

OMA Board Meeting
Friday November 12, 2004
John's River Camp, North Carolina

Members Present: **New England** Kathy Duckworth (07) **Mid Atlantic** Bruce Druckenmiller (07) Gary Halstead (05) **Southern** Charles Stark (05) **Great Lakes** Jeff Puhmann-Becker (05) Dale Dressler (07) **West Central** Judie Luther (07) Sharon Haun (05) **Western** Dave Knight (05) **At Large** (07) Kirsten Baumgart Turner (05)

Members absent: **New England** Bryan Breault (05) **Southern** Bud Schroder (07) **West** Barbara Broadbent (07) **At Large** Ira Williams

National Staff June Boutwell

Friday November 12th

Arrival-Fellowship-Supper-Fellowship-Worship-Fellowship-Sleep

Saturday November 13, 2004

Consult planning team report - The minutes of their meeting on the 11th and 12th are available from Kathy Duckworth.

It was moved that \$250 made available for Dale to produce a DVD to be used to promote Consult to camps and seminars. Charles/Bruce - Passed

Regional Reports:

Western

Kirsten. – Hawaii still struggling with direction. New Conference Minister. Conference is starting some reorganization. Strength has been workcamps. Platforms now have roofs.

Meeting was moved to Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds for lunch and a tour

Blowing Rock

Treasure's Report:

Quicken reports handed out by Jeff see attached report.
Report accepted.

Mickey Stone sent a report on the Religiously Affiliated Camps ACA from September 29 – October 2. - Reviewed and discussed.

Minutes approved as presented Kathy/Bruce

National Staff Goes to Camp. Bruce worked with National Staff and there were two staff members that he placed and a couple others visited sites without going through Bruce. Bruce would like one person to organize for both the camps and national. There are also concerns that National may not be able to afford the travel expenses. June feels that John Thomas would like to continue this program and she will speak to him. June suggest that they may consider using the “Outdoor Ministries Fund” (Deering money) to fund travel. It was said the June is the “face” of outdoor ministries at the National office and that she might become the National staff person that our person relates to. June will talk to Lorin Cope and John about becoming the National Staff person to cheerlead this program in Cleveland. We will try the program at least one more year.
Bruce and June will work on this.

ACA Accreditation writer’s workshop. 5 people are attending. We will not be using all the UCCIB money and will try again in another region after we see how this one goes and receive feed back from participants.

Accreditation: at one point OMA thought that we could act as the accrediting organization for our own camp. Jeff talked to Don Clarke, the Special Counsel for the UCC and he cautioned strongly against it. We would potentially incur significant liability. Use the established ACA process. We may choose, with UCCIB, to send out “best practices bulletins”, but we should not certify or accredit.

Conference Support Survey proposal – Pat Brown has questions regarding conferences support of camps. Jeff suggests a survey of conferences to see how they support camps and how much they give to support Outdoor Ministries programs and sites, through money, staff support, etc. Simple two page survey. Jeff will email folks to see what interest there is in such a survey.

OMA work camp had only one person come so it was cancelled. Discussion over whether we should devote resources to organize a project to take place after Consult 2005. Curly was not at this part of the meeting to ask if he was willing to continue to organize workcamps. Gary suggested that our particular gift to offer camps might be to consult with sites rather than traditional physical labor work camps.

Renewal in the Wilderness – Dale asked if John Lionberger and his ministry can be considered a part of OMA. John is seeking ordination for his ministry in the Illinois Conference. His ministry is an affiliated ministry of the Illinois Conference Outdoor Ministry Program. Indiana-Kentucky has set up a similar relationship with RITW. Affiliate membership in OMA? Individual membership? \$50. Charles moved to grant a membership to Renewal in the Wilderness in OMA on condition that RITW demonstrates a formal relationship to a conference of the UCC. Dale will contact John.

National Council of Churches

We need good UCC curriculum writers for future years.

June handed out copies of curriculum for readers to review and comment.

The Administrative Manual is finished and published on CD only. ~\$59
Camp Alexander Mack has it available on its web site store or use the order form at
<http://www.pcusa.org/conferenceministries/pdf/manualorder.pdf>

Membership Dues

Judie sent letters out regarding dues for 2004 in October. Waiting for replies from conferences.

Camp Survey

Judie has been sending out a surveys asking for information on fees and camper numbers. In 2004 six camps reported numbers are down and four camps reported numbers went up.

National Office - June reported that national has eliminated some current positions and decided not to fill some positions were vacant. That staffs that remain are trying to do the work of those who left but this can't go on forever. National is making some changes in the budget (austerity plan).

Outdoor Ministry fund is producing income. ~\$7800 for 2005. June administers the funds. She used some of it to fund Bud and Jeff's expenses for the National Council of Churches Committee on Ministry meetings. Individual sites can contact June about grants from this fund. Nothing huge but some help.

National Youth Event was marvelous. There was a camp t-shirt day. Some t-shirts were swapped. NYE is now the largest national gathering in the UCC.

Bruce and others have asked why NYE is scheduled over two weeks. There is a concern that it affects two weeks of camps. June will take concerns to the planning committee.

Constitution and Bylaws –

Board read the latest version and discussed more changes. Jeff and Kirsten will work on changes in the membership section. The changes will be sent to board members.

Meeting adjourned for supper and return trip to John's River

Regional Reports

Western

Camp Adams - attendance has dropped off. They are experiencing some financial strains.

A new dining hall was dedicated at Ray and Charlotte's camp

N-Sid-Sen - doing fine

Pilgrim firs - searching for director. Interviewing Friday

Laforet - capital improvements new director - restoring chapel

West Central

White memorial - pretty good DOC partnership fell through. Not sure why. Turned away business to leave space for DOC.

Pilgrim Heights – Jeremy Force has left Pilgrim Heights for Mensch Mill.

Placerville - doing well.

Kaleo - Numbers down. Board agreed to look at capital campaign. They will hire someone to run it. Earth camp next year. Rodeo family camp.

South

Slumber Falls - numbers fell again. New catholic retreat business has helped offset drop in numbers. There is little conference support.

Franklinton Center - Some staff changes.

Great Lakes

Wisconsin - Numbers growing. \$250,000 capital improvements at Moon Beach. Pilgrim Center did fine. Director's house remodeled.

Illinois - Eliminated Sharon's position – The managers at each site have taken on more responsibility and a part time person is doing Youth and Young Adults.

Michigan - no longer has staff in OM

Merom - Summer numbers up. Outdoor education has had some success. Confirmation retreats are growing.

Mid Atlantic

Hartman Center - numbers down. Marketing committee is working well. Producing promotional video. Retreat ministry up.

Living Waters - numbers steady

There was an Adirondack canoe trip as a cooperative effort with penn west/central/southeast.

New York – There are 3 camps in New York Conference that are not well organized as a cohesive outdoor ministries program for the conference. June may be going in to consult with them.

Mensch - summer camp numbers down. They sent many to NYE. Retreat business up considerably with new building.

New England

- All camps are working well together sharing groups sending business to each other. Very diverse sites make this work well. Numbers Down 10% but raised fees have covered most of it. Run many specialty camps that cost more and they charge more.