



e-Woodsmoke

Summer 2005

Section Executive

Bonnie Dunn

President

Marc Kolp
Columbia Association

Past President

Charles Thomas
Columbia Association

1st Vice President

David Black
Camp Sunshine

2nd Vice President

Sara Portman Milner
Camp JCC

Secretary

Mary Ellen Waltemire
Wmrec

Treasurer

Denise Frebershauser
Carroll County 4H Camps

Members at Large

Adrienne Blumberg
Beth Tfiloh Camps
Diane Kendall
Camp JCC
Bobby Miller
Camps Airy/Louise
Joyce Perkin
DC Dept. of Recreation
Jennifer Reynolds
Carroll County 4H Camps
Mike Schneider
Camps Airy/Louise

Newsletter Editor

Jonathon Rondeau
Camp Greentop

Awards

Adrienne Blumberg
Beth Tfiloh Camps
Dan Markowitz

Conflict Resolution

Charles Butler
Camp Sunshine

Legislative

Steve Eller
Beth Tfiloh Camps

Membership:

Devin Mills
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 Frebertshouser

Not for Profit Council

Denise Frebertshouser
Bonnie Dunn

President's Update

Marc Kolp

Section Executive Position

Your current email address should have received a recent email from me indicating that the Section was actively searching for a new Section Executive.

As many of you know, more than a year ago Bonnie Dunn very graciously agreed to temporarily assume the duties of the Section Executive when that position was vacated unexpectedly. Bonnie made it clear to the board, at that time, that although she was willing to fill the gap it was a temporary situation. The board is now moving forward with the search for a permanent Section Executive.

An executive committee of the ACA Chesapeake Board will be evaluating resumes and conducting interviews as part of the selection process and you will hear from me again soon when a new Section Executive has been secured.

Please join me and the entire ACA Chesapeake Board in thanking Bonnie for serving temporarily as Section Executive during a time when the section needed her leadership, knowledge, professionalism and passion. Bonnie will be an integral part of the selection and transition process as the new Section Executive assumes their duties in the coming months and she will remain an active and important fixture in the ACA Chesapeake family.

Board Business Update

The ACA Chesapeake board has met several times over the past few months and before campers begin filling buses and bunks it is a priority for the board to communicate with you about the progress we've made. Below you will find the highlights of the work the board has been focused on. If you would like to see copies of the minutes from any of the board meetings or you have questions about these decisions please contact me, or Bonnie at the Section Office.

Standards Policy Changes

- Every camp being visited in any given year needs to have a representative from that camp attend a Standards or Associate Visitor course in the same calendar year they will be visited. For Associate Member Camps, a single representative from the association can attend this training for the group of associated camps (i.e. Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.)
- Each "Associate Member Camp" must have their trained representative in attendance at camp site visits and/or a site director who has participated in Standards Training.

In addition to discussing standards related issues, the board has also discussed and will continue to refine the section's Financial, and Communications policies, processes and procedures. Look for additional updates and information about these changes and enhancements in the upcoming issues of Woodsmoke.

Included in this issue: Awards Update, Congressional Tool Kit Information, Leave No Trace, A Message from the Standard Committee and Section Calendar!

RECOGNITION AWARDS

The start of camp is fast approaching. I am sure that most of you are busy working around the clock and keeping busy with all the last minute details. Now is the time to think about the awards that are presented at our annual meeting in the fall. Recognition of a job well done is such a nice way to say thank you to those who make extraordinary contributions to the camps they work for or for camping in our Section.

This past year we recognized a lot of camps and staff for the continuing efforts of excellence. Please acknowledge these individuals and your camps during your camp orientation. To everyone who received an award last year we would like to extend our congratulations.

During the summer you will receive a packet which will include forms for awards for the Section as well as what is available on the National level.

Listed below are the awards that our Section will present at our annual meeting:

THE SERVICE AWARD

This award is given to honor individuals, groups or organizations for their efforts to promote camping.

THE KATHERINE P. JOHNSON AWARD

This award is given to an individual for meritorious service. The person must be an ACA member for a continuous period of 10 years and rendered outstanding service to our Section or National.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONPROGRAM AWARD

This is an award for excellence in environmental education.

OUTREACH AWARD

This award is for excellence in recognition of a program, which demonstrates an innovative approach to meeting the diverse needs of today's campers and their parents.

WILLIAM "BILL" MacLEOD AWARD

This award is given to an individual who is dedicated to improving the quality of camps. This person must be an administrative staff member for at least 3 years.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

This award is given for the photos that show camp in your most creative way.

HAVE A SAFE, FUN SUMMER!!!!!!

Adrienne Blumberg & Dan Markowitz

Awards Co-Chairs

Congressional Tool Kit!

Back in 2002, ACA created a toolkit to assist camps in inviting their Congressional representatives to visit camps for "Camp Community Day" that summer on July 16th. While there is no longer an official camp community day - it is still a wonderful idea for camps to develop relationships with their representatives. Thus, some have inquired about copies of those materials.

Attached is the toolkit. We have edited it in a very minor way to exclude references to the 2002 Camp Community Day. The rest of the information should be very relevant. We will place this on the Web for access to all camps - but we wanted to make sure you were aware of it.

And, speaking of the Web - we've updated the Public Policy page to hopefully make it more navigable. We've put all the approved position statements at the top. (They also appear again in their relevant category area.) We've also just added the link to the International Staff Best Practices (it was a little hard to find before - it was only on the education page.)

Visit it at:

<http://www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/>

Leave No Trace!

Several months ago we notified you of a partnership opportunity with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and asked for your feedback regarding this program, and the phase out of the Outdoor Living Skills Program. The overall consensus was extremely positive and as such the last few months have allowed us to dialog with The Center and hammer out the final detail before an official partnership is signed between The Center and ACA. Many of you who were at the national conference in Orlando hopefully had a chance to visit with the Leave No Trace trainers in the Exhibit Hall or at least catch a glimpse of their vehicle that was displayed outside.

While there are one or two more points that need refinement we wanted to share with you an overview of Leave No Trace, what they do and how this is most beneficial to both organizations. We anticipate finalizing this by the end of March. We're excited about this partnership and look forward to a long relationship with them that will not only enhance camp programs but also positively impact the environment. Any questions please contact Cathy Scheder at ACA National at 765-342-8456.

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.

Upcoming Events with ACA Chesapeake!

Please note: Dates, times and places may change. Watch your "Woodsmoke" for additional classes, updates and/or changes.

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

Additional Trainings!

Canoe Training June 7-8
at Sandy Hill (contact Section Office)
Kayak Training May 28-29 at Patuxent
River 4H Center (contact Section Office)

Visit our website!

www.ACAcamps.org/ck