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Diane's Office Update *Winter in The City*

Well, even though the weather is pretty snowy and cold here in the Midwest, and especially in Chicago, the atmosphere at 1023 W. Fulton Market is warm and inviting with great camaraderie and friendship. There is something about having your own home that just makes everything feel better. Chicago members are coming down to see and enjoy the new building and to give our new President Donnie Massie their ideas on how to use all this new space in the best way for the club. And the door is ALWAYS open to all our members, so if you happen to be traveling thru Chicago – Please feel free to stop by and take a look at this beautiful new building of ours.

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NEWSLETTER

February/March 2011

Showmen's League of America

President's Letter

2011 is Under Way Already!

Thank you all for the honor you have given me by selecting me as President of the Showmen's League of America for 2011. It is a humbling experience to follow in the steps of so many of the great leaders of our industry. I also really appreciate all the words of encouragement and all the support I heard from many of you during our time together in Vegas. In spite of the uncertainty of our times, with the continued support and generosity of our members, I am convinced that the League will not just survive, but will thrive through the new decade.



2011 President Donnie Massie III

I would like to again thank Past President Mike Featherston for all his hard work during 2010 and for putting on a fabulous banquet. The participation of so many of our members, along with their Fair Boards was gratifying. Mike has definitely raised the bar, and has left me a big pair of shoes to fill. I look forward to the challenge.

As soon as our convention ended, our Christmas Party Committee led by Peter Kasin (a.k.a. Santa Claus) hosted our 2010 Christmas Party at Hanson Park School in Chicago. Giovanni Zoppe and family put on a great show for the kids. All the kids were treated to cotton candy and popcorn (courtesy of Fare Foods and Gold Medal) and a plush toy from our generous stock companies. As a member you can be very proud of the SLA's generosity and the work invested by our SLA members to create this special event. Again I want to thank the industry suppliers for their donations and our members who made this event possible.

With the acquisition of the new SLA clubroom we are in the process of remodeling to better utilize the space for our organization. We are busy getting office space established and meeting rooms in place, and working on preserving our history is also a priority. We are excited about getting our plaques out of storage and displayed on the walls once again, and creating a library so our collections of Billboards, Amusement Business magazines and yearbooks can be displayed.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Tampa and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Donnie Massie III, 2011 SLA President



The League would like to thank All Weather Insurance for their donation to the SLA/OABA Luncheon

Showmen's League and Sunshine Kids to Team Up in 2011

Past President Mike Featherston had the honor of hosting GW Bailey as the guest speaker at his 2010 Banquet. Mr. Bailey is a star of movie and television fame, known for his current role on *The Closer* and his past roles in such hits as *MASH*. He is also the Executive Director of the Sunshine Kids, an



PP Mike Featherston with Hollywood Star & Sunshine Kids Executive Director GW Bailey

organization dedicated exclusively to the entertainment of kids with cancer. Together Mike and GW have combined to help the League achieve one of its goals of service and the Sunshine Kids to entertain more children afflicted with cancer. They are asking for shows to volunteer to create a

day-at-the-fair for Sunshine Kids groups. All you need to do to become a Sunshine Kids-friendly carnival is to send your contact information to Joe B at JoeBorum@gmail.com. Then list the dates and locations where you would be able to host a group of the kids. Make sure to give a cell number too so that the day of event you can keep in direct contact. The registry of participating shows will be compiled by the SLA office then communicated to the Sunshine Kids office. The expectation is that you would be able to host the kids for approximately four hours of entertainment. Mike & GW also ask that you be willing to give the kids access to rides, food and games. Some children might not be able to ride due to various health reasons. As a rule most kids' disease are in remission when participating in these outings. This might be an opportunity for you and your fair or festival to partner up with the Sunshine Kids at their venue. Group size has been on average 20-25 children. You might consider making a make a day of it by treating them to Exhibits, Agriculture, Midway then possibly even a grandstand show. We will ask the Sunshine Kids office to try to give you confirmation 30 days prior to the event. The Sunshine Kids organization will not solicit donations from you.

For more information about the organization visit their website at <http://www.sunshinekids.org/>. To sign up, send an email or call Joe B at 319-290-4490. Mike Featherston is also happy to provide information on his experience with the group. You can reach him at 612-325-1608.

Diane's OAc e Update

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In the next few months we will be setting up our library and meeting rooms and creating a great social area for all.

The past few months have been so busy with the Convention and the Holiday Season – there sure is a lot to report on!

And a GREAT BIG APOLOGY for the lousy Chicago mail delivery service! It has been taking the Post Office quite a while to forward our mail from 8 So. Michigan Ave.

Here it is January and I am still getting mail dated November – so if you are waiting on your new 2011 membership card, hang in there – it is on it's way! Or please, give me a call and I will be glad to check for you. And THANKS for your patience!

The Blizzard of 2011 is here and I am socked in at home. Schools are closed for the first time in twelve years and most of all offices in the city are closed. I wish I was coming to Florida with you all! Enjoy the warm weather and send some up north. It's still January and summer can't come soon enough!

Diane



Our Banquet was made possible in part by a generous donation from Allied



2010 Convention

The Bally and the Paris Hotels in Las Vegas sure did a great job of hosting our convention honoring President Mike Featherston.

The booths at our Exhibitor's Lounge were manned by the following suppliers:

Allied Specialty Insurance Co.
 All Weather Insurance Co.
 A.R.M Inc.
 Audio Innovators
 Battech Enterprises
 Berk Concession Supply Co.
 Bob's Space Racers
 Classic Toy Co.
 Crescent Intl. Group
 Dalton Kid Ride Rebuilders
 Eli Bridge Co
 5 Cent Rides
 Fabbri/Galaxy Sales
 Firestone Financial Corp.
 Gull Wing Industries
 Haas & Wilkerson Insurance
 Hitch-Hiker Mfg. Co.
 Ital International LLC
 NAARSO
 NICA
 NuHorizon Staffing Solutions
 OABA
 ORI Industries
 Otterbacher
 Owen Trailers Inc.
 Prairie Financial Inc.
 Recreation By Design
 Rides-4-U Inc.
 Schantz & Sons Inc.
 Showmen Supplies Co.
 Star Freight
 Triangle Poster Co
 Uremet Corp.
 Used Rides
 Waterloo Tent & Tarp
 Waymatic Inc.
 Wisdom Industries
 Worldwide Service & Supply Co.

We thank all of these great companies for participating in our Convention and Trade Show and we ask that you all continue to go to them for any and all of your needs. As they support the Showmen's League – let us support all of them.

Reach for The Stars Banquet and Ball

The Las Vegas skyline was not the only thing that glittered and gleamed with plenty of stars on Tuesday, November 30th. The Champagne Ballroom at the Paris Hotel was glistening with the beautiful décor of Gold Stars and the magnificent ice sculpture for the 98th Annual Banquet honoring President Mike Featherston.

After our sumptuous banquet feast with a Cajun twist, everyone attending was entertained with the video presentation of



A glamorous table was set for a glamorous evening.

our 2010 Hall of Honor Ceremony. Mr. Angelo Rosati Jr. was then given his Gold Card for signing up 50 new members this year. President Mike talked about his year as President of the League and then introduced the evenings surprise speaker, his good friend Mr. G. W. Bailey. Most of us know him from his roles in The Closer, MASH and Police Academy but Mike and G.W. became friends thru a wonderful organization called "The Sunshine Kids." Mr. Bailey spoke of his early life and growing up with his terrific grandfather, who loved the carnival business, and his love of the entertainment business.

After all that, we were on to the wild and crazy music and entertainment of Zowie Bowie. As the festivities went on to the early morning hours, we all said Thank You to a Great 98th year of the League with President Featherston of The Showmen's League of America.

BIG WINNERS of Our 2010 Buffalo Bill Bonanza

We are happy to announce that there were three very happy people dancing after their names were announced as winners in the 2010 Buffalo Bill Bonanza:

Co-1st Prize winners of \$ 10,000

Jim and Deanna Wilkins of Zephyrhills, FL

Co-1st Prize winner of \$ 10,000

Karen Kasin of Chicago, IL

3rd Prize winner of \$ 5,000

P.P. Bill Johnson

Congratulations to all our winners and remember, you too can be a Winner...tickets for the 2011 Drawing are available NOW.



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NEWSLETTER

Showmen's League of America

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The SLA Calendar of Events

2011	
February 8-12	IIISF Trade Show – Gibtown
February 11	IIISF Boardroom @ Gibtown 9:00 - Scholarship meeting 10:30 - Nominating Committee Noon - Board Meeting
February 13-18	Northwest Showmen's Safety Seminar
April 14	Board Meeting
June 14	Board Meeting
September 13	Board Meeting
November 27-30	Annual meeting & Convention

To add an event email
Diane@showmensleague.org

2010 Committee Chairs



2011 Officers and Board

President: Donnie Massie III
 1st Vice President: Sam Johnston
 2nd Vice President: Chris Atkins
 3rd Vice President: Open

Directors:

Kristin Atkins, Paul Atkins, Gary Bohlander, Danny Brown, Sharie Davis, Cathy Deggeller, Rick Haney, Carolyn Hanschen, Robert Hauser, Wendy Hauser, Ron Heftman, Chris Hoss, Barry Jamieson, Paul Kasin, Peter Kasin, Jeff Lapin, Tony Lowery, Jeanne McDonagh, Deborah Powers, Graham Putnam, Pat Repp, Stan Rozmin, Lorelei Schoendienst, Andy Schoendienst, Mr. Terry Swyear, Mary Talley, Tom Thebault, Robert Thorson, Julie Gemar-Williams and Dave Jaros.

Christmas Party 2010

As always, our Annual Children's Christmas Party was a wonderful event, full of smiling children, and terrific performers and lots of giggles from all. As you can see - we had a full crew of volunteers -



We had a great crew of volunteers that help make all this possible!

And a Very Special THANK YOU to our own Giovanni "NINO" Zoppe and his very talented troupe. Every year they come out and entertain all the kids and they do such a great job. While the children are getting seated in the gym, waiting for the performance to start, they are all asking - Is NINO here? He is such a favorite with all of them.

Each year, when we go to our suppliers and request donations of small plush toys as gifts for the children, we note that this may be the only toy the children receive for Christmas.

As you can see from the letter we received from Mr. David Belanger, the Hanson Park School Principal, he noted that most of these families fall far below the poverty level and some are truly challenged on many other levels, but all are filled with joy and happiness on this very special day. We truly thank the following companies for their very generous donations of gifts and food that made this event the wonderful time that it was.

FARE FOODS
FUNDWAYS OF IL.
PEEK A BOO TOYS
TOY WORKS
TOY NETWORK
BONES SUPPLY CO.
CLASSIC TOYS
RHODE ISLAND NOVELTY CO.

GOLD MEDAL PRODUCTS
IDEAL TOYS
NANCO SALES

Letter From The Hanson Park School Principal

January 12, 2011

Happy New Year!! I am writing today to thank you and the Showmen's League of America for the wonderful Zoppe Circus that you brought to our school in December. I cannot sufficiently express to you our gratitude. The joy and pleasure brought to our children, especially our special needs students, is immeasurable.

This is the first time that I was able to see the performance, as last year I was out of the building. I had no idea of the amount of work and preparation went into putting on such a show. The performance was fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance and got such a thrill just seeing the smiles on the faces of our students.

Enclosed please find some letters of thanks written by our students (ed. note, these are in the office in Chicago). As you can see by their writing, they too enjoyed the circus. An added bonus is all the popcorn and cotton candy your army of volunteers gives to each of our students. Although it can be a bit of a mess for the janitors, our students love this treat.

Thank you also for the stuffed toy gift you gave each child at our school. As you know, most of the students at our school come from families that fall below the poverty level. Many of our students were heard saying how they planned on giving this toy to a younger brother or sister. Although they do not have much, these students do have a giving spirit.

Thank you again for all that the Showmen's League has done for our students over the years. I look forward to seeing you again next year. It seems that the circus is a perfect way of kicking off the holiday season.

Blessings,
David Belanger
Principal
Hanson Park Elementary School

2010 Hall of Honor

Congratulations to our newest members of The Showmen's League of America's Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor began in 2004 and now has a total of 28 truly memorable Showpeople.

Mrs. JoAnn Davis	Wife of the late P.P. Larry Davis and co-owner and Manager of Carnival Time Shows of California
Mr. Graham Putnam	Finance Chairman of The Showmen's League and Owner of Fun Inc, Chicago supplier of magic and Novelty items.
Mr. Jack Thompson	Owner of The Greatest Show of Shows that played in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Louisiana for years.
Chief Little Wolf	Performed in AT shows as a wrestler and showman on over 50 different traveling shows during his career.

We Need Your Help!

Help us keep all the members current on news about you, your families and SLA events. We would like to update our web site more frequently, but to do that we need your input. Send us pictures, send us stories, send us events and schedules, we'll add them to our web site and our newsletter. Don't worry about writing and spelling, we'll even do that. Just get us the basics. Also remember that we welcome contributions to the Shares and Cares column. The Showmen's League is about people, speciĀally, we're about you!

No Need to Hire a Press Agent when you are married to Michelle!

As any one of our Past Presidents will agree, it takes a lot of time and energy to be the President of The Showmen's League of America , so if your wife can get you a whole page in the local newspaper – WHAT A DEAL !! The Naperville (Illinois) Sun featured our own President Donnie Massie III in the article "Conversation starter: My husband owns a carnival." The entire article talks positively about how owning and running a carnival is a family affair and the love that Donnie has for the business. It explains how carnivals can work within their own communities for the beneĀt of everyone. I don't know if Michelle is available on a consulting basis but we can always ask Donnie.

Shares & Cares

Long-time member Dave Friedman is ailing. Dave has been a member since 1956 and served as our "Press Guy" for a long time. He also donated our original Memory Book - The huge leather scrap book that we have all so thoroughly enjoyed.

Cards may be sent to: Dave Friedman, National Health Care Nursing Home, 2300 Coleman Rd., Anniston, AL 36207