

# LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

## President's Message



### Failing to 100

Quantitative pundits always wince whenever anyone — usually an athlete — rattles off a phrase like “we gave 110% out there tonight.”

“It’s impossible to give more than 100%,” they’ll say. “That’s what ‘percent’ means.”

But percentages greater than 100 are possible. For example, how else can in year-over-year revenue?

It all depends on what your baseline is — x percent *of what*.

Why do I bring this up? Mostly because it’s a typical discussion on site. My teaching philosophy tends towards setting a goal (100%) and then adding a layer or challenge above it. One could argue that setting a higher goal is merely moving the 100% parameter. But I feel there is an added almost unquantifiable force at play with the added layer or challenge... a bonus point if you will. Every video game has one, and it’s meant to stimulate and hang that carrot out in front of you. It’s the part of any project that lets you shoot for that higher goal, knowing it is asking more than the specs call for. It’s the creative endorphins that are stimulated and allowed to run “outside the box”.

What it really is, is the buffer between simply completing a task, and creativity. I once again refer to my aforementioned DREAM acronym. This buffer affords you, indeed dares you to try something. And fail at it. And try again. And fail again. And try again and succeed or fail. Those that play video games do this all the time until they make it through a challenge. In the real world we do it to learn.

Anyone can make or do something that has been done before, one is merely replicating a known quantity at that point; sure, maybe shinier or lighter this time around, but it was done before. Add -and make it past- a challenge layer or goal.... Well now you have created or invented something. If you didn’t accomplish it this time before your time ran out, well, so what-you failed.... Down to 100% the expected outcome. Only you know that you tried and failed to exceed. But you will try again. Each failure is a unique “learning experience”.

I would go so far as to say failure = brilliance.

Ever talk to someone that just experienced a huge project, i.e., building a house. How many of those people say it was a great experience? How many love their contractor? Probably a small percentage of that sampling. Those that say they had a terrible experience will often follow that up with: “I will never go through that nightmare again.”

A fair reaction for a tough experience... but the house is done. So, they got to 100%.

But, let me posit this: What if you took it not as: ‘that was a tough experience’, rather you viewed it through the lens of: ‘that was a tough LEARNING experience’. Now take that ‘fail’ and do it again. Using the knowledge from the first time to create a better end product or path thereto. Now one has developed a skill with which to raise the bar for themselves and others to follow.

This is how we build a float. We DREAM something up; we set base parameters and then shoot for way above those parameters thinking outside the box and try to create what doesn’t exist. If we make it and exceed.... well, our endorphins race in euphoria and we get the praise and spotlight for being brilliant. If we fail, we failed down to 100% and we still have a stellar, however shinier, product to present the world – and we try again.

This sort of risk-thinking and extra performance effort telegraphs throughout the show (Parade.) As those that take the risk and excel, are quickly copied and duplicated (maybe if only to be shinier...), which then advances the whole show each year. What do you think the floats from 50, 30, 20, 10 years ago looked and behaved like compared to today?

People want to see new or at least improved all the time. I am sure as you watch your favorite TV show, you probably expect a new episode each week that was better or built upon the previous one. Doubtful you would watch the same episode every week (??)

Too late to say this was a short story, but the takeaway here is (again), if you like to create, build, try, learn and you don’t want boundaries (at least within the laws of physics), and you want to display your efforts on the world stage. If you want to be part of building our community in a unique fashion. Gosh, even if you just wish you or your kids had a shop class available to them in school still –( I digress, that is another topic I am happy to discuss and am working on for those that are interested.) Well, the La Canada Flintridge Tournament of Rose Association wants you! Come on down to watch, partake, invent.... Come DREAM with us!

*Ernest Koeppen, President*

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

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## Upcoming Events



May 28	<a href="#"><u>Fiesta Days - LCFTRA Annual Open House</u></a>
May 29	<a href="#"><u>Fiesta Days - Fireworks at Memorial Park</u></a>
May 30	<a href="#"><u>Fiesta Days - Memorial Day Parade</u></a>
June 18	<a href="#"><u>Fundraiser: Shenanigans at the Wolhaupter's</u></a>

# Fiesta Days!



## > OPEN HOUSE EVENT < Meet the Float Designer

The La Canada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association is hosting its annual Open House this Saturday 5-28-22, from 11am to 2pm at 4524 Hampton Road.

Please join us to learn more about the design, construction and decoration of the La Canada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Float that we navigate down Colorado Blvd. as an element of America's New Year's Day Celebration.

We will have tours of the site and a special free BBQ lunch for all our guests at high noon as we *Meet the Designer* of the Float and learn more about how this steel frame transforms to an award winning float and proudly represents our City on New Year's Day.

**Everybody loves a parade!**



# Fundraising Shenanigans!



## *Shenanigans at Wolhaupters*

### A Night of Fun, Food & Dancing

You are cordially invited to a fundraiser in support of La Cañada Flintridge  
Tournament of Roses Association

**Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 6:00pm**  
**The Wolhaupters**  
**4735 Alta Canyada Road**  
**La Cañada Flintridge**

**Donation is  
\$100 per person  
Please reserve  
your seat by  
June 1, 2022**

The fun evening under the stars includes food from everyone's favorite, and longtime LCFTRA supporter, Los Gringos Locos. Live music from the band, Misplaced Priorities, another LCFTRA supporter. Special guest for the evening is LCFTRA float designer, Grant Delgatty. Get the inside track on the artistry of float design.

Consider joining us as an early Father's Day treat without the work!

## Join Us!!



# News from Construction



The hydraulic hoses for steering and braking are on order. TOR requires a brake inspection every few years. The brakes on the front camera side tire are being serviced. We did the off-camera side last year.

We fired up the float and started the annual maintenance. We removed the palm trees from last year's float. The trees were stripped of bark and the palm shape and are ready to be reinvented in size and shape for this year's Second Hand Shenanigans.

In preparation for the Memorial Day Parade, the base, railings and chairs are installed for the float riders.

We are updating an old welding table. Making it higher for easier welding.

The sign above the steel rack has been removed. We are sanding it, getting it ready to be repainted.

We are continuing to clean and organize the main storage shed and clean hydraulic fittings.

We are going to strip the satellite ....remove the boat, dog and all the foam. We will have a clean slate to build on for this year.

Float drawing are in the works. We are exploring ways to get scale drawings done from those drawings. Also, we are starting to map out the mechanisms for the animation.

Float site is hosting an Open House on Saturday, May 28 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Look forward to seeing you.

Remember Shenanigans at the Wolhaupter's.....a great pre-Father's Day celebration.

Hope to see you soon.

*Pam Gossoo, James Herrington, John Wolhaupter*

**Co- Construction Chairs**

[Construction@lcfra.org](mailto:Construction@lcfra.org)





We had a wonderfully productive Vial Popping Party on Sunday, May 22nd! We made a lot of leeway in getting the deco trailer fully organized and get all of the lids off of vials, so they are ready to be cleaned. Thanks to Pam G., Karen, and Pat for joining Jennifer for deco clean-up! And thanks to Karen for taking home EVEN MORE vials to pop.

We are all set for the fabulous Open House. Stop by between 11am-2pm Saturday to see the bones of the float, take home some statice to cut, and learn how you can get involved making our 2023 float a success!

Also, ***we have a fun extra project*** the La Canada sign that goes on top of the construction area is ready to be re-painted.

Thanks to construction for taking it down for us and sanding away the old paint. If we get done with our dirtier tasks, we can relax at the end of the day with some sign painting!

Can't wait to see you all!

*Sara Wickersham, Jennifer Lazo, Deco Co-Chairs*

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





# Remember When:

## A Past President Looks Back



### LCFTRA's Special Recognition Awards Since 1999

Last month's article started me thinking about the importance of story in our float creation process. Our floats and their origin stories have gotten so good and consistent with our mission, vision and values that we forget the years our stories took us to awards that gave us special recognition. I was told that this year at the award's announcement ceremony on January 1 that our crew and supporters were downcast as we were passed by for Animation, Founder's, and our special favorite the Bob Hope Humor trophies. There were shocks and squeals of amazement as we were handed our first Crown City Innovator Trophy.

All are floats start with someone's float idea crafted into far less than 100 words. More than 100 of these are vetted, voted, and whittled down to three or four possibilities when the designer then sketches for consideration by a smaller group. Eventually two or three are taken to Tournament where they may be accepted or rejected at Theme Draft. Of those accepted, the small committee recommends one for acceptance and a final rendering in color.

Next comes the 100-word story that appears in our annual Quadfold Brochure. Those 100 words are crafted and expanded for the next 4 months into the float origin story that drives publicity and float building.

The story marinates in many brains and creates the costuming, backgrounds, signage, graphics and music selection so that by the end of September there is a story that is worthy of a book, poem or short story. If we have crafted well, then the story drives the media kits, fundraising and presentations that all culminate in the float on TV during the parade.

Four times the float idea, design, build and concepts crystalized into a story that was recognized for something far more special than Animation, Founders, or Humor.

**2003 "Backyard Heroes"** honoring the first responders from 9/11 produced a Mayor's Trophy for the Most Outstanding City Entry. The float story represented the parade theme of "Children's Dreams, Wishes, and Imagination". It is also one of the few floats that this organization has done with Out Walkers who represented the real-life heroes of 9/11.



#### **2006 "The Great Howldini"**

produced an accidental Theme Trophy for the best representation of the parade theme of "It's Magical". While the story was a strong depiction of a dog performing magic tricks which was more "It's Magic" than "It's Magical", it benefited from the judges not understanding what the tournament president that meant for "It's Magical" to represent. The animated story was supported by a strong soundtrack of "What You See is What You Get".

**2010 "Scissored Wizard"** was a real stretch to meet the theme of "A Cut Above the Rest". It required not only a story but a world to be created where completed origami creatures were alive and attacking. It had deep mysterious music, as well as a float site littered with origami figures that the shapers turned into animated creations to be defeated by the wizard with his wand and scissors. It taught me that some themes are themes that create ideas from the start and others have to be pondered, bent and shaped into a float with a real story that can be designed, built, animated and decorated.





**2022 “Who Says We Can’t”** was a two-year effort to both expand our building skills and decorate with a pandemic-reduced palette of flowers, seeds, and vegetables. It had all the earmarks of a float that did not want to be built. It was beaten, pummeled, and designed into submission. The animation was complicated and had all the earmarks of being a real crowd-pleaser if it worked. LCFTRA along with the other self-built floats did not use the pandemic as an excuse to reduce the effort to decorate “to float manual rule.” The breath-taking story of achievement of a geriatric doggie skate park not only ran during second judging, but through TV Corner, the entire Parade, and most of Floatfest. This herculean effort along with couture clothing by the House of Buchmann and Bartos earned the Association its first Crown City Innovator Award. It all came together from concept story to design, build, decoration and music to create the ultimate float story.

Pam Wiedenbeck, Past President (2010 & 2011)

## Floatique



Welcome Fiesta Days!

A fabulous Memorial Day weekend is planned with the Parade, an Open House at the Float Site, fireworks, and music at Memorial Park. Come one, come all and share in the fun-filled activities.

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events. Be sure to connect with a LCFTRA volunteer to get your seed packets and see the design of the 2023 LCFTRA Float, “Secondhand Shenanigans”.

Thank you to all our amazing military men and women who have served this country by giving their ALL. We cannot thank these outstanding individuals enough for their sacrifices.

Wishing you all a wonderful and memorable Memorial Day Weekend.

Thanks to one and all for your amazing support!

*Michele Bottrell* (818-248-5440), *Chuck Hughes* (818-790-9597), **Floatique Co-Chairs**



## Rewards for Members!



LCFTRA Members: Invite friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to join us in keeping the tradition alive. Earn a \$5.00 gift certificate for referring a new member. We'll reward you for the first 10 referrals! The gift certificate is good for purchases at the Floatique. Contact Sarah Marshall at [Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org) or 818-790-2732 to make sure you get credit for your referrals.



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# Membership Renewals

April 2022

## Parader (\$300)

Liz Argue  
Sharen and Richard Cholakian  
Vince Feehan  
Paul and Heather Haaga  
Scott Nelson

## Patron (\$150)

Kitty and Kent Barr  
Marilyn Center  
John Chaves & Karen McIlvena  
Jonathan and Lisa Curtis  
Susan Franzen  
Kerry and John Cervenka  
Elizabeth Georgeon  
Robert Lindorfer  
Beth and John Lynch  
Trish McRae  
Peter and Cathy Palermo  
Lynn and Susanne Park  
Al and Nancy Plamann  
Lynn Rossi  
Chuck and Kat Terhune

## Sustainer (\$75)

Ken and Terri Horner  
Betty MacInnes  
Dorothy Potter  
Norma Rowley

## Floater (\$35)

Beryl Arbit  
Samantha Babroff

## Donations

Ken and Terry Horner  
Norma Rowley

## Membership Renewals:

We will keep track of your renewal schedule for you. All members will receive email reminders of their membership renewal 30 days before their current membership expires. The email will contain a direct link for the renewal process online and allows payment by all major credit cards, PayPal, or by printing a form and mailing in a check.

Questions? Contact Sarah Marshall: Email [Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org) or call @ 818-790-2732.

## New Memberships:

Join online by clicking on this [New Member Signup](#) button. Using the online signup process is the easiest way to go and allows you to pay online (or by check).

**No email or internet access?** If you prefer to not use the online options for new memberships or renewals, then print [this Mail-In Membership Form](#) and follow the instructions for mailing your information and check.

*Sarah Marshall, Membership Chair*  
[Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org)

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## Technical Support

If you have technical issues signing in, you can contact our website provider's support folks toll free at 1-866-HLP-CLUB (457-2582) from 4:30 AM to 7:00 PM, Mon-Fri, Pacific time (they are located in Chicago). Or you can email them at [Support@clubexpress.com](mailto:Support@clubexpress.com). For all other LCFTRA questions or help, feel free to contact Rich Boccia at [VPAdmin@lcftra.org](mailto:VPAdmin@lcftra.org).

Thank you so much for your support. We are 100% donation supported, and your membership dues/donations make the float possible. Hopefully the new website will make that continued support easy for you!

See you next month!  
*Rich Boccia, VP - Administration*  
[VPAdmin@lcftra.org](mailto:VPAdmin@lcftra.org)

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