



STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION 2026



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

AIMEE
MCCARRON

NEW ORLEANS
CITY COUNCIL





ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

- 8 Bylaw Amendments - update language and align with contemporary policies
- Election Schedule Changes - announce intent to run in Dec, election Feb- Mar
- Microsoft Partnership - improving AI technology that represents the LP community
- Camp Little People - shifted from District to National oversight
- Digital Archive Project Growth

COMMITTEE GROWTH



Biotech

- Defined Committee Membership
 - Term Limits
-

Universal Design

- ANSI rebranding
 - Kori Allen, new chair
-

Employment

- Amy Dinofrio, new chair
-

Hispanic Affairs

- Increased presence on website
 - Additional resources
-

International

- Darcy Painter, new liaison
-

PROGRAMS UPDATE



SCHOLARSHIPS

\$77,250 Total Scholarships
\$57,750 Undergraduate
\$19,500 Graduate



1ST TIME TRAVEL GRANTS

Fernandez - 14 Grants
to Adult LPs

Kitchens - 15 Grants to
Families



GOAL FUND

Funded 2 scooters, and
pedal extensions

↗ (+30 from 2025)

**60 Virtual
Workshops/
Webinars**

↗ (+12 from 2025)

**26 DAM
Webinars**

↗ (+17 from 2025)

**29 Special
Interest
Group
Meeting**

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Special Interest Group Meetings
include:

- Men's Bro - cial Group
- Women's Support Group
- OWLS Online
- Conexión Latina (Latin Connection)

Many of our webinars are recorded
and posted on our website under
Member Center | Members Only
Access

ADVOCACY

EFFORTS

- Alliances with other organizations to focus on policy, legislation, and budget advocacy
- Subcommittee to track both federal and state legislation changes and proposals
- Changed Dwarfism Awareness to Dwarfism Advocacy Month (DAM)

DAM STATS

- 6 “Take Over Tuesday” influencers
- 26 Workshop/Webinars
- “Throw Back Thursday” spotlighted Digital Archive content
- Over 3,700 DAM products sold: t-shirts, stickers, pencils & wristbands



Ann Cupolo Freeman

—★—
**ADVOCACY
CHANGEMAKER
—AWARD—**

2026 Recipients

**Julie Wyman
Debra Schaffner**



Nominated for the work they both did to create the documentary, *The Tallest Dwarf*.

“...Julie's film [] is really such a gift for our community...”

“...I believe her work as a filmmaker and community member has only enhanced our community and our allies to be better advocates for ourselves and bring about healing and meaningful conversations within and beyond.”

*“...Debra is the writer and editor of the award winning documentary, *The Tallest Dwarf*...[the film] presents a well rounded enhancing view of dwarf culture. It has received incredibly positive feedback from those who have viewed it. The lives of the dwarf participants are framed with respect and care, and themes have an orientation towards advocacy and change...”*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In the last 5 years...

- 19% increase in HOH Memberships
- 17% increase in Total Memberships

Increased membership engagement with

- Social Media
- eNewsletters
- *LPA Today*



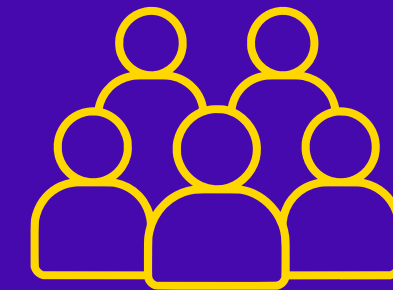
New HOH
Memberships

227



Total HOH
Memberships

3073

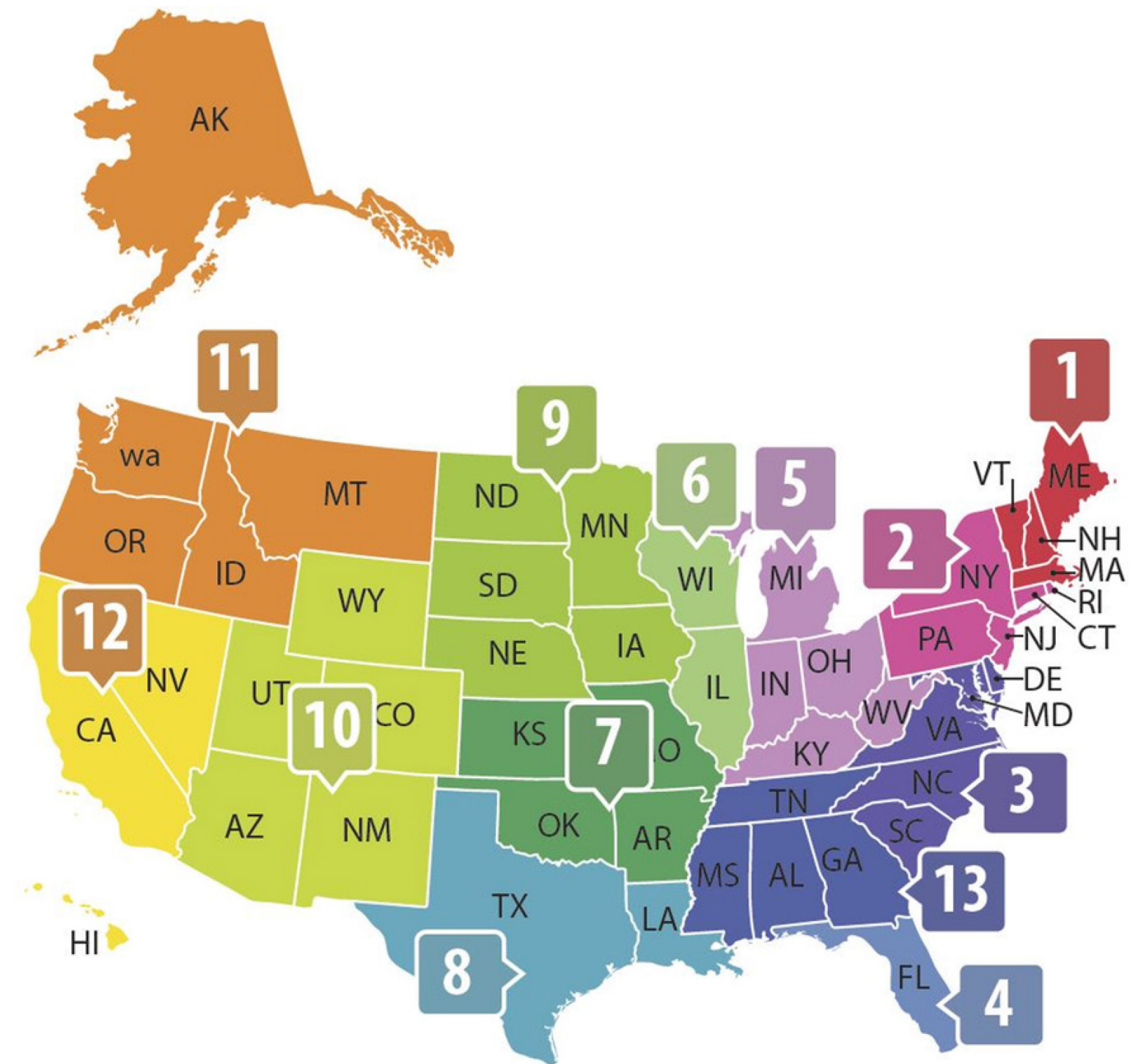


Total Memberships

7246

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

- Supported Chapter and District leaders with succession planning and training
- Districts hosted 12 Regionals & 2 Trifectas
- Chapters hosted over 100 local events, both in-person and virtual
- Increased chapter engagement in Las Vegas after Trifecta



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

DISTRICTS

- Barbara Malinowski, District 1
- Rebecca Fava, District 2
- Ken Barrett, District 3
- Brooke Chea, District 4
- Mike Spears, District 5
- Sarah Hill, District 6
- Katey Barnett, District 7
- Shelley Rodriguez, District 8
- Grace Ciardelli, District 9
- Mark Trombino, District 10
- Alex Foos, District 11
- Julio Maldonado, District 12
- Brandy Mugford, District 13

CHAPTERS

- 65 Chapters
- Over 200 Chapter Officers support the chapters

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Corporate Sponsorship

\$93,750

12 Sponsors

Fundraising Efforts

\$18,250

Scholarship Campaign
DAM Product Sales

Annual Giving

\$84,200

Mission

Our Core Values

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

Take Action

Executive Officers

Committee Chairs

LPA Today

LPA eNewsletter

LPA Archive

Planned Giving

Fundraise for LPA

Become a Corporate Sponsor

Contact Us

LPA Archive

We are stepping into an exciting new chapter with the support of a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, LPA now has the resources to expand where LPA members and the general public can explore the history of LPA. We are building a robust database of the LPA Archive's material. Digitization of the physical materials is well underway.

What You'll Find in the Database

Oral Histories

In late 2020, the LPA Archive began collecting oral histories from our membership at national and regional meetings. We plan to continue this effort in 2021. In addition to the database, the LPA Archive's Oral Histories Project will create a digital museum. See a few of the many oral histories we have already collected.

Films

It was April 1957, at a meeting of Charter Members in Reno, Nevada when the first film of LPA activities was recorded. Since then, LPA and others have produced films to inform the general public about aspects of the dwarf experience, present information about LPA, Inc., and provide an overview of National Conferences. Watch a few of those films via the links below.

- [1957 Reno Meeting](#)
- [Lee Kitchens Interview](#)
- [Len Sawisch - The Dwarf Experience in 1995](#)
- [Little People Big Convention - Salt Lake City 2002](#)
- [Little People's Day on the Green -San Francisco 1978](#)

Scrapbooks

In the 1960's, past LPA Historian and President, Dan Turner, asked Districts and Chapters to begin collecting news items, photos, magazine articles and anything else that portrayed individuals or issues relating to little people. Many Chapters and Districts adopted Dan's proposal and compiled their own scrapbooks. To date, 47 of those scrapbooks have been digitized. View a collection of them below.

- [Lena Richard Guild Scrapbook, 1923-1967, Vol. 1 of 2](#)
- [Lena Richard Guild Scrapbook , 1923-1967, Vol. 2 of 2](#)
- [Little People of America District 8 Scrapbook, 1963-2002](#)
- [Little People of America District 11 Newsclips, 1965-1973](#)
- [Little People of America District 12 Scrapbook, 1972-1973](#)

Photos

LPA has a large collection of photos donated to us from many different sources. As we continue to digitize our collections, we use a digital asset management tool, MediaGraph, to organize our digital content. In the fall of 2025, LPA provided members the opportunity to preview some of the content we have collected as part of Dwarfism Advocacy Month celebration. Below, we invite you to view photos shared during our "Throwback Thursday" posts.

- [LPA Through the Decades](#)
- [Before LPA](#)
- [Billy Barty - The Younger Years](#)
- [Women Presidents of LPA](#)
- [LPA Conferences](#)

VIRTUAL ARCHIVES

➔ Received renewal of Ford Foundation Grant; awarded \$400,000

➔ Expansion of Oral Interviews, with 80 completed

➔ Conducted "remote" oral interviews; capturing stories from those unable to travel to events

➔ Implementing MediaGraph to organize digital content; share collections of photos and documents publicly

➔ Created collections of photos, themed for "Throwback Thursdays" during DAM

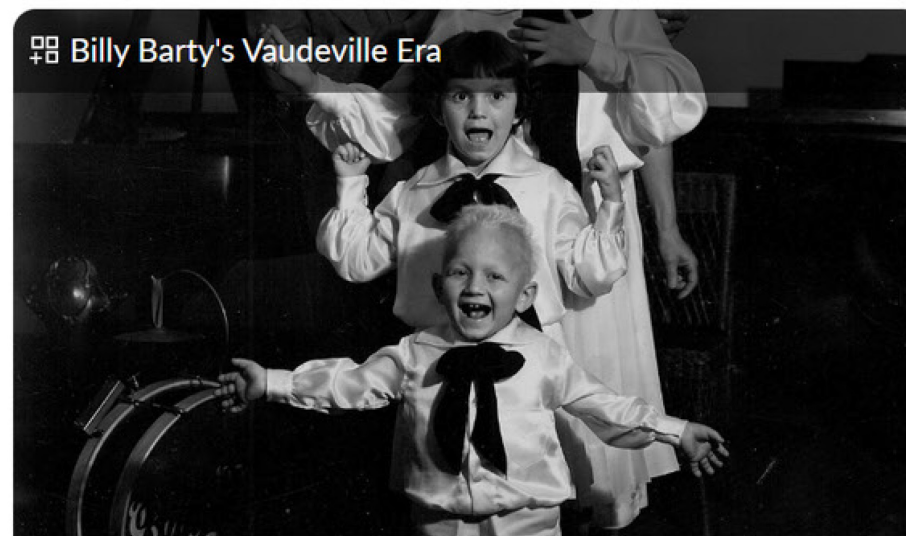


Billy Barty's Younger Years

Considered at one time to be "The Biggest Little Star in Hollywood," the 3 foot, 9-inch-tall founder of Little People of America, Billy Barty, enjoyed a career in film, radio, television and stage that spanned 73 years and paired him with several generations of stars.

Here, we would like to share with you how his life and career began - one of the lesser-discussed periods of his life.

Sub-Collections



WHAT'S TO COME?



Focused on succession planning, at all levels

Value of Membership, particularly as it relates to both recruitment and retention of membership

Website redesign, aligned with virtual archive project, and involving focus groups' input

Analyzing membership structure and fees

Increase virtual programming, focused on various demographics

Increase our presence in the medical community and other organizational partnerships

Increased security for this conference, and building a relationship for future events

Dwarfims Advocacy Month Theme: Don't Deny. Embrace.