



Over the Top Rail

Issue 1

September/October 2007

Succession Planning

Earlier this year the ACA-IL Board of Directors assigned a member task force to develop a succession plan for the operations of the Section.

Succession planning is a careful and deliberate plan of action. The process identifies and prepares volunteers and staff, through training and mentoring, to replace key players in the organization to ensure the smooth continuation and success as the organization changes. It is a plan that places emphasis on TODAY, TOMORROW, and the FUTURE of ACA-IL.

TODAY the IL Section has put in place a new staffing structure: Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Business Director, and Administrative Support (part time). Concurrently, the Section is re-structuring its board committees and volunteer functions to plan for TOMORROW and the FUTURE, when all volunteer and staff responsibilities will compliment each other.

Welcome ACA IL's New Business Director

Michael Hoffenberg joined the ACA Illinois staff at the beginning of September to fill a new position, Business Director. He has extensive business administration, accounting and office management experience. We are proud to have Michael with us. The following is a brief list of his experiences and family situation:

- **BA Anthropology - University of Wisconsin**
- **MSW Bar Ilan University (Israel)**
- **over 15 years experience in Financial Information systems, operations, sales & support**
- **9 years Business Manager of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin**
- **Standards Visitor, Treasurer of ACA-IL**
- **Married, 3 sons, two grandchildren (two more grandchildren expected in next 2 months)**

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
Web: ACAil.org

Staff:

Executive Director

Gordon Kaplan
gordie@acail.org

Associate Executive Director

Open

Business Director

Michael Hoffenberg
Michael@acail.org

Part-time Administrative Staff

Cathola Hill
Carlise Willis

IN THIS ISSUE...

Succession Planning.....	Page 1
New Business Director.....	Page 1
ACA Summer Fair.....	Page 2
Become a Reporter.....	Page 2
Midstates 2008.....	Page 3
Midstates Funds.....	Page 3
Education Opportunities.....	Page 4
Job Listings.....	Page 5

Become an "Over The Top Rail" Reporter

We'd like to have many members and friends become contributors to our newsletter. 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

If there are topics you would like to see in our newsletter, please contact Sabrina Hirschfeld at 847.888.7410 or Jill Rudolph at 309.365.8021.



ACA Camp...Fair

November 11, 2007

Camps & other summer programs have received a mailing regarding the ACA IL Chicagoland Camp and Summer Adventure Fair. Note that the date is changed and the fair will be held on **Sunday, November 11th** at the Marriott in Lincolnshire. We hope you will be able to attend and anticipate a much larger number of prospective families than in previous years. As you know, fall is a very common time for suburban families to look at camps and other quality summer programs for their summer options.

Participating programs to date & driving directions can be found at www.acail.org/campfair.php

Camps and other summer program operators can obtain information and registration material by contacting the ACA IL office (312) 332-0833.

ACA IL Staff handle organization and pre-fair work but volunteers provide the vitally important direct hosting on the day of the Camp...Fair. If you have an hour or more to give please call the ACA IL office. Hosting functions include; helping exhibitors move-in from 9-11 am, greeting the public and orienting them to the layout of booths and helping exhibitors move out at day's end.

There are many fine academic, jr. & sr. High Adventure and Travel programs, Community Service and day and resident camps participating. Please join us to see the variety of programs and to help us conduct the fair.

LEARN TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER : OUR CAMPER'S WORLD

By Marcy Brower

The Steering Committee had their first planning meeting for the 2008 conference, reviewed the evaluations of the 2007 conference and confirmed some plans for major speakers for the 2008 conference. The theme for 2008 is Learn Together, Grow Together, Our Camper's World which embodies our mission of staff and administrators learning together with emphasis this year on the campers we serve.

To further understand this theme the Steering Committee is very pleased to have obtained Dr. Michael Thompson as a major speaker on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Michael Thompson is a clinical psychologist, lecturer, consultant and former seventh grade teacher. He is the author of the New York Times best sellers, *Raising Cain* and *Best Friends, Worst Enemies*. His letter from a visit to his former camp was published in *Camping Magazine* last year and focused on how the camp environment embodies all the elements of the social life of children. It is this environment that Michael will address in his presentation with Mid States. His presentation will be filled with anecdotes that ring amazingly true to life as we explore a deeper understanding of the motives and meanings of the social behavior of childhood relationships. These sessions are not to be missed for those of us who work closely with children.

Kim Wenzl Aycock is also a major presenter in 2008 and will lead us in a very interactive session Friday evening which will be fun and intentionally model activities and strategies to use in work with children and also may be incorporated in orientation. Brain based teaching methods will be incorporated to maximize the learning potential of participants. Her Saturday afternoon closing session will include a handout that can be used to have a conversation with staff on how to make a plan to be a unified team during the camp day. An important method to take with you as you leave the conference.

Put April 10-12, 2008 on your calendar for another exciting learning experience at Mid States.

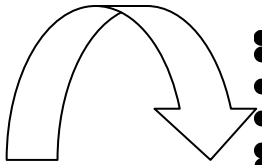
MID STATES REGISTRATION FEE FREE FOR SOME CAMPS

By Bob Brower

The ACA, Illinois Board wishes to encourage camps to attend the Mid States Camping Conference and has allocated a limited amount of funds to accomplish this purpose. Budget challenged/underfunded ACA IL camps or camps participating in DFI Title XX whether in Illinois or not may apply for full reimbursement of the registration fee for the next Mid States Camping Conference, April 10-12, 2008. The camp registration fee for the 2008 Mid States Camping Conference is \$250.

A camp director wishing to apply for these funds, should register and pay for the conference then send their Mid States registration receipt and a letter of request on camp stationery to **Gordie Kaplan**, ACA, Illinois, 67 E. Madison, Street #1406, Chicago, IL, 60603-3014 and ask for a refund. The letter should state whether the camp is making its request as an Illinois underfunded camp or as a participant in DFI Title XX with an underfunded budget situation. The Funds to support the reimbursement are limited and will be disbursed on a first come, first served basis—**so register soon and put in for your reimbursement**. Since the registration material will not be out until January, be the first at that time.

The board passed their resolution at their 2007 January meeting to promote the best of what ACA has to offer in education and camaraderie and to provide an incentive to camps to join ACA, Illinois. If the camp is in another state it is hoped the camp will join ACA in another section. This proposal is for a two year period covering Mid States Camping Conferences 2007 and 2008. An ACA accredited camp may bring as many as 8 staff as part of their registration fee while a non ACA camp may bring as many as 4 staff as part of their registration fee. Additional staff beyond the category maximum will cost an \$15 per person.



Education Opportunities

Building a Bully Free Community at Camp

Led by Dr. Joel Haber

Sponsor: Mid West Association of Independent Camps

Everyone Welcome to Attend

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th

TIME: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Fee - \$55- including lunch*** Register w/ Dayna Hardin by 10/22

(847) 242-0009 OR dhardin@lwcgwc.com

LOCATION: The Salvation Army Norridge Citadel Corps Community Center, Norridge, IL (Foster & Cumberland...just east of O'Hare)

Joel Haber , key note speaker at camp conferences on the topic of bullying and summer camp. Joel also has a new book published by Penguin Books, *"Protect Your Child from Teasing, Taunting and Bullying for Good"*. Attendance limited to 25. More info re Joel Haber at www.RespectU.com

ACA Illinois Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 12:30— 3:00 PM

at Bobak's Signature Events at Seven Bridges

Woodridge, IL

Lunch - Short Annual Business Meeting - Awards

Speaker: Andrea Ray, Heartland Alliance

Topic : Impact of Poverty on Illinois Children & Youth

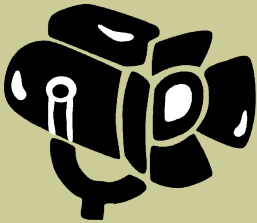
Cost \$35 per person.....Flyer to be sent via email 10/19

Job Listings

YMCA Camp Duncan
Currently looking for 1-2 OEE staff
Contact
Addie Smits
847.546.8086

United Camps, Conference & Retreats
in Northern California
Two Job Opportunities in Management
contact
Sally A Shine, PHR
Director of Human Resources
United Camps, Conference & Retreats
1304 Southpoint Boulevard, Suite 260

Petaluma, Ca 95954



STANDARDS SPOTLIGHT

New Standards Guides Available

If you haven't received your NEW ACA Accreditation Process Guide, get on the phone with the ACA office NOW to arrange to get this must have guide to camping in your hands! All visitors and camps going through accreditation during 2008 must attend a training on these standards. More information RE: Standards courses will be sent to all camps to be visited in 2008 in December 2007.