



Showmen's League of America

May/June 2010

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President's Letter

Heading North



About the time you are reading this, my family and crew and I will all be driving north from Louisiana to Minnesota. Our season is well under way already, with spots completed in Texas and Louisiana with the real meat of our season still ahead of us in the Minnesota area. This year we are joined in the trip by Grace Lynn, Connie's and my newest Grandchild, born April 1st to Mike and Krissy. We are getting more accustomed to sharing life with the next generation of our family and loving every minute of it.

I hope to see many of you at our Spring Get Away May 12th in Chicago. I will be joined there by another generation, as my father Charles will be in attendance at the Cubs game and then at Giordano's for pizza following the game. If you haven't already reserved a spot for the game, at least try to stop by for pizza afterwards. We'll have lots of food, fun and perhaps a raffle prize or two. Call the office for details and directions.

Thursday May 13th is a Board meeting day, and all Board members are invited to join us in the conference room at 8 S. Michigan Ave. for the meeting, or call in if you can't make it in person. It starts at 12:00 noon.

If I miss you there, I invite any and all to stop by and see us if you are anywhere in the Twin Cities or general Minnesota area from now through Labor Day.

Mike Featherston, 2010 SLA President

Diane's Office Update In appreciation for all you do!

As the weather warms here in Chicago and the season gets underway, I am thinking of all the people who walk the midways each year and how little they really know about all the dedicated people who run these carnivals. Now I must admit that my limited knowledge comes from all my great years at the Medinah Shrine Circus and my friendship with Pat Delaney Sr. and Jr. That's where I really learned more about ticket selling and food concessions than rides. Then came Rick Haney and he explained more about equipment and its maintenance and gave me more insight into the day-to-day logistics of running the carnival itself. I have been very lucky that they shared their knowledge with me but along the way I have learned from all of you so much more. This is a very special industry from the manufacturers & suppliers to the ride owners, from the concessionaires to the carnival owners themselves. Each person is such an important part of the whole picture and together you provide the greatest family entertainment around. All I can say is, it sure does take a SPECIAL kind of person to be in this industry. The set up, the long work days, only to clean up and start all over again tomorrow. The teardown and the hours of moving. The people up front in the public eye and all those working behind the scenes. So, to all our members, from North to South and East to West, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU ! May you have a prosperous season and most of all, a very safe one! God Bless! **Diane**

Shares, Cares & Prayers

This column features 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.

- President Mike and his wife Connie Featherston recently announced the newest addition to the Goldstar clan. Son Mikey and his wife Krissy had a daughter April 1st, 8# 1 oz, her name is Grace Lynn Featherston, and she is the third grandchild for Mike and Connie.

- Past President Tom Davis and his wife Sharie are proud to announce the arrival of their new granddaughter, Jo Lynn Davis. Very proud parents are Larry, Jr. and Richelle Davis.

Keep those calls and cards coming for our two members that are still recuperating in hospitals -

- Bill Lowery is recovering in Brandon, FL.
- Buzz Barton is recovering in Sarasota, FL.
- Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr.

M. Skip Doyle of Sarasota, FL. who is recovering from a recent stroke.

Father John will soon be announcing a prayer program in conjunction with the Carmelite Nuns of Sioux City, Iowa. More information will follow, but to participate all you need to do is make the office or Father John (see his letter for contact info) aware of your prayer requests and they will be forwarded in confidence to the Sisters of Mt Carmel for prayers. All faiths are welcome, all prayers are handled with the utmost respect, confidence and care. More details next issue.



Thanks to our
Spring Get Away Party
Sponsors



IDENTITY APPAREL, INC.

Letters to the League

We received the following notes since our last issue:



To: The Showmen's League of America,
This letter is being sent with sincere Thanks and Great gratitude for what this League has done for my Danny.

I have watched Danny Higgins for over 25-30 years mature in this, what I call a "Family" business, to the fullest! Not only was this League special to Danny, but this League meant heart and soul to him. Over the years Danny made many friends that were like family to him and that will never be forgotten.

I can only say from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU, for all that you have done and for giving my Danny a final resting place, a place with peace and lots of love. I can honestly say Danny says 'Thank You' too.

Sincerely, Donna Meredith



A card was received from Tom & Sharie Davis, Davis Enterprises thanking the League for its donation towards the funeral expenses of the two employees they lost in a terrible auto accident last month.



A lovely note was sent to us by Mrs. Marie Morrison, who helped with the Buffalo Bill 'picture mystery.' She thanked us for including her in our newsletter article and she included a donation to our Aid Fund.

Web Site Enhancements

We continue to improve our web site as we all get used to the digital age. Among the recent enhancements:

- You can now pay invoices, make a donation or buy merchandise with a credit card at our site.
- Scholarship forms can be downloaded and printed.
- Membership applications are also available 24/7 to make it easier to join .

If there are other resources you would like to see, drop us a line.



Yearbook – 2010

Included in this month's newsletter you will find a Yearbook Order Form, which you can use when ordering your pages for President Mike Featherston's Yearbook.

Remember those Early bird prices only apply to orders that are received by July 4th, 2010.

If you are sending your payment along with your ad, please send it here to the office. If you are just submitting your ad, you may send it directly to:

Baker Printing, Ink.
Attn: Mr. Craig Baker
P O Box 355
Spicer, MN 56288.

You can also e-mail ads to print@bprinting.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 312-332-6236.

So starting getting those pages in, before you know it – it will be JULY !



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Uniforms
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\$6.95

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as low as
\$1.39

LED Lights
Super Bright
Long Lasting
Lowest Prices

LOWEST PRICES IN THE INDUSTRY! ASK ABOUT OUR NEW WICKING SHIRT PROGRAM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Karen Burris, Frank Bennethum, Dave Cavallaro, Harold Case, James Russell, Jerry Coombs, Bob Drewke, Terry Pennington, Cheryl Salerno, Erin Sellner, Kim Dixon, Andrew Schoendienst, Singura Anita Reynolds, Anthony Salerno, Sr., Stephanie Wagner, Melissa Erasmus, Jessica Besette and all our members who are celebrating their special day in May and June.



Harry Heftman and Mayor Daley share a booth on the last day at Harry's Hot Dogs

You Can't Win If You Don't Play!

What other game do you know that has not one, but TWO First Place winners this year!!! That's right – TWO \$ 10,000 dollar prizes are just waiting for those two lucky winners – whoever they are – It might just be YOU! So make sure you have your ticket (s) and if you haven't purchased your ticket (s) yet – or you need some tickets to sell – just call the office at 312-332-6236 and we will take care of your request immediately!

Board note: You have (or will soon receive!) ten Buffalo Bill tickets, but we have plenty more for you, so call as you sell them and don't forget to send in the proceeds regularly.



SLA History Did you know...?

Harry Heftman

We will start of our series with the oldest working member of the Showmen's League of America that we know. Yes, he is over 100 and yes, he is from Chicago and YES, he is in our Hall of Honor. If you guessed the one and only HARRY HEFTMAN - you would be right!

Harry started his relationship with the League shortly after he started THE LITTLE SNACK SHOP on the corner of Franklin and Randolph. When Michael Barnes, League member, ticket broker and brother of PP Fred Barnes approached Harry about purchasing the building for the League in 1956 that began the relationship that has spanned over 50 years and 55 League Presidents. Just ask him and he can tell you about them all. Harry is a walking encyclopedia of the history of League. He remembers how the building would smell of tobacco because it had been a tobacco factory for so many years. And how the original elevator in the building was driven with a hand-

operated rope and pulley. Later a member who owned a hotel donated the mechanical elevator that served us for so many years. But most of all, Harry remembers the people – all those Past Presidents and Past Secretaries that used his restaurant as a gathering place. Once you get him started, it is like a walk down memory lane. In the League, Harry was always known for his meals for the weekly meetings but most of all for his special St. Patrick's Day Parties. Both Chicago Newspapers wrote about him often calling him a "charming workaholic who takes delight in serving his delicious hot dogs, while dispensing generous portions of philosophy and friendship." "Be friendly" has always been Harry's motto.

When we sold our building and we all went our separate ways one of the things we miss most is seeing and talking to him every day.

These days, at 101 years old, he is still dispensing his words of wisdom, 4 days a week at the 'East of Eden' Restaurant located on Cicero & Devon Avenues. He would really love to see everyone, so when you're near there, stop in. So to our oldest and one of our most beloved members,

A Very Happy 101st Birthday this year !



Father John to Lead trip to Rome

Father John Vakulskas, the Carnie Priest, has announced that he is organizing a trip to Rome, December 10-19, 2010. Working with Nawas International Travel, he has put together a package that includes round trip air out of Chicago, hotel, most meals, tours, transfers. See his letter for his contact information if you are interested.



Memorial Day – 2010

While the League itself does not host a specific Memorial Day event, our section of Woodlawn Cemetery serves as a main stage centerpiece for the local Veteran's service there. As such, League members annually gather to decorate Showmen's Rest, using flags provided by Rhode Island Novelty. If you would like to attend the Annual Memorial Day Service at Showmen's Rest in Woodlawn Cemetery, it will be held on Monday, May 31st at 1:00 PM. Rhode Island Novelty is kind enough to supply the flags and our members go out the weekend before the service to put an American Flag on each and every grave. It is a beautiful setting for the service each year and you should attend at least one if you can. If you would like more information about the flag-placing tradition and the time and date, call Diane



The New Newsletter, part II

Thanks to all of you for your kind words and suggestions for our new newsletter. We are incorporating many of them here and have more plans for improvement.

If you would like to suggest a column or an article, drop us a line. Volunteer submissions are welcome, and will be printed as space allows, consistent with our purpose.



SLA 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.

Save the Date Reminder – Christmas Party: Dec 10th

Christmas Party Chairman Peter Kasin and “NINO”, our favorite clown, have let us know that they confirmed with Hanson Park School the date of Friday, Dec. 10th for the 2010 Christmas Party. Again, a very special “Thank You!” to Barry Brandon, Hank Fischer & Tom Capodarco of Ideal Toys, Ira Feuer of Classic Toy Co. Hank Mackin of Good Stuff Toys, Bob Souza of Toy Network, Steve Lipkin and Jamie Meldrum of Nancy Sales/NANCO, Tom Rafferty of Peek A Boo Toys, Jason Reyes of Toy Factory, Neil Sormanti and Bob Nowak of Rhode Island Novelty Co., Peter Bakala and Dan Kroeger of Gold Medal Products and Ron Porter of Fare Foods for all their donations each year. We simply could not do it without them.



How to reach us

You can reach Joe Burum, Secretary, at 319-290-4490 or Diane Burmeister at 312-332-6236 if you have any questions about the Showmen’s League. We are also available by email: JoeB@ShowmensLeague.org and Diane@Showmensleague.org. Our fax is 312-332-6237, and our web site is: www.ShowmensLeague.org



New Member Welcome:

All sponsored by Rich Byrum

- Craig Herkimer
- Secora Maurer
- Austin Maurer

If you’ve signed up a new member be sure to let us know and we’ll list them here.

Dalton Kid Ride Rebuilders, Inc.
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Father John’s Letter:

Dear Friends,

As things get in high gear for another season on the move and on the road in the business, I wish you well in weather, grosses, safety and above all in your family and spiritual life.

Life and business seems always to be in a cycle of ups and downs. This is true for body and soul. More and more people are coming to the conclusion that material things do not bring happiness and that it is the spiritual that matters.

Sometimes when we get all caught up in the day to day business of things and in the rush of collecting loose ends in our business, we can lose sight of the spiritual so much so that perhaps we feel let down or maybe even abandoned by God. In Isaiah Chapter 43: verses 8-15 Isaiah says, “Can a mother forget her child?. Neither will I forget you.”

This reminds me of the favorite story of author John Powell about a student named Timothy, who he taught at Loyola University, Chicago. Tommy claimed to be an atheist. When he turned in his final exam, he smirked, “Do you think I’ll ever find God?” Without waiting for an answer, he left. As he headed out the door John yelled, “Tommy, you may never find God, but God’s going to find you.” Months later the boy learned he had cancer. In the course of the illness, God found Tommy in a most beautiful way. Just before Tommy died, he asked Father Powell to share with his future students the story he didn’t find God, but how God did find him. This is a good time to ask our selves, “Have we ever experienced God’s presence and love after thinking God had abandoned us?” Our prayer might be something like this: Lord, help us realize that you care about us and love us more than we do ourselves.

When it comes to the power of prayer, it is reassuring to know that we have someone in our corner who is deeply interested in our welfare. I get a lot of calls from folks asking for prayers and spiritual help in different situations and I am happy to remember them in my prayers. Safe travels and blessings always,

Father John, Carnival Priest, fjav@earthlink.net
www.carnivalpriest.com, Rev John Vakulskas Jr,
716 8th Street, Sibley, IA 51249, 712-754-3311
712 754 4042 (fax), 712 490 8047 (cell)



THE SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PO Box 64980, Chicago, IL 60664
Phone 312-332-6236 Fax 312-332-6237

Application for Membership

Mr. Mrs. Ms.: _____ hereby applies for membership in the Showmen's League of America, sponsored by the undersigned, a member in good standing.

(Sponsor) _____ (Date)

Please provide the following information:

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Send my newsletter and updates via _____ email _____ US Mail

Business Name, Address, Phone, if different: _____

Current affiliation with the industry: _____

Prior/other affiliations: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____ USA _____ Canada _____ Other (list)

Emergency Contact _____ Home/Cell Phone: _____

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

I hereby promise that if elected to membership in the Showmen's League of America (the League) I shall support the Constitution and By-Laws of the League as they now exist and as they may hereafter be changed or amended; that I am in agreement with all the obligations and responsibilities of membership in the League that do not conflict with my duties to self, family, religious beliefs and political beliefs, and that I shall conduct myself at all times so that no discredit will be brought on the League. I further state that all statements and representations made by me on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant Date

Amount due for:

New 4-year Membership Special: \$100.00 (initiation fee waived)

New 1-year Membership: \$50.00 (\$25.00 initiation and \$25.00 first year dues)

Renewal Membership: \$25.00 per year

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$625.00

Amount received: _____ Paid By: _____ Cash _____ Check to "SLA"

Or Credit card: Type: _____ Number: _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature of Sponsor Date

Mail completed form and dues payment to address above.



President Mike Featherston's 2010 YEARBOOK:

"Then & now: Through the years" EARLY BIRD ORDER FORM

Name : _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office # : _____ Cell # : _____

	Regular Price	Early Bird Special
Full Color Page	\$ 350.00	\$ 300.00
Full Black & White Page	300.00	250.00

THREE PAGE COMBOS – Your Best Value!

2 Color Pages & 1 Black & White	800.00	700.00
1 Color Page & 2 Black & White	700.00	600.00

½ Page Ad	200.00	150.00
¼ Page Ad	150.00	125.00

The book this year will feature the 'Then and Now' theme, as we build up to our Centennial in 2013. We'd like to see pictures of your show, food, games or other operation from 'way back when' and we'd love to hear about the things that have changed. Remember ticket boxes at every ride? Remember when rides didn't all have fences? What other things do we take for granted today that weren't always so? Tell us in your yearbook ad, or better yet, show us!

Make sure that you reserve your place NOW in the Showmen League's 2010 Annual Year Book. Deadline for Early Bird prices is July 4th – Final deadline is September 1st.

Fax to 312-332-6237 or email to Diane@ShowmensLeague.org

The SLA Calendar of Events 2010

- May 12 Spring Get Away party
1:20 ball game, Pizza at
Giordano's after
- May 13 Board of Governors Meeting
In Person at the League Office or
Via regular Call-in number
- May 31 Veteran's Service at Showmen's Rest at
Woodlawn Cemetery, 1:00 pm
- 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,
Banquet & Exhibitor's Lounge – Las Vegas
- Dec 1

2011

- Feb 8-12 IISF Trade Show in Gibtown

And now a word from our



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

Showmen's League of America
8 S. Michigan Ave. Ste 2212
Chicago, IL 60603

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Showmen's Rest decorated for
Memorial Day
Photo by Patti Grillion