

american **CAMP** association™
Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Committee Name: Public Policy Committee
2. Committee Chair: Sharon Kosch
3. Meeting Dates: December 10, 2004
4. Meeting Location: Via Teleconference
5. Role Call:

Committee Members Present: Sharon Kosch, Chair; Scott Brody, Don Cheley, Marla Coleman, Vance Gilmore, Chuck McGrady, Darrow Milgrim, Jane Sanborn, and Steve Sudduth

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Peg Smith, Rachel Williams and Susan E. Yoder

6. Discussion and Actions:

A. Welcome and Introductions: Kosch called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

B. Review of Trip to DC: Kosch referenced the notes from the trip to Washington, D.C. She highlighted the trip to Mike Johnson's office and noted that he still remains a supporter of our cause. Yoder said Johnson will be supplying us with examples of associations that are national, but not based in DC, that he believes has effective public policy programs. Kosch and Smith noted the need to review the benchmarking data with an eye toward public policy. **Smith said she would confer with Kim Bruno to select someone to review the benchmarking data with an eye toward public policy.**

Sanborn and Sudduth highlighted their trip to the US Forest Service. Sanborn said she does not believe that their will be an outfitter guide bill, but that changes will be made through regulation changes. She reported that she will remain on top of the issue. Sudduth added that the meeting highlighted the need for us to develop contacts with each local region of the Forest Service.

Yoder and Kosch reviewed the visit to the Alliance (as noted in the minutes from the meeting.) Yoder added that the Alliance agreed to list us for free in their annual publication of exchange program users.

C. Criminal Background Checks: Kosch reviewed the chart of activities the association has undertaken on criminal background checks. She also reviewed the current situation with a camp in Hawaii whose director used an assumed

name and turned out to be a convicted sex offender in the state of California. She reviewed the advice given to us by legal counsel and our public relations counsel. They have advised caution but continuing efforts – caution so that it does not appear that we are “knee-jerking” about this particular issue in Hawaii. All agreed that we have been working on this for years and shall continue cautiously. The group discussed the position paper on this issue. Yoder pointed out that it is not currently in the format that we’ve developed for position papers. **Kosch was asked to review the position paper on criminal background checks and to update it for consideration.** The group further discussed that the Council of Delegates could discuss this issue in February. All agreed that we need to educate delegates about the issue and what we have done thus far. **It was the consensus of the group to present education to the Delegates in February 2005 and invite dialogue about the position paper – with discussion about a timeline for approval.**

D. Public Lands: Sanborn discussed how important it is for ACA to have a position paper on public lands. The group reviewed preliminary work of Sanborn and Kosch. Considerable discussion followed. **Yoder agreed to rework the draft Public Lands Position Paper into the proper format for consideration by the Committee.** **It was the consensus of the group to receive a redraft of the position paper the following Monday and to vote electronically on whether to forward it to the Board the following Wednesday.**

E. Public Policy Sessions at Orlando 2005: Kosch reported that there is room on the schedule for two public policy sessions at the national conference. She said that one would be for an overview briefing that would most likely happen on Wednesday of the conference. The group then discussed what the second topic might be. **It was the consensus of the group to consider a session on “Relationship Building/Advocacy How To” at the Orlando 2005 Conference.** Kosch agreed to begin work on the session.

F. Next Meeting: Because there was much of the agenda to still accomplish, Kosch asked to set another teleconference for January. **It was the consensus of the group to meet via teleconference on January 10th at 11:00 am Eastern.**

G. Adjourn: Kosch adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

7. Summary of Items Requiring Action By Staff:

- A. Yoder will create and distribute meeting minutes.
- B. Smith will confer with Kim Bruno to select someone to review the benchmarking data with an eye toward public policy.
- C. Yoder

8. Summary of Assignments to Committee Members:

- A. Kosch will review the position paper on criminal background checks and will update it for consideration.
- B. All will respond back to Kosch after receiving the draft public lands position paper.

- C. **Kosch** agreed to begin work on the session for the Orlando conference on Advocacy/relationship building.

9. Summary of Motions:

- A. It was the consensus of the group to present education to the Delegates in February 2005 and invite dialogue about the position paper.
- B. It was the consensus of the group to receive a redraft of the position paper on public lands the following Monday and to vote electronically on whether to forward it to the Board the following Wednesday.
- C. It was the consensus of the group to consider a session on "Relationship Building/Advocacy How To" at the Orlando 2005 Conference.

10. Next Meeting:

January 10, 2005; 11 am Eastern

11. Minutes Submitted by:

Susan E. Yoder
December 22, 2004