

Little People of America — 2021 Ballot

Welcome to the 2021 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 three proposed amendments to the LPA Bylaws.

LPA also offers online voting as an option for casting your ballot. Each LPA member listed in our 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 www.lpaonline.org/2021_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 5, 2021**

Exercise your rights!

Eastern Regional At-Large Representative – Michael Petruzzelli



My name is Michael Petruzzelli, and I am running for re-election as a candidate for the Eastern Regional At-Large Representative.

My journey with LPA over the last 18 years has been an active and very rewarding one. My son Jake, who is now a senior in high school, introduced us to so many wonderful people through LPA. LPA has shaped our lives in ways we did not anticipate or expect, and we are so grateful for this community.

When Jake was less than a year old, our family became very involved with the Islanders, which is our local chapter in Long Island, NY. I ran for President of the Chapter before Jake turned two years old, and learned about hosting regionals during that time. Regional planning eventually turned into conference planning for the 2009 Brooklyn conferences, where we pulled off one of the best LPA national events ever. Some say I might be a little biased. I ran for District Director in 2014, and also became an active member of the CMC (Conference Management Committee). Additionally, I've held the Board Position of Eastern Regional Representative for the last three years, and am once again asking for your vote.

As your Eastern Representative on the LPA Board, I see my primary role to support the eastern districts of LPA; specifically Districts 1-5, and 13. I have enjoyed working with each of the District Directors, and support their goals in engaging their local members. The District and Chapter officers are extremely important to our organization's local membership, and supporting them is an honor. My biggest concern within this position is to support Districts to grow and build even stronger memberships. I have appreciated all of the wonderful friendships I have made along the way.

Additionally, the three items I am most enthusiastic about on a national level are:

1. **Centralized Email Network.** Not only is it professional looking to our members and outside organizations, a centralized email network will help officers and positions transition from year to year. Making email consistent so that each member can easily reach their Chapter officers will help members communicate and become more involved. An example of an email address may look like : billybarty@lpa.org
2. **Increased communication/ events with dwarfism organizations around the world.** My son Jake and I have travelled to several countries recently because of Jake's Paralympic badminton events. We have met LPs from all over the world – from Malaysia to Ireland to Peru. As the world gets smaller, I think it's important to have more conversations and even more event opportunities for LPs to get together for a greater advocacy presence.
3. **More access to national conferences.** As a member of the CMC, I see first-hand every year how important the national conferences are for making those crucial, life-long connections. The friendships and support created at a conference is so far beyond the hasty introduction that a one hour zoom call provides. I want more members to be able to experience the national conferences, and am focused on looking at ways to find more funding to allow that to happen. National conferences are expensive, but they are

expensive because of the size of our group, and the amazing week of events that are offered. It is necessary to have these events in a bigger hotel, and the hotel prices are negotiated very well comparatively. The registration fees, compared to other conferences of its size and value, are minimal. I realize, however, that it is difficult for a family to travel to different cities and stay for a week. I am passionate about finding a way to make it easier for more people to be able to experience the life-changing week - that is, the LPA national conference.

I truly believe these goals are important building blocks for a healthier foundation to our organization. Allowing for easier access to communicate with the Board is essential in making sure that all of our members' voices are being heard.

I respectfully ask for your vote, and promise that I am a dedicated, and thankful, LPA volunteer.

Fondly,
Michael Petruzelli

Eastern Regional At-Large Representative – Joe Was



Greetings LPA Family,

My name is Joe Was and I am humbled to be running for the Eastern At-Large Representative. A little background on me is that I grew up in San Antonio, TX where I was brought into a second family through LPA in District 8, Chapter 15. My grandfather (Bill Howe) was one of the founding members of this chapter. I have been a proud member of LPA since 1985 and cannot imagine life without this organization. My identical twin brother and I are generation family members born with Achondroplasia Dwarfism. Him, along with my step-grandmother, and mother instilled in me the significant role that LPA would play in my life.

Fast forward to present day, I currently reside in District 2, where I live with my wife (who has Achondroplasia Dwarfism and is a lifetime member as well) We met in LPA ten years ago and currently reside north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If it weren't for LPA, I would have never met her or some of my closest, best friends. LPA has provided my wife and I with very fond memories and opportunities that we look forward to continuing with a family of our own someday.

Over the past year, the pandemic has been brutal on us all, altering our everyday social lives. Sadly, COVID took the life of my beloved grandfather this past January. Reflecting on his life, I saw how instrumental he was in forming a chapter, being a district director, and an international correspondent to promote international goodwill which inspired me to follow in his footsteps.

In my grandfather's honor and to carry on his nautical passion, it's time to take wind to my LPA sails farther than I have ever been before. My agenda for this mission is to:

- Promote inclusion and diversity of all little people by helping to dissolve the "M" word, extinguish the negative mockery, and enhance the public representation of little people
- Be the leader that represents the East and readily available to all members' needs and concerns

- Continue building social networking resources to promote collaboration and shared access among districts
- Increase financial donations amongst the organization such as general funding, adoption, scholarships and establish an LPA Member Care Fund that helps financially burdened members with medical expenses
- Be a role model for future generations by establishing mentorships between veteran and novice members
- Building a support network in each district that has readily accessible resources regarding various health concerns (including socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally).
- Encourage businesses and corporations to implement business resource groups that promote an atmosphere centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for those that are differently abled
- Promote the importance of education and or apprenticeships for lifelong career success

Currently, I am on the leadership team of my companies' Abilities Resource Group, where I have championed educational resources, especially during Dwarfism Awareness Month in October. It is important for me to support the empowerment of people who are differently abled to help them reach their full potential. In my role as a retail selection specialist, I have seen the devastating effects that this pandemic has had on many people's jobs as well as experiencing firsthand the challenges that little people face when seeking employment.

Being a little person myself, I too, have undergone these same challenges both in the workforce and in everyday life. I want to ensure that little people are at the forefront of job opportunities across all fields. Now more than ever, we need to come together to encourage each other and stand in unity. We will celebrate our unique identities, no matter our differences, for the greater good of all members. Here's to learning, growing, and collaborating together while counting down the days until our highly anticipated LPA National Conference in 2022.

Building a resume with a human resource background, I truly understand being the voice of the people.

I look forward to being yours.

Sincerely yours,
Joe Was

Central Regional At-Large Representative – Joseph Tateoka



Hello! My name is Joseph Tateoka. Nearly six years ago we joined LPA when my son was diagnosed with Pseudo. While I'm originally an Idaho farm boy, I moved to Chicago almost 14 years ago and I love living in the Windy City with my wife, Alison, and our three children. The experiences, resources, networking, events, and most importantly the friendships are "why we LPA."

The thoughtful outreach and engagement we received from our District Director and Chapter President when we joined LPA, made a tangible impact on our family. Those key moments and interactions created a wonderful environment for us to engage at LPA events and find friends who are now part of our LPA Family and network. I have learned from my fellow District Directors and chapter officers (current and past) the critical role chapters and districts have in creating the "why we LPA" experience for

individuals, families, extended family members, and friends. Given my experience as the current District Director for District 6, I have learned a lot about LPA, its members, my son, and myself.

Our experience with LPA and finding our "why we LPA," are why I'm running for the Central Regional At-Large Representative position to serve on the Board of Directors for the Little People of America.

My North Star directing my decision to pursue this position is two-fold:

1. Bring my professional skillsets, including public relations/communications, leadership development and training, mentor program facilitation, learning & development, non-profit/association membership engagement, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion leadership to benefit LPA both on a national level as well as across the Central Region.
2. To support local efforts to engage members as they find their reason for "why they LPA."

My experience as a District Director has strengthened my resolve to align my passion for advocacy and continue volunteering my time to the organization furthering the mission of LPA to improve the quality of life and drive awareness to the issues affecting individuals of short stature and their families.

If elected to this position, my focus will be on providing LPA District and chapter officers as well as members in the Central Region with the following:

- Support the District Directors, chapter officers and members in the Central Region to create an inclusive environment to increase membership engagement locally providing enhanced support for our members and their loved ones.
- Support membership engagement in the central region with the BIPOC population of LPA to help individuals understand the membership value proposition and resources available to them through LPA.
- Provide District Directors and district/chapter officers from Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 with opportunities for collaboration, peer mentorship, and trainings with each other and the Central Regional Representative.
- Collaborate with District Directors to explore joint, tri, and central region events and offer expanded experiences to members otherwise unable to attend a national conference.
- Collaborate with District Directors and MAB members located within the Central Region to provide more opportunities for members to engage with the MAB.
- Represent the LPA members from the Central Region to bring concerns, challenges, thoughts, and ideas to the attention of the LPA leadership.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the potential opportunity to serve in this capacity and collaborate more closely with the district and chapter leadership as well as members within the central region.

Western Regional At-Large Representative – Casey Johnson



My name is Casey Johnson and I've been the Assistant District Director of District 12 and Vice President of the Orange Blossom Chapter in Southern California since 2013. It's been a wonderful experience so far serving in these positions and it's been wonderful to be able to give back to LPA through leadership and volunteering. During my time, I was the youngest officer of my chapter while also being an integral part of the multi-district regional at Great Wolf Lodge and the adults only wine tasting excursion in Temecula. I'm excited to continue my long tradition of volunteering for LPA as your new western regional rep where I hope to bring better representation to the board but also the accountability and determination I'm known for. After a year of social distancing, our members will be looking to us for safe ways connect, build, and maintain the sense of community we have. As your Western Regional

Representative, I also promise to help pull LPA into 2021 by updating antiquated practices and doing everything I can to support every single officer in the Western Region. If elected the local chapters will be heard and supported now during covid times and in the future.

Thanks,
Casey Johnson, PhD

Western Regional At-Large Representative – Jeff Weinstein



Mark Povinelli's column "Do I Wish I Was Someone Else?" in the last issue of *lpa Today* resonated with me for varied, yet similar reasons. Becoming a member of LPA a few months after my daughter, Jamie, was born with achondroplasia in 2012, I soon met and became good friends with many LPs who have informed me, instructed me, and inspired me to a different way of looking at life and learning some new values to be shared with my family and friends as the parent of a dwarf child. It wasn't long before I achieved a strong sense of dwarf pride that I share with people I encounter. I know that Jamie will live a fulfilling, productive and joyous life (she already does) because of her dwarfism. One of my life's proudest moments was hearing her tell her 1st grade class, that she was a "little person," but she was the same (or better) than everyone else and she did not want to be treated differently.

I have come to love LPA over the past eight years, attending every national conference, serving on a development committee, the corporate sponsorship committee, and being an active member of my local chapters, first in Phoenix, then San Diego. Now well into my 3rd career, first as owner of a group of record stores (you may remember those flat, round black platters we used to get our music from), then a criminal defense lawyer with the Pima County Public Defender's office, and now, as a stay-at-home dad for Jamie. I would like to offer my abilities and experience to LPA by serving as Western Regional Representative on the Board of Directors.

My previous volunteer work includes twelve years on the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona, including six years as president and two years as treasurer; two years on the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Arizona; nine years on the Supreme Court of Arizona's Committee on Examinations; and nearly twenty years as a scorekeeper and statistician for the University of Arizona football and basketball teams. I learned to play well and work well with others. Now there is no one else I would prefer to work for than Little People of America.

The areas of LPA's mission that speak loudest to me are development, client services and membership outreach.

- Fundraising provides the lifeblood through which all successful nonprofit organizations thrive. Establishing an endowment legacy fund whereby LPA can be assured of financial stability and viability in perpetuity should be considered as a goal of all involved in leading the organization. Endowment serves a nonprofit by providing a restricted fund that limits its spending to only the earnings from the endowment's investments. Creating a permanent endowment fund would help LPA establish long-term stability as well as serve as a catalyst to lure new donors.
- Making certain that we as an organization are meeting the needs of the membership through better access to medical services, addressing accessibility issues and providing financial assistance through all LPA portals is essential.
- LPA needs to reach out to the dwarf communities throughout North, Central and South America and to aid and assist LP organizations throughout the world. Obviously, dwarfism occurs in every region of the planet and we have a duty to extend a helping hand to LPs everywhere.

If elected to serve on the Board, I promise to do my best to help assure that the mission of Little People of America will continue to succeed.

Paraphrasing Mark, my daughter's dwarfism has made me a better person, adding to my empathy, open-mindedness and self-reflection. Viva LPA!

Western Regional At-Large Representative – Lee Uniacke



I'm Lee Uniacke, and I am currently the Western Area Representative for Districts 10, 11, & 12. With your vote, I would like to do it again for another term. Before taking national office, I was President and then Treasurer of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter for nine years. I've been an LPA member for over fifty years, growing up on the east coast in Delaware and then New York City, before moving to California 32 years ago. In California, we've lived in Southern California on Venice Beach. In Northern California, we've lived on the Peninsula, in San Francisco and Marin County.

I was in high school for my first national convention, and it was the most extended car trip my parents had let me take by myself up till that point. In Lancaster, PA, it was about 40 minutes away, where I met and got a thorough introduction to LPA from Bobby Van Etten in 1979. My next national was in Boston, MA, in 1983, where I met my wife, Shari Weiser. We've been married for 34 years and together for 39. The first little people-oriented events

I attended were the John Hopkins Short Stature Symposiums in the 1970s. There I hung out with Paul Miller and was inspired by Annis Arthur's forceful but sparkling presentation to the group.

LPA means a lot to me personally because of the people I've met. Those who are friends now and people I've just interacted with and learned from along the way. An odd but real turning point in my life was when I was 12 or so. I was fooling around a water fountain with a couple of other boys, generally being a nuisance to anyone who came by. A gentleman, who was an LP, corralled us together and said, you can keep messing around, or you can go into the meeting, act your age, and try to learn something. It was a stern warning that might be out of style today, but I took a solid life lesson from that LPA event, and it helped shape my personality.

As the Western Area Representative, I will work on a couple of key priorities. First, I am looking to kick start all Chapter and Regional events in the Western States. This can include helping Chapters getting reorganized to put on events and perhaps even using District money in underfunded Chapters to help move things forward. I've personally organized many local and regional events over the years, so I would be glad to help out on any events that need an extra hand. As a long-time member who has lost more friends than I can stand from mental health issues, it has become painfully clear that many in our organization need help with the extra struggles we face. I want to strengthen and augment our mental health initiatives within the organization to help those people. Lastly, I would like to define an LPA membership's value and balance that more with its costs.

Professionally, I was the Group Publisher of a division of video game magazines and a website for many years, including the Official PlayStation Magazine, Computer Gaming World, and Electronic Gaming Monthly. After that, I was the Chief Revenue Officer (CRO), running advertising sales for two different internet start-ups. One we sold out to MTV, and the other that we sold to GameStop, the largest video game retailer in the world. I have a BS in Business from the University of Delaware and an MBA from Temple University.

About five years ago, I retired early and am on the board of directors for the Marin Center for Independent Living and another internet start-up called Ad Giants. I'm also the Treasurer of the Local Lions Club. My wife and I play in a bocce league, do improv, and are avid Burning Man fans. Shari Weiser and I live in Marin County, about 10 minutes over the Golden Gate Bridge, just north of San Francisco, with our 23-year-old son, Spencer Uniacke.

I want to keep serving LPA as the Western Area Representative and would appreciate your vote. Thank you!

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #1 - Officers

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven members (each a “Board Member”), which shall be as follows:

- A. President
- B. [Membership Director](#)
- C. ~~Senior Vice President~~
- D. Finance Director
- E. ~~Membership Director~~
- F. [Inclusion Director](#)
- G. Programs Director
- H. Public Relations Director
- I. Advocacy Director
- J. Development Director
- K. Eastern Regional At-Large Representative
- L. Central Regional At-Large Representative
- M. Western Regional At-Large Representative

The Eastern Regional At-Large Representative, Central Regional At-Large Representative and Western Regional At-Large Representative are sometimes referred to collectively as the “Regional Representatives.”

Board Members shall be LPA members who have been in good standing for the 3 years immediately prior to the election. The Board of Directors shall vote on matters brought before the Board, except for the President who shall vote in the case of a tie or if needed to make a quorum.

SECTION 2 [Unchanged]

SECTION 3 - ELECTION

A. [Unchanged].

B. The President ~~and Senior Vice President~~ must have been an active eligible voting member for four membership years and have served in an elected or appointed position at the national, district or chapter level for at least two membership years.

C-F [Unchanged]

G In 2017, the terms of the three current Regional Representatives will be extended for one year. The President, ~~Senior Vice President~~, Finance Director, Inclusion Director and Membership Director will be elected to three-year terms. They will be elected every third year thereafter, forward from 2020. The Programs Director, Development Director, Advocacy Director and Public Relations Director will be elected to two-year terms. They will be elected every third year thereafter, forward from 2019.

H-J [Unchanged]

SECTION 4 – ORDER OF SUCCESSION

The order of succession to the President, in the case of a vacancy, is as follows:

- A. The ~~Senior Vice President~~ Membership Director shall succeed the President until a new President is elected in accordance with Article VI, Section 3.
- B. In the event a vacancy occurs concurrently with both the President and the ~~Senior Vice President~~ Membership Director, the ~~Vice President of Finance Director~~ shall succeed the President until a new President is elected in accordance with Article VI, Section 3.

In all other cases of vacancy, the Board of Directors shall appoint an interim Board Member to fill such vacant position. Such interim Board Member shall remain until a new Board Member is elected in accordance with Article VI, Section 3.

SECTION 5 – SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members shall be expected to attend all Board Meetings whether by phone or in person.

The Board of Directors cannot make a decision that financially impacts chapters and districts without the consent of a majority of the Council of District Directors (as that term is defined in Article VIII, Section 1). Such decisions shall be voted on at a meeting with the Council of District Directors in which a majority of the District Directors are present.

The following are the duties of each of the Board Members of LPA:

A. President

1-4 [Unchanged]

5. Shall oversee the following Committees: Bylaws and Policy, ~~Executive~~, and Personnel, and any Committee not specifically assigned to another Director ~~or Vice President~~.

6 [Unchanged]

~~B. Senior Vice President~~

~~1. Shall, in the absence of the President at meetings, assume the duties of the President.~~

~~2. Shall be chapter coordinator and be responsible for encouraging and establishing new chapters in appropriate areas.~~

~~3. Shall oversee responsibilities as assigned by the President.~~

~~4. Shall assist District Directors with the development of local membership not served by chapters.~~

~~5. Shall oversee the Employment and Historian Committees.~~

B. Membership Director

1. Shall, in the absence of the President at meetings, assume the duties of the President.

1-3 [Unchanged, increment number]

C [Unchanged]

D Inclusion Director

1. Shall help ensure LPA programs and practices are inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible for current and potential members.

2. Shall work with Regional Representatives to encourage and establish new chapters in appropriate areas.

3. Shall assist Regional Representatives with the development of local membership not served by chapters.

4. Shall oversee the Inclusion, Employment and Historian Committees.

E-K [Unchanged]

SECTION 6-12 [Unchanged]

ARTICLE X – STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 – STANDING COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chairperson for the following standing committees.

A-H [Unchanged]

I. [Inclusion](#)

I-Q [Unchanged, increment letter]

SECTION 2-5 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

LPA Board of Directors

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

The LPA Board of Directors is committed to improving inclusivity and diversity within our organization. Last year, the Board self-funded professional consultants to review our practices with that lens. Based on the consultant's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) report, **this proposal a) changes the duties and title of the current Senior Vice President to Inclusion Director, b) moves Membership Director in the succession plan after President, and c) creates an Inclusion Committee.**

- 1) Currently, the Sr VP's main responsibility is to oversee local chapters. This is a holdover from the previous Board structure where the Regional Representative positions did not exist. As responsibilities of chapter oversight moves to the Regional Reps, the role of Senior Vice President has an opportunity to take on new meaningful responsibilities.
- 2) Based on member suggestions through the IDEA report, we propose a standing Inclusion Committee, comprised of a diverse group of LPA members, including but not limited to BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color), LGBTQIA+, and multiple dwarfism types spanning different generations. This committee would work to ensure that LPA is inclusive in our practices and programming, and welcoming for all individuals with dwarfism and their families. Future Inclusion Director candidates could develop within this committee.
- 3) Having an Inclusion Director and Committee aligns with other corporate and non-profits' actions.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT: None received.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #2 – Standing Committees

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1-4 [Unchanged]

SECTION 5 - SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. President

1-4 [Unchanged]

5. Shall oversee the following Committees: Bylaws and Policy, ~~Executive, and Personnel~~, and any Committee not specifically assigned to another Director ~~or Vice President~~.

6 [Unchanged]

B-C [Unchanged]

D. Membership Director

1 [Unchanged]

2 Shall oversee the following Committees: Membership, Parent, Young Adult, Teen, Older Adults, International ~~and Information Technology~~, Hispanic Affairs, Dwarf Artists and Rainbow.

3 [Unchanged]

E [Unchanged]

F. Public Relations Director

1-2 [Unchanged]

3. Shall oversee those committees that deal with the media and public relations. ~~and the Outreach Committees.~~

4 [Unchanged]

G-K [Unchanged]

SECTION 6-12 [Unchanged]

ARTICLE X – STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 – STANDING COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chairperson for the following standing committees.

- C. Adoption
- D. Advocacy
- E. Bylaws and Policy
- F. Conference Management
- G. [Dwarf Artist](#)
- H. Employment
- I. Finance
- J. Fundraising
- K. [Hispanic Affairs](#)
- L. Historian
- M. International Liaison
- ~~N. [Information Technology](#)~~
- O. Membership
- P. Older Adults
- ~~Q. [Outreach](#)~~
- R. Parents
- S. [Rainbow](#)
- T. Teens
- U. Young Adults
- ~~V. [Personnel](#)~~

SECTION 2-5 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Faith Pedersen, Membership Director
and

Mark Povinelli, President

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

This proposed change would update the bylaws to recognize the current and functioning standing committees that exist in LPA. The Hispanic Affairs, Dwarf Artist and Rainbow Committees have all been active and thriving for years in the LPA organization. It is long overdue to have them officially recognized in the LPA Bylaws.

Conversely, the Information Technology, Outreach, and Personnel Committees have been dormant for many years. The purpose of these committees is either covered in currently active committees or would be better served to be formed, as needed, as a Temporary Committee in the future.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT: None received.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #3 – Chapters

ARTICLE IX – LOCAL CHAPTERS

SECTION 1 - APPLICATIONS [UNCHANGED]

SECTION 2 - FORMATION [UNCHANGED]

SECTION 3 - BOUNDARIES

The Board of Directors shall have authority to issue a charter to one chapter in any one area, county, or group of counties of a district provided evidence is given that there are a sufficient number of members residing in the area. The qualifications and classes of membership in each chapter shall be the same as for LPA as set forth in the Bylaws. All members of each chapter must also be members of LPA. Chapter names and boundaries shall be recorded in the LPA Policy Manual.

SECTION 4 - AUTHORITY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS [UNCHANGED]

SECTION 5 - DISSOLUTION [UNCHANGED]

SECTION 6 - HEADQUARTERS

The Chapter headquarters shall be located at the home of the Chapter President.

SECTION 7 - BYLAWS

~~Each chapter chartered by LPA shall adopt such Bylaws for its operation, as it may deem proper, provided, however, that nothing contained therein shall conflict with or contravene the Bylaws of LPA. Chapter Bylaws or any amendments thereto shall not become effective until approved by the District Directors.~~

Chapter Bylaws in effect prior to June 2021 will no longer be in effect, and the governance model for Chapters will be as defined in the Little People of America, Inc. Bylaws.

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SECTION 8 - ACTIVITIES [UNCHANGED]

SECTION 9 - MEETINGS

The Chapter President shall be responsible to see that at least four meetings per year are held. All Chapter meeting sites that are in a public facility will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

SECTION 10 - OFFICERS

The Chapter shall elect a President and Treasurer. If there is no President or Treasurer elected to run the Chapter, the District Director overseeing the Chapter may appoint these positions to complete a term. The Chapter may also elect a Vice President and Secretary and other positions; if there are no candidates and the Chapter wants the positions filled, these positions may be appointed by the Chapter President.

One person may hold two positions except the Chapter President and Treasurer shall not be the same person nor shall be from the same household.

Chapter officer terms shall be for two years. Officers may serve up to three consecutive terms, more if there is no other member willing to run for election to the position.

SECTION 11 - ELECTION

The election of officers will be by a simple majority of votes in an election held between July 1 and December 1. A Chapter may conduct the election at a meeting announced to all members in advance and may choose to conduct the election using mail-in ballots. Electronic balloting may be used if the Board of Directors obtains or identifies an acceptable and secure system, and non-profit laws allow electronic balloting.

Even-numbered Chapters shall hold elections in even-numbered years beginning in 2022, odd-numbered Chapters shall hold elections in odd-numbered years beginning in 2021,

SECTION 12 - ELIGIBILITY

Chapter officers must be members of LPA and reside in the Chapter boundary at the time of election.

SECTION 13 - SUCCESSION

Should the Chapter President resign or decease, the Vice President will fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and immediately appoint a new Vice President (the “Interim Vice President”). Such Interim Vice President shall serve until the next Chapter election. At that time the Chapter will vote to fill the office of Vice President for the rest of the term. Should both the President and Vice President resign within the same term of office, such vacancies shall be filled by election at the next Chapter meeting.

SECTION 14 - RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL

- A. Resignation. A Chapter officer may resign effective upon giving written notice to the majority of the Chapter officers, unless the notice specifies that the resignation shall be effective at a later time.
- B. Removal.
 - 1. A Chapter President who fails to fulfill his or her duties, including failing to attend meetings or failing to fulfill tasks designated by these Bylaws, may be

removed; *provided*, however, that such removal must be authorized by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Council of District Directors then in office who find that such Chapter President failed to fulfill his or her duties.

2. A Chapter President shall be removed if such individual is: (i) declared of unsound mind by a final order of court; (ii) convicted of a felony; or (iii) found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached a duty to the Corporation.

SECTION 15 - CHAPTER PRESIDENT

- A. Shall have primary responsibility for the continuance of activities in the chapter.
- ~~B. — Shall have been an active eligible voting member of the chapter in which he/she is running for office for one membership year.~~
- C. Shall train the Chapter President-elect.
- ~~D. — The term of office of the Chapter President shall commence three months after the chapter meeting at which they were elected.~~
- ~~E. — Shall be elected by a majority vote of the chapter membership at a chapter meeting to be held between August 1 and December 1 on even-numbered years. Absentee mail-in ballots may be used. Electronic balloting may be used if the Board of Directors obtains or identifies an acceptable and secure system, and non-profit laws allow electronic balloting.~~
- ~~F. — Shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms in office. However, he/she may be eligible for a future election if there is an intervening period of two years (one term) between the end of their three (3) terms of office and the next election. This amendment shall be effective fall of 2012.~~
- G. Shall assist with the preparation of Form 990 each year by the timely providing the requisite Chapter financial information to the Board of Directors, or other person designated by the Board of Directors to prepare the Form 990.

SECTION 16 - CHAPTER TREASURER

The Treasurer shall record all Chapter financial transactions, maintain banking facilities as necessary, provide quarterly reports to the Chapter along with quarterly reports to the National Finance Director and provide for audit as requested by the Officers or membership.

SECTION 17 - AUTONOMY

- ~~A. Chapter Presidents will respond to and work with District Directors in carrying out their functions as described in in these Bylaws Article IX, Section 8, and Article X, Section 5.~~

B. [Unchanged]

SECTION 18 - MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

All members of a district who are not in a local chapter shall be considered members-at-large of that district.

PROPOSED BY:

LPA's District Directors: Amy D'Avia (District 1), Josh Maudlin (D2), Aimee Rudd (D4), Dee Dee Allemon (D5), Joseph Tateoka (D6), Brittney Harris (D7), Sara Wills (D8), Stephanie Morris (D9), Gaill Blackburn (D10), Trisha Donnelly Wise (D11), Dan Okenfuss (D12), Amy Miele (D13)

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

In addition to the National Bylaws, LPA has over 70 unique Chapter Bylaws, which create confusing and oftentimes conflicting guidance. Most of the bylaws are from the 1970's and have not kept pace with technology (such as still requiring in-person voting).

Our proposal would retire the 70+ existing Chapter Bylaws and simplify and move chapter policy to one document: the national Bylaws.

This would create consistency across LPA's 70+ chapters, eliminate conflicting and confusing rules across chapters, districts and national. It would serve as a one-stop resource for all new officers, regardless of geography, and is accessible to all members (lpaonline.org).

For example, by standardizing and updating the chapter election process, we avoid the potential for a chapter to have an election that does not follow chapter bylaws, and inadvertently create a governance crisis.

The roles and responsibilities and autonomy of chapters remain unchanged. Chapters will still govern themselves as they always have. This proposal helps ensure that members have similar experiences, no matter what chapter they reside in.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT: None received.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.