

## Calendar of Events

- **Safety First! April 26th Professional Development Meeting at Camp Kiddie Keep Well**
- **Pre-Camp Staff Training Calendar inside this issue**
- **ACA NJ Board Meeting May 10th Raritan Valley Community College in Somerville**
- **Fall Tour of Camps in Minnesota, sponsored by Association of Independent Camps Sept. 17—20th**

## Professional Development Programs

- **Chris Thurber Nov '06**
- **Jay Frankel January '07**
- **Eva Cowen/Safety First Program April '07**
- **2007 Tri-State Camp Conference March 28-31st**

## ACA-NY Fall Conferences

- **Resident Camp Conference—Monday, September—Tuesday September 12th 2006**
- **Ben Applebaum Day Conference —Saturday, September 30, 2006**



## Tri-State 2006 – “The Happy Recap”

*Andy Pritikin*

“Andy, I have to admit that I was one of the skeptics who thought that moving to Atlantic City was a bad idea. Guess what. I was wrong.”

I heard this many, many times in Atlantic City from our New York colleagues who hadn't been to AC since the pre-Trump days of the 1970s. From the stellar program to the comfortable setting to the amazing Exhibit Hall, **Tri-State 2006 in Atlantic City** was a resounding success. All of us involved know that it was not an easy task, but the results are in: there were more camps, more exhibitors, more room, more fun, less hassles than ever before—and an overall acknowledgement from attendees that Atlantic City was the right move at the right time!

Much of the success can be attributed to the astounding level of volunteerism demonstrated by section members, especially from New Jersey! Combined with the work of the stellar professional staff from the ACA-NY office, we were able to take advantage of the kind of leadership, dedication and commitment that truly makes a difference! Major Jersey ‘shout-outs’ to the following integral players:

- The Exhibitors, led by **Ruth Barnett** (Bunkline- Cherry Hill). The Tri-State Exhibitors ([www.campshoppingnetwork.com](http://www.campshoppingnetwork.com)) took a major leap of faith in following us down to Atlantic City. Many vendors, like their camp director counterparts, had their doubts, but supported us nonetheless, and were pretty darn happy that they did. They were thrilled with the hall, the business they received, and the feeling they walked away with that the future of Tri-State is very strong indeed.
  - **Jonathan Gold** (Oak Crest) and **Charles Maltzman** (Rolling Hills), the Program Chairs who helped create one of the greatest Tri-State educational programs ever. Their hard work, original ideas and shared vision will continue to improve the program into 2007.
  - **Andrew Yankowitz** and the Tall Pines Staff - Andy told me a couple of years ago, “If you guys ever move Tri-State to Atlantic City, you can count on me and my staff,” and he wasn't kidding!
  - **Harold Breene, George Novick** and **Mary Ellen Folsom**, all of whom attended every Steering Committee meeting in New York City and provided unlimited energy, ideas and wisdom to the cause. As an ACA-NJ member, you should feel very proud about having these folks at the Tri-State table.
  - The wonderful people on the ACA NJ board, and **Roberta Solomon** from Millroad Day Camp, were the folks who made the calls and volunteered for hospitality duty. The fact that a record number of NJ Camps attended Tri-State was a result not of just Atlantic City, but of the tireless efforts of dedicated ACA members who handled the phones and got people motivated. Thanks, as well, to the dozens of great people who wore the florescent green vests and helped direct traffic at the Convention Center. The hospitality was truly hospitable!
- Our ‘little’ camp conference has become an awesome event, viewed by the majority of us as the most important three days of the off-season, professionally speaking. Next year's conference is slated to run from Wednesday through Saturday, with

## ACA NJ Section Board of Directors

<b>Bob Jones</b>	President	908-735-8336
<b>Colleen Rountree</b>	Vice President	908-537-4594
<b>Ruth Hall</b>	Treasurer	908-725-1226
<b>Nancy Walters</b>	Secretary	856-697-3900
<b>Geri Bownik</b>	Historian	732-744-2768
<b>Peggy Mellors</b>	Standards Chair	908-232-3236
<b>Carol Bruno</b>	Member at Large	732-846-3817
<b>Scott Lantzman</b>	Member at Large	973-597-3699
<b>Dave Parfitt</b>	Member at Large	908-537-6969
<b>Wendy Saiff</b>	Member at Large	732-846-3811
<b>Gina Stravic</b>	Member at Large	732-257-4114
<b>Don Smith</b>	Member at Large	908-236-2638
<b>Sue Goldberg</b>	Complaints Resolution Co-Chair	973-584-0078
<b>Joan Basilotto</b>	Complaints Resolution Co-Chair	732-616-5080

## Tri-State Recap continued....

Wednesday focused on special sessions for veteran directors, EPIC and three hours of unopposed exhibit hall time. Thursday and Friday will remain the same, and Saturday will be focused on educational sessions geared towards teachers and program staff. (There will be no exhibits that day.) Next year will be the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tri-State**, and I am sure that 25 years from now, we will still be thinking of ways we can make Tri-State even better.

## Not-For-Profit Council

The Not-For-Profit Council (NFPC) is looking for new members. NFPC, established in 1995, provides members with tremendous benefits, such as grant resources, legislative updates, networking opportunities, and financial support for educational offerings. Members also benefit from the results of visionary research designed to positively impact not-for-profit camps. Currently, NFPC is working to establish an effective positioning piece that NFPs can use while seeking foundations support

The annual NFPC membership fee is just \$25.00. Check out the ACA website for more information. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Bonnie Dunn at [bonniedunn@erols.com](mailto:bonniedunn@erols.com). You'll be glad you did!

## President's Message

I am very proud of our section members for their attendance at the Tri-State conference, and for the volunteer activities in which many so willingly participated. From all preliminary reports, the conference in Atlantic City was a huge success. Approximately one hundred members attended the section breakfast.

At the April board meeting a proposal was made for the section to consider utilizing the services of a professional lobbyist to make our presence better known in Trenton and to serve as a watchdog for pending legislation that would affect camps across the state. A committee comprised of board members and section members was established to investigate the proposal further, and they are expected to report back to the board at its May meeting, which will be held at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg, NJ.

Because the May meeting will indeed take place at RVCC, it is a good time to mention that it is one of our section's immediate goals to begin to establish relationships with many colleges throughout the state in order to promote the NJACA—and to attract more young professionals to our ranks. Your comments and suggestions regarding this initiative are most welcomed.

Future section business will concern section awards and nominations for 2006-2007 board positions. There will be upcoming communications and e-mails to keep you informed.

I wish everyone a successful and safe camp season.

*Bob Jones, President*



**Bob Jones introduces Ruth Hall, NJ Section 2006 Tri-State Award recipient**

## National ACA Campaign Reaches \$3.5 Million

*If you attended our ACA-NJ holiday gathering this year, you know that the funds raised through our auction were contributed to CAMPAign '07. What you may not know is that since the kick-off of CAMPAign '07 in 2003 the NJ Section has pledged \$25,000 to this \$5 million fundraising initiative. Many members may be wondering just how our money is being utilized and what the campaign has accomplished. Tim Millburn, ACA Director for Advancement, is pleased to answer those questions below:*

With the recent major gift from the Markel Insurance Company, CAMPAign '07, the American Camp Association's fundraising effort to promote and improve the camp experience, has exceeded the \$3.5 million mark. National President Ann Sheets said, "Through the generosity of our members from across the country, CAMPAign '07 has raised more money than it ever dreamed possible. And the funds are being used for the advancement of the camp experience."

Projects that have been funded by CAMPAign '07 include cutting-edge research that has validated our contention that the camp experience is of almost incalculable importance to the social development of young people. Our research also has included efforts to improve program quality and to reduce injuries and illnesses at camp. "Every camp has benefited and will continue to benefit from these research projects," says Peg Smith, National ACA Chief Executive Officer.

CAMPAign '07 also funded the most significant public relations campaign ever undertaken by ACA. *CAMP Magazine: a resource for parents* has distributed over a million copies across the country to promote the value of camp. This distribution has resulted in over 16,000 visits per month to the new website for parents, [www.CampParents.org](http://www.CampParents.org). National media requests have also skyrocketed, according to Harriet Gamble, Director of Communications for the National Office. "We have reached more parents through this effort than we ever could have imagined," Gamble says. "*Camp Magazine* has been a tremendous success for ACA!"

We're not finished, however. We have \$1.5 million to go and we can do it if everybody helps out just a little bit. If each member would make a pledge to the campaign, we could keep this tremendous effort alive and do even more exciting things to match the benefits and excitement of our research projects and the magazine, such as the development of a strong, effective strategic plan to assure the relevance of ACA for many years to come.

**To make your contribution to CAMPAign '07 contact Tim Millbern at [tmillbern@ACAcamps.org](mailto:tmillbern@ACAcamps.org) or call at 800-428-CAMP.**

## Association of Independent Camps

*Sandy Leiser*

**The Association of Independent Camps (AIC)** is a national organization whose goal is to assure the ability of independent camps to thrive and prosper. **AIC** believes in excellence, openness, service, integrity, emotional investment, positive differences in children, and the value of the camp experience, establishing camp as a fundamental choice for young people, the entrepreneurial spirit, and good business practices and having fun!

With this in mind your Mid-Atlantic representative, Ron Leiser, recently attended a strategic planning meeting in South Bend Indiana, along with representatives from all over the country. This group of dedicated camp professionals concluded that for **AIC** to become most effective, that every independent camp director will need to belong.

Presently there are over 200 camps as members with a seat on the ACA Board. One of **AIC's** greatest successes have been the Fall Tour of Camps. With all of you gearing up for your camp season, you should mark your calendars for one of the best reasons to join **AIC**. Past Fall tours have been to: Texas, Poconos, Maine and the Adirondacks. This Fall **AIC** will be to camps in **Minnesota**, a most beautiful part of the country, **September 17-20**. The group will be lodged at the beautiful **Grand View Lodge** ([www.grandviewlodge.com](http://www.grandviewlodge.com)) in Nisswa, Minnesota. Some amenities of this facility include, Golf, Spa and Family Resort. In addition to the tour there will be a meeting and a prominent guest speaker. Space will be limited.

We hope that you will find the time in your busy schedules to join the **AIC** Fall Tour. Besides seeing America's top camps you will get a chance to socialize with some wonderful people from all over the country, who have chosen camp as a profession.

If you have any questions about **AIC** membership or the tour in September please call Ron Leiser (Ivy League Day Camp) at 732-446-7035. Wishing you a wonderful safe, successful summer.

## New Jersey Section Announces The Harold Breene Award

The New Jersey Section board voted unanimously to name a new section award in honor of Harold Breene, founder of Camp Riverbend and a member of ACA since 1946.

Although Harold may be accustomed to receiving awards for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the camp profession, he was certainly surprised and honored to learn that beginning in December 2007, an award bearing his name will recognize ACA NJ members or camps that demonstrate dedication to positive youth development through the camp experience.

In Harold's words, "A camp needs to appeal to youngsters so they have a wealth of enjoyment, experience and self-esteem, and so that they can relate well to other campers and staff."



This summer, keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to those hard-working staff members who are dedicated to providing the positive camp experience Harold describes, and then please feel free to nominate them to receive the first annual Harold Breene Award at our annual holiday dinner in December.

Nomination forms are available through the section office and on the web site at [www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org) under the link Grants/Awards

### Just a few of Harold's Prior Accomplishments:

\*ACA National Standards Board \*ACA-NJ President \* Member:Pioneers of Camping Society and International Camping Fellowship \*AM Skier Caring for Children Award \* Howard Patton Award \* National ACA Honor Award for "Outstanding Leadership" \* Tri-State Legends of Camping Award \* 2005 NJ Boys Swimming/Diving Official of the Year (NFHS/NJSIAA )

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Executive Director, Mary Ellen Folsom, [executive@ACAcampsnj.org](mailto:executive@ACAcampsnj.org) P.O. Box 672 Pittstown, NJ 08867.  
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American Camp Association  
New Jersey Section  
P.O. Box 672  
Pittstown, NJ 08867