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Camp Greentop

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Council of Delegates '04

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Denise Frebertshauser
Bonnie Dunn

President's Message

Charlie Thomas

There just doesn't seem to be enough time in a day or enough weeks during the fall and winter months to prepare for the summer camps that are fast approaching us. I can only imagine how busy everyone must be getting prepared for the summer camp season our calendars are fully booked and, we put on our juggling act to accomplish the many tasks that eagerly await us. Though we are quite busy please keep in mind that our section would like to provide everyone opportunity to assist in preparing for the summer. We need your support and your feedback about events and training workshops that are on the calendar.

The Spring Fling Professional Day that was scheduled for March 29th was cancelled due to lack of interest. We had more vendors signed up for the event than we had participates. We will try to get those vendors who were willing to participate in our Spring Fling Day to come to our conference in the fall instead. Certification classes have already been arranged for the spring so please sign up your staff and we will be sure to have the class.

The training workshop for the alternative licensing process was held on March 19th at the Howard County library and I am told it was a great training. I was out sick that day and not able to attend but there was a good turn out. The revised form should make things a lot easier for the visitors as well as the camp directors. It will be great to be able to make a cross reference from ACA standards to State regulations. Bonnie Dunn has continued to do an outstanding job in leading our section on this quest to partner with the State on this alternative licensing process. Keep up the great work Bonnie.

We will have another board meeting very soon to make up for the cancelled meeting in April and, a lot of the discussion will include planning for our conference in November. If you are anyone of your staff have any thoughts or ideas for the conference please contact us as soon as possible.

Well, I like to wish everyone a safe and successful summer camp season and remember that we Camp gives kids a world of good!

Training sessions are coming soon. If you have not registered for certification course please do so as soon as possible. Some of our training workshops are already full, a few still have a space or two. I would like to say "Thanks" to all the camps that opened up their doors to members for a variety of training sessions. We have attached one last registration form for you to send in, but please email me names as soon as possible.

Also to let you know we had a visitors training session and we now have 10 new associate visitors to join us. The more visitors we have the easier it is to schedule our summer accreditation visits. Thank you for volunteering. If your camp is going to be visited this year you may have the opportunity to get to know some of these individuals. Camp visit information is coming your way.

Now is the time to begin thinking about those individuals that deserve an award, awards need to be turned sent to the Section office by September. We have Service, Photography, and more. Look for the forms by June.

Mark your calendars for November 7-8, 2004 for our Fall Conference it will be held at the Camp Ilchester -Clementine Peterson Activity Center in Ellicott City. We are working with Chris Thurber as our keynote speaker. Sunday sessions will be for all camp staff individuals, so encourage your part-time staff to join us. Information will be coming your way soon.

SAIL: Soaring Abilities In Leisure

Most people looking out over the Inner Harbor of Baltimore in May would have said it was a beautiful sight because of the view of the city skyline, but to NRPA Member Katrina Johnson, M.S., CTRS, it was spectacular because it was the first time she could see individuals with disabilities and their families share and experience what few had thought they'd ever be able to do—sail.

Sailing doesn't seem like an easy activity for someone who uses a wheelchair or has a severe visual impairment or a cognitive disability. Yet with the help of The League for People with Disabilities, people can be equipped with the tools they need to participate. And isn't that what parks and recreation is all about? Johnson, executive director for The League Camping and Therapeutic Recreation, a branch of The League for People with Disabilities, contacted Andy Herbick, youth and outreach director at the Downtown Sailing Center (DSC), with a proposition to bring a group of individuals with special needs to the facility. The League would provide the participants, as well as staff who knew their abilities and their needs, while the DSC would provide the boats and plenty of volunteers to set them sailing.

The Downtown Sailing Center consistently ensures accessibility and maintenance of the facility and encourages their members to fulfill the mission of sailing for everyone. The stationary dock is connected to the free-floating dock via an accessible ramp. Another dominant feature is the stationary hoist lift that allows smooth transfers from wheelchair to boat for people who are quadriplegic or unable to transfer with a one- or two-person assist. In addition to accessible pathways and ramps being on the docks, the center provides accessible parking, restrooms and pavilion.

Everyone is required to have a life jacket on to get on a dock. The free-floating docks tend to have slight movement on the water, so to ensure safety, people who use wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices were escorted on the docks. Support straps on people who use wheelchairs were also undone so that participants could be buoyant if they and their chair fell into the water.

The participants were a wide-ranging lot. Some have used wheelchairs their whole lives owing to a congenital disability. Others had new spinal cord injuries and were trying a physically challenging activity for the first time. Some have cognitive disabilities such as autism or mental retardation. Some have significant visual impairments to the point where they can only see colors and shadows. Some individuals were unaccompanied, while others were participating in the event with their spouse or significant other, or even the whole family. Father-son pairs were there, siblings came to support their kin and friends accompanied individuals to show their encouragement. Jonathon Rondeau, Camp Greentop director and a staff person at the event, says that his favorite part of the day was "seeing such a diverse population and the interactions between family members and friends throughout the day."

After the event, several people said that they hadn't sailed before because they were unaware of any resources available to them. "Sailing Saturday Spectacular" immensely heightened leisure awareness, and the majority of the participants said they now felt more confident in pursuing new activities. Comments included: "It was a great time. It was wonderful seeing my autistic son so happy, and now we have something we can do together"; "I thought it was very enjoyable, and I can't wait to go again"; "What a wonderful opportunity to do a family activity with our disabled son and to meet new people"; and "It was more fun and less scary than I thought." Everyone rated their sailing experience as either a 1 or 2 on a scale of 1-5, and a large majority declared that they wanted to engage in sailing again.

Because of the success of "Sailing Saturday Spectacular", The League has developed sailing sessions. The two sessions (April 19, 26, May 3 and May 10, 17, 24) are both three consecutive Mondays from 5-7 pm. The nights will consist of roughly 20 minutes of class-time and the rest will be practical application of the techniques learned.

For more information about the accessible sailing program, contact the Downtown Sailing Center, 410-727-2884, www.downtownsailing.org or The League at Camp Greentop, 410-323-0500, www.campgreentop.org.

From Lori Goodman, Executive Director of Family Support Center

Family Support Center, a non-profit social service organization that has worked with over 80 area independent schools during the past fourteen years, is pleased to announce a new service we are offering to summer camp staff.

We all agree that summer is a time for children to relax, learn new skills, and experience summer fun. Although the pressures of school and homework have been alleviated, issues arise at camp for which a social worker is able to provide a unique perspective often lacking in a summer camp setting. This perspective enables them to help summer camps to:

- better resolve conflicts among campers.
- better resolve conflicts between campers and staff.
- improve communication between staff and administrators.
- train staff to handle difficult and special needs children (ADD, ADHD, etc.).
- develop activities that help students build confidence and grow as well as have fun.
- address group dynamics among staff members in an effort to improve efficiency and morale.

Social workers are trained to be flexible and are accustomed to juggling many tasks at once making them well suited to operate in a summer camp environment. Often a few hours a week is enough to observe and provide insights that help directors and camp counselors become more effective.

This service is unlike the work FSC implements throughout the school year at the independent schools in that we do not meet with individual students. It is solely a staff-oriented service.

If you are interested in learning more about our Summer Camp Support Program, please call Jay Hardin, LGSW, Program Director, at 301-718-2467, ext. 105. He will be happy to meet with you to discuss how we might serve your camp.

A word from some of our vendors from the Professional Development Day,
Please keep them in mind when you need something for your camp.

MIRROR-ACULOUS ART ACTIVITIES by **OOZ & OZ**
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Dear ACA members

As Spring has come, many area schools are planning carnivals as fund raisers and end-of-the-year celebrations. We have purchased many new items for the coming season and the new equipment is arriving daily! Book early, as these items will be going fast!

Reasons to Plan an Event In the Next Few Months:

If you are planning an After Prom Party, All-Night Graduation Party, School Carnival, Birthday Party, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, we have activities, props & decor, for you! Possible themes for your party could be:

Featured Entertainment of the Month: \$50.00 off

1) Kiddiepillar Tunnel – A new and improved version of our Caterpillar Tunnel – 55 foot long crawling tunnel and maze for children 100 lbs. or less; bright and colorful, a sure hit for any outdoor party!

2) Airplane Ride – Our first mechanical ride for children; 4 airplanes, each holding 2 children under 75 lbs - seats 8 children at a time, for high turnover and loads of fun!

New Items In Stock:

Cold Air Balloon – the perfect add-on to draw attention to your next event or promotion; 16 foot high and runs on a blower and regular household current electricity.

Look for our new, 32 page brochure, filled with fun and exciting entertainment options, coming soon! A Family-Owned and Drug-Free Workplace!

Join the Fun!

Visit us on the web at www.tottevents.com

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www.djdoug.net
www.blinkeelight.com
www.Foto2go.com
 410-461-5500

ACA Spring Staff Training Registration:

(All Classes must have a minimum of 8 participants)

Course Title & Number:	Location	Dates	ACA Cost	Non-member cost	# people attending
#1 Canoe Instructor/	Lions Camp Merrick Nanjemoy, MD	5/21-23	\$150	\$200	
#4 Archery Instructor	Beth Tfiloh, Baltimore	6/5-6	FULL \$75	FULL \$100	FULL
#5 Open Water Lifeguard Module		Cancelled Call: Aquaculture	Cancelled Center	Cancelled 1 410-420-7665	Cancelled 6/12 - 4-8pm
#9 Challenge Course Training	Beth Tfiloh Baltimore	5/29-30	\$200	\$250	
#10 Red Cross Canoe Instructor	Sandy Hill Camp North East, MD	6/8-9	\$150	\$200	
#12 Canoe Inst. Cert. River (Am. Canoe Assoc.)	Valley Mill Camp Germantown MD	May 28-31	\$250+ ACA dues	\$300 + ACA dues	
LEVEL 2 Archery	Hosted by Camp Sonshine, Silver Springs	May 10,11, & 12	Call: Hillary Pennington	(301) 989-2267 for	more information
Lifeguard Training	Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson , Md	???	Call: Rod Pearce	(301) 87-5544 for	more information

More detailed information will be sent after you registration concerning each session. For additional questions call: **(301) 218-6468**, ACA Chesapeake Section Office

If one person is registering, list that name as the contact person. If this registration is for more than one person, confirmation will be made to that individual who, in turn, will contact the others in his/her group. Please remember you must pay for spaces reserved. We cannot hold spaces until we get your check. Total balance must be paid at the time of registration. No refunds for no-shows or cancellations.

Registration Form: (Due By ASAP or 2 wks prior to training session, 2004)

Contact Name: _____ **(ACA#** _____ **) Camp:** _____ **(ACA#** _____ **)**

Address: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (____) ____ - ____ **Fax:** (____) ____ - ____ **E-mail:** _____

List Names & Contact number for people attending: (feel free to reproduce this form)

Name: _____ Contact #: () _____ - _____ Training Title # ____/\$____

Name: _____ Contact #: () _____ - _____ Training Title # ____/\$____

Total Amount Included: _____

Make Check Payable to ACA Chesapeake Section & Mail to:

18405 Queen Anne Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20774