



www.acanocal.org

info@acanocal.org • 415.453.1832
PO Box 2185 • Orinda, CA 94563



In this Issue

Section Update.....	2
Winter Conference	3
2007 Camp Fairs.....	4
Complaint Resolution.....	5
Tools You Can Use	6
Event Calendar.....	7
For Religiously Affiliated Camps	8

ACA Connections – Networking Events for Camp Professionals

This fall, the Education committee launched the first Networking event. On November 8th, 22 members gathered at Pyramid Alehouse in Walnut Creek. Members from a variety of camps talked about challenges, issues, best practices, and new opportunities for Northern California camps. This is the first in a series of networking events hosted throughout the section. Future networking events will be held in the East Bay, Santa Cruz and Sacramento areas in the coming months.

The next ACA Connections lunch will be held January 11, 2007 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Crow's Nest in Santa Cruz. The cost of lunch is \$22 to be paid at the door. To register, please send an email to executive@acanocal.org by January 7.

ACA Connect and ACA Purchase Power—New Programs for Camps

ACA has established a program to connect camps and companies with appropriate, ACA pre-screened free products. ACA is regularly contacted by companies and corporations that have materials, products, and other resources available for camps FREE of charge. In addition, ACA is beginning the process of negotiating directly with manufacturers of products regularly used by camps such as boat makers, paper/office supplies, tennis balls, basketballs, life preservers, etc. By combining our purchasing power, ACA camps could realize huge bulk pricing . . . 10,000 case (combined purchase power) pricing on copy paper as opposed to 5 case (individual camp purchase power) pricing.

We want your opinion on the potential for these programs.

[Take this brief survey](#) and tell us what equipment or materials your camp would be interested in receiving as part of these programs. Taking the survey does NOT obligate you or your camp to the new ACA Connect program. ACA Connect will be a permission-based program that your camp will sign up for when the program is initiated . Watch for more details and thank you for completing this [quick survey!](#)

A Letter from the President.....

Dear Friends and Members,

The Board of Directors of the American Camp Association, Northern California is accepting nominations for the upcoming board election. Board members play a vital role in directing the work of your association.

Under current section bylaws, the board has the following duties:

- a) adopt policies and direct the affairs of the section
- b) hold title to any property
- c) employ personnel
- d) adopt a budget for the section
- e) fill vacancies occurring between election, except for the office of President

Board members should possess the following skills and abilities:

- Willingness to listen to differing points of view and actively deliberate issues.
- Ability to think strategically and understand the impact of decisions on all constituents of the section.
- Demonstrated positive communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Willingness to work in partnership with staff.

Ability to work independently but remain committed to a team

All board members must be current members of the section and be familiar and in support of the mission and purpose of the American Camp Association.

Board members are required to attend section board meetings (4 per year including one all day or overnight retreat.) In addition, it is expected that board members will spend 6-8 hours per month reviewing information and contributing to ongoing discussions and projects, serving on committees or task forces, etc.

Essential Functions

- Be articulate and able to make effective presentations.
- Be able to visually review and monitor written materials and reports.

Be able to attend board meetings and interact with other board members and section members with or without accommodation.

For 2007, the election will be held in March and the 3 year board term will commence with the May board meeting. To nominate yourself or a colleague, please send an e-mail to Terry Bolton at terry@leonimeadows.com. For more information on board service or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Terry or Andrew Townsend at andrew@kennolyn.com. Board service is open to all members of ACA. We have positions to suit everyone! In addition, we are especially interested in people with a background in finance and accounting and current visitors.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season,

Andrew Townsend



ACA Northern California Section Winter Conference

Widening the Circle:

Connecting Intergenerational Behaviors, Styles and Values & Staff Screening & Interviewing

Date: January 18, 2007
Time: 9:00am – 4pm
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Concord, CA
Cost:* \$80 ACA members
\$100 Non-members
To register, send email to:
executive@acanorcal.org

Registration deadline Jan.12

*Lunch included

Morning: Connecting Intergenerational Behaviors, Styles and Values

Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials...Oh my! Communication challenges often arise between campers, parents, and staff, and with the Internet and text messaging, your campers are having on-going contact with your staff *after camp* that no one is overseeing! What do you know about what campers and staff are doing online and how it affects *your camp*?! How do camps effectively manage intergenerational behaviors, communication styles, and values? Learn what drives the generations to make the decisions they do, and walk away with practical applications to bridge these different styles in camp operations and deepen your partnership with parents.

Special feature! The Internet is a central feature of campers' and staff's lives. Learn the realities of this communication technology and illustrations of actual social networking sites from Bob and Bunk 1.com.

Participants will learn:

- Online Risk Management
- Legal Implications of Policy Making
- Perceived versus Real Dangers
- Cyber Bullying and Online Stalking

Afternoon: Staff Screening & Interviewing

Interviewing is more than "getting a feel" for your candidate. Come learn the most effective questions, the most predictive methods and the science behind it. You will learn what to avoid, how to organize your interview, make them more consistent and get better (more predictive!) results!

Bob Ditter, MEd, LCSW is well known to camp professionals throughout the United States. Since 1982 he has conducted training seminars for directors and staff at over 500 camps. He has appeared on *The Today Show on NBC* twice, has been on *The ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings* and *Good Morning America*, and is constantly working with camp professionals to make camp an ever more powerful, positive experience for campers, staff and parents alike. Called "camping's most articulate spokesman" by *Sports Illustrated*, he is perhaps best known in camp circles as the author of "In the Trenches" in *Camping Magazine*.

Special Bonus!

Receive Bob Ditter's Resource Guide only available at this event. This includes practical information from both sessions that you can take back to your camp and use.

2007 Northern California Camp Fairs

FAIS Summer Camps Fair

Saturday, February 3, 2007

9am -12pm

FAIS School

150 Oak Street, SF

Contact: 415-726-0310 (Mark)

campfairs@yahoo.com



Strawberry Canyon Camp Fair

Thursday, March 1, 2007

5:30pm – 8:30pm

Strawberry Recreation Center

118 East Strawberry Drive

Mill Valley

Contact: 415-383-6494 (Joy Murphy)

7 Hills School & ACA Camps Fair

Saturday, March 3, 2007

10am – 1pm

7 Hills School

975 N San Carlos Drive, WC

Contact: 925-933-0666 (Susie Barry)

Summer Resource Fair

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Bill Graham Auditorium

San Francisco

Contact: Mary Boyle

mboyle@dcyf.org



AAUW Summer Opportunities Fair

Sunday, March 11, 2007

1pm – 4:30pm

Scottish Rite Temple

1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland

Contact: 510-287-9855

Central CA Parent Magazine Camp Fair

Thursday, March 29, 2007

5pm – 8:30pm

People's Church Gym

7172 North Cedar Ave, Fresno

Contact: 559-435-1409 (Sally Cook)

San Ramon Community Fair

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

6pm – 8:30pm

Iron Horse Middle School

12601 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon

Contact: sgerber@srvusd.k.12.ca.us

From the Complaint Resolution Chair.....

Update on Summer 2006 Complaints Received

Summer 2006 was a busier year than most in the complaint department. While the section received a number of complaints, many of these were not directed towards ACA accredited camps. A number of parents were looking for the proper place to lodge complaints as many inquiries received by e-mail and phone simply asked if this was the proper place to file a complaint against a summer camp.

A clear pattern quickly became apparent, as most of the complaints focused on issues of camper health and safety. Complaints dealt with camps not properly administering medications, not seeking professional medical attention for injuries sustained at camp, not communicating with parents when there was a problem at camp and inadequate and poorly maintained facilities at camp. While not all of these complaints were legitimate, they clearly indicate that camper safety is a primary concern of parents.

In one case, the complaint was based on a camper's dismissal from camp due to behavior. As is often the case, other camp conditions and situations were added to the complaint, however, the key issue was the parent's disappointment and inconvenience resulting from the dismissal of their child from camp.

So what are the points we can learn from this summer's calls?

1. It is imperative that you follow through on your camp's procedures for handling medical situations (notifying parents, seeking professional attention, administering medications).
2. We must communicate with parents regarding incidents that occur at camp. Parents want to know when their children are injured, and often want to participate in the decision as to whether or not their child should be evaluated by a medical professional.
3. Parents expect us to provide a safe, clean, well-maintained facility, and have little tolerance when this is not the case. Sure, camp can be rustic, but it must also be clean and safe. Parents need to be made aware *prior to camp* under what circumstances their camper might be sent home as a result of behavior. It is a sound practice to make parents aware of the various steps in the camp's discipline system, and in particular, to provide a list of "dismissal" offenses. Additionally, it is wise to include in your enrollment contract that parents will pick up their child if dismissed from camp (one camp in our section had a parent refuse to pick up their child).

Finally, thank you to all of the camps in our section that followed up promptly and courteously with parents and staff members who had a concern. Often, as indicated by many of the complaints received, parents do not understand the details or the situation that occurred, and a prompt call from a caring and compassionate camp administrator alleviates much of the anger, frustration, and misunderstanding

Dan Gelineau

Complaint Resolution Chair

Resources

Tools You Can Use



Internet Awareness! [CampRatingz.com](http://www.campRatingz.com)

April 2006 heralded the beginnings of a free website, www.campRatingz.com, which allows anyone to post and read independent reviews of all types of summer programs in the U.S. and Canada. The new site allows families to anonymously rate camps on five different criteria, including staff, facilities, activities, personal attention, and monetary value as well as providing space

for personal comments. Camps are rated both positively and negatively. Camps should increase their awareness of websites such as this one and understand the risks of operating camp in this Internet age.

Bullying Workshops Now Available by Podcast

According to a recent Stop Bullying Now! (SBN!) Campaign newsletter published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, video workshops are available by podcast, which provide bullying prevention tips and techniques. Video workshops for educators, health and safety officials, youth organizations, law enforcement officials, and mental health workers are offered free of charge and can now be downloaded through iTunes®.

To listen, open iTunes® (or click here to [download iTunes](#)), make sure you have the latest version, and click on the "Podcast" button on the left of the window. Go to the "Advanced" menu at the top of the window, and select "Open Stream." Paste this URL below into the "URL" field: http://www.bullyingresources.org/podcast/bullyin_gpodcast.xml

Tom Osborne Federal Youth Coordination Act

The Forum for Youth Investment, along with the National Collaboration for Youth, has been successful in passing the Tom Osborne Federal Youth Coordination Act! This act creates a Federal Youth Development Council consisting of the Secretaries of all major federal departments, community and faith-based organizations, states and local officials, and young people, charged with developing and implementing an overarching plan for meeting the needs of youth. To learn more about this important Act, visit www.forumfyi.org.

Updated ACA-Accredited Logo

To better serve you, the American Camp Association accreditation logo usage guidelines have been updated. For your records, [download pages 13 and 14 of the Graphic Identity Standards manual](#). We encourage you to take advantage of all the online [ACA-Accreditation Marketing Tools](#)—display your camp's ACA-accreditation logo proudly.





Mark Your Calendars for upcoming ACA Educational Events

Northern California Section Events

Winter Conference – Thursday January, 18
ACA Connections Spring Networking - Tues Feb 13 / Wed Feb. 28
Camp School / Certification Training Day: May 9-11 2007 (TBD)
Fall Conference – Thursday, October 18
ACA Connections – Networking *in East Bay/ Santa Cruz / Sacramento areas*
- Spring Networking Lunch – April 24 (11:30 – 1:00)
- Fall Networking Lunch - Wed. Nov. 7 (11:30 – 1:00)

2008

Winter Conference – Thursday January, 17
Camp School / Certification Training Day: May 9-11 2007 (TBD)
Fall Conference – Monday October 8

2007 ACA Conferences

January 18

Winter Conference – Feature speaker: Bob Ditter
*Connecting Intergenerational Behaviors, Styles and Values
& Staff Screening*

February 13-16

ACA National Conference: "Widening the Circle"
Hilton Hotel - Austin, TX

March 14-17

CampWest Conference & New Director Orientation (NDO)
Alexis Park Resort - Las Vegas, NV



More Education & Trainings 2006 – 2007

December 2-6, 2006

Basic Camp Director's Course (BCDC)
Calvin Center Camp and Conference Center - Hampton, GA

January 17

ACA Standards Training & Update Course
Crown Plaza Hotel, Concord, CA

March 1-4

Association for Experiential Education (AEE) West Regional Conference
El Capitan Canyon - Santa Barbara, CA

March 8-10

California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Annual Conference
Sacramento, CA

For Religiously Affiliated Camps



The Can of Tomato Soup

Years ago when I was in grade school, the 'elephant' jokes were going around. I don't know why, but one stayed with me. It goes like this: "What did the man say when an elephant came out of his tomato soup can?" The answer, though simple, is quite profound... "Wrong label!"

Not so profound, you say? Perhaps, but remember that even camps are known for their 'labels'. Consider these labels: 'Christian' camp, Retreat Center, Where the Son always shines, Peaceful get-away, Solitude, Connecting Kids to Christ, Accredited Camp, Where the Word Makes Sense, Back to Nature, Safe environment, Growing up in Jesus, etc. We know what they mean. But what do these labels mean to our guests? And, most importantly, do your guests truly find what your camp label advertises?

Obviously there are times when people attending an event during the same weekend may walk away with two experiences that are quite opposite. Like the old adage says, "You will find what you look for"...be it good or bad. We can't change what they look for, though we can encourage their looking for the good.

The bottom line is this: we can and should 'label' camp. But remember, we are also responsible with the contents of the can. We select the ingredients that go into the 'soup'. We choose the staff, paint the facilities inside and out, repair the fixtures and structures, fix and serve the meals, mark the trails, offer the program and activities, set up the meeting rooms, turn on the heat and lights, smile, welcome and visit with our guests, and keep everything safe. Sometimes we can get so focused on these ingredients that we forget the most important one..."But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33 KJV).

Enjoy making your 'can of soup'.

**Want to reward your staff for
A job well done?**

**A membership in ACA
makes a great gift!**

It's thoughtful and lasting.

Visit www.acacamps.org for details

