

NAAFA

Newsletter

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NAAFA's Annual Convention *Special Photo Issue*

Each year hundreds of members and supporters come together at NAAFA's Annual Convention. For many, the convention is the highlight of the year, with its many workshops, seminars, dances, shows, pool parties and special events.

But there's more to the convention experience than the events.

Perhaps most important is the atmosphere of acceptance, friendship and unity, and the bonds which form from sharing a common goal.

For some, the size acceptance movement has been just a concept—something read about in NAAFA Newsletters. Attending a NAAFA convention enables them to see, feel and experience the reality of the movement.

In addition, the convention provides the opportunity for members to learn first hand about NAAFA's growth and progress. Speeches and special meetings enable them to get better acquainted with NAAFA's leaders on both personal and professional levels.

There's something special about personally seeing and hearing about NAAFA's accomplishments. It helps people understand that by being members of NAAFA, they are directly involved in the movement, helping to fund the organization's efforts to put an end to size discrimination.

NAAFA's members make it all possible.

But while there is a serious side to the convention, there is also a very exciting, lighthearted side. People from all over the country (and even other countries) come to take part in the festivities, and to bask in the atmosphere of acceptance.

Convention '88

Last year NAAFA's convention was held in Baltimore, Maryland at the scenic Inner Harbor.

The '88 Convention was the site of NAAFA's first annual Activism Rally, beginning an important tradition which expands the scope of the convention by staging an event which serves to educate the public on serious size-related issues.

Last year's convention also featured many special events including a talent show, 50's dance, a dinner cruise and a fashion show.

This Convention Photo Issue pictures just a few of the many special people who helped make Convention '88 a success. Some worked to put the convention together, some performed, some gave speeches, and many came to laugh, to learn and to enjoy the NAAFA convention experience.

Convention '89

This year's convention is being held in Los Angeles, California at the beautiful LA Airport Marriott, August 8-13.

In addition to a number of terrific new workshops, some of the special events include: an activism rally focusing on media images, a Mexican Fiesta Dance, private moonlight dinner cruise, Chapter and SIG Rally, performances by Fat Lip Readers Theater as well as by the Fatimas Belly Dancers, a Semi-Formal Dinner Dance, and pool parties in the magnificent tropical outdoor pool.

There will be a special presentation of photographs by award-winning photographer Patricia Schwarz, whose work captures the beauty of the full figured female.

If you haven't received your information packet, call the NAAFA office right away at 916-443-0303. Reserve before July 25 to avoid late processing charges.



Baltimore's scenic Inner Harbor was the site of the 1988 Convention.



Fashion Show

Fabulous fashions from size 16 to 60+ were modeled by lovely NAAFA members including (clockwise from bottom left): Mary Jo Hoxworth, Mary Ann Mandic, Myra Kelley, Peggy Fox and Ellen Clark.



The Convention Host Committee is responsible for local coordination of the convention. They arrange off-site events, work with the hotel, local vendors and service providers. Members of the committee also volunteer to staff the convention in progress. They're a dedicated group of hard workers, who help make the convention a success.

Convention Host Committee



Co-Chairs of the Convention Host Committee, Roz Thomas (left) and Peggy Williams.

Talent Show



Among those performing at the talent show were (from left) Lonnie Lynne LaCour, David Whiteis and Susan Mason.



Sandy Dawson,
Laura Moran and
Ellen Kahn



Russell F. Williams and
NAAFA co-founder,
Eileen M. Lefebure



Sheila Dobbs



Pauline Olszewski and Neal
Zimmerman

Special Events &



David Craig and Bella Innamorato



NAAFA's Founder,
William J. Fabrey

The fantasy "Fat Liberation
Army Battalion" (F.L.A.B.)
Commander, Nancy Summer



Vicki Reed and
Lynn Meletiche



Barbara Herten



Frances White, Russell F. Williams and Suzanne Shipley



Bonnie Kraft and Harvey Parker



NAAFA's Chairman of the Board, Conrad H. Blickenstorfer



NAAFA Board member, Neil Dachis and NAAFA's Vice President, Paula Dachis



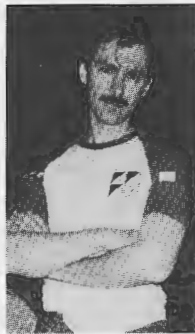
Kathy Coveny-Zwirblis and Bob Cox



Official convention photographers, Stuart and Sandy Dawson

Special Friends

50's Dance



Bristol, Ellen Clark, Bella Innamorato (standing) and Maryann Valerio and Peggy Ventura (seated).

Really capturing the spirit of the 50's were Randi Hertz Suriano and Dave Dingfelder (far left), NAAFA Chairman's alter ego "Chuck" who made a guest appearance, Mary Ann Mandic, Peggy Fox and Linda Blackmon (right, top) and Millie Falzarano, Josephine Innamorato, Cindy



Fat People in the Workforce: *Their Talents, Their Strengths, Their Impact*

Dressed in clothing representative of the types of jobs they held, NAAFAnS gathered at the annual convention to rally against size discrimination in employment. After listening to presentations by featured speakers, NAAFAnS cheered as hundreds of balloons were released.

After giving an overview of the purpose of the rally and documenting the difficulty NAAFA has had in legitimizing the issue of size discrimination, NAAFA President Nancy Summer introduced Rosezella Canty-Letsome. Ms. Canty-Letsome, creator of the Light on Your Feet exercise program and EPA attorney, talked about her own experience as a victim of

size discrimination and reiterated the need for people of size to have constitutional protection, similar to those of other minority groups.

Next, Harry Gossett, author of *Fat Chance*, gave an overview of the history of court challenges to size discrimination and spoke of the importance of standing up for our rights and not be willing victims of employment discrimination. Following Mr. Gossett's presentation, Stuart Comstock-Gay, Executive Director of the ACLU of Maryland, spoke of his excitement at witnessing the evolution of a civil rights movement. He urged NAAFAnS to keep the dream of a world where size discrimination is non-existent

alive, because the dream will help it come true and the world will be a better place.

Finally, NAAFA Activism Committee Co-Chair Russell F. Williams gave a rousing speech about freedom from size oppression and recited his Declaration of Fat Independence. At the conclusion of the speech, the balloons that were sponsored by NAAFAnS, their families, co-workers and friends were released above the cheering crowd.

This activism rally was the start of a tradition in NAAFA: a pledge to hold an annual rally at each convention and a commitment to visibly denounce size discrimination in any form.



Speakers at the rally included Rosezella Canty-Letsome, Harry Gossett and NAAFA President Nancy Summer (above left) and Stuart Comstock-Gay. (Not pictured: Russell F. Williams)

Chapter Rally



Betty Gillen and Janet Meyers lead members of the Philadelphia chapter at the Chapter Rally.



The Ohio and Northern Ohio chapters' "Bountiful Buckeyes" in costume—Chris Mohan, Jeri Carmichael and Barbara Colgin-Vance.

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support.

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