



A Publication of the Alabama Foster Adoptive Parent Association

Connections

Spring 2007

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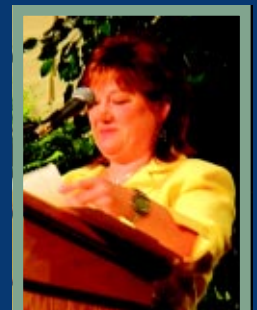
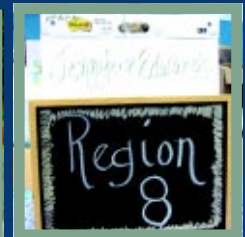
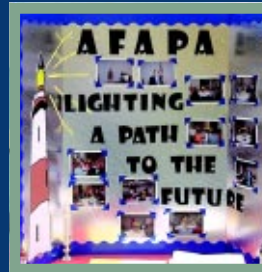
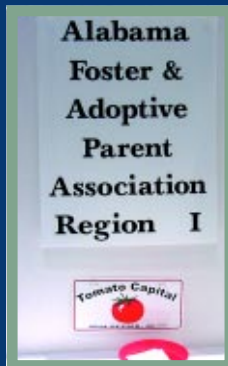
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From the President of AFAPA

Hello to all,

This newsletter serves as yet one more chance for you to register for the Annual Conference at Shocco Springs May 18th & 19th. It promises to be a very entertaining, relaxing, and an educational conference.

This year is a business meeting year and as you look at the schedule you will notice that the business meeting is scheduled for Friday morning at 10:00 AM. Elections for President, Vice-President of Foster Care, Vice-President of Adoption, Secretary, and Treasurer will be held. Nominations will be accepted and votes will be counted at the meeting so we will know who the new officers will be before we leave for lunch. There are several proposals for AFAPA by law changes that will be voted on. This is a chance for you as members of AFAPA to voice your opinion and vote. After the business meeting you will be able to have a good meal before the opening session Friday afternoon. Saturday morning everyone needs to be in the Chapel by 8:00 AM to hear about new information concerning the responsibilities of AFAPA Regional Representatives. At this same time elections will be held in all 9 regions for new regional representatives. If you are interested in being elected you must make that known at the meeting or be nominated for the position.

I have had the opportunity to hear Pat O'Brien speak and he is very good. I'm looking forward to hearing him again. Be sure to get there early so you don't miss the opening session. I have just recently heard Brian Arnold speak, sing, and play the piano. Brian will be speaking, and singing after the Banquet dinner on Friday night. After the meal in the dining room we will move over to the Chapel for the entertainment and Student Scholarship presentations.

Hope many of you were able to attend your regional meetings this past quarter. Instead of regional meetings we will be hosting mini conferences this fall. There will be more information about those in the next newsletter. After the Conference this year our regional reps will be contacting each county to attend your county association meetings. AFAPA will help you with training for your local meetings. Just call and let us know what type training you need and we will help you with it. I've had the chance to visit many county association meetings over the past year. Just this past month I've had the chance to visit several counties in Region 8. One meeting had 50 foster parents present. It was a very good meeting. I know there are many counties that don't have an association that is working. AFAPA can help you start one. Any County Association that would like for me to come and speak about AFAPA please call or email me and I will do my best to come. Hope to see you at the conference.

If you haven't visited the AFAPA web site please do and look at the links page for information on other web sites devoted to foster care and adoption www.afapa.org.

William "Buddy" Hooper President of AFAPA





**AL Foster & Adoptive
Parent Association
May 18-19th, 2007
Shocco Springs**

Name: _____

Other Guests that will be attending: _____

County _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____

Telephone: Home: _____

Cell: _____

Please place a check mark by all that apply:

Foster Parent Adoptive Parent

DHR Social Worker Therapeutic Foster Parent

Other _____

Registration Fee:

\$35.00 Pre-registration for Overnight Guests and Commuters (before May 1st)

\$40.00 Late registration (after May 1st)

**This cost is for over night and day only guests

Please check the following that apply:

1 night/3meals (Friday lunch, Sat. breakfast and lunch)

1 night/4meals (including banquet on Friday night)

2days/3meals

2days/4meals (including banquet)

Important Information:

Each person is responsible for making their own reservations by sending in a registration form to Shocco Springs. Rooms are based on a first come first serve basis. Lodging rooms are assigned as double occupancy unless otherwise stated. There is an additional \$20.00 fee for private rooms, which is the individual's responsibility. Reimbursement for mileage must be made through your county DHR or your agency. No childcare will be provided at conference and children will not be allowed to enter workshops.

Send payments to: Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center

AFAPA Retreat

P.O. Box 886

Talladega, AL 35161

Phone: 1-800-280-1105; 256-761-1100

Fax: 256-761-1270

Conference Schedule

About Registration

Room rates are for double occupancy so please make arrangements to share rooms.

The total cost of the conference for Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents, or DHR Social Workers is the \$35 registration fee per person. This covers registration, meals, and overnight stay on May 18th. You can call Shocco to register and use credit card to pay registration fee or you can mail in registration to Shocco along with check for registration fee. Guests other than those listed above will be required to pay registration and cost of meals and overnight stay, call Shocco for cost.

May 18th, 2007

9:00 AM — 1:00 PM	Registration Confirmation & Pick up Packets
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	AFAPA Business Meeting & Election of Officers (In Chapel)
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Lunch in Dining Room
12:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Opening Session and Speaker Pat O'Brien (In Chapel)
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Workshops
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Workshops
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Banquet Dinner in dining hall, Awards Ceremony and Entertainment in Chapel, Brian Arnold speaker and entertainment.

May 19th, 2007

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast in dining room
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Caucus Meetings Election of Regional Representatives (In Chapel)
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration & Pick Up Packets
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Workshops
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Workshops
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch in dining room
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Workshops
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Workshops
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing (In Chapel)

HEART & SOLES



May is National Foster Care month. We want to celebrate it with anyone that has helped our foster children as they have gone through the system.

The Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association along with our partners, Lee Marshall from Kids To Love Foundation, and Voices for Alabama's children are celebrating National Foster Care Month with a rally on May 1, 2007 at 9:00AM on the steps of the state capital.

We plan to collect over 6,000 pairs of shoes and place them on the steps of the capital to represent each child in foster care. We invite all child advocates, foster/adoptive parents and anyone that has touched the life of a child as they have gone through the system, to be at our event.

We cannot show the faces of our children we can show their shoes!

It is so hard to convince people in state leadership that our foster children should come before any pork projects, raises for themselves and special interest groups.

Our legislatures found a 62% pay increase. There has not been an increase in board payments since 2002.

We need you to call your legislatures and tell them you want a 25% board increase for all foster children, find the money no excuses.

We will go to the state house after the rally to support the Pages that day. Rep. Seth Hammet is proclaiming foster care week and our ILP teens will be Pages.

Get in touch with your leaders statewide, also local leaders and invite them to the rally.

We started this campaign with one thing in mind to bring our foster children to life through shoes. We need you at the rally. Empower yourself on behalf of our children.

If you want this board increase then it is up to you to go after it. Take a day off, bring a van load, make a difference for every child in foster care.

We thank anyone that has had a part in this enormous task. God has been our anchor through this one step at a time.

Bring homemade signs for media,

"Heart & Soles"

"Show us the Money"

"SEE OUR FACES - HEAR OUR VOICE"

Linda Williams Vice-President AFAPA,
Chair of AFAPA Legislative Committee



**Scholarships for Foster & Adoptive Parents
 North American Council
 on Adoptable Children Conference
 July 26th—28th
 Tampa Florida**

Any member of AFAPA Eligible to submit form

Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Deadline for applying June 16th for NACAC

Request to Attend Conference or Training

Name _____ Date _____

Conference Title: _____

Sponsored By: _____

Purpose of Attendance: _____

Location: _____

Date(s) _____

Please write a short summary of why this particular conference or training will be beneficial to you. Also explain how you will take knowledge you gain and use it in support of foster and adoptive families. Examples: Foster/Adoptive Parent-training/ workshops, share with DHR workers etc.

Signature of Foster or Adoptive Parent

Mail completed form to Brenda Caudle, 115 Caudle Road, Eva, AL 35621

The amount of Scholarships will be determined by the number requests and money available. You will be notified if you are selected for a scholarship and the amount of the scholarship.

By Law Changes

Below are proposed changes to the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association By Laws. These changes will be voted on at the business meeting scheduled for May 18th 10:00 AM at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center. The meeting will take place in the Chapel. Adopted Changes will take effect immediately.

Article II. Membership

Section I. Types of Membership

- (A) Regular Membership will be available to all individual foster parents **(add) and kinship care foster parents** approved and residing in the state of Alabama and adoptive parents residing in the state of Alabama. Regular members will have the right to vote on all matters brought to members of the association.
- (B) Supportive Membership shall be available to individuals and organizations wishing to support the purposes and efforts of this association. The benefits of this membership include attending business meetings and receiving all mailings. Supportive members do not have voting rights. **(add) Individual supportive members providing care to related children in their homes who do not qualify for Regular Membership will not be required to pay dues. The request for supportive membership must be submitted to the secretary of the Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association.**

Section 2. Dues

- (A) Dues of the association may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present.
- (B) Supportive membership shall be a minimum of \$10.00 per twelve (12) consecutive months **(add) except for related caregivers as provided in Article II, Section 1(B).**

Article III. Officers and Duties

Section 2. Duties of the Officers

All officers must forward all records of their office to the incoming officer **(delete) within thirty (30) days of the election (add) by the first day of the next accounting year.**

- B) The 2 vice presidents shall:
5. Co-ordinate all **(delete) Quarterly Regional Network change T to small case** Training **change m to small case** Meetings with regional representatives.

- (E) Regional Representatives shall:
1. Plan and coordinate **(add) trainings** with the **(add) vice presidents of the association, (delete) and** chairpersons of the training committee, and the **(delete) ADHR (add) SDHR** liaisons. **(delete) a minimum of three (3) quarterly network training session per year.**

Section 3. Nominations and Elections

The term of office for each officer shall be for a period of two (2) years. No board member may be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms in any one (1) position on the board.

- (A) Elections **(delete) and installation** of the officers of this association will be held at the annual training conference. **(add) The terms of the officers-elect will begin on the first day of the next accounting year.**

Article IV. Board of Directors and Committees

Section 3.

The board of directors shall hold regular quarterly meetings. Newly elected officers will set the date of the first quarterly meeting within thirty (30) days of **(delete) election (add) taking office.**



Georgia Foster Parent Conference

Several AFAPA Board members were able to attend the Georgia Foster Parent conference last month at Jekyll Island in South East Georgia on the Atlantic Ocean. More than 1500 foster parents attended the 3 day conference. We were able to get some new ideas for our conference. This is where we first heard Brian Arnold. Brian will be the guest speaker and entertainer for Friday nights program. I wanted to share with you a picture I took on Sunday morning as we were going to the worship service at the conference just as the sun was coming up. Brian also gave the Sunday morning message.



Back row Betty Hastings NFPA State Affiliate Chairperson, Buddy Hooper President AFAPA, Marvin Ferneau President National Foster Parent Association, Brian Arnold our guest speaker.
Front row James & Grace Wood, Linda Williams, Martha Hooper AFAPA board members.

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058. Deadline dates fall the first of the month in February, May, August, & November.

CONNECTIONS INFO:

1091 County Road 1659
Cullman, AL 35058
1-888-545-2372
www.afapa.org



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