



eConnect

La Leche League US Western Division
Forming Connections Leader to Leader
Issue Number 7

GSPS and Conference Compared

Katy Smith, Yakima, WA

As Leaders make plans to attend a La Leche League International Conference, many find themselves caught up in the decision to attend the pre-conference gathering of Leaders (known as the Global Strategic Planning Summit or GSPS for the 2007 LLLI Conference). Due to financial and/or family concerns, some Leaders feel they can attend either the pre-conference GSPS *or* the conference but not both. Recently I discussed this with other Leaders and I tried to explain how I felt about the differences between these events, based on my experiences at the past three LLLI Conferences.

At the pre-conference I make connections with other Leaders. Some of the sessions are like LLL meetings but for Leaders only on Leader-related topics. That is where I sit next to a Leader from Greece, Mexico, or Japan and I find that we have some of the same concerns and also some very different ones.

The pre-conference is where I get an idea of how some of my fellow Leaders feel and what they think. It's not always an entirely pleasant experience but it has been valuable to me the past three times I have attended. For instance, I had some mixed feelings about the Open Space meetings in 2005, but one session stood out and has continued to resonate with me. It was about the importance of mother-baby togetherness. In

Talk with USWD Staff at the Conference!

Cheese 'n Yackers - Cheese, Crackers & Conversation
Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Common Ground(s) - Coffee & Conversation
Saturday, July 21, 7:00 - 7:45 a.m.

USWD Open House

Sunday, July 22, 9:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Special pre-conference workshop:

USWD - The Journey Continues
Friday, July 20, 1:30 – 2:45, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

that session I learned that mothers with extensive separation from their babies are being accredited and that many Leaders find this acceptable or necessary. I also understood that there are Leaders opposed to this practice and who are determined to continue to emphasize mother-baby togetherness as they feel it is a vital and unique part of the very foundation of LLL. I have continued to explore this issue, in my own thinking and also in discussions with other Leaders because I think it is an important topic.

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- WBW Drawing-\$200 Gift Card+

At the pre-conference I get some understanding of how and why administrative decisions are made at the Area and Division level. I put faces to names and see that the way I judge some people via email is not necessarily accurate! I find inspiration in seeing how many of those in administrative positions are working so hard to help LLL function. I see things that concern me, too—things with which I don't agree. But I appreciate all that I learn because it helps me decide what I believe and what I want to do in LLL.

The actual conference is where I get a confirmation that La Leche League matters in the world. That is when I feel absolutely justified in making a commitment to LLL. It reinforces my belief that my children have a better life because of LLL. The speakers, the conference goers, the exhibits, the alumnae room, the tea - all of it speaks to my heart and says, "This is your place, this is where you belong, this is why you do the work you do, this is why it was worth the effort to come here, this is what you want to bring others into, this is what has made you the mother you are." I choked up the first night at my first LLLI Conference and I thought it was just because I was so overwhelmed. But I got the same feeling at the next one, and the next one! That is the feeling that makes me return. I cannot put a price on it and I can never adequately explain how much it means to me. Those frustrating phone calls with overwhelmed mothers, the helping situations with babies with serious issues, rushed meals for family on meeting day, hectic meetings filled with side-conversations and mothers with other causes, misunderstandings with co-Leaders, discouragements with Area work - POOF - all gone for a moment! Not to disappear, but to settle into perspective. I come away thinking it is all worth it. My energy and attitude are renewed (though I am completely exhausted and will need a week to recover!).

If I had to decide between the GSPS and the LLLI Conference, I would have to try to be perfectly honest with myself and answer, "which do I need more right now: connections with other Leaders, a greater understanding of how LLL is functioning and what I can do *or* validation, information/education, and recharge for being an

LLL Leader 'in the trenches' and mothering with LLL philosophy in mind?"

I always want to go to both, if only for the fact that if I am already paying to get there, I might as well get as much as I can (and let me also confess that I rarely make it through an entire session - it's *so* much to take in). Going to both pre-conference and the conference gives me a more balanced perspective than if I just went to one. If I were able to get a large dose of either type of "support" somewhere else, I would feel less concerned about getting it at the LLLI Conference. However, there is a wonderful and unique global feeling at an LLLI Conference that really can't be found anywhere else!

At the first LLLI Conference I attended, I felt very nervous about leaving my children at home with their father. My youngest was 3½-years-old and still nursing. However, my husband felt very strongly that we were all ready for separation and that it was important for me to attend. It had actually been his Christmas gift to me! I cut it as short as I could, missed the first day of the pre-conference and left before the closing banquet. The hardest thing about leaving my children was hearing another Leader's critical remark about my choice to leave them at home. The best thing was walking off the airplane and seeing the most beautiful children I had ever seen in my life waiting there and realizing they were MINE! My son resumed nursing without incident until he weaned on his own seven months later. They had a wonderful time while I was away, traveling 300 miles to visit friends and Dad's childhood town. I realized one or two more days apart would have made no difference to my children, but it would have made a huge difference to me.

This conference will be my first with an accompanying spirited toddler. He was a baby in a sling at the last LLLI Conference! My teen daughters will be along to help, but I expect there will be some things I will miss out on in order to tend to the needs of my little guy. But my husband and I know this is what is best for our family at this time.

Each family has different factors and each Leader has her own line to draw. The variables for a Leader separating from her family to go to an LLL event are probably as vast as weaning ages. And some of those variables are just as emotional and hard to figure out. I believe it is important to support each other and respect that each Leader is making the best decision for herself and her family.

Benefits to Area: Conference and GSPS

By USWD Staff

From January/February 1999 CONNECTIONS # 81, USWD Publication for Area Personnel

When your Area Council addresses the questions of who to fund to an LLLI Conference/GSPS or USWD TEAM events, it's important to consider the *purpose* of sending ADCs/Leaders to an LLLI or USWD event. Some purposes might be:

- ❖ To provide ADCs and/or Leaders with ongoing training in their work and the opportunity to develop and enhance specific skills
- ❖ To give ADCs and/or Leaders the opportunity to network with and learn from other administrators and Group Leaders doing the same job
- ❖ To increase understanding and rapport between the Area and LLLI and/or the Division
- ❖ To help LLLI and/or Division staff become better acquainted with Area needs and concerns, enabling them to be more helpful
- ❖ To help all team members (Area, LLLI, and Division) work together more effectively

It would then be helpful to look at Area needs. An ADC and/or Leader attending an LLLI Conference/GSPS or USWD TEAM event might bring back to her Area:

- ❖ Information, resources, tips, practical ideas, to help her do her job more effectively
- ❖ Help or ideas for appointing, orienting, working with, and supporting department members
- ❖ Ideas or help for working through a specific problem in an Area
- ❖ Ideas and strategies for enhancing teamwork, consultation, and collaboration among the ADCs and Leaders in an Area as they administrate the Area, set goals, and carry out plans and projects.

In addition to discussing purpose and needs, it might also help to consider issues such as finances, who might benefit most from the training and orientation opportunities at the event, who attended previous LLL or USWD conferences/events, and who can commit to continuing in their position for a year or more after the event.

Don't forget to ask the Leader what she expects to contribute to the Area as a result of her Conference experience.

An Area Council Team will want to consult with others, such as other Area Teams, Division staff, other Leaders too, when deciding which ADCs/Leaders to fund to the event. Others can give you an idea of what to expect at the event, what sessions/panels will be offered, and share funding ideas that have worked for other Areas. They can also let you know of financial help that might be available elsewhere.



Celebrating The Power of Leaders

An Open House, Two Chat Times and a Workshop! All Leaders Welcome

You are cordially invited to join USWD Staff members for conversations about issues that matter to you. We're happy to discuss ongoing staff projects, projected work, needs of USWD Leaders and much more. We want to encourage open conversations, so feel free to talk to us about what isn't working for you.

Cheese 'n Yackers
Cheese, Crackers & Conversation
Wednesday, July 18
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Common Ground(s)
Coffee & Conversation
Saturday, July 21
7:00 - 7:45 a.m.

If neither of these times works, we'll arrange another time for staff members to sit and talk with you. Just let us know. We're looking forward to meeting with you.

USWD Open House
Sunday, July 22
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.

All the above will be in the USWD suite--to be posted on the conference message board.

Special Pre-Conference Workshops:
USWD - The Journey Continues
Friday, July 20
1:30 - 2:45 p.m., 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Join Leaders, USWD Staff and LLLI representatives to discuss USWD agreements, councils and other "new" things you've wondered about. This is an open meeting for Leaders to ask questions, share concerns and celebrate ideas. We'll walk through the process of making an agreement. Learn about Western Division, how we are working together and where we are headed to support Leaders in our mission to help mothers and babies.

**No need to sign up in advance, just come.
You don't have to be registered for GSPS to attend.**

For more information, feel free to email us at uswdstaff@gmail.com

*Kelley Baer
Rosetta Bartels
Lori Bryan
Patricia DuBray
Sherryl Dombeck*

*Misty Dunn
Gail Gesley
Becky Hugh
Deirdre Knowles
Diana Lewis*

*Sue Scott
Wista Waldroop
Peggy Wiedmeyer*



USWD Staff directory available at <http://www.lllusa.org/admin/USWDdirectory.php>



Global Strategic Planning Summit

Schedule and Agenda

Making the LLLI Strategic Plan Work in Your Community

Tuesday, July 17 – Continental Ballroom

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Resource Fair

Wednesday, July 18 – Waldorf Room

8:30 - 8:40 a.m. Welcome – *Jane Tuttle*, Chairman of the LLLI Board

8:40 - 9:40 Strategic Plan: Building a Future for La Leche League Around the World – *Michael Brandwein*

9:40 - 10:00 Making the LLLI Strategic Plan – *Anne Hutton and Marcia Lutostanski*

10:00 - 12:00 Implementing the LLLI Strategic Plan – The LLLI Operating Council Workgroups

- Board of Directors/Executive Team – *Barbara Emanuel, LaJuana Oswalt and Jane Tuttle*
- Underserved Populations – *Mickey Jones*
- Working Agreements – *Joel Getzendanner and Lisa Serebrin*
- Publications – *Judie Gibel*
- Public Awareness – *Trisha Noack*
- Non-English-Language Resources – *Lavinia Belli*
- Membership and LLLI Organization System – *Anne Hutton*
- Global Resources – *Karen Smith*
- Community Discussion Groups – *Marcia Lutostanski*

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH BREAK

1:30 - 6:00 Concurrent Sessions

Building the Future of La Leche League – *Michael Brandwein* – **Waldorf Room**

Let's Talk Public Relations – *Trisha Noack* – **Marquette Room**

LLLI Organizational Database Demonstration – Membership Workgroup – **Location TBA**

Working with Agreements – A Hands-on Workshop – **Williford A Room**

Area / Division Sessions/Department time - **Location TBA**

Thursday, July 19 – Grand Ballroom

8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome

8:45 - 9:45 Opening the Space:

What Can I Do To Implement the Strategic Plan in My Community?

9:45 - 11:00 Session 1 Breakout Meetings

11:15 - 12:30 Session 2 Breakout Meetings

12:30 - 2:00 LUNCH BREAK

2:15 - 3:30 Session 3 Breakout Meetings

3:45 - 5:00 Session 4 Breakout Meetings

Friday, July 20 – Grand Ballroom

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Report Out From Open Space – Bringing It All Together

10:00 - 11:00 Making the Strategic Plan Work for the Future of LLLI – *Anne Hutton and Marcia Lutostanski*

11:00 - 12:00 Moving the Strategic Plan Forward: What Can I Do? – *Michael Brandwein*

Celebrating The Power of Leaders

US Western Division is happy to announce recipients of our scholarships to attend the Global Strategic Planning Summit (GSPS). The Summit precedes the 50th Anniversary International Conference. Our theme for GSPS is "Celebrating the Power of Leaders."

Katy Smith
Ruth Rozen
Angela Nooner and Helen Grant
Patty Jacobs and Cheri Kannarr
Fran Dereszynski & Stacy Rosales
Leah Dodds and Gina Gerboth
Betsy Ayers and Nancy Barry
Katie Fields and Karen Smith
Jeni Leaird and Susan Penrod
Charlene Burnett and Dotti Savoy
LeeAnn Swain
Gretchen Futey
Esther Scheidel and Hattie Yeager
Texas ADCs (split mutually)
Becca Haack and Jesi Laughlin
Kay Batt and PJ Jacobsen

LLL Alaska
LLL Arizona
LLL Arkansas/Oklahoma
LLL Northern California/Hawaii
LLL Southern California/Nevada
LLL Colorado/Wyoming
LLL Idaho
LLL Illinois
LLL Indiana
LLL Missouri
LLL Montana
LLL New Mexico
LLL Oregon
LLL Texas
LLL Wisconsin
LLL Washington

Please email uswdstaff@gmail.com or any USWD Staff member for more information.





Memo Regarding the World Faire

March, 2007

To: Everyone around the World

From: Judy Guarco, LLLI Conference Pizzazz Team

Re: The World Faire

Come one, come all to the Faire!

Back by popular demand, the World Faire
will return to the
LLLI 50th Anniversary Conference!

July 20-23, 2007
Chicago, Illinois, USA

The World Faire has become an increasingly popular event at the La Leche League International Conference. A “must-attend” event for all, it gives attendees a chance to travel around the world one table at a time. Held in the International Ballroom, the Faire will be filled with tables, each representing a different LLLI Area, Affiliate or mother-to-mother support group. The information, merchandise, and decorations on each table are used in a variety of ways to inform “travelers” about that specific area of the world. As people arrive at the Faire, they receive a “passport” to get stamped at each table they visit.

The success of the World Faire depends on the participation of all Areas and Affiliates throughout the world. Please help us add to the international flavor of the Conference by giving attendees a glimpse of your culture. Plans for the World Faire are well underway, so reserve your table now! Here's some more information to get your ideas and enthusiasm flowing:

When: The Conference opens on Friday, July 20. The World Faire will be held on Saturday evening, July 21, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Table set up will begin at 6 p.m.

Where: The traditional World Faire will be held in the International Ballroom. In the Grand Ballroom, there will be a first-time-ever Children’s Faire, which will host games, songs, and dances. There will be a storyteller and other surprises to delight the younger crowd.

What: Your space is used to tell all about your area of the world—the families that live there, mothers who breastfeed and how you reach them, items native to the area— whatever you would like to share. It can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like to make it. Variety is what makes this evening so interesting and special! Consider bringing the following items for your table at the Faire:

- Breastfeeding Information: LLL Leaders and members love to look at breastfeeding pamphlets and other publications, meeting information, and activities that your Area, Affiliate, or Group is involved in.
- Photos, posters, and pictures: Bring images of meetings, gatherings, mothers and babies, and local scenery for attendees to see LLL and breastfeeding in action in your part of the world.
- Things to sell (always popular at the World Faire!): Here’s a chance for everyone to purchase souvenirs and gifts from all over the world that they couldn't have found anywhere else. These items should be things specifically from your area, and the proceeds benefit your home area or affiliate.
- Give away items: Whether it’s an informational brochure or a small trinket, these are very popular with all ages.
- Table covering: Dress up your table with a tablecloth or some other kind of textile from your area. Dressing in native costumes is an idea, too!
- Stickers or ink stamps: These will come in handy to stamp “passports.” Everyone needs their passport stamped as a souvenir of their trip.
- People: Above all, there will need to be representatives at your table throughout the evening. This is a chance to meet one another and share the many things we all have in common.



The World Faire, Saturday, July 21, 7:30 -10 p.m.

To run smoothly, this event requires planning. Please reserve your spot today by sending:

contact person name, address, and phone/fax/email

to: Judy Guarco

80 Harmony Hill Road, Granby, CT 06035 USA

questions? 860-651-2127 voicemail messages can be left day or night

email: jguarco@prudentialct.com

Celebrating The Power of Leaders

World Faire Drawing to benefit

World Breastfeeding Week

Stop by the US Western Division table at the World Faire on Saturday, July 21, from 7:30–10 pm to help support World Breastfeeding Week! The USWD will be holding a drawing for a basket including:

- 50th Anniversary edition of *The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding* (<http://store.llli.org/public/profile/208>)
- **\$200.00** Gift card to Barnes and Noble!
- Special **goodies** to enhance your reading pleasure

Tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 and may be purchased from any USWD staff member.

