

**Outdoor Ministries Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 31, 2013
Blowing Rock Camp and Conference Center**

We began our gathering with a site tour led by Bill – awesome!

Meeting was called to order by President Glenn Svetnicka, followed by an opening prayer.

Members Present: Bill Bourdon, Jeremy Force, Ryan Gackenheimer, Kim Harris, Anne Hughes, Mollie Landers, Joyce Oyler, Kaila Russell, Glenn Svetnicka, Neal Washburn, and Waltrina Middleton (national staff liaison)

Agenda was reviewed

Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed. M/S/P to accept these minutes. **Neal will post them on the website.**

Site Reports: Board members gave reports from the sites they are liaisons to. There are lots of great things happening at our sites, there are also things to address.

Key items that were raised:

- It would be great to have resource section on website
- Need for guidelines for hiring staff
- Presidium is rolling out a mobile app for safe conduct/boundaries, and is working on user driven background checks
- What are camps doing for safety in events such as Sandy Hook? How can we change from a culture of fear to a culture of peace?
- Would like more networking opportunities
- Silver Lake is the Environmental Justice Center for the Northeast
- How can OMA help conferences reach out to those who have nontraditional camping models?

As a result of these site reports and discussion that followed, **Universal Talking Points** were created for use when we connect with our sites.

1. Current OMA membership dues
2. Mission 4:1 involvement
3. Consult dates
4. PG dates
5. Deering Grants
6. Board Scholarship
7. Family News – Updates from our sites to be sent to the membership. As we talk with our sites, ask permission to share their news.

*In the future, site reports will be submitted in written form prior to Board Meetings for review. **Kaila** will create Family News that will be sent to membership.*

Review of Bylaws and Constitution: Great reminder of who we are as an organization, and what we are called to do - The goal of the OMA Board is to serve the membership. Fiduciary responsibilities were also discussed.

Roles and responsibilities of current Board Members:

President - Glenn Svetnicka, Program Chair (Consult and PG)– Kim Harris, Treasurer – Bill Bourdon, Secretary – Kaila Russell, Environmental Justice (Mission 4:1) – Ryan Gackenheimer, Deering Grants – Jeremy Force, IT/Website – Neal Washburn, Consult Planning Team – Kim, Glenn, Joyce, Bill, Curly, Kaila, PG Planning – Anne Hughes and Mollie Landers

Consent Type Agenda: Board agreed to have reports written and submitted to the group prior to meetings and conference calls whenever possible.

Financial Report: Bill presented a treasurer's report. He compared the income statement with the budget ending December 2012. Bill fills comfortable with where we are with our finances. An audit review is about to happen. A report will be sent from the auditor.

*A treasurer's stipend needs to be taken out of the budget. **Bill** will take a look at the expenses accrued by Blowing Rock and will send a request for stipend.*

M/S/P to accept financial report.

Review of OMA PG:

Board spent a fair amount of time discussing the event held last November at the National Church House in Cleveland. We also revisited the philosophy of PG, which is different than Consult. Here is what we came up with:

OMA PG Pros: People gathering together, great worship, National Staff, time to share, neutral ground, place to connect and network, connection between OMA and National.

Things to Change: Time for sharing the first night – intentional community building, purpose of the event, different environment for socializing (Utilize Waltrina for options), Purposeful small group processing, length of event – include Sabbath, early new member orientation, better interface with the National Staff, OMA banner to show presence, connect new person with another site -perhaps someone not on the OMA board, get outside.

What excites you about the OMA PG?: Knowing that I will get something to take home and use, a real interface with the National Staff, timely in focus, time to get to know people three different ways, that everyone who comes is fed.

PG planning committee is going to take all of these things into consideration and come back to Board with proposal of purpose and plan.

Consult:

**November 4-7, 2013 at Blowing Rock Camp and Conference Center
Camping in the Wilderness, Living into the Promised Land**

OMA Board will arrive at Blowing Rock by 6 PM on November 2 and depart after breakfast on November 8.

Site Visit to Johns River Valley Camp – Thank you Curly!

Report from Waltrina Middleton – National Staff Liaison

- Waltrina would like to find creative ways to get to know the OMA community. She is hoping to be able to travel to sites. If there is a regional or state event that she could be involved in, please invite her. The hope is that each connection would be fruitful and the wider church would know about the visit.
- NYE 2016 – Waltrina expressed appreciation for OMA's presence at the 2012 event, and is looking forward to even further involvement in 2016. She would love for OMA to sponsor a worship service. The hope is for NYE to be more family oriented. She is expressed what a challenge it is to create Synod and NYE as two powerful, yet different events for our youth.
- New UCC searchable database – This is a great new tool! Please use it, and pass the word to all of our networks. Use for staff, volunteers, everything! Board members were sent the link. Mobile app is coming.
- Link event – National event with shared interest on a particular topic. It is a helpful way to connect National Staff with unique populations. The next Link Event is on ecological issues this spring. *Send names to Waltrina of people you think might be interested in this event.*
- Waltrina really wants OMA to be involved/represented in all the work she is doing. She really needs for us to respond in some way when she reaches out.
- OMA was invited to make a stand with her regarding Gun Violence and the Boy Scout campaign – Advocacy perspective, letter of support, OMA created PSA (More discussion about this later in meeting)
- Youth at General Synod- Waltrina requested OMA support: She needs help making the available space exciting, interactive, educational, theological and relevant.
- Mission 4:1 – Encouraged all sites to get videos turned in and make sure OMA is stamped on everything!
- National Staff connections – whatever OMA is working on, whether it be Environmental Justice or anything else, please keep Waltrina in the loop so she can be a part of it, help promote, and keep a pulse on what is happening with OMA and Youth and Young Adults.
- Safe Conduct vs Safe Church – Safe Church can no longer be used due to copyright. See Link on National Website. Encourage OMA membership to help shape what safe conduct looks like at camps, etc.
- National Liaison and OMA – Things to consider: How can we build on our relationship that we are establishing? What is the purpose of the liaison? How can we expand? We are in a good place in this relationship...Let us feed and build this momentum as long as we can!

Let it be noted that the OMA Board and the membership at large is so grateful for the thoughtful, intentional, and amazing work that Waltrina is doing on our behalf...Thanks be to God!

Deering Grants – Jeremy Force:

13 grants were submitted last October, 9 were granted. Recipients were: Silverlake, Pilgrim Center, Merom, Hartman Center, White Memorial, Johns River Valley, Pilgrim Lodge, Pilgrim Point, Moon Beach. Next grant deadline is October 1, 2013.

Website – Neal Washburn:

Currently we have 3 web presences – OMA website, National Website and Facebook.

- National Website – OMA has control, but requests need to go through Waltrina. Neal will work with National to make sure everything is updated.
- The OMA Website needs to be updated and maintained. OMA board empowered Neal to make changes and updates as he sees fit. Brainstormed items to include:
 - Mission statement and purpose
 - **Mollie and Anne** will get a definition of the professional gathering to Neal for website.
 - **Bill** will get Consult info to Neal.
 - Review of membership dues - \$250 member sites, \$50 Individual – In return, you will have eligibility to Deering Grants, invitation to events, voice and vote, ability to serve on the OMA Board, network with colleagues around the country.
- **Joyce** will write something reflecting the benefits of being an OMA member and get them to Neal for the website.
 - Deering Grants – **Jeremy** will submit info for application and recipients
 - Pictures – collections from Synod (use dropbox to submit)
 - Curriculum Link
 - Update Minutes – **Kaila** will send email to Neal to let him know minutes are ready to be added to website.
 - Links to serve as resources – **Everyone** is encouraged to send ideas to Neal
- Facebook - Use BOD page

Neal will make sure Glenn is a back up person to all IT information.

Thank you Neal for sharing your gifts with us!

OMA PG – November 11-14, 2014 in Cleveland –Anne Hughes and Mollie Landers:

PG is leadership development for the stewards of Outdoor Ministry in the UCC. It is primarily a support for leadership teams such as Camp Director/Site Managers. Program will run Tuesday evening through Thursday, with Friday departure.

PG committee will write up a proposal and send to Waltrina and to the board.

General Synod Resolution: Anne Hughes

Resolution was submitted on time with a couple of tweaks. The clause requesting voice and vote was removed upon suggestion that this may trip up the resolution. The unauthorized bodies may also be removed from the list. The hope is that this resolution will bring awareness that we offer a vital ministry. It suggests that conferences and groups look to OMA for consultation and resources. It also invites contributions. We need to find an unbiased supporter of this resolution, perhaps someone from RAC or CRLN. Many, many thanks to Anne for her amazing work on this resolution!

Synod Presence:

Synod committee consists of Kim (chair), Anne, Neal, Joyce, Waltrina

- Resolution: Anne will drive this
- Online Store: Neal
- Also consider Exhibit Booth, After Hours Space, T-shirts (OMA), banners
- *A written proposal/ plan will be sent to Board before March conference call.*

It was the consensus of the board to subsidize Kim's Synod registration, as she will be the chair and go-to person for Synod. Thank you Kim!!

Mission 4:1 – Ryan Gackenheimer:

- Ryan needs videos from all of the sites using Dropbox. If that doesn't work, they can be emailed directly to Ryan. *He will send email reminders for 30 second to 2 minute videos.*
- OMA YouTube account will link videos of energy saving ideas in all areas, all ages.
- **OMA Board members** will send Ryan 5 digital ideas to Ryan, who will then pass them on to Waltrina as a Resource for the National Page.
- **OMA Board members** will invite sites to send lists of ideas with how many hours as well. Remind them of videos as well. *If they can't send a video, they can write a paragraph explaining what they are doing. Ideas needed by Feb 15th, videos by Feb. 28th.*

In Scope / Out of Scope:

In considering our mission statement and purpose, we realize that OMA is not capable of doing all that we are asked to do. As a board, we do not want to get into polarized, political situations. We do not want to be in a position that is for or against something, but rather affirm the rights of love and justice for everyone.

As a board, we are in a position of offering empowerment, healing, education, and support. We will defer best safe practices to ACA standards.

After much discussion, this is what we came up with:

In Scope (Pro-Active):

- Serve as a resource for decision making on difficult decisions, as a full board
- ACA accreditation and membership
- Safe Conduct Policy (creating a task force including non-board members. **Glenn** will ask Mike Klemp-North to chair this)
- Maintenance Blog/Chat – **Jeremy** will talk with Chris Harmsen about creating this
- Camp Songbook (Consult round table)
- Outreach to Non-affiliated camps, conferences - **Bill**
- Board Governance Education – (Consult round table)
- Website Resources - **Neal**

Out of Scope (Re-Active):

- Site Closures
- Redundancy of ACA standards
- Out of scope financial support (Non-member grants)

Wherever we have the opportunity to be the voice of love, peace, and justice, let us be *that voice!* **Joyce** will craft a universal talking point and bring it to our March conference call. **Jeremy** will contact Leah (NCC rep) to talk about how the curriculum may help empower our youth to be the voice of love, peace, and justice.

Consult Planning Report - Kim Harris:

- Theme – Camping in the Wilderness, Living into the Promised Land
- November 4-7, 2013 at Blowing Rock
- Key Note – Paul Hill (2 – 90 minute keynotes) **Bill** will be the contact person
- Logo – Use OMA Fire logo (adjust font) and consideration of another. **Kaila and Kim** will work on this.
- Promotional Items – Binder, Invitation Packet, Registration Forms, Invitation to Family Times first night of Consult (1-2 minutes) **Kaila**
- Round Table Discussions:
 1. Board Governance and other Legal Stuff – Don Clark and Anne Hughes
 2. Camp Song Books – Neal Washburn and Chris Grundy (?)
 3. Safe Conduct Task Force – Mike Klemp-North and Glenn Svetnicka
 4. Camp Operations – Bill and others
 5. Best Practices of Programming – Kim Harris and Leah Bilinski
 6. Moving From Crisis to Sustainability – Bill Bourdon and Paul Hill
 7. Recruitment, Training, Retaining Volunteers – Kaila Russell, Kim Harris, and Mollie Landers
 8. Fundraising – Ken Clapp (?) and Joyce Oyler
 9. ACA Accreditation – Jeremy Force and Curly Stumb

Kaila will create a form to be used for Round Tables including Topic, Facilitator, attendees, and 5 bullet points of discussion, which will be available to share with membership.

Kaila will get a paragraph description from facilitators to be used for promotional purposes.
- Registration – **Bill and Jan**
- Day trips on Wednesday – **Bill and Curly** will work on these. Info will be sent in registration packet. Information and prices will be sent to Kaila by May 1st. Registrants will need to sign up for these prior to Consult.
- Worship Leader - **Curly** will **contact Shelly Wilson**
- Music - **Ryan** will contact Chris Grundy to see if he will lead music and a Round Table
- Budget – **Bill** will work on creating a budget and send it out to the Board
- Schedule was created by planning team
- Correspondence/ Save the Date will be sent out by **Bill** between now and March.
- Invitation to Consult will be sent out by June 1st, and a follow up letter September 1st – **Kaila**
- Evening Activities – **Bill and Curly** will work together on this and get info to committee.
- Optional Morning Watch – **Ryan**

Monthly Conference Calls – These will be either the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning on March 12 at 9 AM EST. **Glenn** will send reminder with agenda and phone number. **Board members** should remember to submit written reports prior to call for review. There will be a Consult Conference call following the call in March.

**Next OMA Board Meeting:
November 2, 2013 Blowing Rock**

Let it be noted that faithful stewards who are passionate and dedicated to the call of Outdoor Ministries accomplished great work in this sacred, holy space!!! AMEN!!!

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaila Russell – OMA Secretary