



“The Current”

**The American Camp Association
Great Rivers Section Newsletter
April 2007**

FROM THE PRESIDENT, LEE WALZ

It has been a great time for ACA these last few months. In January the ACA Great Rivers Section Board held a retreat, at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Nebraska. Susan Yoder from National ACA worked with the board to develop goals and direction for our section. It's been a long time since I have been this excited about possibilities for camping in our section!

All of your camps are doing great programs! Your ACA section wants to help you run safe, quality, and fun camp programs. One of our new goals is to have cluster meetings for camp professionals to enhance your knowledge, increase networking and help you with your operations. The first of these meetings was held on March 6. We had three events, one in Iowa, one in Nebraska and one in Missouri. We had 16 people attend the Iowa event, 17 people attend in Nebraska and 23 at the Missouri event. The participants reported that it was a great time to get to know one another, and learn about the concerns of camp directors in their area. Information from the ACA national conference was also shared with participants. We plan to have another cluster event the first Tuesday of March in 2008.

Another goal of our section is related to legislation. We will be working to keep everyone informed on what is happening in our legislatures that affects camps. We need everyone's help with this goal. If you hear of a bill affecting camp, please contact Jim Cherry, so he may pass on the information. We know there have been bills relating to minimum wage and seat belt laws in our states. Be sure to check your latest laws.

It is our goal to continue to improve our communication with you, offering opportunities for education and sharing information among our peers. Stay tuned to your email and communications from Jim Cherry for all the information about what is happening in our section!

Yours in Camping,
H. Lee Walz

Section Staff Training Events

Does your camp offer a training that other camp staff could attend? Are you looking for an Archery course or other trainings? Jim Cherry, ACA Great Rivers Section Executive, has been collecting information about camp staff trainings that are open to other camps. He has placed the information on the ACA web site. Go to www.acagreatrivers.org/training.php to see what has been collected. The following are some of the trainings listed. If you have other trainings to share, please email them to Jim Cherry, executive@acagreatrivers.org.

AAHS Instructor Clinic

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries will be hosting an American Association for Horsemanship Safety Instructor clinic May 15-19, 2007. The clinic is a 40 hour intensive training program for riding lesson instructors, trail guides, wranglers and other equine staff at camps or stables. Registration is on line at www.nlom.org. Click on upcoming events and then click on the AAHS instructor clinic link. Cost of clinic is \$385 for commuters and \$480 including overnight lodging May 15-18. \$105 deposit is due at time of registration and balance is due at the start of the clinic. Registration deadline was April 1, and class size is limited to 12 participants. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call or e-mail Gretchen at 888-656-6254 ext 605 or gahrens@nlom.org.

Challenge Course Facilitator

Challenge Options will present a 50 Hour - Full Certification Challenge Course Facilitator Training (High and Low Elements) And a 20 Hour - Low Element Certification Training at YMCA Camp Kitaki near Lincoln, Nebraska. The trainings are May 16-20. There is more information on the flier link on the Great Rivers ACA site.

In addition, Challenge Options is presenting two other facilitator courses. May 24-25 at Camp Tawakoni, near Augusta Kansas. And, June 4-8 at Girl Scout Camp Woodland near Albany, MO. You can call Challenge Options for more information about any of these courses, 785-863-3058 or email: info@challengeoptions.com.

Archery - Level 1 instructor course

Girl Scouts Great Plains Council is offering an Archery – Level 1 Instructor course on Saturday, May 26 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$35 for members of Girl Scouting, \$45 non-members. Must be 17 years old. Class is held at Camp Maha, near Omaha. To register, call (402) 558-8189 ext 221.

If you have other training sessions to share, please email Jim Cherry!

ACA Great Rivers Section Annual Fall Conference

Save the date! The ACA Great Rivers Annual Fall Conference will be held November 6-8, 2007 at a conference facility in Iowa. Traci Haselhuhn and the Education committee are working on the location and the program for the conference. More information will be available in the fall. Be sure to set these days aside and plan to attend. There will be a Standards course on November 5 at the same location. If you have questions, or suggestions, you can email Traci, tracidh@iastate.edu.

Girl Scout Camp Tanglefoot Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Camp Tanglefoot, near Clear Lake, Iowa will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in early August. The celebration will begin on Friday evening, August 3 with a final campfire. Saturday afternoon the celebration will continue with fun camp activities. Former campers, staff and friends are invited to attend. For more information, contact Cindy Findley, cindy@niowagirlscouts.org. Congratulations!

Campers With Diabetes? By Vivian Murray, Camp Hertko Hollow

Do any of your campers have diabetes? Being a camp staff member can be challenging, even scary, if you lack the knowledge to deal with diabetes on a daily basis at camp. Every day the camper with diabetes must do a minimum of four finger prick blood tests, count carbohydrates of all foods eaten, take insulin by injection or insulin pump, test for ketones with high blood sugars, and make adjustments as exercise varies. High or low blood sugars can cause emergency situations. But if your staff members are properly trained, the child with diabetes can participate in any camp activity and feel normal and happy like the rest of your campers.

The Diabetes Education and Camping Association (DECA) has created a Diabetes 101 Book for you! The Wellmark Foundation of Des Moines, Iowa provided the funds to print 500 copies. Many of these books were distributed at the DECA Conference in October and at the Great Rivers ACA Regional conference in November. Other camps may request a copy as long as supplies last. Many school nurses attended our one-day seminar and were impressed with the content of the Diabetes 101 book.

Send an e-mail to Vivian Murray at CampHertkoHollow@aol.com to request a copy of the Diabetes 101 book.

News from the ACA National Office

Current Research News -- New From the Bookstore

Creating Positive Youth Outcomes is a research-based tool to help you evaluate and improve your program and increase positive outcomes for youth campers. This package includes a **workbook**, **facilitator's guide**, and **Resource CD** that will help your staff target specific youth outcomes that match your goals.

Take advantage of this resource to enhance your staff training and to promote intentional actions that show results! Order today at www.ACABookstore.org or 888-229-5745.

Spring Enrollment Survey Is Open and Ready for Business!

Every camp director is encouraged to complete the Spring Enrollment Survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=241613441773>). This brief survey takes about seven to ten minutes to add your information on how your staff recruitment and camper enrollment efforts are doing this spring. You can

see the complete results at any time by going to www.ACAcamps.org/research and clicking on the appropriate enrollment survey. We need your information, so please complete the online survey before April 20, 2007!

Standards News -- Updated Interpretations are posted!

See the latest version of standards (www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf) that will be used this summer. If you have any questions, please contact accreditation@ACAacamps.org. Don't forget that many resources are available to help you with Standards. You can find sample forms, staff-training info, and other new materials at www.ACAcamps.org/accreditation/hyes.php as well as from the bookstore at www.ACAbookstore.org.

Accreditation certificates have been mailed to all accredited camps! The Statement of Compliance is also available for each director to complete at www.ACAcamps.org/soc. Remember that each camp must file a Statement of Compliance every year. If you have any questions about the certificates or the compliance statement, contact us at accreditation@ACAacamps.org.

Public Lands Update

The Forest Service is in the process of releasing new draft policy guidelines affecting businesses and organizations that lead trips in the National Forests across the United States. These will affect everyone who operates under an Outfitter-Guide permit. The draft policies are currently under internal review and then will be released for public comment through the Federal Register. Although the timing on this is still somewhat hazy, the policies are expected to be released for public comment within the next one-three months. When they are released, ACA will send the information to the Public Lands Issues Group. It is also a good idea for camps which will be affected to check the Forest Service website occasionally.

Camping Magazine— SAVE on the Premier Summer Staff Training

It's not too late to order the May/June issue of *Camping Magazine* for staff training . . . after it goes to press there will be limited quantities available. Place your order by April 6 and get as many copies as you want. Price does not include shipping and handling. Reserve your copies today! Limited quantities available after April 6. Order Today!

Criminal Background Checks—ACA Can Help

ACA-Accredited® camps can receive fingerprint-based FBI criminal background check determinations on volunteers for only \$18 through the PROTECTScreen program. Quick and efficient—receive determinations within one week from time of application. Learn all about this dynamic program and enroll today (www.ACAcamps.org/publicpolicy).

Public Awareness Videos for ACA Members Only

Videos are available for download (www.ACAcamps.org/members/video) to ACA members only. Show at your camp fairs, parent/family meetings, group presentations, etc. The videos can also be accessed as a link to your Web site for parents to view in Flash.

Sign up for CAMP e-News!

All ACA members received the March issue of *CAMP e-News*. If you wish to continue to receive this parent newsletter, please sign up. (<http://www.campparents.org/newsletter/0701>) *CAMP e-News* is a helpful and informative education tool that you can offer your camper families and prospects.

Need Kayaks . . . Basketballs for the Summer??

ACA Purchase Power has negotiated special **LOW** ACA pricing with Emotion Kayaks manufacturers of top quality kayaks and with 360 Athletics for great basketballs. Go to www.ACAcamps.org/vendors to see the excellent pricing exclusively for ACA camps! Remember with ACA Purchase Power the products offered are for a limited time only . . . so buy now!

Get Free Stuff!!!

Sign up now for ACA Connect and receive FREE products from companies that have contracted with ACA to distribute to our camps. ACA has reviewed the products and will only approve products that can be used in camps or by campers. Go to <http://www.acacamps.org/connect/> for more information and to sign up!

Does Your Camp Get the Same Pricing as a FORTUNE 500 Company??

Not likely . . . but now you can through the new ACA/Consortia Group Purchasing Program! Our program has special contracts with FEDEX, SYSCO, GORDON FOODS, OFFICE MAX, HOME DEPOT SUPPLY, ECOLAB and over 800 other companies. Never before have camps had this buying clout. To sign up or for information about other special offers, call the ACA Business Development Team at 800-428-2267, ext. 309 or 319. It's easy to sign up . . . It's Free . . . and it will save you BIG \$\$\$\$.

ACA Hotline Number

The American Camp Association has a hotline number that can be called if camp directors need to talk with someone in case of an emergency. Camps may face a situation that they need help in determining the proper course of action. ACA staff are assigned to answer the hotline calls, and then route the calls to the appropriate staff that can assist staff. This number is available 24 hours a day, year round.

The Hotline number: 800-573-9019.

ACA Hot Topics

The ACA web site has the latest information about information relating to camp and camp operations. The Hot Topics area is devoted to those items that may be of the most interest to camp directors. Topics currently on the site include camp security, staff training, bully prevention, and other camp staff topics. Visit the site at www.acacamps.org/hottopics.

ACA Message Boards

The ACA web site has message boards for a variety of topics. For Camp Directors, the topics include the core areas of camp management. These include Business and Finance, Food Service Health and Wellness, Human Resources and more. Go to www.acacamps.org and click on the Message Boards link. It looks like right now the most popular message board is camp counselors talking to each other on a variety of topics.

Great Rivers Newsletter By E-mail

Communication with Camping Professionals in the Great Rivers Section has changed over the past years. With more people communicating by email, our section executive, Jim Cherry has been passing on information to our section members by email. This helps us all stay informed in a timely manner.

The ACA Great Rivers Section newsletter will be compiled periodically. It will be distributed by email. This newsletter will also be sent by mail to those that request a copy and those not currently ACA members. If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter by mail, instead of email, please contact DD Gass, Camp Fire USA, 816-285-2004 or email: dd.gass@campfireusa.org.

ACA Great Rivers Section Board Roster 2006-07

If you have questions about the ACA Great Rivers Section, contact Jim Cherry or one of the board members listed below.

Section Executive:

Rev. Jim Cherry, 2335 300th St., Ventura, IA 50482
Voice Mail: 888-748-3783, Home: 641-927-4428
Email: executive@acagreatrivers.org or jjcherry@peconet.net

President:

Lee Walz, United Methodist Camps, 4800 Santana Circle, Columbia, MO 65203
Phone: 573-814-1999
Email: president@acagreatrivers.org or LWalz@moumethodist.org

President-Elect:

Robyn Ratcliff, Girl Scouts of Mid-Continent Council, 8383 Blue Parkway Dr., Kansas City, MO 64133
Phone: 816-358-8755, ext. 3068
Email: presidentelect@acagreatrivers.org or rratcliff@girlscoutsmcc.org

Vice President Development:

Chris Klingenberg, YMCA Camp Kitaki, 6000 Cornhusker Way, Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: 402-434-9225 Email: CKlingenberg@ymcalincoln.org

Vice President Program, Nominating and Awards:

Lisa Nichols, Kansas City MO, Parks and Rec. 4600 E. 63rd St, Kansas City, MO 64130
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Treasurer:

Roger Sasse, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, 27416 Ranch Road, Ashland, NE 68003
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Secretary:

Anne Snyder, YMCA Camp Wood, RR 1, Box 78, Elmdale, KS 66850
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Standards Chair:

Linda DuBrul, Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Council, 210 S. Ingram Mill Rd., Springfield, MO 65802
Phone: 417-862-0004 Email: ldubrul@dogwoodtrails.org

Education Chair:

Traci Haselhuhn, Iowa 4-H Center, 1991 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA 50156
Phone: 515-795-3338 Email: tracidh@iastate.edu

Legislation Chair:

Tara Markely, Camp Fire USA Heartland Council, 7930 State Line Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208
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Public Relations Chair:

DD Gass, Camp Fire USA, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1900, Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone: 816-285-2004 Email: dd.gass@campfireusa.org

Membership Chair:

Tom Nepl, Nepl Landscape Architecture, PO Box 906, Ames, IA 50010
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Complaints Resolution Chair:

Dave Sherry, Des Moines YMCA Camp, 1192 166th Dr., Boone, IA 50036
Phone: 515-432-7558 Email: david.sherry@dmymca.org

Board Member-At-Large:

Dennis Hisek, United Methodist Camps, 34030 W. 204th St., Lawson, MO 64062
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Nominating Committee:

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Becky Godfrey, Girl Scouts of Shining Trail Council, P.O. Box 190, West Burlington, IA 52655
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