

Calendar of Events

- **“The Summer’s Over...So What Do You Do the Rest of the Year? Presented by Scott Arizala January 22, 2008. Registration form inside this issue!**
- **ACA-NJ Board Meeting January 29th, Raritan Valley YMCA, East Brunswick, 10-1pm**
- **Standards Course and New Visitor Training Course, January 11th and 12th at Camp Ockanickin, Medford, NJ. Registration form in this issue.**
- **Standards Visitor Forum and Appreciation Luncheon, January 16th Snuffy’s Pantagis Restaurant, Scotch Plains**
- **4th Annual ACA-NJ Camp Fairs Jan. 12-27th www.acasummerncampfairs.org**
- **2008 ACA National Conference - February 12-15 in Nashville, TN read more at www.ACACamps.org/conference.**
- **Tri-State Camp Conference, Atlantic City Convention Center, March 12-15th, Registration on-line at www.tristatecampconference.com**

Tri-State 2008 !



An article about Tri-State 2008 should be filled with information that will encourage the reader to attend.

- It should highlight the pre-conference with experiences for emerging and evolving professionals, and orientations for our first-time attendees;
- It should mention the Center for Summer Learning program from Johns-Hopkins University, which will concentrate on the importance of what we do as it relates to preventing summer learning loss;
- It should also describe the more than 200 educational sessions being led by amazing and diverse professional as well as non-professional speakers,
- It should also mention a very intentional learning track that is designed specifically for veteran camp personnel;
- It should spotlight our two incredible keynote speakers, and the Friday gathering we are planning for young adults who will be encouraged to talk about their vision for the future;
- It should promote the BEST exhibit hall in the land; and
- It should emphasize the attention we will pay to making each individual’s camp experience a positive and remarkable one.

But it should also do more. So please just give me a moment or two to say it all.

Each year, the American Camp Association Sections of New York, Keystone and New Jersey collaborate to create Tri-State, an opportunity for all of us to gather together. It’s an opportunity for us to learn, to teach, to meet new friends, and to share good times and memories with old friends. It is also an opportunity to be surrounded by individuals who are committed to making a difference in people’s lives through the marvelous camp experience.

SO... why attend Tri-State? Because it provides an important and valuable opportunity to make a difference. Check out the website, read through the program, and then come out if you want to connect, contribute, have fun, learn, grow, and be challenged.

It’s an amazing privilege. So please don’t pass it by.

Dawn Ewing
Tri-State 2008 Program Chair

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
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Don Smith	Member at Large	908-236-2638
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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

Last Chance to Participate in our 4th Annual Summer Camp Fairs...

Don't miss the opportunity to join our 2008 summer camp fairs. Registration forms available at: www.acanjsummercampfairs.org

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



President's Message

Dear Members,

Forgive the cliché, but all good things must come to an end. My section presidency is about to conclude, and it was a rewarding experience for me.

This will be my last message as section President. At our annual meeting in December, the gavel will be handed over to President-Elect Tom Riddleberger. Working closely with the Board and our Executive Director has given me the confidence to know that our section is in a good position to continue its progress and meet the needs of campers and members throughout the section. I've enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to serve.

At our November 15th meeting the Board began discussing 2008 goals, and we came up with several important questions. Are we meeting your expectations? Do you have suggestions for the National ACA office? Do our professional development meeting topics match your requirements and expectations?

Please know that your answers—and all your comments and suggestions—will be reviewed if you send them to the ACA-NJ office. And of course, you are also welcome to attend future meetings. Locations will be publicized on our website.

I would like to congratulate our new vice president, Scott Lantzman, and our new board members, Thomas Rapine and Jed Buck. I would also like to thank all those members who participated in the election process. Continue to support TriState by attending meetings and encouraging your colleagues to do the same. Don't forget that our section, working with Sensational Summers (Barbara Rubin) sponsors six camp fairs in January. Please support the effort. More information available at www.acanjsummercampfairs.org.

By the way, in the coming months you will be hearing about an interesting initiative from the national office. It's called 20/20 and involves welcoming 20 million campers by the year 2020. (Currently there are 10 million.) National has several internal goals in mind, but what I think is most important is that the effort to double the number means that more and more people across the country will soon learn about the value of camping. And that's what it's all about.

My best wishes for the holiday season and a healthy, successful 2008.

Bob Jones, President

Standards & Accreditation: Not Just Every Three Years

By Mike Peterson, Standards Chairperson

In every enterprise there's time to have fun and there's time to be utterly serious. Camping, of course, is no exception. So please bear with me for a moment or two while I share with our camp directors some very serious points to review about accreditation.

Meeting the ACA standards is not a commitment you simply dust off every three years to review and pursue. As camp directors you must meet or exceed the standards every year, even when your camp is not scheduled for a visit.

In fact, camp directors must certify in writing, on an annual basis, that their camps are "in compliance" with all standards. This is through the "Statement of Compliance" (SOC) that comes in the mail each year with your camp service fee statement. Putting your signature on this document means, among other things, that you promise to comply with those items that are checked during camp visits. The SOC is an important and legal document.

Sometimes, camps not scheduled for a visit in a given year fail to complete and return the SOC. This is a common problem. The section office places numerous calls each year to resolve this issue. Please be aware that without an annually signed SOC, there is no automatically continued accreditation.

To make things easier, you can now provide a signed SOC online through the ACA web site. Go to www.acacamps.org/soc/. It takes only a moment or two to fill it out. Please don't forget. It's important.

Many directors who have not recently been visited wonder if by signing they are certifying to the new standards or the old. It is, in fact, an understandable question, because the language is rather gray in this regard. While ACA itself may be tolerant, if you have a mishap the law is going to look at the current "standard of care," which means the *new* standards. So for practical purposes, the answer is that you are certifying to the new standards. If you do not yet have a new standards book, please contact the section office. You can get the book now (one free book to each visitor and each accredited camp), or better yet, you can attend a new standards course this winter.

Another question many of you have concerns whether or not signing the SOC is a safe thing to do if you have not yet been visited in the new cycle with the new standards. Since the changes are not that extensive, and since we allow an 80% score on compliance, most of you should be safe to do so. However, please check the book to

make a more specific determination about that on your own.

The biggest issue lies with the mandatory standards. Question 7 on the SOC requires that you comply with the mandatory standards every year. In reviewing our section camp profiles and other data, we have come to the conclusion that there are basically two serious concerns to which we must all pay immediate attention:

Headgear and hardhats — most of these were previously not mandatory, allowing camps to opt out under the 80% scoring function. Now they are mandatory across the board. Skateboarding, snowboarding and in-line skating have been added to the activities requiring the use of safety gear.

Staff screening — a pre-hire search of the National Sexual Offender Public Registry for each camp person employed is now mandatory. This is not a difficult, costly or time consuming process, and it makes perfect sense. Your background screening company can do it for you, or you can do it yourself—but you must do it. If you have not already done so, go to www.nsopr.gov and give it a test flight. A word of warning: make sure you use this specific site, which is run by the Justice Department on a nationwide basis, and not an imitation. There are many imitators popping up, some of which charge for the service.

Good luck on the upcoming recruitment season. We hope to see you all at our training, standards, and professional development seminars.

Congratulations to our newly Accredited Camps:

**YM-YMHA Camp Veritans * Fundamentals of Sports *
Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA *Raritan Bay Area
YMCA * Neil Klatskin Day Camp, JCC on the Palisades**

And our Reaccredited camps:

Gloucester Arc Sun N Fun	Rolling Hills Day Camp
Ivy League Day Camp	Cross Roads Day Camp
JCC Camps at Medford	Lake View Day Camp
Jefferson Lakes Day Camp	Watershed Newark Rec.
Johnsonburg Presbyterian	Hopewell Valley YMCA
ESNJ Camp Merryheart	Camp Koinonia
Happiness is Camping	Camp Cannundus
Super Summer Day Camp	Kiddie Keep Well Camp
YMCA Linwood McDonald	Ranney In The Summer
Camp Tecumseh	Camp Louemma
Mill Road Day Camp	CYO Day Camp
Glen Spey	
Palisades County Day Camp	
Rambling Pines Day Camp	

Deep in the Heart of Tri-State: From Texas to Tri-State Conference Chair

Dear Fellow Camp Professionals:

I grew up an ardent lover of summer camp. For 11 years I attended as a camper, CIT and counselor. It was at camp that I discovered a powerful sense of my own capabilities, and have since been committed to creating similar experiences for others.



What many of you may not know is that I started my career as an investment banker. But there was never a question in my mind: I wanted to be a full time summer camp professional. In 1992 I attended the Tri-State

conference in New Jersey and was blown away by the people and the quality of the sessions. The people I met were inspiring, and I've always wanted to give back to the camp community in the way others gave to me.

In 1994 I married Susie, who at first aspired to run a hospital but soon fell in love with camping. She's been my partner ever since, in more ways than one. In 1995 we bought Camp Champions, which is now our full time passion.

It is my belief that summer camp is the most important growth experience for a child, yet too few people attend. By getting dynamic camp professionals together who can share their passion and expertise, we can make more camps known to more campers. That's why I'm particularly pleased to serve as chair of the Tri-State Conference. Together we make a difference.

This year's extraordinary program will have more full time camp professionals, more consultants, more educational sessions—and a tremendously upbeat atmosphere. So start making your plans now. Invite other camps to join. And don't forget to say hello when you get here. I love to share in all your passion and excitement. It's contagious.

Steve Baskin

Looking to purchase a 2004 Ford 350 Econoline passenger van with approximately 4.800 miles on it for \$13,500? Just call Rich Campbell at Happiness is Camping. 908-362-6733.

Epic Endeavors

What is EPIC? Simply put, it's all of us.



Emerging Professionals In Camp is an organization started in 2004 through the ACA New York office (though open to all ACA members) to provide educational and social networking opportunities for our industry, primarily for those who don't have director experience, such as assistant and associate directors, full time employees with other responsibilities, seasonal employees, newcomers, and even newer directors.

There are no official requirements to join. Everyone is welcome. In fact, hundreds of you have already requested to be on our email list to receive information about events. In that way, I suppose you can say it's become an epic success.

There are many ways in which you can benefit from EPIC involvement. You can learn about the camp industry, measure and compare your own goals as a camp professional, join or create peer networks and more. EPIC is committed to providing opportunities not just to learn, but also to give a little back to the camp industry in recognition of all the camp industry does for you.

Events such as book clubs, social gatherings, community service, educational conferences and more have been well received by the camp community both within Tri State and on a national level. The programs and events are interactive and very innovative. They have also proven to be relevant in addressing issues directly related to where many individuals currently are in their own careers. After EPIC events, we have seen many attendees bring new levels of skill and inspiration back to their own camps. A heightened sense of connection to professional peers and to the industry in general is frequently one of the end results.

We are now in the process of creating an EPIC website and message board. In the meantime, if you would like more information, please contact epic@aca-ny.org.

There will be an EPIC Specialized Workshop for Tristate 2008 on Wednesday, March 12th. The topic is "Behavior Management; Creating a Toolbox for Success." It will take place from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch included), and there will be a \$50.00 registration fee for ACA members and non-members.

There will also be an EPIC Cares Community Service Event on Saturday, April 12th. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Warm Feelings on a Cold Night: A Successful Annual Meeting and Holiday Dinner

More than 70 members from 34 camps across the Garden State braved the chill of a brisk December night for the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting and Holiday Dinner.

There were also several special guests from our family of business partners, including Tony Marinello from Westex, Johanna Bush and Carol Morgan from A.M.Skier, Jim Callahan from Sysco, and Susanne Casano from Good Impressions Printing. Government Affairs Consultant Claudine Leone, Camp Fair Coordinator Barbara Rubin, volunteer newsletter editor Joel Samberg, and NJ State Health Department representative Loel Muetter were also part of the festivities.

During the evening, three members were recognized for outstanding contributions to our section. Andy Pritikin received the prestigious Howard Patton Award for his efforts as founder and president of the New Jersey Camp-Government Affairs Program (NJC-GAP) and as chairperson of the Tri-State Camp Conference. Douglas Fullman, chairperson of our Legislative Committee, and Michael Peterson, chairperson of our Standards Committee, received Section Recognition Awards.

President Bob Jones had the honor and pleasure of announcing the results of our recent section election:

- Our New Board Members (3-year terms): **Jed Buck** from Meadowbrook Country Day Camp and **Tom Rapine** from YMCA Camp Ockanickon.
- Our New Jersey Delegates to the 2008 National ACA Conference: **Scott Lantzman**, **Judy Trigg** and **Bob Jones**,
- Our re-elected members to the Nominating Committee (3-year terms): **Peggy Mellors** and **Len Yacullo**.

Standards Chairperson Mike Peterson presented gifts to our five newly accredited camps: YM-YMHA Camp Veritans, Fundamentals of Sports, Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, Raritan Bay Area YMCA and the Neil Klatskin Day Camps. Mike also recognized the 25 camps that earned re-accreditation this summer.

After a delicious Chinese dinner, we concluded the festive evening with a lively auction to raise funds to send economically disadvantaged children to summer camp, through the efforts of S.C.O.P.E. Our thanks to auctioneer extraordinaire Jonathan Gold, and all the members who helped raise over \$2,000 for this worthwhile effort.

And a very special thanks to Hospitality Committee Chairperson Gina Stravic and board member Carol Bruno, who created a memorable evening for all who attended.



Tom Riddleberger thanks Bob Jones for his service to ACA-NJ. Tom's term as board president begins Jan. 1st 2008.

L.E. A. D. Launches in 2008

After much hard work and careful planning, the first class of L.E.A.D. (Lead, Excel and Develop) is getting ready to launch in February. That's when 15 teens will be welcomed into the ACA ranks in an innovative program that will introduce them to the behind-the-scenes world of camping.

L.E.A.D.'s mission is to identify high caliber teen leaders from throughout the membership of ACA-NJ who show potential in making an impact in camp leadership and development, possibly even on the way to full time careers.

Current high school juniors and seniors are eligible for the program, but only the first fifteen to register will be accepted into the inaugural class. Participants will be required to attend two retreat weekends, (February 1-3 at YMCA Camp Speers-Eljabar, and April 11-12 at YMCA Camp Bernie), as well as to spend a full day at the Tri-State Camping Conference (March 13-14).

As teens begin to search for educational and career opportunities, the young leaders of L.E.A.D. will get a jump on the process by having the chance to listen to and work with professional guest speakers and camp leaders. They will also have a chance to develop leadership skills that they can apply to specific roles in the camping industry, as well as in other areas of endeavor.

All LEADers must be accompanied by a senior member of their camp staff, who will participate by offering additional growth opportunities and valuable exercises.

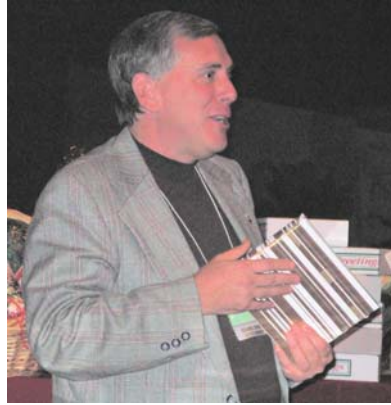
Because ACA-NJ is subsidizing this program, the cost will be \$600 per participant. The \$600 fee covers the cost of both retreats and attendance at the Tri-State Camp Conference for the teen and their chaperone.

For more information and an application, please contact Professional Development and L.E.A.D chairperson, Scott Lantzman, at director@GesherFun.org or 973-597-3699.

Congratulations 2007 Award Recipients!



Andy Pritikin, Liberty Lake Camp, thanks the membership for being selected to receive the prestigious Howard



Mike Peterson, Standards Chair, accepts the Section Recognition Award for his outstanding efforts leading our section through the implementation of the new standards.



Doug Fullman, Legislative Chair, accepts the Section Recognition Award for his leadership of the Legislative Committee.

The Jersey CAMPER is published by The NJ Section of the American Camp Association 877- 488 -2267 Executive Director, Mary Ellen Folsom, executive@ ACAcampsnj.org P.O. Box 672 Pittstown, NJ 08867. Special thanks to volunteer editor, Joel Samberg.



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