

## Winter Workshop Brings Together Membership for Connection, Guidance for Camp Leaders

### “Giving voice, giving space”

This suggestion, which Alliance for Camp Health CEO Tracey Gaslin urges for camps, is exactly what the Winter Educational Workshop granted almost 100 camp professionals at the Italian Heritage Center on January 25.

The workshop, sponsored by H & H Purchasing and Consulting, brought participants together in person for the first time since 2020. The all-star trio of presenters, Tracey Gaslin, Ph.D., John Hamilton, M.A. and ACH chief strategy officer, and Bob Ditter, M.Ed., LCSW, and legendary camp consultant, provided suggestions on how camp directors, counselors, and campers are still impacted by the pandemic and how to shift from a challenging 2022 season to creating what Ditter called a “return to fun” in 2023.

Grounded in energy, empathy and expertise, Gaslin, Hamilton and Ditter offered voice and space to workshop participants in a three-hour program that touched on topics ranging from why children benefit from struggles to the value of expressing vulnerability to the importance of campers simply playing in nature.

“We were so grateful that MSC members responded to the invitation with open hearts and minds,” said Education Committee chair Anna Hopkins Buller. “I heard from many MSC members that they felt connected with peers after the workshop. Most importantly, members felt more prepared to discuss wellbeing and mental health with staff at camp this summer season.”

### Confronting the Pandemic’s Effects

“We are still recognizing the impact [of the pandemic],” Ditter stated in his opening remarks; 2022 was not the return to “normal” so many had hoped. Instead, camps were welcoming staff and campers facing a litany of difficult truths “building since 2020”: climate change, school shootings, and widespread political division, all steeped in the influence of the ever-present internet. Mental health demands resilience, Ditter said; parents



**Maine Summer Camps members gathered January 25 to participate in the annual Winter Educational Workshop.**

and campers alike must bear in mind that camps’ true work is “helping young people learn how to do hard things.”

“The star of the show” in making that happen “is you folks,” Ditter said. “It’s a parallel process: you with staff, staff with kids.”

### The Value of Connection, Unstructured Play

Both Ditter and Hamilton stressed the vital importance of continued connection. After training, fresh off a week of camper-free time together, staff might have a sense of “who are these people invading my privacy?” Ditter said. The key as camp opens is to help campers and counselors, through the power of play, “get a better sense” of each other. Some camps dedicate the first day of camp to simple play, without structured activities, to achieve that goal, he said.

**Winter Workshop continues on page 6**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 2023

*Happy February, everyone. I hope you all survived the arctic blast and subsequent warm up with fingers and toes intact!*

*Of course, the calendar says mid-February, but my gut tells me the summer is sooooo much closer than that, and there are sooooo many things that need to get done between now and then. But the truth is that we do still have some relatively quiet time before the summer, to be reflective and deliberate.*

*I have been reflecting on the incredible January workshop organized by MSC's all-star education committee. It was a timely and necessary workshop on supporting staff and camper well-being. There was an important focus on supporting your own needs as a camp administrator or director. How do we set ourselves up for success, and by doing so, set up our staff and campers for success?*

*I've also been reflecting on the amazing work done by MSC's Level Ground committee, which is ramping up to expand access to a summer camp experience for as many Maine kids as possible. Level Ground will have an exciting announcement soon, but in the meantime we celebrate their successful outreach event in January and look forward to many great stories post summer.*

*The MSC DEI Committee and Native American Working Group are doing a lot of important, and sometimes difficult work, to help Maine's camps tackle some really big issues that we all benefit from paying attention to. Look for tangible, helpful tools to come from that quarter in the very near future.*

*The Camp Staffing ad hoc committee hosted its first Zoom Webinar on Feb 16th – "MSC Meets ACA's Project Real Jobs." This committee has also been meeting with the University of Maine system to collaborate more closely and will help to coordinate the April 19th UMaine-Farmington Hiring Fair. This group is also working on a possible collaboration between the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and some of MSC's nonprofit camps.*

*A dynamic new combined committee is in the works. Called the Business and Development Committee (formerly the Business and Membership Committees), the members will look to the future as they take a couple of significant steps towards providing some board planning and membership development.*

*MYCA has been working from a legislating and regulatory perspective. The MYCA board meets frequently and addresses emergent issues on behalf of all Maine camps.*

*You are getting incredible value from your MSC membership right now, and there are ways to maximize that value. Be sure to follow the MSC Camp Directors FB page and make sure the MSC newsletter and weekly update go to your email inbox. Come to the MSC Happy Hour at 4:45pm on Friday March 31st at the ACA-NE Conference in Manchester. And mark your calendars for: the virtual MSC membership meeting April 4, spring staff trainings, and the September Annual Meeting at Migis Lodge. And please reach out to get involved!*

Matt Pines, MSC Board President, Maine Teen Camp Co-Director





# MYCA UPDATE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the 2022 elections behind us, we now turn our attention to the state house and the large volume of proposed legislation. In a typical year 1,800 bills will be reviewed; for this regular session of Maine's 131st legislature there are already 2,300 bills pending. Currently MYCA is closely following bills surrounding campfire permitting, excessive wakes on lakes, and lake protection funding. It's appropriate to invoke the old adage, "this is a marathon, not a sprint" since it is just February and there is much more to come. As with any pending legislation that MYCA feels is critical for membership involvement, we will inform you when it's time to contact your local representatives and senators. Bills which are voted into law and affect Maine camps will be outlined in a memo to Maine member camps (linked within the Hall Monitor and placed on our website for reference), with details about new rules and regulations.



Along with the legislative bills, we are monitoring rulemaking in several agencies which directly affect summer camps, including the Department of Health and Human Services (our camp licensing rules), Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (our boating rules) and MUBEC from the State Fire Marshall (our building codes). Additionally, Newell Augur (MYCA lobbyist) and I recently met with representatives from the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) in order to advocate for broader funding for Maine camps in the second round of Thrive Maine forgivable grants.

MYCA is planning to host a reception in the House of Flags at the Statehouse on March 9. (For more information, see page 4). The first such event was a few years ago (pre-pandemic) and we found it to be a great way to meet legislators and speak with them about the importance of summer camps to the economy of the state and the opportunities for Maine children (50 percent of all children

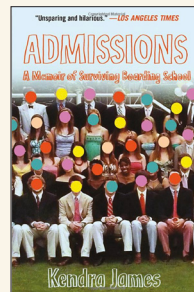
who attend camp in the state are Maine residents). Twenty MSC camp directors have been contacted to be present at this event. If you have any questions, please email me for further details.

In the past calendar year, the MYCA board has welcomed three new board members: Pam Cobb (Camp Runoia), Mark Standen (Camp Kawanhee) and Dawn Willard-Robinson (Pine Tree Camp). Thank you all for serving.

Laura Ordway  
President MYCA Board, Winona Camps

MYCA (Maine Youth Camp Association) is the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps (MSC). MYCA's mission is to monitor, publicly comment and interpret state and federal legislation on behalf of MSC, with the purpose of furthering the welfare of camps in Maine. We maintain relationships with policy officials for camp advocacy. Additionally, our 501(c)(4) non-profit status allows for limited activities supporting political campaigns. As a member of MSC, your camp is also a member of MYCA.

### Book Club Announces Next Selection Stay Tuned for Virtual Meeting Date



The MSC Book Club and DEI Committee are uniting to announce that the spring read will be **Admissions: A Memoir of Surviving Boarding School** by Kendra James. The date and time for the next meeting are still to be determined, but likely will be in April and will be virtual. There is plenty of time to pick up the book at your local bookstore!

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## MYCA Showcase Day at the Maine State House

The Hall of Flags at the statehouse sits under the capitol dome and is used regularly for press conferences and ceremonies. Every day when the legislature is in session, the Hall of Flags is reserved by Maine businesses and interest groups as a way to connect legislators with business/organization members who are available to answer questions, speak about key aspects of their industry and showcase their products.

MYCA will showcase the economic value and emotional/youth development benefits of Maine Youth Camping on March 9. Several directors from a wide range of Maine Summer Camps, along with JMG program representatives and a few MSC business members, have been asked to spend March 9th meeting legislators and other state officials in this informal setting, with the goal of promoting the importance of all Maine camps.

This is a great opportunity for Maine Youth Camp Association to be more visible at the State level and to develop connections with the people making the legislative decisions which affect our businesses.

FMI: contact Lucy at [camps@mainecamps.org](mailto:camps@mainecamps.org).




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## Upcoming Events

Thursday-Saturday, February 23-25

**ACA National Conference, Orlando FL**

Wednesday, March 8, 10 am-noon

**MYCA Zoom Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 9

**Maine Youth Camp Day at Maine State House**

Tuesday-Thursday, March 14-16

**Tri-State Conference, Atlantic City, NJ**

Sunday, March 26, 1-3:30 pm

**Camp Fair at East End Community Center**

Thursday-Saturday, March 30-April 1

**ACA New England Conference, Manchester, NH**

Friday, March 31, 4:45-6:15 pm

**State of Maine Social Hour at ACA, New England Conference, Manchester, NH**

\* Tuesday, April 4, 10 am-12 pm (note date change)

**MSC Zoom Semi-Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, April 12, 10 am-12 pm

**MYCA Zoom Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 19, 11 am-1 pm

**University of Maine Farmington Job Fair**

Wednesday, April 26, 1-3 pm

**MSC Spring Board Meeting (location TBD)**

Wednesday, April 26, 3:30-5:30 pm

**Special Member Opportunity—Stay Tuned for Details**

Wednesday, May 10, 10 am-noon

**MYCA Zoom Board Meeting**

Monday-Friday, July 24-28

**JMG Test Camp, Oquossoc**

Wednesday, September 20, 9:30 am-1:30 pm

**Annual Meeting and Cookout, Migis Lodge**

\* The semi-annual meeting will not take place in-person at the ACA New England Conference. Again this year, we will hold this meeting virtually to maximize participation. Also, please note the date; originally it was scheduled for Wednesday, April 5.



**Click here to register for the MSC Zoom Semi-Annual Meeting**



## 'Indigenous Appropriation Assessment' Will be Shared with Membership

For the past two years, MSC's Native American Working Group (NAWG) has been striving to address concerns raised by representatives of Maine's Wabanaki community regarding cultural appropriation in member camps.

As part of that effort, the full MSC Board participated in a what has been described as a "transformative" training session to learn about our Native American neighbors' history and culture. It has offered similar opportunities to MSC members. Now the group wants to give member camps an opportunity to reflect and gather information about their connection to and knowledge about their indigenous predecessors. In this effort, NAWG has developed a tool entitled "Indigenous Appropriation Assessment," which will be shared with the MSC membership in the coming weeks.

"It's an invitation to camps to reflect on their traditions, their land, their language," said committee member Catriona Sangster. "It guides them through a thought process with some questions. There are no right or wrong answers."

The assessment states in its introduction, "This is intended to help camps examine their ethos with an openness to experiencing the camp's symbols and practices from other perspectives. We hope you will undertake this process not as a checklist, but as an opportunity to thoughtfully observe, discuss, consider, and take action."

NAWG has committed itself to helping camps learn and grow. "Maine's territory was home to Native people for millennia until it was violently taken from them," the draft assessment states. "Our camps operate on this land, and we all have the responsibility to learn, teach others and reconcile this history with our indigenous neighbors, particularly because the harm inflicted continues to impact their communities to this day."

The assessment also provides resources to help camps learn more about their indigenous roots, Sangster said. "We're trying to make it very Maine specific. We have a video of Maulian Dana (Penobscot Nation tribal ambassador), for example," she said. Other resources are provided through the Abbey Museum.

In preparing to distribute the assessment tool, Sangster said the committee would like to reach out to Maulian and Barry Dana, "hoping for feedback from indigenous communities."

NAWG may also collaborate with the Education Committee to discuss offering a webinar to camps "explaining how they might use the tool and maybe having a couple of camps talk about what they've done," she said.

NAWG hopes to share the assessment in early spring so camps can embark on this learning opportunity prior to the 2023 season. ■

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## Winter Workshop *continued from page 1.*

Being in nature, without a program objective, is vital to campers, Ditter said. Hamilton, who offered a number of statistics on children's screen time and lack of outdoor play, agreed. In addition, he called the dearth of MESH education in schools a "global health crisis."

Hamilton reminded workshop participants that from a therapeutic standpoint, four or five days at camp equals four to five months in therapy. But those four or five days can also "create toxicity and re-traumatization," he said. Coming from a place of kindness and non-judgment, with a commitment to a community agreement, is vital, Hamilton said.

"And it's not just for staff," he said. "You create the culture," he said, a culture which should strive not for "us vs. them" but "together."

There is a place for vulnerability in such a culture, Hamilton continued. "We have to own our stuff."

The significant challenges of the 2022 season made reflection on the season difficult, one director told the group. Similarly, one workshop planner shared the struggle of "carrying so much" and being "strong for other people." But an intention to avoid being a burden can have a negative outcome, she conceded.

***Two keys to a successful summer are belonging and accountability.***

"You can't go into the whitewater of life unless you talk to others," Ditter advised.

Two keys to a successful summer are belonging and accountability, Hamilton said. An organizational design must drive such belonging, Gaslin said. "Human-centeredness is key." Camp leaders must also consider how their energy functions to influence others.

### Connection and Curiosity are Vital

It's vital that staff "connect before redirect," Ditter reminded the group. Through training staff can learn to take three steps in engaging with campers: "you sound upset (name); what made you feel that way; what makes you say it?"

By being in a "state of curiosity," Gaslin said, staff can help campers work through struggles. "We want them to struggle — and to feel safe, loved and respected." By making the camper the teacher and the staff the student, through that spirit of curiosity, camp leaders are giving that essential "voice" and are "creating space," she said.

"Children learn when they listen, but they don't listen unless they feel heard," Ditter said. Staff should also discuss how they may have contributed to a challenging situation, he said.

"It's all about healing-centered engagement," Hamilton added. The concept of "empower, educate, validate and support" builds

skills toward creating hope, he said. "The future is better than the past; we have the power to make it so," he said. That includes talking to campers about not only obstacles, but their goals.

### Presenters' Closing Comments

As the workshop drew to an end, each presenter charged the participants with a goal.

"I encourage you to give the gift of struggle to campers," Gaslin said

"This is no ordinary time; kids need a different kind of stretching," offered Ditter, adding that "learning doesn't happen without bumps."

Campers need to the "ability to be seen, the space to be heard," Hamilton said. Then, he said, they will truly be known. and "called by name," Hamilton concluded.

### Mission Accomplished

Education Committee member Catriona Sangster said that workshop planners realized "how difficult the past few years have been for camp directors personally. A lot of our own needs were pushed to the side as we prioritized the camp community." The presenters factored that into their work, she said.

"They did a really good job navigating that awareness piece and approaching it with empathy for us as camp professionals and helping us move forward to be the leaders for our communities," Sangster said.

"What I considered the more important goal was to get everyone back in the same space after a long and difficult absence and make it feel welcoming, warm and supportive," said committee member Terri Mulks. "Mission accomplished!" ■

### What's In Their Backpacks? Recommended reading from the Winter Workshop Presenters

#### Bob Ditter:

*Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do about It*, by Richard Reeves

#### Tracey Gaslin and John Hamilton:

*Play the Danish Way*, by Iben Dissing Sandahl

*Hope Rising: How the Science of Hope Can Change your Life*, by Casey Gwinn, J.D. and Chan Hellman, Ph.D.

*Not Just Play: Summer Camp and the Profession of Social Work*, by Meryl Nadel and Susan Scher



**Click to access resources from the Alliance for Camp Health**



**Click here for Bob Ditter's workshop handouts**



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# Junior Maine Guide Program

## Looking to recruit staff members from within your camp? Build a Junior Maine Guide Program

A message from new JMG Director Ron Fournier

**M**any Maine camps have formal CIT programs designed to train the next generation of staff, but one program that you may be overlooking is the Junior Maine Guide program.

On average, between eight and 10 camps offer the JMG program annually. Participants learn a broad range of trip leading and leadership skills throughout the experience and many JMG candidates, after earning their program certification, become future staff members. As the director of the Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and Learning Center for nearly 15 years, I found the JMG program to be one of our most valuable in-house staff recruitment opportunities. We watched future leaders emerge with well-balanced outdoors skills, and many returned as staff members in subsequent summers

***Participants learn a broad range of trip leading and leadership skills throughout the experience and many JMG candidates, after earning their program certification, become future staff members.***

The JMG curriculum can be found in the JMG resource manual, *The Art of Outdoor Living*, which is available through MSC. The text includes the three levels of outdoor skills building that culminate with the Junior Maine Guide encampment, held in Oquossuc each summer.

Building a Junior Maine Guide program into your camp framework isn't as difficult as one may think, and we have a team of JMG testers and committee members who are more than happy to help you develop a program within your camp. Many camps begin with the Junior Maine Woodcraft or Maine Woodcraft levels, and work towards JMG. Current camps participating in the JMG program include Arcadia, Birch Rock, Bryant Pond 4-H, Kawanhee, Natarswi, O-At-Ka, Runioa, Winona, and Wyonegonic.

FMI please contact [ronald.fournier@maine.gov](mailto:ronald.fournier@maine.gov) ■



***Retiring JMG director Moose Curtis guided program candidates for 50 years.***

## MSC Announces Leadership Transition within the Junior Maine Guide Program

**A**fter 43 years as the Junior Maine Guide Director, John “Moose” Curtis is moving on to new adventures. Under his leadership, the JMG program has provided exceptional outdoor skills instruction with a testing encampment experience that has set the standard for outdoor leadership in Maine.

The JMG program was created by an act of the Maine State Legislature in 1937. The program is overseen by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) and Maine Summer Camps. Over 3,000 individuals have become Junior Maine Guides since the inception of the program.

Maine Summer Camps is excited to announce that Ronald Fournier has agreed to step into the director's role at JMG. Ron is currently employed by the State of Maine as the Recreational Safety Supervisor for DIF&W. Prior to his current role, Ron was the director of the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, where he was involved at all levels of the JMG program. He is a Master Maine Guide and enjoys all the activities the Maine woods have to offer. His connections to the department and his background in outdoor leadership will help JMG stay current on issues impacting outdoor recreation, while staying on the cutting edge of outdoor education. ■





**Bob Strauss and Rich Deering helped make the Business Networking Extravaganza another annual success.**

## Business Networking Extravaganza 'A Success for All'

The annual Business Networking Extravaganza, held January 25 following the Winter Educational Workshop, brought together MSC camp members and about 50 business members for an afternoon of connection and learning about vendors' products and camps' purchasing needs.

"The Business Networking event was a win for both vendors and camp directors," said Business Membership Committee chair Arleen Shepherd. "Camp personnel had the opportunity to learn more about specific businesses, which translates into sales for the businesses. Both vendors and camp directors spoke extremely positively about the event."

Held every year following the educational program, the networking event "has tremendous value for each vendor, because camp directors with sincere interest stop by to connect," she said.

Shepherd calls the decision to become a business member "the best marketing decision a vendor could make." By participating in the Business Networking event these vendors can connect with camp industry members "who have strong buying power."

"Despite the weather, the room was packed with smiles and positivity," she said. "Each camp director was truly interested in what vendors had to offer. Those behind tables were eager and happy to build relationships. The afternoon was a success for all." ■

## Raffle Grand Prize goes to Becky Alford of Kingsley Pines

We are excited that a MESH professional, Becky Alford, camp experience director at Kingsley Pines, was the lucky winner of the Migis Group's donation of a two-night stay at the Inn at Ocean's Edge in Lincolnville. Becky attended the workshop just six weeks after re-joining the Kingsley Pines staff, where she will focus on the MESH needs of campers. She's glad to be welcomed back to the camp community after an eight year hiatus and grateful to MSC for hosting such a great event.

## Welcome New Business Members

### Fairwinds Camp Consulting

Fairwinds Camp Consulting, run by longtime camp director and social worker Nick Teich, PhD LCSW, provides consulting and training to all camps in the areas of camper and staff mental health, transgender inclusion and more.

Nick Teich, 207.200.5228

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## Thank you to our sponsors!

MSC extends its appreciation to **H & H Purchasing Services and Consulting**, which once again sponsored the Winter Educational Workshop.

We also thank our Business Networking Extravaganza sponsors: **Migis Lodge, Casella Organics, Five Star Golf Cars and Utility Vehicles, Norway Savings Bank, Chalmers Camp Insurance, Funtown/Splashtown, Payroll Management, Brio Custom, CCE Golf Cars, Northeast Charter & Tour Company, and Remax-Shoreline.**

## Maine Summer Camps Level Ground Initiative Update

Gearing up for summer 2023!

**L**evel Ground was established in 2018 with the goal of providing children from Maine's refugee and immigrant community with camp experiences free of cost.

Kris Millard is currently coordinating the initiative, pending hiring of a coordinator funded by a generous L.L. Bean grant. With invaluable committee support, she is currently connecting with established community partners, identifying potential new community partners, and working with approximately 10 partnering camps who have expressed an interest in hosting Level Ground campers.

Within the coming weeks it is expected that community partners will begin the process of identifying potential campers and undertaking the placement process. This will happen with the support of the program coordinator and the Level Ground committee.

If you would like to know more about the initiative and how your camp can participate, please reach out to Kris Millard at [krismillard@gmail.com](mailto:krismillard@gmail.com). ■

## Save the Dates for Our Upcoming Camp and Job Fairs

All camps are welcome to register now for the East End Camp Fair happening Sunday, March 26 from 1pm to 3:30pm. Registration is \$110 for MSC Members and \$150 for non-Members. Historically, this has been the largest camp fair in Southern Maine. Please join us.



***Click here to register for the March 26 East End Camp Fair***

MSC will hold a job fair at UMaine Farmington again this year on Wednesday, April 19 from 11am-1pm. Weather permitting, it will be held on the campus green only to be moved inside to the student center in inclement weather.



***Click here to register for the April 19 Job Fair***

This job fair will be limited to 26 MSC Camps. Registration is \$125 (\$100 for nonprofit camps).

Contact Lucy at [camps@mainecamps.org](mailto:camps@mainecamps.org) with questions about either fair. ■



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## Maine Camp History

### Kuhnawaumbek: Sebago, Maine

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian


Once upon a time, at least during the summer of 1933, a girls summer camp known as **Kuhnawaumbek** was a part of the Maine summer camp fabric. The camp was situated in the western section of Sebago (Convene) on the upper part of the Twin Lakes about forty miles northwest of Portland. By virtue of its location near the Saco River and midway between the White Mountains and the ocean, trips of all kinds remained possible for campers. The site was about 600 feet above sea level and its sloping fields and sandy soil provided for excellent drainage. The pine groves located upon the property of Kuhnawaumbek gave refreshing shade. The buildings on site included a lodge containing the dining hall, a reading room, an office, a recreation building giving the opportunity for music, indoor games, and dramatics; and what were counted as “the well-screened and ventilated Sleeping Cabins.” Sixty acres of woodlands and fields gave space for tennis, basketball, and other sports while its location on the lake afforded the opportunity for swimming, boating, and canoeing.

The specific activities of the camp included volleyball, tennis, basketball, group games, folk dances, dramatics, and water sports such as swimming and boating. The camp also provided the opportunity for horseback riding for each girl who attended. The camp provided three lessons a week by a competent instructor. The camp had an emblem award system to those obtaining special proficiencies in sports, crafts, and dramatics. In marketing brochures of Kuhnawaumbek from 1933, the CK represents 100 points, and the Junior CK represented 50 points.

According to the 1933 marketing brochure, the camp had the desire of admitting girls to the camp who were from congenial “refined Christian homes”. In 1933, the cost to attend a summertime session from July 1 to August 26 was \$300.00, of which a \$10.00 deposit was required at the time of registration. The camp did offer half season rates for \$175.00. The camp could also arrange tutoring as long as same was done in advance of enrollment. It is noteworthy that in order to attend the camp it was necessary to submit an “Application for Membership”.

By all accounts, the camp was under the directorship of Gertrude Mann, Lois E. Mann, and Helen Mann. The camp endeavored “to give every girl exuberant health, worth-while interests in life and fine ideals in her relations with others -besides a wonderful adventure and a glorious time—all essential for happy and abundant living.” The directors of the camp were daughters of a clergyman and were graduates of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. ■

*Noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson attended and worked at Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine beginning in 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson writes about the history of Maine summer camps. You may submit information relating to Maine camp history at: [hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com](mailto:hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com)*



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**Laura Telek**

[haley@heartyroots.org](mailto:haley@heartyroots.org)

## ACA, New England Camp Conference slated for March 30 to April 1

The ACA, New England Camp Conference will be three days filled with lots of time for learning, networking, building community and getting energized for the upcoming summer.

We will have a great CampEXPO Thursday and Friday, state meetings and socials on Friday afternoon, and a plenary panel featuring young people, Reimagine: A Youth-Filled Perspective for Safety and Belonging, facilitated by John Hamilton and Jamal Stroud, on Saturday morning.

With nearly 100 educational sessions, round tables, kindred group conversations and affinity spaces, there will be something for all levels of camp staff at this annual event.

For more information, including the Schedule-At-A Glance and session and speaker details, visit the New England Camp Conference webpage, <https://www.acanewengland.org/necampconference/>.

—By Kerry Salvo, ACA, New England

**While you are at ACA New England, plan to attend the State of Maine Social on Friday, March 31 from 4:45-6:15pm.**

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