

Calendar of Events

- **“Thinking Outside the Brochure” A marketing program with Jodi Rudick October 17, 2007**
- **ACA-NJ Board Meeting September 25th Baptist Camp Lebanon. 10-1pm**
- **Nominations for ACA-NJ Board of Directors and Delegates September 1st-Oct. 10th**
- **New York Resident Camp Conference Sept. 18-19th Ben Applebaum Day Camp Conference Oct. 20th www.aca-ny.org**
- **ACA Basic Camp Directors Course (BCDC) Oct. 22-27 Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center (just outside DC)**
- **Keystone Regional Conference: Capital Ideas, Capitol Connections Nov. 11-12th www.akaystone.org**
- **4th Annual ACA-NJ Camp Fairs Jan. 12-27th www.acasummercampfairs.org**
- **2008 ACA National Conference - February 12-15 in Nashville, TN read more at www.ACAcamps.org/conference.**

New Jersey Legislators Go to Camp!

ACA-NJ is in the midst of an assertive drive to raise awareness of the camp industry in Trenton. This summer, influential state legislators, including Senate President Richard Codey and Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance, visited ACA accredited camps.

Utilizing her professional relationships with key policymakers in Trenton, ACA-NJ Government Affairs consultant Claudine Leone matched key legislators to camps within their districts. “As our advocacy program develops,” said Claudine, “it is important for ACA members to establish relationships with their state representatives.” In the first of the series of visits, Claudine accompanied Senator Tony Bucco on a tour of Harbor Hills Day Camp in Mt. Freedom. Hosted by Directors Herb Tannenbaum and Adam Wallach, Senator Bucco enjoyed his visit and was impressed with the camp’s overall operation. Senator Bucco learned firsthand of the impact the Carnival and Amusement regulations have on camps. The Senator expressed interest in working with ACA-NJ to find a way to improve the statute authorizing these regulations to ensure they are more appropriately applied to camps.

“This is an excellent example of what these visits are intended to do for ACA members: to provide an introduction to the ACA for legislators, raise their awareness of the key issues impacting camps, and help our camp professionals establish relationships with legislators personal to their community,” Claudine added.

“Having Assemblywoman Littell-McHose tour Fairview Lake YMCA Camps was a gratifying experience for us,” said Ellie Daingerfield, Executive Director of Fairview Lake YMCA Camps. “The Assemblywoman was extremely interested in our future plans, offered some great information, and has volunteered to facilitate a meeting between us and the DEP as a starting point in our master plan development. We are very excited about the possibilities this relationship represents.”

The ACA-NJ Legislative Committee and Board of Directors would like to extend their thanks to all those member camps and state legislators who participated in the visits this summer. Invitations were extended to legislators to visit all types of

camps represented in our membership, including not for profit, private, agency/ government/special needs, independent and religious affiliations. Listed below are



Senate President R. Codey plays basketball with camper at Camp Horizons

ACA NJ Section Board of Directors

Bob Jones	President	908-735-8336
Tom Riddleberger	President Elect	973-845-9260
Peggy Mellors	Vice President	908-232-3236
Scott Lantzman	Treasurer	973-597-3699
Gina Stravic	Secretary	732-257-4114
Carol Bruno	Member at Large	732-846-3817
Herb Tannenbaum	Member at Large	973-895-3200
Wendy Saiff	Member at Large	732-846-3811
Don Smith	Member at Large	908-236-2638
Alex Humanick	Member at Large	908-852-3896
Thomas Rapine	Member at Large	609-654-8225
Geraldine Bownik	Section Historian	732-774-2768
Michael Peterson	Standards Chair	908-362-8217
Douglas Fullman	Legislative Chair	609-655-6317
Sue Goldberg	Complaints Resolution	973-715-6253
Joan Basilotto	Complaints Resolution	732-938-7724

Legislators Go to Camp continued..

the legislators and camps that were available to participate in a camp tour in their legislative district.

- **Senator Tony Bucco** (R) - Harbor Hills Day Camp, Mt. Freedom
- **Senator Tom Kean, Jr.** (R) - Breene's Camp Riverbend, Warren
- **Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck** (R) – Frogbridge Day Camp, Millstone
- **Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance** (R) – Happiness is Camping, Blirstown
- **Senate President Richard Codey** (D) – Camp Horizons, Livingston
- **Assemblywoman Alison Littell-McHose** (R) – YMCA Fairview Lake and Blue Mountain Day Camp

Any ACA accredited camp can request an introduction to their local legislator. Visits can be scheduled both during the camp season and at any time during the year. Please call Mary Ellen in the Section Office if you are interested in establishing a relationship with your state legislators.

To support ACA-NJ legislative efforts please contact Chairperson Doug Fullman at DFullman@netbsa.org or NJC-GAP Chairperson Andy Pritikin at Andy@Libertylakedaycamp.com.

President's Message

Dear Members,

How was your summer of 2007? In my part of New Jersey we had two hail storms, lightening "fireworks," and, of course, the heat. In spite of this, the camp season was safe with many memories created for our campers. I hope that yours was the same!

From time to time and most recently on my standards visits and at meetings, camp people would ask, "Why not provide an informal networking session to share topics of mutual interest?" I would welcome the opportunity to organize such a session or sessions if there is interest. If so, let Mary Ellen know and, and I will follow up.

As we approach the Section's busy "camp" season, it is important that you contribute to our success. You can do this by attending professional improvement meetings, voting in our annual election, attending Tri-State, and by joining a committee. You are welcome to call (877) 488-2267 or e-mail executive@acacampsnj.org the section office to discuss how you can support your section.

Bob Jones, President

Fourth Annual ACA-NJ Camp Fairs

Join us for our 2008 Camp Fairs...watch your mailbox for your registration packet or go online to www.acanjsummercampfairs.org to print off the information. Check out our new locations, too!

Saturday, January 12, 2008- Battleground Country Club (*new location*) Manalapan

Sunday, January 13, 2008- Bridgewater Marriott, Bridgewater

Saturday, January 19, 2008-Holiday Inn Springfield (*new location*) Springfield

Sunday, January 20, 2008-Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, Teaneck

Saturday, January 26, 2008-Crowne Plaza Fairfield (*new location*) Fairfield

Sunday, January 27, 2008-East Hanover Ramada Inn & Conference Center, East Hanover

Meeting Standards, Exceeding Expectations: the 2007 Standards Report

By Mike Peterson, Standards Chairperson

We did it: the 2007 standards season is behind us. Revisions to the standards, despite a few minor bumps in the road, have worked better than we had imagined. With the extraordinary preparation by visitors and camp directors alike, we were able to get through with a minimum of confusion. It was a great year by *any* standard.

As with any living document, the new standards will continue to evolve. Comments and suggestions many of you contributed during the process this summer, and in the period leading up to it, are being gathered and will be submitted to the National Standards Commission. The commission will spend many days in the coming months assessing what worked, what remains a challenge, and how they may incorporate new ideas to make the standards book even better for next year.

A big thanks to all of our wonderful visitors who took the time to meet the new standards. Thanks as well to all who got out and conducted visits this summer. The ACA Standards Program would not work without such dedicated volunteers. Our valued young campers are the beneficiaries of your fine efforts in raising the bar of quality and safety at camps nationwide.

And another big thank you to our fine camp directors. They all did a great job with the visits, the standards preparation, and all other related activities. .

We had 35 camps at the starting gate for 2007 visits. Thirty were regular visits, and one was a revisit due to a site change. Four decided to postpone until next summer, and one is still pending (as of press time). So we visited a total of 30 camps, and we're anticipating that 30 will pass. That's a lot of volunteer hours, and it's what makes ACA the great organization it is.

For those of you who did not participate in the process this year, we still need you! There is a great opportunity coming up to learn about standards, to help ACA and to educate yourself as a camping professional. Become a **standards visitor** . Join us in November (see below) for a great training opportunity. It's free!

Coming Up !
Associate Visitors Course for New Visitors Nov. 10th-11th. Location TBD. Call Mary Ellen to register.908-238-9900

My First-Time View on the National Delegates Meeting

Over the last few years, the ACA Council of Delegates has evolved from a group that simply reacts to votes brought before it to a true council of dialogue and debate. In this article, Sue Goldberg recounts her experience as a new delegate at the 2007 National Conference. Sue would like to urge all members to consider attending the National Convention and serve as delegates.

It was a great honor to represent ACA-NJ at the National Conference in Austin, TX. As a first-time delegate I was impressed with the level of commitment from our fellow camp professionals. As we sat together for two days listening to updates, participating in debates and engaging in group work, it struck me how much a group of volunteers can accomplish together.

As one of the Complaint Resolution Chairs for our section, I was most interested in our lively debates and discussions on the future of the ACA Conflict Resolution Program. The Ethics Program Task Force presented the delegates with a great exercise. They asked us to evaluate the pros and cons of five different scenarios for the handling of public complaints about ACA camps. The scenarios varied from hiring a professional company to handle complaint resolution, to leaving the process as it is now, with trained ACA volunteers to handle all complaints within the current framework.

A lively debate took place on the question of just who the Conflict Resolution Program is designed to serve most, the camps or the complainants. It is an issue with which I struggle constantly. I happen believe it's both—that the goal is always to find the best possible solution for both parties.

The Ethics Program Task Force was very grateful to the council of delegates for all the valuable input and feedback. More work will be done throughout the year, and next year's delegates will be closer to voting on all the recommendations promoted by the Task Force.

I enjoyed the conference and strongly encourage more of you to attend. It doesn't replace Tri-State, but it is important nonetheless. It provides an environment in which owners and directors are open to sharing, trading ideas, helping one another, and positively promoting the nationwide camping industry. Next February it will be held in Nashville, TN.

Sue Goldberg
ACA-NJ Board Member and Complaints Resolution Co-Chair

Legislators At Camp



Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck is hosted by Frank J. Pugliese, at **Frogbridge Day Camp** in Millstone Township.



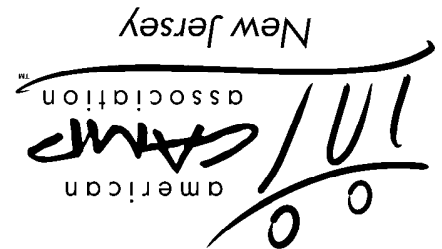
Niel Rothstein, Owner of **Camp Horizons** in Livingston speaks to Senate President Richard Codey during a camp visit in August.



YMCA Fairview Lake directors, Heather Chadwick (left) and Marc Koch (right) welcome Assemblywoman Alison Littell-McHose and her daughter to camp.

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