

HEARTBEAT

News from
ACA, Heart of the South

Wednesday, February 01, 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1



THE DIRECTION ARROW news from the board

The Scarritt Bennett Center in downtown Nashville, TN provided the perfect setting for the HOS January 24-25 Board meeting.

Beginning @ 3:30 pm we gathered as all boards do by finalizing the agenda, approving the minutes to the previous meeting, and setting up committees. Then it was off to dinner @ Ted's Montana Grill. Very nice and comfortable! We all shared a great meal with some wonderful people.

After returning from Ted's, we continued to work through the midnight hour. One of our larger accomplishments was setting in motion our final draft for HOS Financial Policies and Procedures.

The Education and Program committee added the final touches to the rescheduled '05 Fall Professional Conference and tweaked the '06 Fall Professional Conference. By 2:30 pm the following day, our meeting came to a close with several accomplishments.

We would like to welcome aboard Tecla Helmbrecht Howard of Kamp KESSA is the Kentucky Chair. Kamp KESSA was featured in the November December issue of the ACA Camp Magazine. We also want to extend a BIG Thank you to Mike Resso Mississippi Chair who served until Hurricane Katrina devastated his home and camp, Camp

Stanislaus. The Mississippi Chair continues to be vacant. Ted Witt rolls off of the board from serving as Nominations and Awards Chair. Andy Sigmon is now chairing that committee.

As you can tell, we all are wearing many hats and we would like to share them with you. I'll grant you, that serving is one of the most rewarding aspects of our section.

We are team oriented and Wanda keeps us all on task. She is our hub of information. So please contact her for information regarding our Heart of the South Section.

ORIENTING announcements throughout the south

February 7 - 10, '06 National ACA Conference. Chicago, IL.

February 20-22, '06 HOS rescheduled '05 Professional Conference Camp Sumatanga Gallant, AL.

May 2006 (dates TBA): MS Spring Training Event: Camp Windhover, Archery, Horse (CHA), and Canoeing. Contact Celia Wood 601-892-3282 / celiaw@netdoor.com.

May 24-28 '06 Ropes Course Facilitator training at Henry S Jacobs

Camp, Utica, MS. (not a HOS event) REGISTRATION AT ... <http://www.FirstStepsTraining.com/services/ttt.htm>.

March 3-4, 2006 Camp Nurse Workshop for the Southern region of the Association of Camp Nurses: Camp Winnataska, All nurses are welcome. CEU's will be offered. Contact Dr. Ellen Buckner, bucknerr@mindspring.com.

Nov. 1-3 '06 HOS '06 Professional Conf. ABC Camp * Richard, LA .

IMPORTANT NEWS....

MINI-GRANTS - to camps offering certified training events geared toward summer staff and volunteers. More info to follow on website...

HOS is accepting nominations for President Elect, Second Vice President for Program & Education, Council of Delegates and a volunteer leadership pool.

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Board Feature

DISTRICT CHAIRS

TN Jill Martz
jmartz@utk.edu

AL Heather Montgomery
Heather@dragonflyeeprograms.com

KY Tecla Helmbrecht Howard
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LA Gretchen Varnell
newsletter@acaheartofthesouth.org

We are seeking reps from AR & MS. Please contact Wanda DeWaard if you are interested in [serving](#) your section.

AXIS news from the Districts

RITA STRICKEN... GRETA WILLIS, E.D.

CAMPFIRE CAMP IN LAKE CHARLES, LA

Things are moving in a positive direction. The council is back in operation and providing in-school programs for kids. We are working to get our club activities running after the 1st of the year and we are presently working to clean-up and rebuild camp.

There was a lot of damage at camp. Only a handful of the buildings escaped damage. All of the electrical lines were pulled down with falling trees. Some of the plumbing lines were broken and will have to be repaired. Four of the cabins and the shower house will have to

be rebuilt as they were destroyed. Other building sustained minor to moderate damage, mostly to eaves and roofs. We lost approximately 100 trees in the main part of camp and several more in the wooded acreage.

We have begun with debris removal. Last weekend, a volunteer crew worked to cut branches from fallen tree trunks and chip the branches for use in creating paths. Next weekend, we have a group of about 15-20 volunteers with large equipment who are coming in to help remove some of the large tree trunks and stumps. We are planning to be able to hold camp this summer at about the

same camper level as last year. Much will depend on the weather cooperating with our clean-up and rebuild efforts since the majority will be volunteered.

Before & after pictures of Camp Wi Ta Wentin can be found at www.campfireswla.org.

☞ There were other camps devastated from Hurricanes Rita & Katrina. We will feature their stories in other issues.



To help rebuild
Camp Wi Ta Wentin
call: Greta or Monica at
337-478-6550.

LONGITUDE news from the Membership Committee

What does it take to become a member of ACA Heart of the South? We are not some kind of elite group of gods who are running camps in our areas. We are individuals who seek professionalism in what we do.

We try to make the best of our facilities and our profession. Nothing stays the same.... That is why we need you! We need your staff! We need your input. We need your help in recruiting camp professionals that are non-members.

Remember, Membership is not just being a member. It means giving and receiving knowl-

edge while serving each other to help your fellow peers grow.

Jacqueline Thomas is our Membership Chair. She has sent a survey out to you. While you are getting bombarded with survey's. HOS only conducts its survey's every 3 years. Please take the time to fill it out. Look for Jacqueline's email at jacquelyn@kidsntechnology.net. Like all of us, she is a super busy lady but she is here for you.

Additionally, we are in need of committee volunteers. We need reporters, people to volunteer

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for all committees listed herein. We are working on giving snippets of information to you for you to understand your role as a volunteer.

Check the website for all applications and additional information.

IN THE ZONE news from the Education/Program Committee

HOS HAS TWO UNIQUE CONFERENCES

1. The Spring Training Conference is geared towards training your staff in the skills that they will need to perform their jobs at camp. We are seeking to conduct one per section.

2. The Fall Professional Conference is for Camp Professionals.

☞ **RESCHEDULED!** ACA, Heart of the South has rescheduled the '05 Fall Professional Conference for February 20-22, 2006 at Camp Sumatanga Gallant, AL.

☞ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The 06 Fall Professional Conference is scheduled for

November 1-3 2006 at the Acadian Baptist Camp (ABC) Richard, LA.

☞ **SECTION TRAINING SESSIONS:** ALABAMA SPRING TRAINING: Camp Coleman, near Birmingham, is hosting a spring training event for Alabama camps. May 19-21 '06. Tentative sessions are as follows: Life Guard, Small Craft Safety - Canoeing, Basic Water Rescue, Rifles, Games and Icebreakers, Kitchen Standards, Maintenance Standards, Pool Standards, Archery and Nature. Instructors for the Rifles, Kitchen Standards and Maintenance Standards are still needed. Please Contact: Laura Coleman-Camp Coleman at 1-866-882-3572 lelliott19@aol.com

Heather Montgomery-AL District Chair at (256)426-5871
heather@dragonflyeepgrams.com.

MINI-GRANTS

☞ **Shortly,** HOS will be offering mini-grants (up to \$300) to camps offering certified training events geared toward summer staff and volunteers. Keep your eye on the website for detailed information.

☞ For conference applications & news go to.. <http://www.acaheartofthesouth.org>



VIEWPOINT news from the Public Relations Committee

Hi friends. I am Gretchen Varnell, your new Public Relations Chair and Newsletter Chair and Louisiana Chair and Internet Chair and hey this is too much sitting! Let the Press Roll!



This newsletter is in a new format for Heart of the South. Please feel free to email it to every camping profession who is not a member. Our 06 goal is to make this informative and entertaining because quite frankly – we camp people cannot stand to be bored!... SO SEND NEWS SOON. We are looking for interesting

“nuggets” of information that can make us all richer from the experiences of life. Our First Nugget comes from our current President Ann Sheets. I contacted Ann via email. We are the 1st Section to ever interview Ann. Although she claims that she leads a “dull & boring life,” Ann is a very active human being, thus, we give you a “nugget” of the human side of Anne Sheets, President of ACA

Favorite color? Blue

Favorite Ice cream? Blue Bell Cookies 'n Cream

Dreams for ACA 2006? Successful comple-

tion by year-end of Campaign 07

Favorite vacation destination? I don't really have one, but I just love Chicago, and would go there any time!

How do you de-stress? Working in my herb garden; taking long walks.

Ann, thanks for your time. We will see you in Chicago soon! **P.S. TRY MOOLENIUM ICE-CREAM! UM!**

While at the national conference, get an autograph from Ann Sheets!

LATITUDE news from the Standards Committee

Why did you join ACA in the 1st place? We all have our own stories, but for the most part, we all joined ACA because of **Standards**. In our 2003 HOS Survey, the number one reason why camps are members of ACA is because of **STANDARDS**.

Now, the **STANDARDS committee** needs your help. HOS needs Visi-

tors. We have evaluated and improved awards for Visitors. If you have any parents, staff members to recommend, or College Grad Students, we need lots of visitors.

THIS IS CRITICAL! Help us maintain our standard of professionalism.

As a side note, join us in congratulating Jenny Jones and her husband, David in welcoming their new “Bundle of Joy,” Tanner Michael. She will return to her duties around tax season.

✉ Contact Wanda for more information until Jenny returns.

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SOURCE: 2003 HOS SURVEY

DESTINATION news from Awards & Nominations Committee

Back in the 80's, as President of the General Studies Club, we used our Student Government Association monies to establish the 1st Scholarship for our College! GS students were typically working students with families and other commitments. They needed a little help.

DOESN'T THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?



Scholarships & Awards!
Apply / Nominate Now!

Well **“Pony Up”** my dear friend and apply for a scholarship from HOS! Don't be proud – APPLY!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

The Heart of the South board members are trying to develop a “POOL” of individuals who are interested in serving on a variety of elected or appointed positions on the board. We also need volunteers for current committees!

Please take the time to go online.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: We are calling for the following...

1. President-Elect.
2. 2nd Vice-President for Program and Education.
3. Council Of Delegates for The National Conference.

Please contact Andy for more information and also, check the web site.

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News from
ACA, Heart of the South

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LODESTONE the Professional's Corner

In coming up with a name to focus on news for Professionals in camping, I found a perfect word from the website www.wikipedia.com, the free encyclopedia.

Lodestone or **loadstone** refers to 2 explanations; however, we are choosing the second one to best describe the heart of Camp Professionals.

- A piece of intensely magnetic magnetite that was used as an early form of magnetic compass.

So, what is drawing you to this pro-

fession? What can you do to broaden your horizons?

In this section, we will give you information to help better yourself and better your job and keep your sanity. It may be a reflection and it may be links or ideas that you do to keep focus year in and year out.

We are taking suggestions for upcoming stories... Time Management, Health Insurance for one full time staff member, Time Off – How do you break away from camping, Health – Why have I gained weight over the years? How do I

take a load off ?

Tell us what is drawing you to a career in camps. Send us your stories at newsletter@acaheartofthesouth.org



HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME
AS A CAMP PROFESSIONAL ?