



# Over the Top Rail

Issue 2

April./May 2007

## ACA, Illinois Officers:

### President:

Mark Burkhardt  
(773) 380-2556

### Vice President

Heidi Strand  
(262) 245-5155

### Secretary

Catherine Curry  
(312) 582-6082

### Treasurer

Stefan Teodosic  
(847) 498-1441

### Past President

Susan Rochlis  
(312) 726-8891 x110

## Office Location:

67 East Madison Street  
Suite 1406  
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3014  
(312) 332-0833 ☎  
(312) 332-4011 Fax  
Email: [info@ACAil.org](mailto:info@ACAil.org)  
Web: [ACAil.org](http://ACAil.org)

## Staff:

### Executive Director

Gordon Kaplan  
[gordie@acail.org](mailto:gordie@acail.org)

### Administrative Manager

Maria Rosario  
[maria@acail.org](mailto:maria@acail.org)

### Administrative Assistant

Tiffany Fairley-Hart  
[tiffany@acail.org](mailto:tiffany@acail.org)

### Part-time Staff

Cathola Hill

## A message from the Section President:

On Friday afternoon, April 13 a large gathering of Illinois Section members and friends joined together for the annual section meeting at the Mid States Conference in St. Charles. It was a great opportunity to meet old and new friends and learn more about the work of our Section. I was especially pleased with the number of new camp leaders who gathered with us for the first time and expressed their interest in getting more involved as volunteers. Special thanks goes to the Membership Committee for putting together the program, ordering the refreshments and awarding the door prizes.

As I reflect back on our time together at Mid States I am excited about the future of our section and the potential we have to do even more effective work in the next couple of years. Together, we are reaching out to new camps, developing new leaders, and helping to make the camp experience available to more children and youth. At the same time, we continue to be challenged by the contrast between the diversity of our communities and the relative lack of diversity in many of our member camps. But, I see some hopeful signs that things might be changing. There are several new camps in our section who are intentionally reaching out to diverse communities. Camp leaders are beginning to ask challenging questions and to offer their help in raising additional campership funds. Our section is getting better organized to help the camps in our area grow and thrive and make the camp experience available to more children and youth. I hope that the energy I experienced at Mid States will continue throughout this next year. In the meantime, it's time for summer camp! Best wishes for a safe, healthy and meaningful summer.

-Mark Burkhardt, Illinois Section President

# IN THIS ISSUE...

Message from the President.....Page 1

Resources for you.....Page 2

Become a Reporter.....Page 2

Midstates Camping Conference.....Page 3

## RANDOM RESOURCES FOR DIRECTORS & STAFF

### Games

[www.wilderdom.com](http://www.wilderdom.com)

[www.gameskidsplay.net](http://www.gameskidsplay.net)

### Crafts

[www.kidsdomain.com](http://www.kidsdomain.com)

[www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

### Nature Activities

[www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org)

[www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

## Become an "Over The Top Rail" Reporter

We'd like to have many members and friends become contributors to our newsletter. We plan to publish an issue for September/October, November/December, January/February, March/April. Articles or information will be accepted at any time and will be reviewed for publication.

News stories, interviews, helpful resources, training/development opportunities, opinion pieces, book or articles you'd recommend, etc, will be welcome. We'll be glad to help you compose your contribution. Our goal is to provide a volunteer written newsletter that communicates worthy information in an interesting, readable, and timely manner. If there are topics you would like to see in our newsletter, please contact Sabrina Hirschfeld at 847-888-7410 or Jill Rudolph at 847-742-2169.



## THE 15th ANNUAL MID STATES CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

There were over 225 camps, 1200 attendees, 135 educational sessions and 60 exhibitors at Mid States 2007 conference. Thank you to everyone who participated, we hoped you left with many new ideas for the summer.

Make the learnings from the conference a continuous resource by viewing, downloading and printing handouts from educational sessions at [www.acamidstates.org/sessions.php](http://www.acamidstates.org/sessions.php). Shop from our exhibitors year around by linking to their websites at [www.acamidstates.or/exhibitors.php](http://www.acamidstates.or/exhibitors.php). Tell our exhibitors how much you appreciate their support. The exhibitors help make Mid States affordable. Thank you also for the folks who helped with the bookstore-it was run this year by Mid States so we receive all the revenues.

The box lunches for Saturday was a huge success. We're sorry for the folks who didn't order the lunches in time- remember next year to order early.

Be sure to mark your calendars for 2008: April 10-12. We are looking forward to our main speaker next year, Michael Thompson, Ph.D, Michael is a psychologist, school consultant and author of seven books, including the New York Times best seller, "Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys," "Speaking of Boys: Answers to the Most-Asked Questions about Raising Sons" and "Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Life of Children." Be sure to read a most provocative article by Michael Thompson in the latest issue of Camping Magazine entitled, "One Camp, Two Ways of Teaching Boys".

There is something for everyone at Mid States from directors to first year counselors. We will try to provide time and meeting space for your staff to come together during the conference so that you can plan and share your knowledge.

Prior to and immediately after the conference we will once again offer the Leadership Institute sessions which are full day workshops and certifications from leaders in the industry. The Steering Committee of Mid States is committed to making Mid States an affordable and exciting educational experience.

# Remember APRIL 10-12, 2008