



Showmen's League of America

March/April 2010

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President's Letter



On the road again....

Welcome to the new look of our Showmen's League newsletter! I hope you enjoy it, and we all hope you will feel free to contribute to it, too. I would love to hear your comments, get your input and your stories. You can email them to me at Mike@Goldstaramusements.com, or you can send requests, story ideas and input to Diane@ShowmensLeague.org or JoeBorum@Gmail.com.

Thanks to all of you who made Gibtown 2010 such a great event for the Showmen's League, in spite of the weather. The League was well-represented socially and we had an excellent turnout for our Committee and Board meetings. Thank you to all who attended, to all who agreed to serve

on Committees and to all who made pledges for the worthy causes the League supports. I especially appreciate those of you who signed up for the SLA Day project, headed up by Bill & Mary Johnson.

As I write this our own Gold Star Amusements is preparing to open the 2010 season. My family and the Gold Star team have done a great job getting us here safely. I wish the same for all of you as you open. The recent tragedy in California that claimed the lives of two of Past President Tommy Davis' employees reminds us all how important safety is, on and off the lot. So be safe at work, wear your seat belt in your car and don't text while you drive!

On a lighter note, our 2010 SLA season is kicking off as well. Diane Burmeister and Chris Atkins came up with a great theme for our Spring Get Away Party (see Diane's Office Update) on May 12th. August 5th is Showmen's League of America day, with more information about that to follow as well.

Thank you for being a part of the Showmen's League. I look forward to working with you in 2010.

Mike Featherston, 2010 SLA President



President Mike Featherston presents an award to Sue Nichols of 5 Cent Ride.

Diane's Office Update

HEY CHICAGO - Get Ready To PARTY!

As President Mike promised, we have set a date for our Spring Get Away Party, Wednesday, May 12th. The event features a limited supply of tickets to the Chicago Cubs game against the Florida Marlins and a Pizza Fest to follow. The game starts at 1:20 PM. Donations for the event are \$50.00 per person which includes your game ticket and pizza afterwards. All Showmen's League members and a guest are invited. As Mike put it "We are planning a great day of food, fun and fellowship, all for a good cause." He was looking forward to seeing as many Chicago-area members as possible and issued a special welcome for out-of-towners to visit the city and the new League offices. RSVP to the office by April 1st.



Our display at Gibtown and at the NICA Food show.

Shares, Cares & Prayers

This column will feature the highs and lows of our lives and the events we wish to share with others. If you have something to add, please email it or call.

- Buzz Barton has been hospitalized recently in Sarasota and thanks everyone for the calls & cards.
- Stan Minker, long-time industry giant, lost his battle with esophageal cancer in late February. He had been a League member since 1985.
- Bill Lowery is recovering in a hospital in Brandon, FL from a spell at the end of the Gibtown Show.
- Tommy and Sharie Davis lost two employees in a tragic car/van accident March 3rd. Michael Harris and KC Cox died, other employees were injured.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these and all of our League family members.



Thanks to our
Spring Get Away Party
Sponsors



SLA History- Did you know?

We have all enjoyed the beautiful picture of our First President, William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, that hung over the piano on the third floor of our former building. We knew from the minutes and the attached plaque that it was donated by Charter Member and Treasurer Emeritus Walter F. Driver in April of 1927, but that was about all.

After the fire in December 2001, the portrait was sent to the Art Institute of Chicago for restoration. But even then we could not determine who the artist was. Well, thanks to the Internet, the League was contacted by Mrs. Marie Morrison of Aurora, Illinois who had a number of paintings by Mr. Harry J. Talley, a midway concessionaire and accomplished amateur portrait artist. Mrs. Morrison shared with us that Google Books had scanned the Billboards for decades and she was able to locate information about her paintings, and their link to ours in that way. Sure enough, the May, 1958 Billboard reports the passing of Mr. Harry J. Talley of Aurora, IL., noting that 'Mr. Talley did the painting of Buffalo Bill Cody that hangs in the Lounge of the Showmen's League of America.' Thanks to Mrs. Morrison for finding on the internet what we have in print right in our own conference room! (picture on cover)

IT Book Additions & Corrections

Here are a few more corrections to make in your "IT" books – Thanks to everyone who has called in –

Linda Wade
Carnival Booking
P O Box 841365
Houston, TX 77284

Lois Konnos
Zip should be 77042

Kelsey Lopresto
10400 Twin Cities Rd Ste 20 – 137
Galt, CA 95632

**Need another copy
of the IT Book SLA
Directory? Limited
quantities are available
at \$50.00 each. Call!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

March & April- Jeff Lapin, Judy Lipinski, Wendy Hauser, Dr. Chris Brake, Terry Stafford, Howard Shenk, Joe Burum, Mick Brajevich, Len Soled, Richard Palmer, Andy Schoendienst, Mark Salerno, Boyd Newton, Beverly Steck, Bobby Braun, PP Jeff Blomsness, Jim Doyle, Steve Swika, Jennifer Burton, Bill Morton, Donnie Massie III and Donnie Massie Jr.

And a special wish to Veno Berosini, whose birthday is 4/2/1918 !!! Happy 92nd !

Other Clubs, Other News

The Arizona Showman's Club is putting together their Annual Yearbook. The theme for this year's edition is "Jackpots and other Old Stories." Arlene Carter is the Chairwoman with Dorothy Capell, Karen Capell and our own PP Claire Morton on her committee. Anyone wishing to add a story to the book can email it to Karen at kcapell12@cox.net. There is no charge to put your story in the book, only a charge if you wish to purchase a copy of the book. The deadline for stories is December 1st. Don't forget to include your contact information for Karen.

2010 Official Showmen's League Yearbook

President Featherston and his yearbook committee, chaired by Rich Byrum, are setting up for a great book this year. Prices for the Early Bird Special are \$300.00 for a color page and \$250.00 for a Black & White page. Also, there will be ½ page space for \$150.00 and ¼ page space for \$125.00. The Three-Page Combos that are so popular each year are back! Choose A) two color pages and one B&W at \$700.00 or B) one color page and two B & W pages for \$600.00. These prices are only good until the 4th of July weekend. After that the prices go up until the deadline of September 1st. An order form will be in our May/June newsletter but you may obtain one anytime by calling the office at 312-332-6236 and we will fax or email it to you immediately. Don't wait!

SLA History

Did you know...? Part II

Did you know that we have fifteen members who have been with us for 50 years or more? Well we do! Beginning with our next issue, each newsletter will feature one or more of our most senior members. Do you have a story about one of them? Write to us! Other article suggestions or submissions are welcome as well.

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARS !!

Congratulations to all the new and returning students who have received awards from our Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Committee met in February and approved the following 22 students for the 2010 – 2011 Academic Year: Joshua Berger, Melanie Braun, Chelsea Brown, Nicolas Cavella, John Goodson, Justin Hughes, Jacqueline Kasin, Samantha McNulty, Clayton Thome, Olivia Turner, Jeannie Caskey, Stacie Jones, Crystal Kapuscinski, Kevin Kasin, Carly Skerbeck, Alyce Johnson, Lauren Karsten, John Kekelik, Sarah Braun, Catherine Jansen, Kylie Kasin, and Matthew Kasin. Good Luck, kids! Scholarship forms are available for next year on line at our web site: WWW.ShowmensLeague.ORG

Notes on The New Newsletter

Like what you see? Have a comment, concern or question? Write to us! We welcome new submissions and all human interest stories for possible inclusion. Remember the key elements of our mission statement: "To promote the mutual welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to assist each member by honorable means; to promote friendship and good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a social and fraternal organization; to provide for the government of the Showmen's League of America, to bring together in harmonious fraternal and social intercourse all persons who are connected with or have been connected with or are affiliated with the amusement profession. And to uplift the morale of amusements and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us." In short, we're more about the people in the business than the business. That means we want to know about you!

Select Merchandise Available

Missing a yearbook? Need another IT Book directory? These and a few other select items are available through the office. We have limited inventory of certain yearbooks and a small supply of IT Books. The IT Book is truly indispensable. Extra copies are \$50.00. We also especially recommend all League members have on hand the 2005 Yearbook, which is the only readily accessible book of the League's history. Priced at \$100.00 it is in short supply and well worth the price.

Presidential Awards presented

President Mike Featherston presented the following awards at the Gibtown Board Meeting:

Graham Putnam: For meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty in the preservation of the history of the League.

Donnie Massie: For meritorious service in the generous donation of space for preservation of our history and his tireless efforts on behalf of our annual Christmas Party for under-privileged children.

Peter Kasin: For meritorious service on behalf of the League through his efforts on behalf of our annual Christmas Party for under-privileged children.

Jeff Blomsness: For meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty in the preservation of the history of the League.

Ron Heftman: In grateful appreciation for his years of dedicated service on behalf of the League in his capacity as Official Counsel.

Ron Burback: For meritorious service as Convention chair and IAFE liaison on behalf of the League.

John Hanschen: In grateful appreciation for his dedicated service on behalf of the League in his capacity as Official Treasurer.

Lorelei Schoendienst: For meritorious service as Buffalo Bill Bonanza Committee chair on behalf of the League.

Kristin Atkins: For meritorious service as the 'IT' Book Committee chair on behalf of the League.

Amber Swedgan: In grateful appreciation for her service as Publicity Committee Chair, Just Dance visionary and Web innovation on behalf of the League.

Tommy and Sharie Davis: In grateful appreciation for their service in creating, endowing and building the Noble & Kitti Case Christmas Party Fund for the good works of the League.

Robert Drewke: Appointed Secretary Emeritus In grateful appreciation for his years of dedicated service for the good of the League.

Diane Burmeister: In grateful appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the good of the League.

Sue Nichols: In grateful appreciation for her generous donations to the good of the League.

The SLA Calendar of Events 2010

May 12	Spring Get Away party 1:20 ball game Followed by Pizza Fest Chicago Style
May 13	Board of Governors Meeting In Person at the League Office or Via regular Call-in number
Apr 6-8	OABA Spring Board Meeting
Aug 5	Showmen's League of America Day
Aug 12	Board Meeting
Oct 14	Board Meeting
Nov 16-20	IAAPA - Orlando
Nov 28-	Annual Convention, meeting &
Dec 1	banquet

Appreciate Your Office Manager Day

If you have called the office you know her, if you haven't called you should! She's Diane Burmeister, Office Manager extraordinaire.



And just so you know, EVERY day is a day to appreciate Diane!

You can reach her at 312-332-6236 or [Or you can find her at JoAnn's Fabric where she will probably be picking up fabric and crafts for her other passion in life, quilting. Diane probably knows](mailto:Diane>ShowmensLeague.org.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

more about the League, inside and out, than anyone else around. We are lucky to have her and we truly appreciate her. Thanks, Diane!

The Showmen's League of America is a 501 c(10) Non-Profit Social & Fraternal Organization, founded in 1913.

Showmen's League of America
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This painting of Buffalo Bill Cody hangs in the offices of the Showmen's League. Find out who painted it and how the mystery was solved on page 2!