

## **Field Post Number 4 – September 20, 2005**

**To: Members, Friends and Supporters of the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games (LSOG)**

**From: Mark Rayner – LSOG Executive Director**

### **Moving on After the Storm**

The past three weeks have challenged all of us in ways we had never dreamed following Hurricane Katrina. While we've heard from many of you with news that your rebuilding process is beginning, there are still many of you scattered across the country that have not contacted us.

We mailed a letter last week to all registrants of **the 2005 State Games** officially announcing the cancellation of the games. Most of the letters were delivered, but **more than 230 of the letters were not accepted by the post office. Mail delivery to areas with zip codes beginning with 700+ is not being delivered.** No mail delivery to a major metropolitan area emphasizes how big this tragedy is. We ask for your continued help to pass the word along to **LSOG** members about the cancelled games and please contact us when you've heard from them so we know they're okay.

### **Goodness Out of Tragedy**

While we've all heard more than our share of horror stories about the meanness of people following Hurricane Katrina, it's the good stories of people helping others that are most inspiring. The manager at the **Comfort Inn** in Baton Rouge, our Host Hotel for the State Games, told Dusty a wonderful story about the generosity from strangers to strangers. He said he continues to receive calls from individuals all across the country, even as far away as Maine, instructing him to use their credit card number to buy hurricane evacuees a room for one night, two nights or even an entire week! Generosity and kindness like that is proof that goodness can rise from tragedy.

**Gail Ezelle, Executive Director of the Arkansas Senior Olympics**, was kind enough to contact us last week with her offer of assistance after she learned that our games were cancelled. She agreed to **waive the \$35 out-of-state fee for all Louisiana residents** who want to participate in their games. Many athletes have accepted her offer and are on their way to the **Arkansas Senior Olympics** this week. Visit our Web site <http://www.LSOG.net> for more details about the **Arkansas Senior Olympics**. Thanks to our friends in Arkansas and best wishes to our athletes!

If you have a short, "feel-good" story from the hurricane that we can share with our membership, send it by e-mail to: [mark@lsog.net](mailto:mark@lsog.net)

### **LSOG Athletes to Appear in Statewide Commercial Campaign!**

Watch your television, beginning Oct. 1, to see several **LSOG** athletes featured in a statewide TV commercial campaign.

**BlueCross Blue Shield**, one of our **LSOG** sponsors, asked us to provide "senior" talent for their TV commercial campaign that launches statewide next month. Fourteen seniors answered our call and reported to the **Digital FX** studio in Baton Rouge on September 16. Our seniors to be featured are: **John Bartle, Millie Coleman, Margaret Holmes, Nick and Mary Lawless, Richard Martin, E.J. Putman,**

**Anna Sanders, JoPaul Steiner, Charlie and Corney Welsh, Georgia Lee Williams, Gene and Virginia Worley.** Congratulations to all of our new stars! Some photos of the taping of the commercials can be found on our Web site at <http://www.lzog.net/FromtheField.htm>

Please visit the **LSOG** web site at <http://www.LSOG.net> for the latest information regarding the **Louisiana Senior Olympic Games.**

Our thoughts and prayers for a successful recovery continue to go out to everyone affected by this disaster.

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