

Little People of America

Oklahoma Chapter

January 18, 2010

As the last little piles of snow melt and you bundle up to go outside, just remember it could be worse. My family and I recently returned from visiting our family in South Dakota and Iowa where while we were there they had 30 inches of snow, with -0 degrees temperatures!!! I love visiting my family but it is nice to come home.

We had a great time at our Christmas Party, with about 45 people there, we enjoyed: Dirty Santa, the kids played in the gym, air hockey, pool, catching up with old & new friends, and wonderful food. Thank you to Kim Cook for preparing the turkey, dressing & gravy. Great job Michele Banks on the kid's goody bags, they loved them!

Our next meeting will be Saturday February 27th 2-6pm. This is a very important meeting as it is election time, if you are a paid member you are strongly encouraged to come as we do need someone to vote. As always we encourage and love to have any and all non-members of the LPA. The meeting will be at the Natural History Museum 2401 Chautauqua Avenue Norman, Oklahoma 73072 (University of Oklahoma Campus)

Cost:

\$5 adults

\$4 seniors (age 65 and up)

\$3 children (ages 6-17)

Children 5 and under free

*Strollers and wheelchairs are available for loan from the museum Information desk at no cost.

*The [Discovery Room](#) is a place to explore artifacts and scientific specimens in a hands-on, interactive environment. Visitors can participate in activities, observations and games that focus on understanding natural history, archaeology, fossils, geology and Oklahoma's natural resources. The museum offers a variety of ongoing programs in the Discovery Room, free with museum admission.

We will all try to meet in the Lobby between 2-2:30 and go through the museum as you wish. At 4:30 we will head to Hideaway Pizza. We will have the Business meeting and election there, we have a private room reserved. The chapter will pay for the pizza you will just be responsible for you soft drink.

Hideaway Pizza: 577 Buchanan Ave. Norman, OK 73069.....it is not too far from the Museum

* Please RSVP by Friday February 19th to Krista Gesche, so we can let Hideaway Pizza know how many pizza's and people we are going to have.

The following individuals are running for the current positions, anyone who is a paid member and 18 and would like to run for any of the following offices please come to the February meeting.

•President: Krista Gesche- I am the current president; live in Harrah, OK; have 4 daughters Lillian, Eliza (achon), Angel & Taylor (foster daughters); I am married to Mark who is a ECO Capt in the US Air Force; It would be my pleasure to serve as your President as I will continue to strive to make the

Oklahoma Chapter the best that it can be.

- Vice-President: Tomi Mahoney-I have been part of the Oklahoma Chapter all my life. I am married and have 2 beautiful daughters, Reghan and Emily. I want to be your Oklahoma Chapter Vice President. I want this so I can help my fellow officers lead our Chapter to great fun, education, advocacy, and dwarf awareness for everyone (young or old, average height or little people).
- Secretary/Treasurer- Sheri Breitenkamp-I live in Enid and have Morquio's Syndrome. I have 2 younger sisters and I am the only LP in my family.
- There are also 3 appointed offices that are open: Parent coordinator, Teen coordinator & Newsletter editor. I do have people in mind for these positions and will contact them to see if they are interested, but if you are interested, please let me know. •

Announcements/Things to Do:

- Thank you to Linda Slawson for her donation of \$250
 - Teens keep in mind for the winter of 2010-2011. The national teen coordinators been working on a Teen Winter Retreat planned dates hopefully in December 2010. They are looking at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Colorado. Costs are looking to be \$175/day with it being a 4 day event. If you want more information you can contact Julie Hildebrand. Go to www.lpaonline.org and take the Teen Survey on the Teen Program page to express what you like to see in a Teen Program.
 - Pre-registration for Nashville will begin on January 15th. Members will be notified via e-mail and a postcard that registration for conference attendance and hotel registrations are available starting January 15th, 2010. As for room rates they are looking for them to be \$120/night plus tax and registration rates haven't been announced yet. They are looking at registration rates to be similar to last year's rates in NYC. The dates for National are Saturday, July 3rd through Friday, July 9th.
 - Little People of America have an official fan page on Face book. The National LPA page is administered by the LPA office located in Tustin, California and has the national LPA logo on its fan page. Also District 7 has a Face book page to, just another way to stay connected.
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- Anyone who wants to put pictures of our Christmas parties posted on website. Please send pictures of your chapter Christmas party to be posted on district website www.lpadistrict7.org Pictures can be sent to Jack Dohr, vice-director of the district. His e-mail is jackdohr@yahoo.com.
 - I wanted to share some info regarding a new company that is getting started in specializing in clothing and accessories for little people. We are Lil' Ashley's Closet. This is a home based business that started by me making custom clothes for my daughter Ashley who has achondroplasia. After receiving requests from others and the need we feel is there for other parents of little people, we decided to start a business specializing in clothes that fit just right. We are planning on getting an expo booth at the Nashville conference next year and Lord willing we'll bring lots of goodies if we are able to make it work. Right now we are specializing in hair accessories mainly at <http://lilashleyscloset.etsy.com>
 - As of January 1, 2010 dues are \$55 per household per year. Lifetime membership is \$750. Senior memberships (age 65+) are \$20. International Members and full-time college or vocational students are \$35.

Family News

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Cupps Family as Mitchell passed away Tuesday January 19th. He will be missed by many as he touch lives all across the world. To learn more about how you can help check out www.littlegiantsfoundation.org
- Jonnie Steven as she recovers from hip-replacement surgery
- Roy Mahoney as he will have hip surgery next week.

If anyone has anything that they would like to share with the chapter (prayer requests, congrats, best wishes, awards, etc.) please let me know and I will pass it on! We love hearing about everyone in our chapter.

Upcoming Events:

- April 16-18 regional Meeting in Tulsa, OK
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Mark your calendars now you do not want to miss this, detail are still being worked out.

- June- Looking for someone to host this meeting

Krista Gesche

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