



e-Woodsmoke

Spring 2005

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Dan Markowitz

Conflict Resolution

Charles Butler
Camp Sunshine

Legislative

Steve Eller
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Membership:

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Patuxent 4-H Center

Nominating

Sara Portman Milner
Camp JCC

Historian

Katrina Johnson
Camp Greentop

Standards

Rod Pearce
Mar-lu Ridge Center

Education/Program

Chris Pearce
Patuxent 4-H Center

Council of Delegates '04

Charles Thomas
Denise Frebertshauser

Not for Profit Council

Denise Frebertshauser
Bonnie Dunn

President's Message

Marc Kolp

What a treat to return from the national conference in sunny Orlando, FL to the early spring we are experiencing here in the Chesapeake area. Yeah right! Well, before we know it warm weather *will* be upon us and soon after that campers will be crossing the thresholds of our camps.

The National Conference was absolutely wonderful and I can personally say that the sessions I was able to attend were of the highest quality. In addition to the educational sessions, I was also involved in meetings with members from the National ACA board and Council of Delegates (COD). The ACA COD is made up of representatives from each of the twenty-four ACA sections and the group serves as the governing body for the ACA. Annually the COD meets at the National Conference to discuss and vote on issues facing our organization. This year discussions centered around two major issues.

- Proposed changes to ACA Standards (these will be piloted in 2005, voted on in 2006 and implemented in 2007)
- Use of Public Lands. The COD worked on and developed a position statement that will be used to promote ACA and camps in general in the use of and access to public lands though the country.

More information on the COD agenda at the National Conference and other issues facing the ACA can be found on the ACA website www.ACAcamps.org.

ACA Chesapeake was very well represented at the National Conference with well over 39 section members attending as well others from camps throughout the region. Out of the small handful of national awards that were presented at the conference two went to members of ACA Chesapeake. Charles Butler was recognized with an ACA National Service Award and Chris Pearce received the Jack Weiner Leadership Award for his leadership as a young professional in the field of camping. Please join me in saluting both Charles and Chris for their contributions to the camp community here in the Chesapeake region.

Your local ACA board is hard at work strengthening both the policies and operations of the section and they continue the endeavor to provide you with the support you require to serve the campers in your care. The annual training calendar is accompanying this newsletter and includes those critical spring training dates that you'll want to put on your calendar and register for right away.

I hope to see everyone at our spring development day on April 12th!

Included in this issue: Section Calendar, Training Opportunities, National Award Honorees, A Message from the Standard Committee and Camp JCC Presents at ACA Nationals!

Honoring Chesapeake Section Members at the National Level!

Chris Pearce - Jack Weiner Leadership Award *is designed to support a young adult who is pursuing a career in camping field. The award will ensure professional development by providing financial support of no less than \$1000 for the recipient to attend and participate in the ACA National Conference.*

Chris Pearce has grown up as camper for 2 years, Counselor in Training for 2 years, Counselor for 2 years, Assistant Youth Camp Director for 1 year, A Youth Camp Director for 1 year all in the Carroll County 4H program. He attended college while volunteering to be a camp counselor during the summer. In his last years of college he got a full time job with the Patuxent River 4H Center as Certified Instructor, (canoeing, archery, high/low ropes, lifeguard, and naturalist) Now that he has graduated he is a full time, year round employee of the Patuxent River 4H Center. (He still takes a week off to volunteer at the Carroll County 4H Camp). Chris has become an American Red Cross Instructor Trainer to help our ACA Section with Canoe Certification training sessions, he is now an associate visitor and actively involved on our Section Board.

Charles Butler - ACA National Service Award

Charles Butler is a gentle, encouraging person that will do anything to help a child. He has worked with hundreds children (many who did not make it back to camp the next year, but he made their last year of life a happy one with a great camp experience). It takes a special individual to year after year provide such an enormous service (mostly volunteer service) to those children who have little to look forward to. Charles steps beyond just the camping aspect to encourage others to volunteer; he gets involved in many organizations that can work toward a better world for all children. It matters not that he is in the spotlight; he just wants to go the extra mile – local, state, national and international. This man has devoted his life to SERVICE.

The time and involvement in camping and recreational therapy with children for over 31 years should speak for itself. Charles has always stepped forward to volunteer his services, work with a variety of organizations and on various committees. He is a man of many talents. He has remained active with the ACA for over 31 years, currently serves as the Conflict Resolution Chair, he speaks up for the things he believes in – especially ACA standards.

Charles also was elected to the American Camp Association National Board of Directors... Congratulations!

Upcoming Events with ACA Chesapeake!

Please note: The calendar below is tentative. Dates, times and places may change.

Watch your "Woodsmoke" for additional classes, updates and/or changes.

Post this as a reminder of important dates

March 3	Woodsmoke in mail/emailed
March 17-19	ACA Tri-State Conference - New York
April 12	Spring Fling Professional Development Day – Columbia, MD
April 22	Woodsmoke Deadline
April 22-24	Shooting Sports Certification Training - Upper Marlboro, MD
May 1	Woodsmoke in mail/emailed
May 3-4	Associate Visitors Course - Mar Lu Ridge
TBA	Lifeguard & CPR for the Professional Rescuer Training
May 13-15	Canoe Instructor Training
June 5	Archery Training - Beth Tfiloh Camp
June 5	Open Water Lifeguard Module - Beth Tfiloh Camp
June 6-10	Camp Letts Training (Canoe, Sailing, Horseback)
June 7	Notice of available Awards Announcement - newsletter/minutes
August 22	Woodsmoke Deadline
September 1	Woodsmoke in mail/emailed
September 15	Award Forms due
October 7	Chesapeake Section Board Meeting
October 22	Woodsmoke Deadline
November 1	Woodsmoke in mail/emailed
November 6-7	Annual Professional Development Conference Morning of the 7 th - Standards Course

<p>April 12 9am-noon : Standards Lunch : Membership meeting & Round Table 1pm-5pm Crisis Management</p>

Visit our website www.ACAcamps.org/ck

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 Archery Instructor	Beth Tfiloh, Baltimore	June 5 th	\$75	\$100	
#2 Red Cross Canoe Instructor	Camp St. Charles	May 13, 14, 15	\$150	\$200	
#3 Standards Training	Columbia Association	April 12 th	\$00	\$00	
#4 Professional Development	Columbia Association	April 12 th	\$50 camp \$25 staff	\$75 for 3 staff, \$10 per extra camp staff	
	Additional training Opportunities				
Archery Instructor	Patuxent River 4-H Upper Marlboro, MD	4/22-4/24	\$170 Prior to April 8 th	\$200 After April 8 th	Contact : Conrad Arnold 410-228-8800
Rifle/Air & Shot Gun	Patuxent River 4-H Upper Marlboro, MD	4/22-4/24	\$170 Prior to April 8 th	\$200 After April 8 th	Contact: Conrad Arnold 410-228-8800
Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguarding	Aqua Culture 22 Newport Drive Forest Hill, MD 21050	Call: Aquaculture	Training Center	1- 410-420-7665	
Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer	Aqua Culture 22 Newport Drive Forest Hill, MD 21050	Call: Aquaculture	Training Center	1- 410-420-7665	
Red Cross Lifeguard Training	Aqua Culture 22 Newport Drive Forest Hill, MD 21050	Call: Aquaculture	Training Center	1- 410-420-7665	

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 # _____ / \$ _____
 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**

A MESSAGE FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Well, it's that time of year. It's that time when those camps that are being visited this summer begin pulling everything together in preparation for the accreditation visit. What about those accredited camps that are not being visited this summer? Well, it's also time for those camps NOT being visited to begin pulling everything together in preparation for a camp operation in compliance with the Standards – yes, even though your camp will not be visited.

I'll admit I'm always somewhat baffled when operators of accredited camps say that they will need to allocate an exorbitant amount of time preparing for a visit. My question then would be, "What do you do to prepare for compliance during a non-visit summer?" The answer should be, "The same."

Here's my point – well, actually two points.

First, compliance of the American Camp Association Standards for Accreditation is an ongoing process regardless of whether a camp is being visited. Everything that is done during a Visit summer should also be done during the other two years. That's the intent of Accreditation and it is that which is acknowledging by signing the Letter of Compliance. It's all part of the Code of Ethics of the American Camp Association. Continued compliance of the Standards of Accreditation is also an expectation of parents as it is a promise of continued safe operation and practices.

I have actually had a Food Service Director tell me that temperature record keeping was not needed since the camp was not being visited that particular summer. Perhaps it comes down to how accreditation is viewed – as a marketing tool or as an integral part of risk management. Personally, I see accreditation as the most important guide/part of my risk management plan; thus the need to fulfill the requirements on an ongoing basis.

My second point helps to keep it simple, and I love keeping things simple. Fulfillment of the Standards with updates every year means little work is really required for the actual visit. Updated certification, emergency procedures, letters to emergency services, a doctor's review of our health policies, updates with policies, driver's test records are all completed on a yearly basis. Then, when it comes time for the actual visit, I simply (remember, I like to keep things simple) go through our binders and make appropriate updates.

The Standards Committee wishes you the best this summer with your accreditation process – whether you are being visited or not. Please remember that we are here to help you in any way we can.

For those camps that are being visited, please remember that attendance to a Standards Course is part of the visitation requirements. The date for the next Standards Course is Tuesday April 12, from 9:00 AM until noon. See the Section's Calendar of Events for details.

In the meantime, if there is anything we can help you with, please just let us know.

Camp JCC Presents at the ACA National Conference!

Written by: Sara Portman-Milner

For any of us, being asked to present at a National Conference is indeed an honor. To be selected because we have a unique message to deliver can be flattering. Also, to be able to speak articulately in front of a group and "knock their socks off" with the delivery is awesome. Being able to do all this when you are just barely 18 is truly remarkable!

At the National ACA Conference held last month, Aaron Kaufman, a student at Walter Johnson High School and a member of the National Honors Society did just that. He was invited to participate in a panel session on including children with disabilities in camp. Aaron is uniquely qualified to do so, because he is a former camper, having attended Camp JCC at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, from the time he was 3 until age 15. He also happens to have cerebral palsy.

The day before his scheduled presentation, he and his mom were to leave from BWI on a 5 pm flight on Thursday. However, a snow storm was predicted for the Washington, DC area, and there was concern about getting to the airport. In order to insure that there would be no chance of missing such an important experience, Aaron and his mom took a 6 a.m. flight on Thursday, in order to get underway before the snow came. It was well worth the effort!

Not only did Aaron keep the participants spellbound throughout his presentation with his articulate and passionate explanation of the lifelong impact that his inclusive camp experience had on him, but he also provided a handout with a list of reasons why every camp should include campers with disabilities. He was interviewed for the "Knowledge Nuggets" CD, which will be sent to all participants in the Conference, with highlights from sessions. Here are his ten "Things I want other camp directors to know about Inclusion:"

Camp JCC Presents at the ACA National Conference! (Cont.)

1. Inclusion benefits campers with typical needs as well as campers with special needs and gives the typical kids greater perspective as well as a realization of how lucky they are to be "typical".
2. Many campers with special needs need to be in a self contained, special ed. classroom to be successful in school. Summer may be their only opportunity to be included with typical peers.
3. Doing even simple activities together helps break down barriers and do away with uneasiness that typical kids might feel if they have not interacted with kids with disabilities before.
4. Camp provides different and unique opportunities that families cannot provide.
5. In group activities there is a greater sense of belonging.
6. The memories from an inclusive camp experience last a lifetime.
7. A child with special needs who is included feels valued and loved.
8. Children with special needs have few, if any options for summer programs.
9. By including them with typical children, camps benefit from an enhanced community image and reputation, making the camp a more attractive candidate for grants, donations and community and government support.
10. Having a quality inclusion program will help spread the word about your camp.

If you have been hesitant about including campers with disabilities in your camp program, please consider Aaron's words and accept the challenge this summer. If you need assistance, Aaron and the staff at Camp JCC will be happy to be of assistance. Feel free to contact Sara Portman Milner or Eva Cowen at Camp JCC, 301-348-3883, or e-mail smilner@jccgw.org or ecowen@jccgw.org.

Use the New ACA-Accredited Camp Logo!

Now that the American Camp Association has officially implemented our new brand, logos, and name, we need to do all we can to promote consistency with the new image and brand. Our collective work to get parents and the public to recognize the value of the camp experience and the credibility of our work will be much stronger if we are all using the same image and name!

Recent ACA research on Web site usage revealed:

- 77% of ACA-accredited camps have a Web site
- Of that 77%...
 - 54% mention ACA on their site
 - 56% do not display the accredited-camp logo
 - 21% display the NEW accredited-camp logo
 - 22% display the OLD accredited-camp logo
 - 24% have a hyperlink to ACA's Web site
- Of the 933 camp Web sites that do mention ACA...
 - 42% use "American Camp Association"
 - 58% use "American Camping Association"

We need everyone's help to improve these numbers!!

Consistency is Key

We need ALL ACA-Accredited camps to join in a united marketing effort to enhance the value of accreditation consistently not only in your camp's marketing materials but on your Web site as well. ACA's Web site supplies you with marketing tools that are designed to help you convey the value of accreditation to a public ready to hear about how fun and safety can co-exist at camp; how ACA Camps Set the Standard; and how new marketing language, presented consistently over time, can give your camp the edge. Go to <http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/marketing.php> to download the new logo to use in your marketing materials and Web site. You can also keep parents informed of the benefits of the camp experience by linking to www.CampParents.org, the new ACA parent site, or use content from the site to address parent concerns and answer questions.

Help us portray the new image of ACA and the value of ACA Accreditation!

ACA Chesapeake
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