

NAAFA

Newsletter

Volume XVIII
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December 1989

Convention '89!

The 20th Anniversary National Convention, held in Los Angeles in August, was the biggest, and some say the best convention in NAAFA history. The Los Angeles Airport Marriott was our home for six days of acceptance, learning, fun, and activism.

NAAFA was welcomed to California by Governor George Deukmejian in a letter of congratulations to our convention.

Highlights of the event included a 20th Anniversary Celebration, performances by the Fatimas and the Fat Lip Readers Theatre, and the annual activism rally featuring the presentation of the Big Image and Small Mind Awards. There were over 25 workshops and discussion groups on topics such as employment, health, insurance, entrepreneurs, and teens; and still plenty of time for fun and socializing.

L.A. Host Committee



Debbie Brunson (CA) and Eileen Perez (CA) dressed for the fiesta;

and Lana Pajula (CA) (right), who welcomes Vivian Canal (NY) to the bus tour.

Convention Photo Diary

Tuesday, August 7

Sightseeing in Los Angeles, a national Board of Directors meeting, and registration were followed by parties in the hospitality suite and pool.



The tropical setting of the Marriott's pool area was a popular meeting place.



Sharon and Dan Davis (CA) hard at work in the registration booth welcoming newcomers.



Treasurer Dan Davis (CA), and the three Board members-elect: Lynn Meletiche (NY), William J. Fabrey (VA), and Frances M. White (CA) took their oath of office. Vice President Paula M. Dachis (MD) looks on.

continued...

Convention Photo Diary

Wednesday, August 8

Welcoming speeches and ice-breaking games were the program of the opening breakfast. NAAFA leaders then gathered for a day-long seminar on leadership issues, while workshops were held on the emotional impact of size discrimination. A dinner cruise was held in the evening.



The dinner cruise was a time for fun and conversation. Sylvia Hananel, George Kapoulas, Maryanne Bodolay, and Anne Kehrein (all CA).

Far left — Susan Ziman (PA) led ice-breaking exercises.

Chairman Conrad H. Blickenstorfer (NY) addresses the gathering.

Thursday, August 9

Workshops, a fashion show and trunk sale, a town meeting, and the 20th Anniversary Celebration were the activities of the day.



Dierdra Davey (CA)

Patricia Jones (MI)



Laurie Shellorne (CA) in fashions by Making It Big.

The Fashion Show



Anita Mashman (CA) in a Big Stitches by Jan swimsuit.



Idrea (CA) moderated the fashion show, which was followed by a trunk sale.

Exercise for the larger person, a workshop by Idrea, was just one of the many workshops held during the week.





Lynn McAfee (PA) and Frances M. White (CA) at the Town Meeting where members asked questions of the Board.



Co-Founders Susan Blowers (CA), and Eileen M. Lefebure (NY), and charter member Neil Osbourn (CT).

Below:
Lynn Meletiche (NY) poses next to the anniversary collage (created by Maryanne Bodolay).

NAAFA Newsletter

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The NAAFA Newsletter is published monthly for the members of The National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, Inc.

Articles in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policies of NAAFA, Inc., unless specifically noted. Please contact the NAAFA office about specific NAAFA policies. Commentaries in this Newsletter, unless otherwise noted, were prepared by a member of the editorial staff or the Executive Director. ♡

NAAFA: The National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt educational, human rights organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for fat people.

NAAFA is not a diet group, but seeks alternate ways to enrich the lives of its members and large people everywhere through public education, research, advocacy and support.

Regular membership in NAAFA is \$35 per year. Other membership categories are available. For more information, contact the Membership Services office:

NAAFA
PO Box 188620
Sacramento, CA 95818
or call (916) 443-0303.

20th Anniversary Celebration

The 20th Anniversary party began with speeches from NAAFA's Founder, Co-Founders, and several charter members: Ira Cohen, Ray Simpson, Neil Osbourn, and Peggy Williams. The highlight of the evening was the Fatimas, a troupe of large sized belly dancers.



Ronda Wood, Dee Davey, and Jo Al Byrne of the Fatimas.



Loryn Lyn Longbrake (CA) was just one of the brave NAAFANS who tried belly dancing during the show.



Claudia Teixeira (CT) and David Craig (CA)



Victoria Reed (CT) enjoys a hospitality suite party.

Louise Wolfe and daughter Lydia (CA), and Russell F. Williams (MD) after a long day at Disneyland.

Convention Photo Diary

Friday, August 10

The annual Activism Rally, covered in the October Newsletter, was a highlight of the day's program. But first we attended the Chapter and SIG Rally where we were treated to music, news, and presentations from all over the country. The day ended with a Fiesta dinner dance.



Michele and Laura Zarife represented the New Jersey Chapter.



Donna Marie Ryan (IL), Co-Chair of the Local Chapters Committee, moderated the rally.



Nickia Myers (NE) talked about the Heartland Chapter.



Right: The Inland Empire Chapter (CA) sang their version of "California Girls." Marla Leventhal, Jean Soncrant, Gordon Bailey and Sheila Dobbs.

Chapter/SIG Rally



Grand finale: The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter treated us to their presentation of "Don't Diet, Be Happy."

Below: Carrie Hemenway (MA) (behind the lectern) spoke about the Feminist Caucus. In front of banner, Laura Eljaiek (CA) and Miriam Berg (NY) (right).



Left: Christine Cook Applegate gave us the news from Arizona.



Left: Cherilyn Schultz of the Chicago Chapter invited everyone to the convention in Chicago next year.



Award-winning photographer Patricia Schwarz (CA) wowed viewers of her slide presentation with photographs of fat women.



Dave Dingfelder and Randi Hertz Suriano (NJ)

Right: Bob and Linda Sponaugle (NJ) take a break from activism to don Mexican hats and join the fun.



Below: President Nancy Summer (VA) and Executive Director Sally E. Smith (CA) in a relaxed moment.



Yvonne Parker (AZ)

Fiesta!

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Welcome!

to one new chapter and four new area facilitators:

Southern Florida Chapter
Linda Diskin, Chairperson Pro Tem

Area Facilitators:

Barbara Cinotti for Northern Florida

Sue Smith for the Florida Panhandle

Jill Fuller for Colorado

Betty Dialynas for Louisiana

If you would like information about these groups, other chapters, or Special Interest Groups, contact the NAAFA office.

We would also like to apologize to Marie (Mimi) Oltmanns, Chairperson Pro Tem of the Stroudsburg, PA Chapter for incorrectly identifying her in our last issue.

Convention Photo Diary

Saturday, August 11

Workshops, a special performance of Fat Lip Readers Theatre, and the Awards Luncheon made up Saturday's schedule. The keynote speaker was Sharon Russell, the nursing student who successfully sued the school that dismissed her for being too fat. The day ended with the Grand Ball dinner dance.



Fat Lip Readers Theatre was a highlight of the convention.



Keynote speaker Sharon Russell (FL) and Founder William J. Fabrey (VA).



Trish Barder (PA), Jim Mills (NY), Nina Hoffman (CA), and Ronnie Arden (CT).



Alan and Linda Diskin (FL)

Service Awards Presented to 26 NAAFAnS

Service awards for 1989 were presented to 26 NAAFAnS at the national convention in Los Angeles in August.

Pence Service Awards

The following NAAFAnS received Pence Service Awards or endorsements for continued committee service, usually one hundred hours or more during the past 12 months:

- Maryanne Bodolay (CA)**
— for volunteer service at the NAAFA office.
- Jim Brown (NJ)** — for graphic design and production work.
- Debbi Brunson (CA)**
— Fashion show producer at the 1989 convention.
- Lisbeth Fisher Burns (NY)**
— Chair of the Membership committee.
- Mary Jo Hoxworth (OH)**
— for coordinating the 4th of July Jamboree.
- Bunny Peckham (NY)**
— Chair of the Special (fundraising) Events sub-committee.
- Eileen Perez (CA)**
— Co-chair of the 1989 Convention Host committee.
- Randi Hertz Suriano (NJ)**
— Chair of the Marketing and Advertising committee.
- Nancy Summer (VA)** — Managing Editor of the Newsletter
— Chair of the Convention Steering committee.

Honorable Mention Awards

- Ira Cohen (NY)** — for research for the Resource Development committee's planned giving program.
- Avery Ray Colter (CA)**
— for special activism and marketing projects.
- Christine Cook Applegate (AZ)**
— Co-chair of the Minimum Standards committee.
- Neil Dachis, Esq. (MD)**
— Chair of the Legal and Legislative committee
— Co-chair of the Minimum Standards committee.
- Sharon Davis (CA)** — for coordinating registration at the 1989 convention and tabulating ballots for the 1989 election.
- Shelley Frye (CA)**
— for volunteer service in the NAAFA office.
- Mary-Jane Grace-Brown (NJ)**
— for graphic design and production work.
- Carrie Hemenway (MA)** — Chair of the Workbook committee and for leading numerous workshops.
- Rosamond Hyatt (CA)**
— for volunteer service in the NAAFA office.
- George Kapoulas (CA)**
— for producing the Big Image/Small Mind Awards video.
- Lynn Meletiche (NY)** — Chair of the Health committee.
- Harry Minot (CT)**
— for preparation of NAAFA's public service announcements.
- Lana Pajula (CA)**
— Co-chair of the 1989 Convention Host committee.
- Jennifer Rose (MI)**
— Eastern Regional Chapter Coordinator.
- Donna Marie Ryan (IL)**
— Western Regional Chapter Coordinator.
- Elisabeth Williams (NY)** — Chair of the Pen Pal committee.
- Russell F. Williams (MD)**
— Co-chair of the Activism committee. ♡



Jean Soncrant and L.A. Chapter Chair Noreen Henry (both CA).



Sheila Dobbs (CA)



Myra Kelly (NJ) and George Kapoulas (CA).

1990 Election

22 Nominated; New Seat Created

The 1990 Election Committee met on November 4 and 5 to discuss possible election rules changes and to nominate candidates for the annual election in May. As previously announced, members wishing to be considered for nomination were asked to write the committee. Two such letters were received. The 22 individuals who were nominated are:

- Deborah Albright (OR)
- Alice Ansfield (CA)
- Conrad H. Blickenstorfer, Ph.D. (NY)
- Rosezella Canty-Letsome (MD)
- Jerilyn Carmichael (OH)
- Leslie Colburn (NH)
- Barbara Colgin-Vance (GA)
- Laura Eljaiek (CA)
- Bonnie S. Kraft (MA)
- Pat Lyons (CA)
- Lynn McAfee (PA)
- Janet Meyers (PA)
- Noel Nyman (WA)
- Nancy Roberts (NY)
- Donna Marie Ryan (IL)
- Carolyn Schmidt (IL)
- Marlene Solomon (MD)
- Nancy Summer (VA)
- Randi Hertz Suriano (NJ)
- Charles Van Dyke (CA)
- Sue P. Waller (MD)
- Louise E. Wolfe (CA)

The Grand Ball



Regina Guy (MD) and Fred McClinton (CA).



Linda Grimm dances with Jim Grant (both OH).



NAAFA's staff:
Sally E. Smith and Tina Pierce (both CA).

Sunday, August 12

The Farewell Luncheon featured an announcement about a new project: a memorial dedicated to those people who have died from weight loss surgery, dieting, and eating disorders. An important feature of the luncheon was the personal comments and testimonials offered by many members.



Ira Cohen (NY) and Dan Davis (CA).
Ira and Dan...or is it Dan and Ira?



Avery Ray Colter (CA) shares his thoughts about the convention. Donna Marie Ryan (IL) is seated to his right.

The election will be filling four seats on the Board of Directors. (Board members whose terms are expiring are Blickenstorfer, McAfee, and Summer. The fourth seat was opened this year.) Since the nominees have until January 15th to declare their intentions, it is not known at this time who will choose to run.

There is a procedure for running as a petition candidate which calls for submission of a petition signed by 5% of the membership as of June 30, 1989—91 signatures this year, according to NAAFA's Executive Director. It is very important that anyone who wishes to run as a petition candidate call the NAAFA office for full instructions prior to collecting signatures. Completed petitions must be mailed to the office no later than January 15, 1990.

The Election Committee is made up of those Board members whose terms are not expiring this year. Frances M. White was elected by the committee to serve as election chair. Other committee members include Paula M. Dachis, William J. Fabrey, Mary-Jane Grace-Brown, Lynn Meletiche, and Russell F. Williams. ∞

Events

New Year's Holiday Happening

La Guardia Marriott, New York
December 29 - January 1
Call (516) 665-6525 for information.

Queens Chapter Dance

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We wish to retract statements made re-
garding Dave King which were pub-
lished in the NAAFA Newsletter, Vol.
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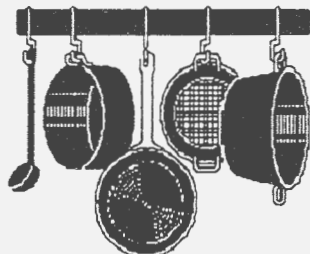
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