS - LPA (Peer Support - LPA) for our week-long conference. Whether you're someone with dwarfism or a family member, navigating the unique challenges and joys that come with being at this conference can sometimes feel overwhelming. That's where our peer counselors step in – they lend an empathetic ear, share experiences, and offer support. It's a safe space to chat about anything on your mind, from practical advice to personal stories. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to connect with someone who truly gets it. Make an appointment, call us, text us, and chat to feel the support of our fantastic community! Beginning Friday, please call or text us at 724-572-7928 to speak to a PS-LPA member.



**Need support during
conference hours?**

Call or text

724-572-7928

Alcoholics Anonymous

Audubon, 4th Floor

Sunday, July 12th, 9:00am

Tuesday, July 14th, 6:00pm

LPA is hosting two AA meetings staffed by local volunteers for our community on July 12th at 9:00am, and July 14th at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend the local meetings as well - schedules can be found on aaneworleans.org, but below are a few schedules for your convenience.

Mustard Seed
12 pm M,T,W, Th
Immaculate Conception Church
130 Baronne St

Sobriety at Six
6 pm M,T,W, Sat, Sun
Boulevard Club
211 N Norman C Francis Pkwy

Freddy's Ark
10 pm M,T,F, Sat, Sun
1656 N. Tonti St.

Parent and BioTech Meetings

PARENT MEETINGS

SATURDAY
3-30PM

PARENT & FAMILY RECEPTION

@ DISSONET

SUNDAY
8-30AM

PSYCHOSOCIAL QUESTIONS

MONDAY
8-30AM

OPEN FORUM / TOPICS STYLE

TUESDAY
8-30AM

#AMA PANEL - SHARING PERSPECTIVES

WEDNESDAY
8-30AM

ASK ANYTHING

STUDIO 7 & 8

BIOTECH MEETINGS

MONDAY
3-00PM

AVERAGE STATURE CAREGIVERS

STUDIO 2

TUESDAY
4-00PM

PANEL: TREATMENTS & LIVED EXPERIENCE

STUDIO 7 & 8



Children's Room

Sponsored by Children's Hospital of Colorado &

Shriner's Children's

Still need to sign up? No problem! Swing by the Registration Room to get your kiddo entry to the kid action. \$100 sign-up fee for the week. (It's a bargain at less than \$4 per hour! We are not able to sign up per day - the charge is for the entire week, but you can feel free to utilize it as much or as little as you'd like!)

Children's Room Open House

Galerie 5 & 6, 2nd Floor

Saturday, July 11th, 5:00pm - 5:30pm

Bring your family and explore the children's room. This is a Q & A time for parents to gain information about the events and procedures for this year's activities as well as to meet the best coordinator in the universe - Lou Ann McKay.

Children's Room

Galerie 5 & 6, 2nd Floor

Sunday - Tuesday

8:00am - 12:00pm; 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesday

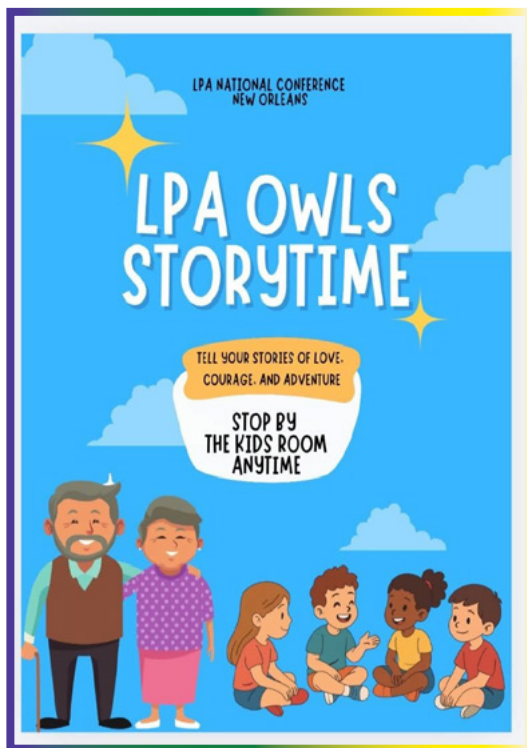
8:00am - 1:00pm

The children's room is a safe and exciting environment for children, ages 0-10, to explore, create, play and make friends while their families attend workshops and meetings. This room will be staffed by LPA members, their families and friends under the coordination of Lou Ann McKay, who has had years of previous experience with running the children's room. Lou Ann is an LPA parent and credentialed teacher, who taught kindergarten in New Orleans for 34 years.

Children's Room Guidelines:

Due to legal constraints, parents must remain on the hotel property at all times.

- All parents must provide the coordinators with a United States based phone number so that they may be reached in case of an emergency. Without this, a child(ren) will not be allowed to stay and registration fees will not be refunded.
- Due to food allergies, only water will be allowed in the Children's Room. Bottles for infants are allowed, however, they should be pre-made and labeled with your child's name.
- Parents must provide consent for all older children needing assistance with the bathroom. Parents will be called for diaper changes.
- Parents must provide any equipment or materials needed for their child's care and must be clearly labeled with their child's name.
- Your prompt pickup of your child(ren) is greatly appreciated! If there are repeated issues with pickups, we may deny access and withhold any refund.





CITM (Caught in the Middle) Activities

10 to 13 years of age, AH and LP youth welcome.

We are ready to have so much fun! However, we've learned from past fun and would like you to read the note from the hard-working CITM volunteers.

Please be aware that this space is not a supervised daycare facility. Children are free to come and go at their own discretion, and we do not have the ability to restrict their movement or ensure they remain in the room. While we strive to maintain a safe and welcoming environment, it is important for parents and guardians to be mindful of this when allowing their children to participate in activities here.

We kindly ask that you respect this space during its closed hours. We take great pride in maintaining a well-organized and inviting environment, and it is important that this order is preserved. When the room is not open, we ask that you refrain from using the facilities or accessing any of the recreational items. Your cooperation helps ensure that the space remains enjoyable and well-kept for everyone. Thank you for your understanding.

Friday, July 10th

CITM Meet and Greet POOLside

Pool Deck, 5th Floor

3:00pm – 4:30pm

Join us for a fun poolside meet 'n' greet to kick off the week. We'll start with quick introductions and a few easy icebreakers to help everyone get to know each other. You'll also get a sneak peek at all the exciting activities planned for the rest of the week, plus we'll squeeze in a couple of crazy games you won't want to miss.

Saturday, July 11th

CITM Game Day!

Balcony IJK, 4th Floor

10:00am – 12:00pm

Come and hang out with friends and participate in fun activities. Meet in the CITM room. We will be playing all sorts of games, including cornhole, playing in the Gaga pit, Plinko, team games, board games.

Sunday, July 12th**Sunday Funday Pool Day!***Pool Deck, 5th Floor**1:00pm - 4:00pm*

Get ready for an awesome afternoon at the pool with your friends. We'll splash, swim, and play tons of fun water games: from pool relays to water basketball to silly splash challenges, there's always something exciting happening.

Monday, July 13th**Painted Turtle in NOLA, Part I***Balcony IJK, 4th Floor**10:00am - 12:00pm*

Camp counselors Morgan Lee and Hans Murtell will be leading a lineup of classic, unforgettable activities; creative arts and crafts, and plenty of music to keep the energy high.

Tuesday, July 14th**Painted Turtle in NOLA Part II***Balcony IJK, 4th Floor**9:00am - 11:00am*

Camp counselors Morgan Lee and Hans Murtell are back to lead the fun with a wild Nerf gun battle, a hands-on arts and crafts session, and that unforgettable traditional cabin chat.

Laser Tag*Balcony IJK, 4th Floor**2:30pm - 5:00pm*

Get ready to gear up and dive into an action-packed session of laser tag with your CITM peers! Come ready to run, dodge, and claim bragging rights.

Wednesday, July 15th**Audubon Aquarium***Meet in Lobby**10:00am - TBD*

From colorful fish to hands-on exhibits, there's something cool to see around every corner. We plan to keep the CITM gang together as a group, and will walk or streetcar over together. **Pre-registration Required.**



Teen Events

High School: 14- to -18 year olds; AH & LP Welcome

Friday, July 10th

Meet and Greet at Cafe Beignet

Meet in Lobby

3:00pm - 4:30pm

LPA treats you to a local favorite, while you all catch up and also meet new friends. Find out what the sched is for the week, and who's doing what and where. Meet in Lobby to walk over together.

Saturday, July 11th

Hangin' By the Pool

Pool Deck, 5th Floor

11:00am – 1:00pm

Whether you're showing off your swim skills or just here to float, chill, and soak up the vibes, this is the spot to be.

Sunday, July 12th

The Shops and a Movie at Canal Place

Meet in the Lobby

11:00am – 3:00pm

Air conditioning. Shopping with your friends. Movie possibilities. A no-brainer in NOLA! It's an easy, laid-back way to spend the afternoon right in the heart of downtown New Orleans. Meet in the Lobby to walk over together.

Monday, July 13th**New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum (formerly the VUE)***Meet in the Lobby**1:00pm – 3:30pm*

Update on the Vue - We were recently informed that the Vue has permanently closed, but luckily we found a super cool replacement for this activity. One of the most unique and interesting small museums of the country, the New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum takes all the mysteries, the secrets, the history and folklores of rituals, of gris-gris, of Voodoo Queens and all that jazz, and put it all in one place in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter. Since 1972, this museum is a great place and learn about the rich culture that shapes this unique city. Once inside you can see historic voodoo relics, paintings, sculptures, and other artifacts. We will walk over together. ***Pre-registration required. Tickets bought for the Vue will apply to this event. Additional tickets available for sale onsite.***

Tuesday, July 14th**Hangin' By the Pool***Pool Deck, 5th Floor**1:00pm – 4:30pm*

Whether you're showing off your swim skills or just here to float, chill, and soak up the vibes, this is the spot to be.

Wednesday, July 15th**Audubon Aquarium***Meet in Lobby**10:00am – TBD*

From colorful fish to hands-on exhibits, there's something cool to see around every corner. Teens will discover the underwater creatures together as a group. We will walk over together, or take the streetcar. ***Pre-registration Required***

Thursday, July 16th**Museum of Illusions***Meet in Lobby**11:00am – 3:00pm*

Step into a world where nothing is quite what it seems; walk through mind-bending rooms, defy gravity, and snap photos that will have your friends doing double takes. It's part science, part art, and completely awesome. ***Pre-registration Required***



YA at LPA: Young Adult Events

YA at LPA: 18- to 24-year-olds; AH & LP Welcome

Saturday, July 11th

Hangin' By the Pool

Pool Deck, 5th Floor

2:00pm – 4:00pm

We'll have music, good vibes, and plenty of time to unwind however you like. Just show up, kick back, and enjoy the sun.

Sunday, July 12th

Young Adult Karaoke Warm Up

Riverview I, 41st Floor

9:00pm - 11:00pm

We are warming things up with a fun, low-pressure karaoke session. Whether you're a confident performer or just in it for the laughs, this is the perfect chance to loosen up, meet new people, and cheer each other on.

Monday, July 13th

Sazerac House

Meet in the Lobby

4:00pm – 6:00pm

We'll check out the cool interactive exhibits, learn a little about the history behind some classic New Orleans drinks, and see how everything comes together behind the scenes. We will walk over together. ***Pre-registration Required - sold out pre-conference.***

Tuesday, July 14th

Laser Tag

Balcony IJK

1:00pm – 2:30pm

You're never too old to beat your friends at Laser Tag. Claim bragging rights for the week in this competitive session.

Tuesday, July 14th *(continued)***Trivia & Pizza Night***Riverview I, 41st Floor**9:00pm - 11:00pm*

Bring your knowledge of all things for rounds of trivia that mix pop culture, random facts and the occasional historical story. Pizza will be there to keep your brain fresh for #winning.

Wednesday, July 15th**Audubon Aquarium***Meet in Lobby**10:00am – TBD*

From colorful fish to hands on exhibits, there's something cool to see around every corner. What's better than a room with air-conditioning and amazing fish to check out with your best friends? We will walk over together. ***Pre-registration Required***

Thursday, July 16th**Dodgeball and Cornhole***Acadia, 2nd Floor**1:00pm – 4:30pm*

Get ready for an afternoon where athleticism, chaos, and questionable strategy collide. Our Dodgeball and Cornhole Tournaments are the perfect chance to show off your skills, whether you're the type who can launch a dodgeball with laser accuracy or a person who immediately ducks and hopes for the best. On the cornhole side, you'll witness everything from graceful tosses to beanbags that somehow defy physics and are found in a totally different part of the hotel. Prizes for the tournament victors will be awarded.



Older Wiser(?) Little Senior (OWLS) Events

Our Older Wiser Little Seniors (OWLS) group is robust, opinionated, and very active. Here's what the 50+ group is doing in New Orleans. Thank you goes to Carole Henley, who is leading the group this year, and has the most ambitious schedule yet. Board games, cards, jigsaw puzzles will be available in the OWLS room for the week.

Saturday, July 11th - Friday, July 17th

OWLS Coffee Chat - BYOC

Napoleon, 41st Floor; 9:00am - 10:00am

Coffee is necessary daily to start this jam-packed week! This is a bring-your-own coffee (BYOC) event, to hang out with friends in our cozy OWLS nest. Come say hi to your friends every morning of the conference, and bring your projects to knit, crochet or embroider if you'd like.

Saturday, July 11th

Zumba

Mardi Gras Ballroom; 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Best way to bond at the beginning of the week is to get that energy out amongst our OWLS companions. ALL are welcome.

Sunday, July 12th

Morning Walks with Carole (Hosted by Lil' Cajuns)

Meet in Lobby; 7:30am - 9:00am

Walkers will meet in the lobby @ 7:30 for a 30-45 Min walk down Canal Street to the River and over to Jackson Square and back to the hotel. Cafe Du Monde is just past Jackson Square... treating yourself after a walk is a reasonable thing to do!

Riverboat City of New Orleans Cruise

Meet in Lobby; 5:30pm - 9:30pm (Boarding begins at 6pm; Boat leaves dock at 7pm sharp)

Meet in Lobby to walk with friends, or take Streetcar to Toulouse Street.

Address of the Dock is 101 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA

Take in the beautiful views of the Mississippi River as you listen to live jazz and savor a delicious Southern-style meal. The pier is a 15-minute walk from the hotel, or streetcar ticket purchase is available. **Pre-registration Required.**

Monday, July 13th

Morning Walks with Carole (Hosted by Lil' Cajuns)

Meet in Lobby; 7:30am - 9:00am

OWLS Reception and Group Picture*Napoleon, 41st Floor; 3:00pm - 4:30pm (NEW TIME)*

OWLS are invited to come and meet some favorite people. Whether you are new to LPA or have attended many conferences in the past, this is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.

OWLS Dinner Meet-Up*Hotel Restaurant; Right after the reception!***Tuesday, July 14th****OWLS Offsite Lunch at Delacroix and Riverwalk Fun (previously the Vue)***Meet in Lobby; 11:30am - 3:00pm (NEW TIME AND INFORMATION!)*

Update on the Vue - We were recently informed that the Vue has permanently closed, but luckily the lunch restaurant is in a wonderful area to explore. The delicious lunch at Delacroix will still take place as scheduled! We can't wait for you to enjoy it and be together. Afterward, be sure to take a relaxing stroll along the Riverwalk or cool off with some shopping and sights at The Outlet Collection at Riverwalk—it's a perfect way to make the most of your time in the area. It's just an eight-minute walk from the hotel, so we can stroll over together or take the streetcar if that's more comfortable. The address to the restaurant is 1 Poydras Street, New Orleans.

OWLS Trivia*Napoleon, 41st Floor; 4:00pm - 6:00pm*

"Conventions Through the Years/Name That Convention/People/Places" . Whether you are a Cool Cat, a Far out/Outta Sight Hippy or a Totally Tubular Spicoli Wanna Be, come dressed up from your favorite decade!

Wednesday, July 15th**Morning Walks with Carole (Hosted by Lil' Cajuns)***Meet in Lobby; 7:30am - 9:00am***OWLS Lunch Meet-up***Hotel Restaurant; 12:00pm - 1:30pm***Thursday, July 16th****OWLS Sazerac House Tour***Meet in Lobby; 1:00pm - 3:00pm*

We can take a stroll to the museum right across the street! **Pre-registration Required - sold out pre-conference.**



A team approach to skeletal dysplasia

As one of the nation's leading multidisciplinary centers, Boston Children's **Skeletal Health Center** takes a team approach to care, bringing together experts in areas such as:

- Endocrinology
- Genetics
- Orthopedics
- Neurosurgery
- Otolaryngology
- Physical therapy
- Nutrition
- And more



Where the world comes for answers

Learn more



Average Height Youth Events

All ages between 8-21 years old, AH youth welcome.

Saturday, July 11th

Photo Scavenger Hunt:

Balcony L

11:00am – 12:00pm

Explore the hotel during an exciting Scavenger Hunt with your average height peers, while getting to know each other and working together as a team. Win prizes, too!

Sunday, July 12th

Game Day

Balcony L

10:00am - 11:30am

For kids too old for the kid's room. Join us for an exciting Average Height Youth Game Session! Come enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with a variety of games, including classic board games and team challenges.

Monday, July 13th

Paint and Chat

Galerie 1,2,3

10:00am - 11:00am

Have the chance to take home your finished artwork as a special keepsake from the 2026 LPA National!

Tuesday, July 14th

Both sessions held in Balcony L

Games and Workshop for AH Younger Youth, 8 - 12 years old

10:00am - 11:00am

Games and Workshop for AH Youth, 13 and up

11:15am - 12:15pm



Eventos en Español

Sábado, 11 de julio

Recepción para las personas de habla Hispana

Studio 2; 4:00pm – 5:00pm

LPA tiene muchos miembros que participarán de España, México, América Central y América del Sur. Esta es la oportunidad para que las personas de talla baja y sus familiares compartan sus experiencias con personas de diferentes países y regiones.

Domingo, 12 de julio

Taller Médico

Bonaparte; 10:45am - 11:45am

Discutiremos de forma general cómo identificar y manejar los dolores asociados a la talla baja. Dolores musculares, artritis, o compresión de nervios, podrían manifestarse de acuerdo a la displasia ósea de cada persona. Aprenderemos a identificar el tipo de dolor que sentimos, productos farmacológicos y no farmacológicos y posibles tratamientos.

Baile Latino

Mardi Gras Ballroom; 8:00pm - 1:00am

De 8:00pm a 10:00pm, abierto para público de todas las edades. Luego de las 10:00pm sólo para adultos. Ven a bailar al ritmo de la música latina..., salsa, merengue, cumbia y más! No te pierdas esta divertida oportunidad de compartir con nuevos y viejos amigos. Están todos invitados.

Lunes 13 de julio

Reunión de padres

Bonaparte; 11:15am - 12:00pm

Discusión abierta para padres con hijos de talla baja, en la que se compartirán experiencias y sugerencias sobre diferentes aspectos de la vida diaria.

Lunes 13 de julio

Taller en español

Bonaparte; 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Ableismo Internalizado. Discutiremos las presiones que la sociedad ejerce sobre el enanismo, ya que puede ser difícil adaptarse a un mundo diseñado para personas de estatura promedio. El taller ofrecerá una introducción al capacitismo internalizado a través de la experiencia de las personas con talla baja, seguido de una discusión abierta sobre cómo esto se ha manifestado en sus vidas. También exploraremos maneras de crear conciencia e identificar herramientas individualizadas que nos ayuden a sentirnos seguros.

Martes 14 de julio

Reunión de padres

Bonaparte; 10:00am - 11:00am

Sesión de integración a través de la creatividad. Un espacio en el que el diálogo y la creatividad promoverán la interseccionalidad

Taller en español : Manejo del Dolor

Bonaparte; 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Este taller nos dará la oportunidad de compartir aquellas situaciones que a lo largo de nuestra vida han traído consigo dolor emocional y/o físico, hablaremos sobre el proceso de duelo y se brindarán herramientas para llegar a una mejor aceptación de las mismas.



Dwarf Artist Coalition Activities

The Dwarf Artist Coalition (DAC) brings together different artists, highlighting their work in music, art, photography, design, spoken word, and performance. The hope is to celebrate all the natural artists while fostering new artists and inspiring the community!

Open Mic Night

Saturday, July 11th / 10:00pm - 1:00am

Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Open Mic Night is a space to be heard. LPA members ages 21+ are invited to share their voice or story on an open stage celebrating creativity through words and language. From music and poetry to storytelling, comedy, and spoken word, all forms of original expression are welcome. Come take the mic and bring your perspective to the stage.

DAC Social: Screening of "Veronica" with Selene Luna

Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Sunday, July 12th, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, Adults and Teens welcome!

VERONICA, produced by and featuring Selene Luna, is a bold and intimate work that challenges long-standing tropes within the entertainment industry by centering the story of an actress with dwarfism, a perspective rarely seen on screen. Rooted in lived experience, the film offers an honest and deeply human portrait of navigating an industry that has historically limited who gets to be fully seen, heard, and understood. "Veronica" reframes familiar narratives with something more expansive, truthful, and authentic.

DAC Visual Art Display

Acadia, 3rd Floor

Sunday, July 12th - Tuesday, July 14th / 6:00pm - 10:00pm

DAC will be showcasing artists' submissions in a digital gallery display during the Expo hours, July 12th-14th. These pieces-of-art, pending artist preference, may be available for purchase. Come check out the wonderful pieces at the Expo and support our visual artists!

DAC Telephone Reception - Phoenix Rising*Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor**Monday, July 13th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm*

The Telephone Project is a celebration of creativity and collaboration, spotlighting the talents of DAC members through a unique and inspiring event. This year, the works will honor one of Annie Danberg's original works, "PHOENIX RISING" We wanted to honor Annie, one of our coalition members who has been around since the beginning of the DAC. Honoring the artists that have paved the way and have made spaces like this for us. Inspired by her work, this year's Telephone Project takes her original piece "PHOENIX RISING" as its starting point, transforming it into a multi-disciplinary showcase. Artists will interpret and build upon one another's creations—spanning spoken word, dance, monologue, song, photography, painting, and more—just like the classic game of "Telephone." The result is a captivating live event full of surprises and artistic innovation. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind experience that honors one of the coalition's original members who has given us so much of her creativity, her wisdom and her constant mentorship throughout the years.

DAC Adult Improv Workshop*Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor**Wednesday, July 15th, 11:00am - 12:00pm*

This workshop is designed for adults who want to dip their toes into the joyful chaos of improv comedy. Through fast-paced games inspired by Whose Line Is It Anyway? and the Smosh Pit YouTube channel, we'll laugh, play, and experiment while building confidence, sharpening creativity, cultivating stage skills, and strengthening that all-important "Yes, And" muscle. No experience needed—just curiosity and a willingness to play!





Receptions and Meet & Greets

Whether you are a seasoned conference attendee or a first timer wanting to meet others, we encourage you to take advantage of these wonderful get-togethers. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new people, exchange ideas, ask important questions, relax and socialize. Most of the receptions are open to all members with the exception of those noted with an asterisk (*). Times are subject to change. Light food is provided at some receptions, however 'meet and greets' do not have food provided.

FRIDAY - JULY 10TH		
Time	Function	Location
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Welcome Back Board Reception	Balcony L,M,N
SATURDAY - JULY 11TH		
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Parents and Family Reception	Bissonet
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Recepción para Hispanos	Studio 2
4:00pm - 5:30pm	MOPD Meet & Greet	Balcony L,M,N
SUNDAY - JULY 12TH		
3:30pm - 5:30pm	MAB Reception* <i>Sponsored by the Ellen Fernandez Fund</i>	Private Event
4:00pm - 5:00pm	International Reception	Balcony L, M, N
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Newcomer's Reception* <i>Sponsored by Boston Children's Hospital, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, & Nermours Children's Health</i>	Bissonet
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Grandparents Meet & Greet	Salon A
8:00pm - 9:30pm	Rainbow Social	St. Charles

*By invitation only.

Receptions and Meet & Greets

MONDAY - JULY 13TH		
Time	Function	Location
3:00pm - 4:30pm	OWLS Reception <i>Sponsored by UW Health</i>	Napoleon
4:00pm - 6:00pm	DAC Telephone Reception: Phoenix Rising	Mardi Gras Ballroom
4:30pm - 5:30pm	CHH Meet & Greet	Iberville
4:30pm - 5:30pm	OI Meet & Greet	St. Charles
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Acromesomelic Meet & Greet	Bonaparte
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Donor & Board Reception*	Private Event
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Morquio Meet & Greet	Salon A & B
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Pseudo Meet & Greet	Balcony L, M, N
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Diastrophic Meet & Greet	Studio 6
9:00pm - 10:00pm	College Scholarship Reception <i>Sponsored by Johns Hopkins University</i>	Private Event
TUESDAY - JULY 14TH		
4:00pm - 5:30pm	SED /Kniest Meet & Greet	Studio 6
5:00pm - 6:00pm	District Meet & Greet	Salon ABC
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Adoption Reception <i>Sponsored by Parking Systems</i>	Balcony LMN



Receptions and Meet & Greets

Meet and Greets are an opportunity to come and share experiences, meet new people, exchange ideas, ask important questions, relax and socialize. We encourage all to attend and connect with other LPA members and make new friends. Here is the list of Meet and Greets that are offered this year (please see pages 110-111 for location, dates and times).

- Acromesomelic Dysplasia
- Cartilage Hair Hypoplasia (CHH)
- Diastrophic Dysplasia
- District Meet-Up
- Grandparents
- Morquio Syndrome
- Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)
- Parents of Little People (POLP)
- Primordial (MOPD)
- Pseudoachondroplasia
- Spondyloepiphyseal Dysplasia (SED), Kniest, and related conditions

Adoption Reception

Sponsored by Parking Systems

Balcony L,M,N; 4th Floor

Tuesday, July 14th, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Join us to meet other families who have already adopted, or who are going through the process now. Share your experiences about one of life's most amazing journeys. Adoption is a wonderful element of LPA's culture. Come and celebrate with us. Children are very welcome!

Board of Directors Reception

Balcony L,M,N; 4th Floor

Friday, July 10th, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

A reception to say hello to our newly elected members, and a welcome back to the veteran members of our hard-working Board.

College Scholarship Reception *

Sponsored by The Greenberg Center at Johns Hopkins University

Monday, July 13th, 9:00pm - 10:00pm

This is a private reception to honor this year's LPA College Scholarship Award Recipients. We will also be recognizing those who participated in this year's LPA College Mentorship Program. **By invitation only*

Donor and Board Reception *

Monday, July 13th, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

This is a private reception to thank our generous Donors, Sponsors, Board of Directors, and other Volunteer Leaders. **By invitation only*

Dwarf Artists Coalition (DAC) Telephone Reception

Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Monday, July 13th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

This reception is a celebration of creativity and collaboration, spotlighting the talents of DAC members through a unique and inspiring event.

International Reception

Balcony L,M,N, 4th Floor

Sunday, July 12th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Our LPA National Conference hosts attendees from all over the world. Come and learn more about their lives and organizations and share with them some of your experiences. This is also a good opportunity for them to learn about LPA.

MAB Reception *

Sponsored by the Ellen Fernandez Fund

Sunday, July 12th, 3:30pm - 5:30pm

This is a private reception for LPA's Medical Advisory Board and their guests.

**By invitation only*

Newcomers' Reception

*Sponsored by Boston Children's Hospital, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, Nemours Children's Health
Bissonet, 3rd Floor*

Sunday, July 12th, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

If this is your first time attending a National Conference, please join us to learn what to expect. You will learn about all the events, the workshops, and in general, how to navigate your way around a national conference. This reception is hosted by seasoned LPA members who will give you advice they have learned from years of attendance and service. It is a great opportunity to ask questions, and to meet other first-timers. We highly recommend you attend this reception to help alleviate any anxiety you may be experiencing.

LPA's 2026 Dwarfism Advocacy T-Shirt



It's never too early to get ready for
Dwarfism Advocacy Month.
Be one of the first to get our 2026 DAM Shirt!



On Sale July 1

Order between July 1-21 to
take advantage of special
conference pricing!

Receptions and Meet & Greets

OWLS Reception (Older Wiser Little Seniors)

Sponsored by University of Wisconsin - Health

Napoleon, 41st Floor

Monday, July 13th, 3:00 pm - 4:30pm

You are invited to come and meet others who are enjoying their best and wisest years yet. Whether you are new to LPA or have attended many conferences in the past, this is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.

Parent and Family Reception

Bissonet, 3rd Floor

Saturday, July 11th, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

New Time! Whether you are the parent of a young child or an older child, come learn and share what the LPA conference is like, and what to expect. You will meet our National Parent Coordinators and learn the schedule and topics of the Parent Meetings for the week.

Rainbow Social (2SLGBTQIA+ and Allies)

St. Charles, 41st Floor

Sunday, July 12th, 8:00pm - 9:30pm

This is an opportunity to meet new friends, visit with old friends, and discuss what is important to you. You will have the opportunity to exchange stories, ideas, and helpful advice. We welcome both gay and supportive straight family and friends.

Recepción para las personas de habla hispana

Studio 2, 2nd Floor

Saturday, July 11th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

LPA tiene muchos miembros que participarán de España, México, América Central y América del Sur. Esta es la oportunidad que las personas de talla baja y sus familiares compartan sus experiencias con personas de diferentes países y regiones. También se dará un breve recuento de las actividades a realizarse en la convención. Esta recepción será coordinada por los miembros de habla hispana de LPA.

Veronica

She's got no business, in show business



“VERONICA” is a darkly funny and deeply moving short film about self-worth, resilience, and the quiet power of saying no.

Produced by and starring Selene Luna, the film offers a bold, intimate portrait of an actress with dwarfism navigating an industry that has too often defined her by limitations rather than humanity. Drawing from lived experience, VERONICA challenges long-standing stereotypes with honesty, humor, and heart, offering a perspective rarely seen on screen.

Join us for this special screening and experience a powerful story about dignity, identity, and the courage to reclaim your own narrative.

Q&A with Selene Luna following the screening



**Hosted by DAC {Dwarf Artist Coalition}
Sunday, July 12 at 3pm
Barty Lounge**

Onsite Special Events

Cornhole!

Acadia, 3rd Floor

Friday, July 10th / 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Cornhole is a great way to break into the conference vibe, and get the joints moving right before the dance. Connect, throw, groan, repeat. It's Friday night at conference, y'all.

Zumba with Jenny!

Mardi Gras Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Saturday, July 11th / 1:00pm - 2:30pm

ALL are welcome! Please come with your Zumba wear or come as you are and get ready to rock some moves. You can even use a stool and sit and dance in place if you wish!! Scooters will be parked "on the sidelines". Jenny is a certified Fitness and Zumba instructor. She has been teaching for many years and will focus on a low impact session with lots of great songs, old and new. Get ready to Zuuuummmmbaaaa!

Screening of "Veronica" with Selene Luna

Mardi Gras Ballroom

Sunday, July 12th / 3:00pm - 4:00pm

VERONICA, produced by and featuring Selene Luna, is a bold and intimate work that challenges long-standing tropes within the entertainment industry by centering the story of an actress with dwarfism, a perspective rarely seen on screen. Rooted in lived experience, the film offers an honest and deeply human portrait of navigating an industry that has historically limited who gets to be fully seen, heard, and understood. "Veronica" reframes familiar narratives with something more expansive, truthful, and authentic. Adults and Teens are welcome!

Guided by Selene Luna's vision and brought to life through a powerful ensemble and an impressive creative team, "Veronica" exists as both a personal story and a cultural intervention. The film highlights the power of authentic storytelling, using performance to challenge expectations and expand representation. More than a reflection of Selene's impactful career, "Veronica" is a call to elevate artists who are actively reshaping narratives within the creative industries. Courageous, necessary, and unforgettable, the film leaves a lasting impression. You won't want to miss it!



Onsite Special Events

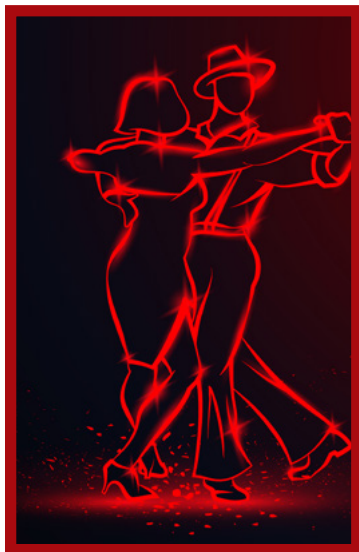
Baile Latino - Latin Dance Night - Everyone is invited!

Mardi Gras Ballroom

Sunday, July 12th / 8:00pm - 1:00am

Ven a bailar al ritmo de la música latina..., salsa, merengue, cumbia y más! No te pierdas esta divertida oportunidad de compartir con nuevos y viejos amigos. Están todos invitados. Abriremos el Barty Lounge para niños de todas las edades hasta las 10 p. m.; después, ¡volvemos a la salsa al estilo adulto!

Come dance to Latin music...salsa, merengue, cumbia and much more! Don't miss this fun opportunity to share with new and old friends. We're opening up the Barty Lounge for kids of all ages up until 10pm, and then back to salsa adulting-style!



Jazzy Jamboree Fashion Show

Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by UCLA Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children

Monday, July 13th; 2:00pm - 3:00pm - Mandatory Rehearsal

7:00pm - 8:30pm - Jazzy Jamboree Fashion Show



This summer, join us for the New Orleans Jazzy Jamboree Fashion Show, where the streets will come alive as vibrant colors and infectious rhythms fill the air. Celebrate in an atmosphere where joy knows no bounds, and every moment sparkles with the lively spirit of New Orleans.

Please note: All models ages 5 and over must attend the mandatory rehearsal on July 13th at 2:00 PM in order to participate in the runway show. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans - bring your rhythm, ruffles, and radiance!

Honoring Our Roots: A Historical Dinner Celebration

Riverview I & II, 41st Floor (Tickets still available)

Tuesday, July 14th/ 5:15pm - 6:30pm

A brand new event, bringing together our LPA history aficionados to listen to our resident LPA historical experts, as well as taking in selected archive exhibits. We will dine together, while taking in where we've been... from Billy Barty's brainchild in 1957, to where we are now, and we think we can all say - we've come a long way, baby!



Pre-Registration Required. \$115 per ticket onsite - Tickets still available.

LPA Talent Show - the World is Your Oyster

Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, July 14th/ 7:00pm - 8:30pm

With the spirit of New Orleans rolling in like a warm Gulf breeze, get ready to cheer on your fellow performers with all the charm and energy of a French Quarter crowd. This evening promises a shuck load of fun, laughter, and unexpected pearls of talent, capturing the true NOLA (and LPA) spirit of friendship, celebration, and letting the good times roll.



Mandatory Rehearsal for all Talent Show participants is on Tuesday (July 14th) at 9:00am in the Grand Ballroom. It is MANDATORY because our A/V team needs to know what's up next, and all of the things that make a show of talent really awesome.

I don't know if we mentioned this, but the rehearsal is mandatory, meaning... you have to have a rehearsal in order to participate. Mandatory, we tell you! With love, from your friendly A/V crew and talent show coordinators.



Onsite Special Events

Masterpiece Masks: Craft Your Character

Galerie 1,2,3 (*Tickets still available*)

Wednesday, July 15th / 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Get ready to unleash your inner artist and add to your banquet attire. In this mask-making event, you'll bedazzle, glitter bomb, and decorate your way to a masterpiece worthy of a mysterious masquerade, or maybe an interesting zombie get-together. Whether your mask turns out elegant, eccentric, or accidentally abstract, you'll be able to wear it proudly later at the Awards Banquet, if you dare. Feathers, glitter, beads, shiny baubles, and masks are included. Bring a drink and settle in for some satisfying artistic expression time. Children and teens 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult to participate. **Pre-Registration Required. \$40 per ticket onsite.**



Children's Banquet - Sparkle & Beads Bash!

Galerie 5 & 6, (*Tickets still available*)

Wednesday, July 15th / 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Step right into the sparkling, swirling fun of Little Mardi Gras Magic, where every kid becomes their own parade krewe of one! It's all about the carnival of color: bright beads, playful masks, and decorations that pop like confetti on Bourbon Street. Kids can dive into games like bead toss and mini parades, or get creative by decorating their own masks and crowns to wear throughout the night. The whole evening will sparkle with laughter, music, a kid-friendly menu (chicken nuggets or pizza!), and magical moments that capture the spirit of New Orleans for those important conference attendees who happen to be ten and under. **Pre-Registration Required. \$65 per ticket onsite.**

Parents must be attending the LPA Banquet Celebration, or remain onsite in the hotel, in order for their child(ren) to register for the Children's Banquet. *Kids must be picked up by 8:30pm*



Onsite Special Events

Jazz-A-Tazz Brunch

Riverview I & II, (Tickets still available)

Thursday, July 16th / 10:00am - 12:00pm

What a way to celebrate at the end of the week; eating some fabulous New Orleans breakfast food and spending time with old and new friends. Join us for a laid-back Jazz Brunch featuring a delicious breakfast buffet and smooth New Orleans sounds. Enjoy a spread of classic breakfast favorites while a live jazz ensemble sets the perfect end-of-the-week vibe. Whether you're loading up your plate, sipping coffee, or just soaking in the music, this brunch offers the ideal blend of good food, good company, and easygoing NOLA charm. A jazzy way to start a Boccia day! **Pre-Registration Required. \$40 per ticket onsite.**

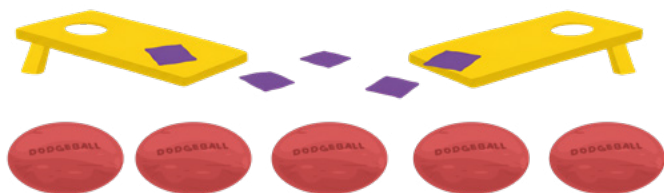


Tournament of Games

Acadia

Thursday, July 16th / Dodgeball - 1:00pm – 2:30pm; Cornhole - 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Get ready for an afternoon where athleticism, chaos, and questionable strategy collide. Our Dodgeball and Cornhole Tournaments are the perfect chance to show off your skills!



LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER AWARDS BANQUET



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ZACH SHATTUCK

**GRAND BALLROOM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026
6:00 PM**



Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler Awards Banquet

Grand Ballroom

Wednesday, July 15th

5:00pm - 6:00pm - Cocktail Hour

6:00pm - 8:30pm - Banquet Dinner (Tickets still available)

A two-time Paralympian, Paralympic silver medalist, American record holder, DAAA Board Member, and co-founder of the United States Dwarf Futbol Association, Zach brings a powerful blend of athletic excellence, leadership, and heart. His journey spans para swimming, dwarf soccer, collegiate coaching, disability sport program development, and national advocacy. Through every chapter, Zach has championed confidence, community, and opportunity for people of all abilities.

As a very long-standing and involved member of our community and family, Zach understands the transformative impact of representation and belonging. His mission—to build a future where individuals with dwarfism and other disabilities have more opportunities to play, compete, lead, and thrive—aligns beautifully with the spirit of our banquet: celebration, connection, and lifting one another up.

After the keynote, we will be celebrating our distinguished service award winners, and maybe even have some surprises along the way.

Get ready to let the good times roll as we wrap up our extraordinary week with a night full of New Orleans flair. Enjoy vibrant entertainment, festive energy, and a lively atmosphere designed for laughter, music, and memory-making. We'll honor standout achievements, celebrate community, and share proud moments—now made even more special with Zach's keynote address.

Indulge in a delicious dinner, reconnect with friends old and new, and dress in your jazziest duds. And yes—don't forget your masks if you have them. It's the perfect finale to an unforgettable week.





Offsite Special Events

Meet and Greet @ Cafe Beignet - TEENS

Friday, July 10th

3:00pm – 4:30pm / Meet in Lobby; we will walk together

LPA treats you to a local favorite, while you all catch up and also meet new friends.

Opening Celebration at Mardi Gras World and the Grand Oaks Mansion

Saturday, July 11th

5:30pm – 9:00pm / Meet in Lobby. **SOLD OUT!**

Our Opening Celebration takes place at the one and only Mardi Gras World, where the magic, color, and creativity of Carnival come to life year-round. Shuttle buses will drive back and forth to the venue. **Pre-purchased tickets required.**

New Orleans City Tour: Beignets and the French Quarter

Sunday, July 12th

10:30am – 3:00pm / Meet in Lobby. **SOLD OUT!**

Led by a knowledgeable and friendly tour guide, explore the landmarks and architecture that define New Orleans, immersing yourself in the sights and sounds of the famed French Quarter and historic Jackson Square. Comfy buses are our mode of transport for this adventure. **Pre-purchased tickets required.**

Ghosts of the French Quarter

Sunday, July 12th

6:00pm – 8:30pm / Meet in Lobby **ALMOST SOLD OUT!**

Learn the history of America's most haunted city, with our French Quarter Ghost Tour. Comfy buses are our mode of transport for this adventure. **Pre-purchased tickets required.**

Riverboat City of New Orleans Cruise

Sunday, July 12th

Meet in Lobby; 5:00pm - 9:30pm (Boarding begins at 6pm; Boat leaves dock at 7pm sharp)

ALMOST SOLD OUT!

Meet in Lobby to walk with friends, or take Streetcar to Toulouse Street.

Address of the Dock is 101 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA

Take in the beautiful views of the Mississippi River as you listen to live jazz and savor a delicious Southern-style meal. The pier is a 15-minute walk from the hotel, or streetcar ticket purchase is available. **Pre-registration Required.**

Offsite Special Events

World War II Museum with IMAX Experience

Monday, July 13th

10:00am - 4:00pm / Meet in Lobby (shuttles throughout the day)

The National World War II Museum pulls you straight into the action with immersive exhibits, gripping personal stories, and interactive galleries that make the past feel powerfully alive. There will be shuttles going back and forth between the hotel and the museum from 10am, and the last shuttle will leave the museum at 4pm. If you want to find your own transportation there too, you are welcome to go that day during museum hours, which are 9am-5pm.

Pre-purchased tickets required - Tickets still available.

TEEN EVENT: New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum (formerly the VUE)

Monday, July 13th

1:00pm - 3:30pm / Meet in Lobby; we will walk together

Update on the Vue - We were recently informed that the Vue has permanently closed, but luckily we found a super cool replacement for this activity. One of the most unique and interesting small museums of the country, the New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum takes all the mysteries, the secrets, the history and folklores of rituals, of gris-gris, of Voodoo Queens and all that jazz, and put it all in one place in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter. Since 1972, this museum is a great place and learn about the rich culture that shapes this unique city. Once inside you can see historic voodoo relics, paintings, sculptures, and other artifacts. ***Pre-registration required. Tickets bought for the Vue will apply to this event. Additional tickets available for sale onsite.***

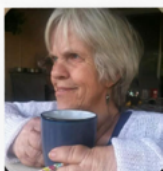
Bayou Discovery Pontoon Cruise

Tuesday, July 14th

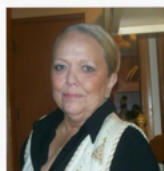
*Two different outings: 8:45am - 2:00pm and the 11:00am - 4:00pm. Please see your tickets for which one you purchased, and meet in the lobby. **SOLD OUT!***

Alligators usually come right up to the pontoons to say hi, so make sure you have your cameras ready! Round trip private motorcoach transportation to and from this Cajun village will be provided. ***Pre-purchased tickets required.***

remembering those we've lost



Marilyn Artran



JoEllen Cockrum



Doris Crumly



Mary Beth Eley



Judy Frantz



Michael Gogin



Shirley Harper



James Paul Herring



Trevor Hold



Mary Alice Johnston



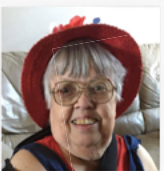
Sean Kelley



Noah Lander



Robert Maloney



Ginny Myers



Gary Parker



Vincenzo Parrino



Irene Simmons



Caprice Summers



Hannah Webster

We acknowledge and honor all LPA members, supporters, and allies we have lost over the past year.



Little People of America
National Conference

Calm Space Area

Need a break from the noise?
Feel free to use this space to
find calm and be in
community.

Please respect people's space and
keep this area quiet.



Offsite Special Events

OWLS Offsite Lunch at Delacroix and Riverwalk Fun (previously the Vue)

Tuesday, July 14th

*11:30am - 3:00pm / Meet in Lobby **ALMOST SOLD OUT!***

New Time and Information!

Update on the Vue - We were recently informed that the Vue has permanently closed, but luckily the lunch restaurant is in a wonderful area to explore. The delicious lunch at Delacroix will still take place as scheduled! We can't wait for you to enjoy it and be together. Afterward, be sure to take a relaxing stroll along the Riverwalk or cool off with some shopping and sights at The Outlet Collection at Riverwalk—it's a perfect way to make the most of your time in the area. It's just an eight-minute walk from the hotel, so we can stroll over together or take the streetcar if that's more comfortable. The address to the restaurant is 1 Poydras Street, New Orleans. ***Pre-purchased tickets required - Tickets still available.***

Audubon Aquarium

Wednesday, July 15th

10:00am - TBD / Meet in Lobby

Watch stingrays glide through crystal blue water, meet penguins with big personalities, and come face to face with sharks and sea turtles in sweeping panoramic habitats. It's a ten-minute walk, so we can all walk together from the hotel, or take the NOLA streetcar. Bus transportation not provided, but trolley tickets are available for purchase. ***Pre-purchased tickets required - Tickets still available.***

TEEN EVENT: Museum of Illusions

*Thursday, July 16th **ALMOST SOLD OUT!***

11:00am - 3:00pm / Meet in Lobby; Walk over together.

Step into a world where nothing is quite what it seems; walk through mind bending rooms, defy gravity, and snap photos that will have your friends doing double takes. ***Pre-registration Required - Limited tickets still available.***



The Johns Hopkins University Greenberg Center for Skeletal Dysplasias

Proud to be the 1st clinic for skeletal dysplasias in the US AND a proud supporter of LPA for over 60 years!

Overview and Vision

The Kathryn and Alan C. Greenberg Center for Skeletal Dysplasias encompasses a multi-disciplinary team of providers, who are dedicated to improving the lives of persons of short stature through medicine, education, community, resources, and psychosocial support to patients and their families. We offer coordinated care throughout the lifespan - all ages are welcome.



**ORTHOPEDIC
SURGERY**

NEUROSURGERY

Multidisciplinary care

directed by

PMR

Dr. Julie Hoover-Fong,

ENT

MAB Chair!

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... AND MORE!



Check out a star
LPA member
talking about the
clinic!



Need more info? Contact Colleen Gioffreda

Phone: (410) 614-0977 1800 Orleans Street,

Email: cgioffreda@jhu.edu Baltimore, MD, 21287



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Arriving at NY Marriott Marquis July 2027

Enter and get ready to take
a bite out of the Big Apple for
LPA's 70th anniversary



2027 LPA National Conference in New York City

Parking Systems proudly supporting LPA since 2003

