



# Over the Top Rail

Issue 2

Nov/Dec 2007

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Cathola Hill

## OFF TO THE NORTHWOODS SHE GOES

Congratulations to Jill Rudolph, the new Camp Director at Camp Heartland in Willow River, MN! The Illinois Section is going to miss, and the Northland Section is lucky to gain, a very valuable member.

A Special Thank You to Jill for her hard work on the section newsletter over the past 2+ years, and for all of her volunteer work as a board member for the Illinois Section. We send her Best Wishes on her new adventure. Patrick Kindler, Camp Heartland's Director of Program Services said, "We are very excited and couldn't have found anyone better."

## Welcome ACA IL's New Associate Executive Director Rachel Crosetto

Rachel started to work for ACA IL the week before Thanksgiving in November. Her position as Associate Executive Director is a new one added as another aspect of the board of directors Succession Plan. A few pieces of information about her:

- B.A., Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin
- In her 13 years working in camping, she has served as Cabin Counselor, Aquatics Director, Education Program Instructor, Village Director, Assistant Director, Adventure/Trek Leader, and Branch Director at four camps in the mid-west and western United States: Camp Heartland, Wyman Center, Sherwood Forest Camp and Camp Coca-Cola
- Having grown up in Wisconsin, she's back in Chicago to be closer to her family.
- Rachel brings lots of valuable experience, excellent skills, and plenty of enthusiasm for the value of the camp experience. She desires to serve the members of our section and others seeking service from ACA IL in the best ways possible.

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### ACA National Conference "The Strength of Many Voices"

**February 12-15, 2008  
Gaylord Opryland Hotel  
Nashville, TN**

**Headliners: Rick Rigsby, Sally Jewell, Michael Thompson, and Peg Smith**

**We hope to see you there!**

## 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
- Books 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

## NEWS FROM MID STATES

A big THANK YOU to MAIC ( Midwest Association of Independent Camps) for their generous contribution to Mid States 2008 Camping Conference's Friday evening speaker expenses. Their dedication to contributing to the educational opportunities of camps in the Midwest over the past 16 years has been very much appreciated.

Pheasant Run, St. Charles has been the home of the Mid States Camping Conference for the past 6 years. Pheasant Run has now completed a State of the Art Training and Conference Center at the Hilton Hotel across the street. Mid States Leadership Institute Courses 2008 and the Nurses' Symposium will be the first groups to test these new facilities. We think attendees will be pleased with the plush seats, classrooms and technological capabilities of the new facility. Shuttles will be provided for those attendees who wish to drive rather than walk across the street. Be sure to mark your calendars for April 12-14, the dates of the Mid State Camping Conference, 2008. See our Website, [www.acamidstates.org](http://www.acamidstates.org) for more information.

**Annual Financial Report to the Membership  
ACA Illinois Section—Fiscal Year 2007 (7/1/06-6/30/07)**

|                                     | ACA IL Pro-<br>gram Ser-<br>vices<br>&<br>Admin. | DFI<br>Title XX Camp-<br>ing Services<br>Program | Russell W.<br>Hogrefe<br>Fresh Start<br>Program | Attorney Gen-<br>eral<br>Sexual Abuse<br>Victims Pro-<br>gram | Chicago<br>Camping<br>Committee<br>Program | Mid States<br>Conference | Total             |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>REVENUE:</b>                     |  |  |   |   |  |                          |                   |
| Government Grants                   |  | \$ 805,298                                       |   | \$ 17,456   |  |                          | \$ 822,754        |
| Matching Funds                      |  | 268,433  |   |   |  |                          | 268,433           |
| Members' Dues & Service Fees        | \$ 67,254  |  |   |   |  |                          | 67,254            |
| Program Management                  | 2,100  |  |   |   |  |                          | 2,100             |
| Contributions                       | 250  |  | \$ 12,153                                       |   |  | \$ 2,500                 | 14,903            |
| Interest Income                     | 6,261  |  | 2,232   |   | \$ 372                                     | 1,780                    | 10,645            |
| CampFest                            |  |  |   |   | 12,374                                     |                          | 12,374            |
| Copy & Equipment Reimbursement      | 7,281  |  |   |   |  |                          | 7,281             |
| Summer Opportunity Fair             | 31,175   |  |   |   |  |                          | 31,175            |
| Mid States Exhibitor Fees           |  |  |   |   |  | 59,034                   | 59,034            |
| Mid States Conference Fees          |  |  |   |   |  | 49,777                   | 49,777            |
| Other                               | 1,754  | -  | -   | -   | -  | 8,865                    | 10,619            |
|                                     | <u>116,075</u>                                   | <u>1,073,731</u>                                 | <u>14,385</u>                                   | <u>17,456</u>   | <u>12,746</u>                              | <u>121,956</u>           | <u>1,356,349</u>  |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                    |  |  |   |   |  |                          |                   |
| Camping Services                    |  | 883,430  | 8,701   | 9,332   | 12,514                                     |                          | 913,977           |
| Salaries & Wages                    | 33,579   | 107,466  |   |   |  |                          | 141,045           |
| Payroll Taxes & Employment Benefits | 8,801  | 29,885   |   |   |  |                          | 38,686            |
| Supplies/Equipment Rent             | 5,912  | 7,985  |   | 4,999   | 3,002                                      | 2,210                    | 24,108            |
| Insurance                           | 959  | 2,072  |   | 784   | 654  | 605                      | 5,074             |
| Rent & Utilities                    | 5,780  | 17,285   |   |   |  |                          | 23,065            |
| Telephone                           | 1,363  | 2,155  |   |   |  | 216                      | 3,734             |
| Postage                             | 1,312  | 913  |   |   |  | 1,543                    | 3,768             |
| Travel & Lodging                    | 4,435  | 544  |   | 1,241   | 1,523                                      | 15,257                   | 23,000            |
| Conference                          | 8,650  |  |   |   |  |                          | 8,650             |
| Professional Fees                   | 4,219  | 18,769   |   |   |  | 926                      | 23,914            |
| Printing & Publications             | -  | 3,227  |   |   | 250  | 7,404                    | 10,881            |
| Programs                            | 6,817  |  |   |   |  | 85,734                   | 92,551            |
| Equipment Depreciation              | 1,918  |  |   |   |  | 173                      | 2,091             |
| CampFest                            |  |  |   |   | 4,121                                      |                          | 4,121             |
| Equipment Maintenance               | 2,468  |  |   |   |  |                          | 2,468             |
| Standards Committee                 | 7,998  |  |   |   |  |                          | 7,998             |
| Summer Opportunity Fair             | 24,621   |  |   |   |  |                          | 24,621            |
| Management & Supervision            |  |  |   | 1,100   | 1,000                                      |                          | 2,100             |
| Other                               | 1,924  | -  | -   | -   | -  | -                        | 1,924             |
| Total expenses                      | <u>120,756</u>                                   | <u>1,073,731</u>                                 | <u>8,701</u>                                    | <u>17,456</u>   | <u>23,064</u>                              | <u>114,068</u>           | <u>1,357,776</u>  |
| Excess of revenue over expense      | (4,681)  | -  | 5,684   | -   | (10,318)                                   | 7,888                    | (1,427)           |
| Net Assets - beginning of year      | <u>158,347</u>                                   | <u>-</u>   | <u>76,344</u>                                   | <u>-</u>  | <u>16,132</u>                              | <u>54,840</u>            | <u>305,663</u>    |
| Net Assets - end of year            | <u>\$ 153,666</u>                                | <u>-</u>   | <u>\$ 82,028</u>                                | <u>\$ -</u>   | <u>\$ 5,814</u>                            | <u>\$ 62,728</u>         | <u>\$ 304,236</u> |

# Annual Meeting

Those who were able to attend the annual meeting on November 15, 2007 were treated to a presentation on Child Poverty and Youth Development, by Andrea Ray, MSW, of the Heartland Alliance of Human Needs and Human Rights.

One of her topics focused on poverty trends and indicators of child and youth poverty in Illinois. Some of the agency's findings were: Cook County has the second highest number of millionaire households and the second highest number of poor households of any county in the nation. Rural childhood poverty in Illinois rose 25.9% from 1999-2005 while the rural child population decreased 15.5%

She also identified specific challenges Illinois youth face in their transition from childhood to adulthood and policy solutions to help youth feel more prepared for adult life and to assist families in moving from poverty to stability.

The Heartland Alliance utilized focus groups and surveyed 196 youth ages 12 to 24 on their experiences regarding relationships, school, work, health, and future planning. Regarding personal relationships, 70 % of youth said that open-mindedness, 66% said more trust, and 59% said that more time spent together would improve relationships between youth and adults. Additionally, 52% of youth said that problem-solving skills and techniques for dealing with people are necessary for future planning.

For more information re: Heartland Alliance, the survey and their work, go to their website: [www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org)



## 2007 Award Recipients

Program of Excellence Award

SCLA

Honor Award

Heidi Strand

New Professional

Sabrina Hirschfeld  
Jill Rudolph

## Congratulations Catherine Curry!

**Catherine and her husband, Sean welcomed a baby daughter, Aislinn (pronounced Ash-linn) on May 1st. The family also moved into a new home in Evanston in early June, before Catherine headed back to camp in mid-June. Whew, what a summer!**

**Catherine is the Director of Summer Programs at the Latin School in Chicago, and an ACA Illinois Section Board Member.**

## Education Opportunities

# Free

### Day Camp Forum

February 29, 2008

9:00am - 3:00pm

TOPICS:

Morning - Risk Management and Operations

Afternoon - Program Design

RSVP: Graham Little at [littleg@ymcaofmchenrycounty.org](mailto:littleg@ymcaofmchenrycounty.org)

Lunch will be provided at an additional fee

### Calling All Interested in Being Standards Visitors!

Being a Standards Visitor allows you to visit other camps, get a first-hand look at all aspects of another camp's operation, share, and borrow ideas. Also, you'll save money on your membership!

The Section office is in the midst of scheduling Associate Visitor Courses in February and March in conjunction with the Wisconsin Section. This is a 12 hour course taught over 1 ½ days. The Section will cover the costs of the course, meals, lodging, and an updated Standards book, if you don't already have one. Your only cost is transportation to the training site.

#### Prerequisites to be an Associate Visitor:

- At least 21 years of age
- Current ACA member
- \*\*\*Completion of the Standards Course, or update, in 2007  
(If you have not taken either of these, call the Section office for scheduled courses.)

#### What's Required of an Associate Visitor:

- Associate Visitors are responsible to attend a standards briefing at least once every three years and assist with one or more visits at least every other year.
- For more information please contact the Section Office at 312-332-0833 and check out national's website at [www.acacamps.org/accreditation/visitjd.php](http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/visitjd.php)

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Look for an e-mail at the beginning of January from ACA-IL that will contain a link to a survey prepared by section executives and key staff at ACA National using the online tool “Survey Monkey”.



We are committed to making your experience as a member the best it can possibly be. We are also interested in hearing about people’s interests in volunteer opportunities. The survey should only take 10-15 minutes. Feedback from ACA Section members is critical to our ability to meet your needs. By sharing your perspectives, you will help us steer the future of the Section in a direction that reflects the desires of the membership!



### CALLING ALL CAMPS!

The Illinois Section Office is hoping that all section camps will send a favorite camp photo for us to hang on our “Wall of Camps”. We are looking to brighten up our office and show anyone who stops by the pride we have in our camps.

These photos will only be for display on our office walls, but need appropriate releases. Please e-mail them to [rachel@acail.org](mailto:rachel@acail.org) or mail them to our office at:  
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