



# La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Greetings and I hope everyone is doing well. I am so glad that Fall has officially arrived. However, it does not feel like Fall from the past. There is no coolness in the air. Last week's temperatures reached 94 degrees. In recent past weeks, we have seen ash falling and smoke on a regular basis. We are fortunate that La Canada and our immediate neighbors have been spared from tragedy, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the firefighters who put their lives at risk to bring the Bobcat fire to an end.

Another factor which adds to the feeling that this Fall is different from Falls in the past is the fact that we are not building a float. In previous years, I would write about the great progress we were making in developing a float and preparing it for Deco Week. Our Construction Chairs and VP of Float Development would tell me that we are ahead of schedule and everything was running smoothly. I knew they were not telling me the truth, but it was sort of a little game we played. It would make me feel better, but I knew we were behind. It always worked out in the end and the float would get done with a lot of late hours and hard work by our great volunteers.

We also lost a great friend and leader of LCFTRA, Bob Neilson. Bob passed last month. He will be missed, and our prayers go out to Ann and her entire family.

As there are so many things that don't seem like a traditional Fall, there are some things that do feel normal. The best example is that the LCFTRA board and chairs continue to work to make our organization better and stronger for the years to come. We are addressing needs at the site, making long term improvements to the base of the float, and updating our computer management system.

I believe that our organization will come out of this year as a stronger, smarter, and more flexible organization. Things will get back to "normal". I am thankful for everyone's commitment to LCFTRA. I appreciate the hard work, the financial support, and the positive thoughts.

I wish everyone a great month and look forward to communicating with you all soon.

*Michael Davitt,*

**President**

[president@lcftra.org](mailto:president@lcftra.org)



# Construction

We may not have a parade, but we have a float! Well, we have a chassis; and it is getting all the tender love and care it has been in need of, as it has served us faithfully year after year as the weight bearing underpinning of every float we have ever created. So with this added time we are busily working on a number of needed maintenance and required upgrades. So we are still active and still in need of all the support that goes with a decorated float.. think of it as a float, only sans the final decoration step.

**Float:** Work is ongoing as mentioned above. Specifically the current phase is to replace and upgrade the entire front end to be compliant with newly issues Tournament strength and towing requirements. The construction team sends our thanks out to Randy Bartos, James Herrington and Jeff Helgager, for all the design, cutting and welding of massive amounts of steel. As soon as we complete the front end, we will be doing similar to the back end. Along with that we are evaluating and processing the extensive noodle-soup of hydraulic hoses that need to be identified, tagged for age and a replacement plan created - there is little worse than losing hydraulic pressure for anything while en route, so this is a critical pro-active plan to prevent that.



Old Front end



Front end goes here!

*These pictures show the progress of having pulled the old front-end off, and the ongoing nearly completed new front-end. (thank goodness we have forklifts!)*



New Front end in progress

**Site:** Site is set up for concurrent maintenance and design/build work. This allows for safe-distancing protocols to be adhered to. We are adding a couple new workstations this month to make use of more of the covered areas to allow work in less desirable hot/rainy weather(!) - but nothing stops us!

So don't be shy, if you want to 'get out', we are here and eager to have the help to make this turn into yet another award-winning float for our Community!

Because: . Who Says We Can't !

*Ernest Koeppen, John Wolhaupter, Dwight Crumb*

**Construction Co-Chairs**

Construction@lcftra.org



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\*\*\* AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2020 \*\*\*

## Rose Circle

Pam and Mark Wiedenbeck

## Parader

Steve and Linda Gill  
Jacky Hollingsworth

## Patron

Janice Croft  
Kiwanis Club of La Canada, La Crescenta  
Bob and Paulette Lang  
Jennifer Lazo  
Jack and Paula Mackowiak  
Sarah Weatherwax  
Jan Wiedenbeck

## Sustainer

Stephanie Avanesian  
Patricia Beauchamp

## Floater

Dave and Phyllis Crandon  
Harvey and Delores Marsh  
Irene Mendon

## Contributor

Jacky Hollingsworth in memory of Bob Neilson  
Pam and Mark Wiedenbeck

## Deco

One of the places that only a few decorators ever see is the Deco Trailer- it houses all of the seeds and weeds that we use every year to decorate the float. It is jam-packed with many different types and colors of dry materials, and is a treasure trove of ideas for ways to make the float come to life. This fall your deco-chairs will be taking an inventory and reorganizing the trailer. As we go through this process, we sometimes find notes from those who came before us- you can see in this picture an example of that advice. Why not use nutmeg? Because powders are one of the most challenging materials to apply well- if the glue and distribution isn't perfect, the surface can look bumpy. Why not nutmeg in particular? Because on one float several years back, we used a ton of nutmeg on the base- so much so, that we lost any ability to smell it for weeks! So, safe to say that next year's float won't have much nutmeg, but it will have lots of other creative materials.

We look forward to decorating it with all of you!

*Jennifer Lazo & Sara Wickersham*

**Co-Deco Chairs**

[deco@lcftra.org](mailto:deco@lcftra.org)





# **We are building the future . . rather than a float . . . this year!**

## ***And we need you to do it!!***

As with so many areas of our lives, the pandemic has shut down our normal fundraising activities. No dining out together; no Happy Hour socializing; no Floatique sales during Deco Week; no bingo night; no Wine and Roses dinner and auction; etc. etc. etc.

So while we don't have a parade, we are building for the future so that we can celebrate again on January 1, 2022 and for many years thereafter. We are tired of saying "no". We are turning "no" to "yes".

**YES** we are rebuilding the float chassis. Over the years the Pasadena Tournament has increased its requirements for floats. Many of those relate to safety issues. For instance, the Tournament now requires that front and rear tow bars be much stronger than during the time that our original float chassis was built. Because that work meant major rebuilds of the frame, we have postponed those requirements and received waivers - all the time knowing that the time would come that this work would have to be done or else we would not be able to enter our float in the parade. Another new requirement is for all major hydraulic lines to be "sleeved" so that if a leak occurs the hydraulic fluid will not be able to spray. So . . .

**YES** - we will be replacing many hydraulic lines and sleeving those that require it. We have the volunteers to make the improvements. We just need to pay for the many hoses (some of which are more than 20 years old) and sleeving material.

**YES** - we are in the process of designing and building the tow assemblies required. We have the expertise and volunteers to do the work. All we need is the money to pay for all of the steel and other parts needed.

**YES** we are making a number of changes to the site to make it safer for our volunteers during the pandemic.

**YES** we are taking the opportunity to clean out and organize the vast inventory left from many years of float construction.

**YES** we are continuing to pay all of the bills for our fixed costs.

Finally, we are saying **YES** to modernizing our infrastructure - website, communications, social media, membership benefits, event planning, fundraising, Floatique and the many other "behind the scenes" functions required to support the building of our floats.



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The LCFTRA was begun by a handful of folks over 40 years ago. Many of the administrative functions are still done by hand on spreadsheets, member lists and other documents spread over a number of home computers and home file cabinets. Until now, there has been very little time to "catch our breath" between sending one float down Colorado Boulevard and beginning work on the next. There has never been time to bring those processes from the 1970's into the present - until now. So YES - we are going to improve our ability both to build a float and to communicate with and bring more involvement and fun to you, our members.

So while we may not be building a float this year, with your help we will build the future. We need our members as much or more than ever. And then we will be able to bring another award-winning float to the Rose Parade on January 1, 2022 and another 40 years thereafter!!

-Greg Brown  
**VP Administration**

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## With Love and Thanks

Our family and community are mourning the great loss of one of our pillars.

Robert Neilson, one of the founders of the La Canada Flintridge Tournament of Roses, passed away earlier this September. For more than 42 years, he was an integral part of the construction and decoration of every float up to and including the start of the now 2022 float, "Who Says We Can't?". He was president in 1988 for "Lovely Hula Hams". Over his career with LCFTRA he also held the positions of VP Float Development, Construction Chair and Treasurer more than once.

He knew and taught all the current generation of shapers whether the character was free standing or anchored to the float. We all learned early that Bob had an answer to every question whether it was related to Construction, Decoration or Site.

I first met Bob, the three generations of Crumbs, Carol Imbriale, Jim Geoghegan and Randy at an Operators' Dinner in December 2007 before I had even seen 'The Great Howldini'. I was the 'Float Aide' who as a member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses who was assumed to know nothing about floats which in 2007 was close to the truth. The 2008 parade was the bonding experience that launched my career with LCFTRA. It rained and rained. As a first-time scooter driver and wetter than I had ever been in my life, I took the scooter down on Sierra Madre. When we parked the float in Showcase the three Crumbs, Jim Geoghegan and I looked like drowned rats. When we parted I was only thinking about getting warm and dry not a career in float building.

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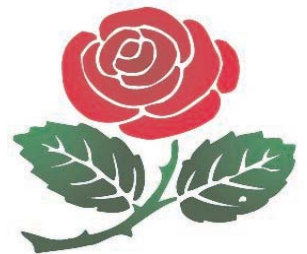
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In mid-January I got a call from Jim G. asking me to attend the annual meeting as a guest. I was surprised and honored. I accepted. I found out that I was not the 'dreaded float aide' but was a Pasadena TofR member worth asking back.

Bob and Jim G. were my mentors. I got hazed as I got the worst cleaning jobs at the site as I was again 'float aide' for 'Self Built Float' where I managed to destroy three sets of building and decorating clothes in a single season. It was not until my second full year that I was taught to weld and shape. It would be a number of years before I paid enough of my 'construction dues' to become driver of 'if pigs could fly'.

I know that all of construction, decoration and site will miss Bob on the site and under the bridge. Our prayers as an organization are with Ann and Bob's entire family who have contributed so much of their lives and energy to the success of LCFTRA.

**-Pam Wiedenbeck, Past President**





## Floatique

We are still here and available to provide you with available Floatique items from past parades and looking at developing a couple new items during this "Interim No Parade Year". We will keep you posted when these new collector items are ready for purchase!

Active membership is a critical element where you can provide your continued support. If your Membership Dues are due, please keep us in mind to keep your dues current!

If you are not yet a Member, we'd love to have you become a Member today!  
Signing up is as easy as visiting our website [www.lcftra.org](http://www.lcftra.org).

Keep an eye on the website for details on available onsite volunteer opportunities. Take care, be safe and we will see you very soon!

### Floatique Staff:

Michele Bottrell 818-248-5440  
Chuck Hughes 818-790-9597

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## Membership Form

**COMPLETE ONLINE CREDIT CARD MEMBERSHIP AT**  
**<http://www.lcftra.org/cardmembership.php> ... or:**

Please Mail this Form - with your check (payable to LCFTRA) to:  
Membership Chair, P.O. Box 253, La Cañada, CA 91012

Membership in the name(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Member levels:** **Rose Circle:** \$800.00\*\*, **Benefactor:** \$425.00\*, **Parader:** \$300.00\*,  
**Patron:** \$150.00\*, **Sustainer:** \$75.00, **Floater:** \$35.00, **JuniorFloater** (ages up to 18): \$10.00  
Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*includes 10% Floatique Discount Card \*\*includes 2 Parade tickets at Fair Market Value*

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Sarah Marshall- 818-790-2732**

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# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## DINING OUT

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**> ON HIATUS <  
PENDING RESUMPTION OF  
INSIDE RESTAURANT  
DINING**

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**HOPE TO SEE YOU  
SOON!**



## SAVE THE DATES

**CONSTRUCTION  
Every Saturday**

At Float Site  
9AM to 2PM  
Building, Inventing, Comraderie

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