

NEWS IN BRIEF



July 3, 2008

FROM THE SECTION OFFICE

2009 Indiana Park & Recreation Association Conference
Program proposals for the 2009 IPRA Conference are being accepted.
Proposal forms are available on the IPRA website, www.inpra.org.
The deadline for proposal submission is August 12th.

IRS Increases Mileage Rates From July 1 Through December 31, 2008

The IRS has announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008 [IR-2008-82, 6-23-08; www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=184163,00.html]. Citing "recent gasoline price increases," the IRS has increased the standard business mileage rate from 50.5 cents to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven between July 1 and December 31, 2008.

The rate for deductible medical or moving expenses is increased from 19 cents to 27 cents a mile. *Note:* The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile.

Boards vs. managers - A balancing act

Who's in charge here? In trying to balance the constant but often competing demands of dealing with day-to-day activities while maintaining long-range goals, nonprofit leaders can often become confused about who is supposed to do what.

Thomas McLaughlin, a national nonprofit management consultant with Grant Thornton LLP, offers several broad suggestions about leadership that can help clarify roles and even help avoid problems.

The suggestions are:

- A manager's focus is on short-term execution. Boards concentrate on long-range plans.
- Concepts vs. details. Boards need to operate in a conceptual sphere and managers live in a world of details.
- Boards invest, managers spend. Boards need to be primarily concerned with things of inherent value. Boards make investment decisions with the very long-term view in mind. Managers are primarily occupied with costs. They see needs and crises and opportunities to improve.
- If it has to be decided today, it's the wrong question. If a question like this comes before the board, either it's the wrong kind of question to come before them or it has come too late.
- Boards "own" the controls, and managers implement them. This is one item, representing a change for many organizations, that has been demanded by Sarbanes-Oxley guidelines. Boards and managers can each use their part of the financial statements to guide their work.

TECH TIPS

Want to convert your English-language Web site to Spanish? Or maybe to another language that would cater to your target audience?

[Google Translate](#) is a good starting point for this purpose; translation capabilities for 10 new languages have just been added to the service.

Be sure to have the translation proofread by someone fluent!

LINK UP

Campsite Cooking with Reynolds Wrap

A neat booklet about creative cooking utensils and methods using aluminum foil is available from Reynolds Wrap at 804-281-FOIL. A MUST for those who hate doing dishes during a cookout!

SITE & FACILITY

The EPA issued a new rule 3/31/08 that by April 2010, maintenance professionals and home improvement contractors who repair or renovate pre-1978 schools, childcare facilities or housing be certified. Their employees must be trained as well and they shall follow protective lead-safe work practice standards.

Requirements include, but are not limited to, restricting occupants from work areas, preventing dust and debris from spreading, conducting a clean-up, and verifying effective clean up. This rule is not just for Indiana, but for ALL states! The new rule is titled "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Program".

This rule does not apply to homeowners who do it themselves, but is certainly good information to know before they inadvertently poison their children, pets or themselves with lead dust.

To put lead dust in perspective- If one takes a 1-gram sugar packet for your coffee (equals 1 million micrograms) and assume it has a 100% lead dust concentration, and you spread it equally over the floors of 10 homes, each home having 2,500 square feet, you would still be 1 microgram per square foot over the allowable limit of 39 micrograms per square foot for floors.

www.epa.gov/lead

provided by Calvin Bolt, Bolt Home Inspections; IDEM licensed lead paint inspector; IDEM licensed lead paint risk assessor

STANDARDS SECRETS

Skills Verification Guidelines- Staff member demonstrates:

level of proficiency in activity * ability to assemble equipment correctly * ability to use equipment correctly * ability to maintain equipment in good working condition * ability to store equipment correctly * ability to handle hazardous equipment in appropriate manner * ability to set up and maintain course or program area * ability to give clear and accurate directions * ability to problem solve and find appropriate solutions * ability to understand and implement operating procedures * ability to monitor safety of participants * ability to respond appropriately in emergency situations * ability to deliver clear orientation to participants * ability to plan and deliver instructional program * ability to demonstrate appropriate techniques in a clear and logical manner

MANAGEMENT

Positively Outrageous Service- part 4 of 5 POS Exemplars: Parents

- Attend home sporting/creative events
- Stop and knocks (hi, in the neighborhood)
- Video tape: homesick kid having fun, camp firsts
- Call home from the field... zip line, first dive, hitting a grand slam
- Off season parent workshops
- Over the top problem solving- parent car died, director loaned his
- Free phone calls home
- Send pictures home to parents with note
- Positive phone calls home- make at least one a day
- Parents weekend playfulness- invite parents to play
- Parent orientation program
- Courtesy phone calls from head counselor
- Introduction letters from bunk staff
- First night phone calls home from directors to all new parents

"Reach for the Stars- 90% Camper Retention Rate" presented at ACA National Conference 2008 by Jay Toporoff and Ginger Clare, Camp Danbee www.campdanbee.com

INSPIRATIONS- July Series

WISDOM:

A wise man does not make the goat his gardener- Hungary

It is foolish to hold a candle before the sun or turn somersaults before a donkey- India

The hen with a worm in its bill will not cackle- unknown

The wise man avoids meeting the angry bull- Yoruba

Wise is the man who has two loaves, and sells one to buy a lily- China

If there were wisdom in beards, all goats would be prophets- Armenia

GREEN SPOKEN HERE

Here's How to Start Saving on Fuel Costs Today at Camp!

ACA polled a number of camps across the country to determine how they were dealing with the perplexing issue of rising fuel costs and to accumulate the following list of energy-efficient ideas and methods camps are currently using to curb increasing fuel prices and the subsequent consequences of higher food prices and declines in the economy.

A few ideas from the list:

- Use golf carts and scooters instead of camp vehicles for driving around camp.
- Evaluate trips camp staff take for errands, supply runs, and other trips to the city if you are a rural camp..
- Reconfigure heat and water systems use in cabins for better energy efficiency.
- Offer discounts to parents who make efforts to reduce their carbon footprint by carpooling to camp or using public transportation to motivate conserving fuel.
- Encourage staff to bike to work, carpool, or take the bus.

More ideas:

http://www.acacamps.org/inside/08_06/relevant.php

DIVERSITY – July Series

LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

1. Person-first language means:

- a) Choosing words carefully, when communicating with a person who has disabilities.
- b) Viewing a person who has disabilities as an individual versus “a disability.”
- c) Being kind, when communicating with a person who has disabilities.
- d) None of the above.

What’s the point? The POINT is while it’s great to be kind to all people when speaking to them, with respect to the issue of disability (or for that matter any difference), a person should be defined by their character and not a physical or psychological condition OR what they can’t do versus what they can do.

2. The words “handicapped” and “cripple” are:

- a) Offensive to all people who have disabilities.
- b) Never used by people who have disabilities.
- c) Offensive to some people who have disabilities, and used by some people who have disabilities.
- d) None of the above.

The POINT is that there are many people who have disabilities that use terms that are considered negative. People who have disabilities have diverse life philosophies, belief etc., as with any group of people. And philosophies and beliefs “show up” in language.

Even “cutesy” words like “handi-capable” or “special” can be offensive because these terms may be perceived as belittling a person, or minimizing the issue of disability.

Also, ANOTHER POINT is that language changes, evolves.

3. Using the word “see” around someone who is blind is:

- a) Accepted.
- b) Considered rude.
- c) Harder for people to hear who have not always been blind.
- d) None of the above.

The POINT is that feeling discomfort with using words like “see”, “hear”, or “walk” around people who are blind, deaf or in a wheelchair, is often an internal issue for the person doing the talking and feeling the discomfort. People who have disabilities, generally, don’t cringe at the use of everyday language, and aren’t surprised that they can’t see, hear or walk!

4. When a person stutters or has a difficult time finishing his or her sentences, or is slow to respond, you should:

- a) Spare him or her embarrassment and complete the sentence.
- b) Pace your responses every 30 seconds.
- c) Wait until the person finishes his or her communication.
- d) None of the above.

What’s the point?

The POINT is that people communicate differently, period. Example, researchers have found that many people who have autism and downs syndrome have an average response time of 30 seconds. Besides, what’s the rush!

ANOTHER POINT is that people often like to do for them selves, and not be helped when help is not requested.