

MSC Native American Working Group Shares Indigenous Appropriation Assessment

NAWG members call it an opportunity for learning and reflection

After a rewarding and rigorous process, marked by learning and collaboration, the MSC Native American Working Group (NAWG) shared its Indigenous Appropriation Assessment (IAA) with the MSC membership on March 27. The IAA can be accessed on the MSC website (www.maine camps.org)

MSC has worked since March 2021 to address concerns that representatives of Maine's Wabanaki Tribal Nations have raised regarding member camps' practices of cultural appropriation. The past two years' efforts were catalyzed in part by a full-board training presented by Wabanaki REACH, an organization whose mission is to "support the self-determination of Wabanaki people through education, truth-telling, restorative justice, and restorative practices in Wabanaki and Maine communities."

With deep conviction, MSC feels this it is vital for camps to proactively address the camping movement's historical practice of appropriation.

"With deep conviction, MSC feels that it is vital for camps to proactively address the camping movement's historical practice of appropriation," NAWG members wrote in its invitation to MSC members introducing the IAA. "Some elements of this pattern may be obvious to us. Other habits—many based upon caricatures and assumptions we absorbed as children—may require more examination to assure that we've got it right. A cultural assessment allows us to do just that," the invitation continues.

NAWG member Peter Kassen of Hidden Valley Camp says the effort was based in part on two factors. First, the impact of the Wabanaki REACH presentation "kind of instilled us with humility," he said. "We were starting from the beginning." In addition, "we just felt really passionate about it."

"We led each other along in a nice way. It was great."

The result is the six-part IAA, not intended as a "checklist," says NAWG member Karen Malm, of Camp Agawam. Rather, it is something camps "can journey through in their own camp communities."

Malm says that NAWG members "hope that folks who do decide to do the work do it in a meaningful and thoughtful way." This would include looking at every aspect of camps' programs, with the understanding that "it's not going to be

Indigenous Appropriation Assessment continues on page 5



Welcome Level Ground Coordinator Hipai Pamba

Hipai Pamba joined Maine Summer Camps in late February and is helping to expand the Level Ground Initiative in exciting ways. Thanks to her efforts, Level Ground has more participating camps and participating community partners than ever before, and summer 2023 looks to be a great success.

Welcome Level Ground Coordinator continues on page 6

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MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT

APRIL 2023

Spring is maybe, finally, maybe here in Maine? March is a winter month, but April announces in no uncertain terms — summer will be here before you know it. As the trees bud out, the mud firms up, and middle school kids finally look normal wearing shorts, we in the camping world hope the snowbanks on the shady side of buildings eventually melt as our focus turns inwards and time speeds up.



But before we all disappear into the woods to feed the blackflies for a few months, we will have a few more opportunities to connect with our community of peers. We have just had such opportunities at the ACA conferences, most recently the excellent ACA-NE conference in Manchester. Our MSC semi-annual meeting happened April 13 and the MSC education committee holds its Huddle on April 26. These opportunities are important for an endless variety of reasons — important education on all manner of timely topics, far-reaching initiatives to get involved with, and important details on the things we have to get right. Perhaps most importantly, these events provide us with opportunities to make and strengthen connections with each other.

The enduring lesson of the COVID-impacted summers has been the value of these connections. No Maine camps went through the COVID summers alone. The endless complexities of the last 36 months were only able to be navigated through the combined efforts of the entire MSC membership learning together and sharing resources and knowledge with a generosity that is uncommon.

So, as we transition into a summer in which (hopefully) COVID continues to recede, let's all work to maintain the strengthened connections we have created over the last few summers. These connections were forged by necessity, but they can be nurtured and further expanded in the absence of a pandemic. As your world narrows to the space between the front gate of camp and the waterfront, remember to be there for your fellow camp professionals. As every camp director and staff will tell you, no one knows what we do. But that's not true, other camp people do — so trust that they "get it" and will be there for you. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst, and do both by keeping in contact with your community of peers.

Happy spring. Keep the phone lines open.

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

MYCA UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Currently MYCA is closely watching the following bills: 693 An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water (MYCA submitted testimony at the public hearing 'neither for nor against' this bill with a proposed exemption for licensed youth camps); 1082 An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program (MYCA submitted testimony at the public hearing 'neither for nor against' this bill with a proposed exemption for seasonal employees); 1156 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation (MYCA signed a letter of support for this legislation, "The Maine Trails Bond").



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, we stay up-to-date with particular lawsuits which may affect camps, including the lifting of statute of limitations in 2022 for civil claims relating to childhood abuse, and the recent filing of a federal lawsuit against a Maine school district for assisting a student with social gender transition without consulting the student's parents.

A reminder: rapid antigen COVID-19 tests will NOT be available from the state in 2023 as they were in past summers. The Public Health Emergency ends May 11th and Maine CDC no longer has access to the resources that they were able to pull down previously.

All of this information and resources would not be possible without each member of the MYCA Board, and their hard work. 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.



Maine Youth Camp Association 'MYCA' Showcase Day at the Maine State House

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, it was MYCA's turn to display in the Hall of Flags, a large open room in the center of the State House underneath the Capitol dome. 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. Because of the pandemic, MYCA last showcased the economic value, and emotional/youth developmental benefits, of Maine Youth Camping in 2019.

Several directors from a wide range of Maine Summer Camps, along with JMG program representatives and MSC business members from Chalmers Camp Insurance and Northeast Charter & Tour Co., spent the day sharing breakfast and lunch food items and meeting legislators and other state officials in this informal setting, with the goal of promoting the importance of all Maine camps. This was 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. We look forward to the chance to return in 2025!

Welcome New **Camp** Member

■ Apex Youth Connection

Apex Youth Connection has an exciting array of weekly adventure camps for rising 5th through 8th graders, running weekdays from late June through August from 9 am to 4 pm. Late pick-up and scholarships available.

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Education Committee Plans Pre-Summer 'Huddle,' Infectious Disease Webinar, and Summer Workshop Training

The Education Committee is excited to connect with MSC members in-person at the pre-summer **"Huddle"** on April 26 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the **Maine Beer Company in Freeport**. All MSC members are encouraged to attend—including your assistant directors, health center folks, and especially your facilities managers!

We will have a few affinity tables set up to discuss hot topics of interest to many, such as parent communication, supporting seasonal staff, and more. This Huddle will be an opportunity to connect with people you know, make a new connection or two, and ask your burning pre-summer questions. Chances are that whatever challenge you are facing, another Maine camp is tackling something similar.

We are also planning a virtual offering before summer — a **webinar to be held on Thursday, May 11 from 11 a.m. to noon. "COVID and Beyond: Infectious Disease at Camp in 2023," will be presented by Dr. Laura Blaisdell.** Join this Maine-only session for updates, advice, and answers to your questions.



Click here to register for the May 11 webinar.

Please mark your calendars for a **July 11 summer workshop training with Chris Thurber at Camp Wawenock!** We look forward to having this event in-person for the first time since 2019! All camps in Maine are invited to send their first or second-year staff members to this special in-person training.

Anna Hopkins Buller is stepping down as chair of the education committee to take a sabbatical in the fall. She has done a spectacular job of chairing this committee, known as the "engine room" of MSC. We are fortunate that Karen Malm of Camp Agawam will be stepping into the committee chair role. ■



Mark your calendar! Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 26, 1-3 pm
MSC Board Meeting at Freeport Comm. Services

Wednesday, April 26, 3:30-5:30 pm
Education Committee Pre-Summer Huddle & Social at Maine Beer Company, Freeport

Wednesday, May 10, 10 am-12 pm
MYCA Zoom Board Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 11 am-12 pm
**Webinar with Dr. Laura Blaisdell
COVID & Beyond: Infectious Disease at Camp 2023**

Monday-Friday, July 24-28
JMG Test Camp, Oquossoc

Wednesday, September 20
Annual Meeting and Cookout, Migis Lodge

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easy. It's not something people are going to knock off in an hour-long meeting," she said.

Rather, says NAWG member Catriona Sangster of Camp Wawenock, the assessment is designed to encourage a process of reflection. "It's not an answer key," she said. "It is definitely a place to consider things about the culture at your camp."

This kind of work can be overwhelming, Sangster acknowledges, and can give rise to "lots of feelings."

"That's okay, and hopefully the way it's segmented people will also feel like 'let's just do this part.'"

Those parts cover the full scope of work that NAWG members hope camps will undertake. It begins by "Setting the Stage," questions about what prompt camps' choices to engage in the IAA, camps' hopes for how community members feel at camp, how camp leaders feel about the process, and how camps' approaches are influenced by alumni and current families.

The questions throughout the IAA suggest that participants consider four inquiries: "what has been done/discussed," "what needs to be considered," "what action(s) need to happen," and "unsure/support needed." Each content section of the IAA poses these questions to participants.

The IAA also covers "Historical Context," asking whether camps have considered their culture and traditions, any ties between a camp's names and Native American or other cultures, how long the camp has been operated, the camp's property history, presence of Native American groups nearby, and the history of the camp's logo.

The IAA asks camps to think about whether their facilities' themes or building names are named after or represent a Native American or other culture as well as the context of the use of iconographic figures such as totem poles or wigwams. Camps also have the opportunity to consider current or past awards with Native American themes.

The fourth segment of the IAA addresses camp programs. This includes camp songs, chants or creeds, traditions or ceremonies, or activities with culturally insensitive names, such as "Apache relay." It also inquires whether nicknames are derived from Native American culture, whether staff uses language that perpetuates stereotypes and if drums of other instruments are used to mimic Native American culture.

Another key element to the IAA relates to the education of campers and staff with respect to cultural appropriation

But even if camps don't make specific Native American cultural references or appropriations, NAWG members urge camps to "step into this journey," Malm said, understanding that "this land that we're on was part of the Wabanaki Nation for centuries, thousands of years before we happened to have camps on these lands."

Indeed, the final section of the IAA makes suggestions for reflection as camps work through it. Participants are invited to identify difficult feelings that come up as well as think more deeply about camps' intentions behind traditions or practices. In addition, the IAA asks camps how they can retain those intentions while removing culturally offensive or appropriated practices, and whether making changes can be used as a tool for learning and education. Camps are also invited to consider the presence of culturally appropriated content within their digital footprint.

Malm says the process has been "fascinating," especially as NAWG members identified resources—a major part of the IAA document—that participants can turn to for more education and understanding.

The process raised her awareness of instances of cultural appropriation, she said. "There is the big picture sort of history that we all know about, but small pieces became more apparent to me."

Camp Agawam, where Malm serves as assistant director and director of programs, alumni relations and council operations, has already undertaken appropriation assessment work, she said. "We have made some very important changes." Where appropriation existed, Malm said, it wasn't intentional but rather "just what we had done for so many years." Taking those parts out of the camp program "was a great process," she said. "I can see Agawam working through the assessment as well."

Darren Ranco, a Penobscot Nation member who teaches anthropology at the University of Maine, provided valued input in creation of the IAA, says Sangster. "Darren has worked on so many projects and is so knowledgeable; having his input felt very important to us."

NAWG members call the IAA a "living document," that over time may be modified for various reasons, Sangster says. At this stage, she says, they hope the document will continue to raise awareness. "We just feel it's so important to get to communicate and help camp leaders learn the history, so we are sharing accurate information and making sure the next generation of campers and leaders have respectful practices and are doing things that are going to support Indigenous communities rather than harm them."

NAWG also hopes and plans to share the document beyond Maine's borders. Despite feeling slightly "protective" of the

NAWG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tyler Costello
Curtis Thaxter

Peter Kassen
Hidden Valley Camp

Andy Lilienthal
Camp Winnebago

Catriona Logan Sangster
Camp Wawenock

Karen Malm
Camp Wawenock

Lucy Norvell
Maine Summer Camps

Fritz Seving
Camp Fernwood

Greg Shute
Chewonki

Mark Van Winkle
Wohelo Camps

Indigenous Appropriation Assessment *continues on page 6.*

IAA, Sangster says NAWG members realize “the right thing to do is to be generous with this. Our intent with this is not to just change Maine camps but the camp industry around the country.”

Our intent with this is not to just change Maine camps but the camp industry around the country.

MSC Executive Director Lucy Norvell praised NAWG’s work and reiterated that the group’s efforts have national impact.

“At first glance, it may not be apparent how much time the members of NAWG have invested over the last two plus years. It has been an honor for me to be able to attend their meetings since January,” she said. “Their thoughtful and diligent research and initiative have benefited MSC in many ways as their work unfolded organically to organize training for the board and to develop the Land Acknowledgement webinar for members.

“It is impossible to estimate the investment of time in research and collaboration that resulted in MSC’s new Indigenous Appropriation Assessment,” Norvell continued.

“We are incredibly lucky to have this particular working group dedicated to inspiring our learning about such a critically important issue locally, regionally, and nationally. The IAA is a tool all camps can use to explore and respond to their own Indigenous appropriation.” ■

“I’m looking forward to playing a part in providing an opportunity for campers to have the best summer yet,” she said.

Hipai is from South Sudan but has been a Mainer for most of her life. An education major at Southern Maine Community College, she is also a teaching artist at The Telling Room, a youth writing center based in Portland that serves students throughout Maine.

“I enjoy being a liaison to students who are seeking opportunities that support their growth, health, and development,” she said.

She is also a former camper. Hipai’s experiences at camps like Seeds of Peace and Valo have fostered lifelong connections, created memories, and opportunities to learn and explore.

Hipai enjoys spending time with family, doing yoga, going to creative gatherings, and traveling within East Africa.

Welcome Hipai! ■

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“The train-the-trainer style webinar on peer-to-peer abuse was great—it really opened my eyes and made me think. It gave me the tools and resources to have hard conversations with our staff, and to help open their eyes and be more aware of their surroundings. Chalmers has some amazing employees. Everyone I have ever spoken to makes me feel like I am the most important person in the room. The Chalmers Camp team is clearly loyal and dedicated.”

Diehl Estes, Assistant Director/Director of Operations, Camp Agawam



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APRIL 2023



I have experienced the warmest possible welcome in my three and half months with MSC/MYCA and I am tremendously grateful. Thank you! 2023 is off to a busy start, only to become busier as camps prepare to open. This newsletter lays out upcoming events and ongoing initiatives in wonderful detail. I notice a sense of belonging that underlies all that is happening. Before camp begins, I am eager to connect with camp, business, and individual members to learn more about how we can deepen this sense of belonging and extend it to include new members.

I look forward to meeting many of you and to seeing some of you again. Please reach out to me so I can learn more about your work and how you are connected or would like to be connected to MSC/MYCA. Email me at camps@mainecamps.org or text or call me at 207.719.5684. I am eager to hear from you!

Lucy J. Norvell

Lucy J. Norvell

Executive Director, Maine Summer Camps



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It's Nomination Time for MSC Awards

MSC is now accepting nominations for the **Halsey Gulick Award** and the **Dedication to Camping Recognition Award**.

Halsey Gulick Award

The **Halsey Gulick Award** is presented to persons who have distinguished themselves by giving unselfishly of their time, energy, and resources to improve organized youth camping in Maine. It is awarded at the Maine Summer Camps' Annual Meeting in September and is kept confidential until awarded.

Recipients are selected by their colleagues in camping, for their record of public service to the camping movement in Maine. Any member of MSC may recommend candidates for the award. Candidates need not be members of MSC and their contributions to Maine camping may not necessarily be related to leadership roles within the Foundation.

The nomination deadline is September 1, 2023



[Click here for a Halsey Gulick Award nomination form](#)

Dedication to Camping Recognition

The **Dedication to Camping Recognition Award** represents MSC's recognition of those who have dedicated a significant amount of time working in Maine organized youth camping. This is an award for length of service in Maine camping.

Eligibility for Dedication to Camping Recognition:

- ▶ Any staff member, current or former, regardless of their camp position, is eligible.
- ▶ Length of service must be 25 years or more for initial nominees.
- ▶ Service fully or predominantly to Maine camps.
- ▶ Service does not have to be consecutive or to one camp.
- ▶ Count years as staff member, not years as a camper.
- ▶ Can be seasonal or year-round.

A list of award recipients will be distributed at the MSC Annual Meeting, in the MSC newsletter, and awardees' names will be posted on a special page of the MSC website. Recipients will also receive a certificate.



[Click here for a Dedication to Camping Recognition Award nomination form](#)

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Jewish Camps in Maine 1926

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

In 2006, I had the opportunity to conduct an extensive interview with Dr. Joel W. Bloom; Camp Powhatan's Director Emeritus who this year shall be inducted into the Maine Jewish Hall of Fame who explained that Maine Summer Camps were not always accepting of Jewish children. Sometime, on or about 1907, camps were founded in Maine which provided the opportunity for Jewish children to be welcomed into the Maine Summer Camp community.

I learned from a summary taken from a document titled "Handbook of Summer Camps and An Annual Survey: Third Edition, 1926" ("Hand Book") that in 1926 there were apparently several summer camps, which were welcoming to Jewish children. The article specified the following camps:

1. Camp Ardeh in Oakland, Maine
2. The Barta Camp in Casco, Maine
3. Cedar Crest Camp in Oakland, Maine
4. Echo Lake Camp for Girls in Readfield, Maine
5. Highland Nature Camps in North Sebago, Maine
6. Camp Jo-Lee in North Belgrade, Maine
7. Camp Kennebec in North Belgrade, Maine
8. Camp Koda in Bridgton, Maine
9. Kamp Kohut in Oxford, Maine
10. Camp Tapawingo in Harrison, Maine
11. Camp Walden in Denmark, Maine
12. Camp Winnebago in Fayette, Maine

Through the passage of time, some of the above camps have ceased operating. Other camps, such as Camp Tapawingo, Camp Walden and Camp Winnebago, continue to thrive and promote rich historical traditions in Maine camping. This article provides a brief summary of some of the camps in 1926 which, to the best of this Historian's knowledge, are no longer operating.

Camp Ardeh For Girls: Enrolled 70 campers ages 10 to 16 and had 18 staff members in 1926. The camp session cost \$400.00 and it was a camp for Jewish girls conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Teller. The camp offer diversified and well-balanced programs, which included water sports, riding, woodcraft, nature study, athletics, dramatics, trips to the White Mountains, and canoe trips around the Belgrade Lakes. The camp paid considerable attention to music.

The Barta Camp: This camp may also have been known as the Rarta Camp or Tiarta Camp (formally Camp Woodland Springs), opened in 1926, and was owned and directed by Elinor C. Barta. Ms. Barta's two brothers also assisted in operating the camp; Elliot as Assistant Director and Winthrop as Business Manager. Previously, Ms. Barta had been a director at Camp Winnemont and, before that, was associated with the Cobb family at Camp Wyonegonic. The camp provided White Mountain trips, canoe

trips, nature study, riding, water sports, athletic sports, crafts, photography, dramatics and a camp chorus.

Camp Cedar Crest: Enrolled boys ages 7 through 17 and was founded in 1916 by Joseph I Gorfinkle. Dr. Gorfinkle was Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Mt. Vernon, New York. At the camp there were recreational and educational features, much of which was made up of canoe trips on the Belgrade lakes, the Kennebec River, and adjacent lakes. Trips were also taken to the White Mountains. Boys from both the United States and Canada attended the camp.

Echo Lake Camp for Girls: Enrolled 70 girls ages 9 through 17, employed 15 staff members and was opened in 1926. It offered various land and water sports program, as well as, offered woodcraft, overnight camping trips, arts and crafts, dramatics, a camp chorus and aesthetic dancing. The region within thirty miles of the camp was utilized for canoe trips and hikes. In the Hand Book it stated that, "The camp does not observe any of the Jewish dietary laws, and there are always some gentiles."

Highland Nature Camps: Was opened in 1913 and operated in North Sebago, Maine. Previously, the Camp Directors, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Lehman and Estelle B. Davidsberg, maintained a camp in Maine as early as 1910. Additionally, they chaperoned a group of girls during summer outings. Highland Nature Camps for Girls had separate junior, intermediate, and senior divisions and, although "non-sectarian in spirit", was largely patronized by prominent Jewish families. The programs were varied and included pottery, basketry and weaving, as well as other arts and crafts. There were trips taken to the White Mountains, and canoe trips taken to the Songo and Crooked Rivers. Ceremonialism was emphasized at camp fires.

Camp Jo-Lee For Girls: Enrolled 64 campers ages 8 through 18 in 1926 and had a staff of 14. In 1926, Camp Jo-Lee was a well-established camp for Jewish girls and had a national patronage. The campers were housed in log cabins that were equipped with modern conveniences. Mrs. Joseph C. Hyman was the camp director and there were opportunities for canoe trips, hikes and a trip to Canada.

Camp Kennebec: Enrolled 97 boys ages 13 through 17 in 1926 and had 19 staff members. Kennebec was a camp for Jewish boys with national patronage. It was long established and well organized. The Camp Kennebec staff was described as "an efficient staff of university trained men" and included specialists in campcraft, woodcraft, horsemanship, and manual training. In July, the boys participated in aquatic meets and other athletic activities. In August, the boys camped out and took horseback trips.

It is respectfully submitted by this Historian that this article may contain an incomplete listing of camps that welcomed Jewish children back in 1926, but it does represent an initial effort to shine a light on more of Maine Summer Camps' great history.

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

Wohelo Camps' Davis Van Winkle Dies at Age 81



Davis Van Winkle died peacefully at the age of 81 in his Sedona, AZ home surrounded by family. In February, he fell playing tennis, which resulted in an MRI showing the spread of cancer to his bones. He decided to return home for hospice care and passed five days later. Davis had great goals in life, which centered around reaching his own and helping others reach their full and unimagined potential. This was witnessed when he was teaching history or coaching soccer.

After marrying Louise Gulick, whom he met at Middlebury College, serving in the Army, spending six months in Vietnam, and doing a master's program at Clark University, Davis devoted his life to Wohelo Camps, Louise's family business. He touched thousands of lives through his leadership of these camps with Louise as his teammate and supporter. Mark and Heidi are proud to call Davis their father and help carry on his legacy as directors of Wohelo Camps. A remembrance of Davis will be part of the regular Wohelo camp traditions this summer. ■

2023 Annual Staff & Employment Issue Now Available Online

As the 2023 summer season approaches, MSC members can now access the annual employment memo and staff training schedule at:



Click here for the employment memo and training schedule

The employment memo covers a broad range of topics, including unemployment compensation, hiring reminders and requirements, pay period and wage information, background checks, and employment posters.

The spring training schedule lists pre-camp course availability covering activities that include challenge/ropes course, equine, lifeguard and water safety, archery and riflery, trip leader, watercraft, wilderness first aid and first responder.

We encourage you to carefully review this information and training opportunities soon. ■



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Community Connections Group Welcomes New Co-Chairs

The Community Connections Group will now be Co-Chaired by Rory O'Connor of Kamp Kohut and Carissa Chipman of Chalmers Insurance, pictured here with Nicky Martin, left, of Maine Teen Camp as they all volunteered at the Love Gala, a fundraiser for the Center for Grieving Children. Welcome Carissa and Rory! Thanks to Kristy Andrews Harvey, the out-going and first Chair of this important group of MSC members.

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MSC Members Learn and Connect at ACA, New England Conference

More than 100 MSC camp professionals were among hundreds of their New England colleagues gathered at the annual ACA, New England conference March 30 - April 1 at the Doubletree Inn in Manchester, NH.

Conference presentations covered topics ranging from DEIB issues to communication skills to camp games and dozens more. Saturday morning's panel presentation, which featured four campers and John Hamilton of the Alliance for Camp Health, was particularly well received, says Terri Mulks of Camp Susan Curtis and a conference co-chair. That, plus an Expo hall filled with vendors ready to meet camps' every need, a robust raffle, and evening entertainment created an energizing three-day event.

Mulks reports that the conference committee received positive feedback across the board.

"We heard from many people that each session they attended gave them very practical knowledge that they could go back and immediately implement," Mulks said. The Saturday camper panel was described as "riveting, uplifting, relevant and inspiring," she added.

Another conference highlight was an MSC social event held Friday evening, March 31, where dozens of MSC members gathered in the Penstock Room for food and drink and a chance to connect before the summer season is in full swing. ■



Frank Lee, Dan Emmons, Carly Vargas, and Lisa Tripler



Sarah Baillargeon, Dawn Willard-Robinson, and Nate Podgajny



Catriona Sangster and Kristy Harvey



Laura Jo Cunningham and Laura Ordway



Cindy Murphy, Nicky Martin, Susie Hammond, Steve Sudduth, Jack Day, Lucy Norvell, and Matt Pines