

# Little People of America — 2024 Ballot

Welcome to the 2024 Little People of America election. You will be electing your regional representative on the Board of Directors for the next three years. You only vote for one regional representative, the one that represents your district as follows:

## **Eastern Regional At-Large Representative**

Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 13

## **Central Regional At-Large Representative**

Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9

## **Western Regional At-Large Representative**

Districts 10, 11 and 12

You also will be voting whether to approve one proposed amendment to the LPA Bylaws.

Bylaw amendment proposals are not reviewed, approved, or endorsed by the LPA Board of Directors, though individual Directors may submit statements about them. Any LPA member may submit a proposal, and they are responsible for the content of their proposal.

In the proposed Bylaw amendments, changes are marked in legislative format. A ~~strike through~~ shows text that is proposed for deletion and underlining shows text that is proposed for addition. [Unchanged] will mark a section where no text change is being proposed.

Statements in support of or opposition to the Bylaw amendment proposals are presented here in the order in which they were received.

LPA also provides online voting as an option for casting your ballot. Each LPA member listed in our membership database who is 18 years or older and has a valid email address will receive an email with instructions on how to cast your vote online. For more information or to request an online ballot if you have not received one, please visit our webpage:

[www.lpaonline.org/2024\\_election](http://www.lpaonline.org/2024_election).

Thank you for your attention to these important matters that will affect the future of Little People of America.

**Ballots must be postmarked by  
Saturday, June 1, 2024**

**Exercise your rights!**

## Candidates for Board of Directors

### **Eastern Regional At-Large Representative – Joshua Maudlin**



As we enter this year's LPA election cycle, I am inspired by the words of Gilbert Baker (the creator of the iconic Pride flag), who famously said *"our love knows no bounds"*. This profound truth, that love knows no bounds, has guided me through every step of my involvement in LPA, from my earliest days as a member of the Denver Mile High chapter to my current role as the District Two Director. As I seek to be your next Eastern Regional Representative, I am driven by a deep sense of purpose and a profound commitment to the values that have shaped my life and my dedication to this incredible organization.

My path to this moment has been marked by both challenges and triumphs. After stepping into the role of Interim District Director in the wake of a resignation, together with my board, I navigated uncharted waters with resilience and determination. Building on my years of experience as the D2 Assistant Director, I embraced the opportunity to lead and to effect positive change within our District. Over the course of my tenure, I have witnessed the transformative power of unity and perseverance as our district (like everyone else) weathered the storm of a global pandemic. And I can proudly say, we have emerged strong.

Central to my vision for the Eastern Region is a commitment to building upon the success and lessons learned during my time as District Director. I have seen first-hand the impact of strategic leadership and unwavering commitment to working with a team. And the magic that members experience at our events. As Eastern Regional Representative, I will bring this same spirit of innovation and collaboration to every facet of our region, working tirelessly to ensure the success and longevity of every District within the Eastern Region.

My love for this organization runs deep, rooted in a lifetime of active involvement and a steadfast commitment to its mission. From my earliest days as a child (member) of the Mile High Denver chapter to my tenure as the Teen Coordinator of District 10, I have been shaped by the values of inclusivity, empowerment, and service that define our community. This commitment was recognized with the National Teen Distinguished Service Award I received at the 2005 National Conference in Orlando FL. A moment that remains etched in my memory as a testament to the transformative power of youth leadership and advocacy.

Outside of my involvement with LPA, I am privileged to work as a medical social worker with a focus on hospice care, a role that has deepened my understanding of compassion, empathy, and the profound impact of human connection. Living in the Bronx with my wife Dahlia (we met at the 2006 Milwaukee National Convention) and our two sons, Roei and Erez, I have found both purpose and inspiration, fueling my desire to effect positive change and leave a legacy of love, acceptance, and service.

As I humbly ask for your vote to serve as your next Eastern Regional Representative, I am guided by a simple yet profound truth that love knows no bounds. Together, let us embrace this truth as we work to build a better future where every individual is valued, every voice is heard, and every heart is filled with hope. With gratitude and humility, I pledge to dedicate myself ahead, honoring

the legacy of those who have come before me, while making changes that will pave the way for those who will follow.

### **Eastern Regional At-Large Representative – Crystal Perry**



Hello to everyone from Michigan to Mississippi to Florida to Maine! It's such an honor to run for the role of Eastern Regional Representative. It feels like coming home. I've been in LPA my entire life – District 4 when Georgia was part of that District and now District 13. I've had the good fortune to attend Regionals in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 13. I guess it's time to make a trip north to District 1.

My twentieth LPA conference was in Austin last summer! My parents, Herb and Rachel Perry, started my adoption at the 1976 conference in Miami. Shortly thereafter, they brought me home to middle Georgia which is still home for me.

People always ask which conference was my favorite, and it's hard to say! Being crowned Little Little Princess in St. Paul in 1981 was quite fun! Baltimore was fun and I can't wait to go back this summer. Chicago sticks out because I was a senior in high school, so I felt like a top dog! I learned how much work goes into putting on a conference in Atlanta in 1997. I'll have the utmost appreciation for the planning committee from that experience! Orlando in 2005 was my first conference as a Mom so that was a new experience. And, Nashville in 2010 was my introduction in DAAA (and all I can remember is how hot it was!).

I grew up in a home where leadership in LPA was not an if, but when. My dad served in a leadership role in District 4. My mom was the Georgia chapter president for several years while I was growing up. And, I served as the Georgia chapter president in the early 2000s.

My favorite part of that role was meeting new families to LPA. This was pre-internet so I went through the paper roster each month reaching out to members near where our monthly meeting would be. Growing up, when we were not attending or hosting an LPA meeting, we spent weekends with friends through LPA who are family now.

I also served on the Adoption Committee around the time we adopted my daughter from Russia. She's almost 23 now and a junior in college. Being Vica's mom introduced me to adaptive sports and the Paralympics. Vica's a swimmer at a Division II university, and we'll attend the Paralympic Trials before the conference in Baltimore with other LPA members!

My younger daughter is a junior in high school in my hometown. She and her best friend who is a little person are in class together, and it's a treat! Sienna is active in a community service sorority and enjoys attending LPA events. Prom is next month, and just like me, she's taking a friend from LPA! Lifelong friendships are probably the best part of LPA.

Thanks to what I learned from being a swim mom, I became involved in DAAA and served on the board around 2013! There's nothing more rewarding than seeing kids win on an even playing field for the first time. Since then, members from your districts have gone on to participate in sports on a national and international level. Michigan hosted the World Dwarf Games and your districts sent athletes to Germany this summer. The intersection between DAAA and LPA should be fostered, and I hope to have the opportunity to do that.

I went to college in Georgia and law school in Iowa. I've worked in a legal disability rights organization almost my entire career. I started at the Georgia Protection and Advocacy system and now I work at the National Disability Rights Network in Washington, DC. Well... technically I work from my office at home unless I'm traveling for work to DC or any of the 56 states and territories that we serve.

As the Eastern Regional Representative, I hope to spend time in each of your Districts getting to know you. I look forward to using my experience as a civil rights lawyer, a lifelong LPA member, and a mom of the future leaders of LPA to serve you on the LPA Board. My first order of business will be spending time with each district and getting to know the members.

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### **Central Regional At-Large Representative – Allison Lourash**



Hello!

I am proud to again serve LPA, an organization who has given me much in return. I grew up in Illinois with connection to the Little Prairie Chapter and continue to live in District 6, now in Wisconsin. I have had several leadership roles within our organization. This includes serving on the Board of Directors as District 6 Director, organizing workshops at the national conference, chairing the Employment Committee, and also being LPA's representative to the ANSI 117.1 committee which works on building codes and accessibility. I received the national Distinguished Service Award in 2016 and have

supported LPA at the local level in various other ways.

Much of my interest in LPA projects aligns with my work managing human/health services programs that support families and people with disabilities. I created "Starting Points" resource sheets for District 6 families that provided key organizations to assist with funding and advocacy issues. I have a Masters in Public Administration focused on management and policy. I completed my PhD in Human Services recently, which was focused on connectedness and belonging. In addition to my involvement with LPA, I also serve as Co-President of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute housed at DePaul University in Chicago. I hope to bring some of this work and the centering of community into practice back to LPA.

I look forward to working with the Board and the Districts in the Central Region. I appreciate the continued work of the Inclusion and Advocacy committees and recognize how important it is to continue to move forward in being welcoming and accessible to all. I bring many years of regional planning experience and educational programming to help support the districts in the region. I am particularly interested in incorporating best practices around social connectedness to our LPA events and welcoming new members.

Allison Lourash

## Western Regional At-Large Representative – Lee Uniacke



Hi, I'm Lee Uniacke, your current Western Area Representative for Districts 10, 11, & 12, and I am running for another term. Before serving nationally, I was President and Treasurer of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter for nine years and have organized and run many Regionals and Trifectas. I've experienced our organization from many angles over my 50-year membership. I grew up in Delaware and lived in New York City and Northern and Southern California.

In the 1970s, the John Hopkins Short Stature Symposiums were my introduction to little people events, and I went to my first national in 1979 in Lancaster, PA. In those early years I met outstanding people like Harriet Stickney, Paul Miller, Annis Arthur, and Bobby Van Etten. In 1983 I went to the Boston National where I met my wife, Shari Weiser. We've been married for 36 years and together for 41.

Professionally, I was the Group Publisher for a division of top magazines like the Official PlayStation Magazine, Computer Gaming World, and Electronic Gaming Monthly. Then, I was the Chief Revenue Officer (CRO), running advertising sales for two internet start-ups. One, we sold out to MTV, and the other to GameStop. I have a BS in Business from the University of Delaware and an MBA from Temple University.

Eight years ago, I started living the retirement dream, juggling board of director roles at Marin Center for Independent Living, Ad Giants, and our local Lions Club. Outside that, my wife and I are bocce, improv enthusiasts, and hardcore Burning Man fans. We call Marin County home about 10 minutes over the Golden Gate Bridge with our 26-year-old son, Spencer Uniacke.

As your Western Area Rep, I have some key priorities. First, let's pump up chapter and regional events to make them well worth the time and money it takes to participate. Where it makes sense, I would like to use district money to kick-start underfunded chapter events. Also, I've lost many friends to mental health struggles and will work to strengthen LPA's support to our members in need. Lastly, I would like to enhance LPA's value to all our members, so it's well worth the cost.

Thanks for the trust and support you've given me in the past, and I look forward to continuing to work for you. Please vote for me as your Western Area Rep.

## Bylaw Amendment Proposals

### **National Board of Directors Officers Installation**

#### **ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1-2** [Unchanged]

**SECTION 3 - ELECTION**

A-J [Unchanged]

- K. Newly elected Board members will be installed at the Board meetings at the National Conference at the conclusion of "Old Business" and before "New Business."

**SECTION 4-12** [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Lee Uniacke, LPA Western Regional Representative  
Eileen Norman, LPA President

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

This is an administrative update to the Bylaws to include missing material. This officer installation process has been followed for at least the past twenty years, but it has never been formally documented. It is a carry-over of the process from when the officers were elected in the membership assembly meeting at the national conference, before LPA used mail-in ballots and electronic voting.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT: None received.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

