

**Southwest Ramblin's** I recently read an article by Kathleen Trotter which takes the 20/20 Vision and breaks it down to the reason as, a national organization, we need to move forward. I would like to share some of the highlights of this Camping Magazine article that helped me better understand why we as the Southwest Section need to merge into a larger region as well as reshaping our national tools such as standards and education.

section and ACA programs to increase our outreach goals and objectives.

“The Moose Is on the Table” Kathleen Trotter, Camping Magazine, November/December 2009 pages 12-15.

Thank You!

Jared Knight  
Aspen Grove Family Camp  
Manager of Programs  
ACA Southwest President

According to the article: The 20/20 Vision will help ACA:

- Increase the number of camps participating in accreditation programs.
- Increase the positive impact for campers and their families
- Increase the program’s credibility with external audiences
- Develop an integrated, comprehensive accreditation program including standards, professional development, and promising practices.

I have understood the need to become more streamlined in the way we have less regions than sections to receive better support from the national organization; but in reading this article I learned that even in standards and education we can improve through the 20/20 Vision to increase our effectiveness, membership, and influence to campers in the accreditation/education process.

In the area of standards our current limitations based on Kathleen Trotter’s article are:

1. Our current program is designed around prerequisites and definitions that exclude potential camps.
2. Does not fully accommodate standards related to quality or process, such as outcomes.
3. The volume of standards in the current system has reached a point of being unwieldy. Yet there are new activities, laws, and social issues.
4. Current field reports reveal variation in the manner in which standards are applied.
5. ACA must reach out to authoritative sources, provide research-based reasoning, and be transparent as it moves forward.
6. Our current peer review/visit is vulnerable to pressure based on relationships.
7. Books and paper sources we are currently using are costly and unnecessary with electronic communication readily available.
8. The current standards are only minimal requirements. We confuse standards, guidelines and recommendations as the same thing.
9. We must provide educational programs to keep camps growing.

I highly recommend this article as a way to better understand the “why” behind the restructuring of our current

The Section email has changed!!!

Please update your email list to [swcamps@q.com](mailto:swcamps@q.com)

## Welcome New Members

Name	Organization	State
Bratt, Zita	Camp Fire USA Alaska Council	AZ
Frackenhohl, Judy	Food Services of America	AZ
Harrison, Cory	Camp Ponderosa Ranch	AZ
Hutchinson, Sylvia	Friendly Pines Camp	AZ
Frazier, Kathleen	Health Press NA Inc	NM
Kasper, Kathy	Rancho Del Chaparral	NM
Sedillo, Erika	Camp Enchantment	NM
Brown, Tracey	Mingus Mountain Camp	NV
Mikami, Marissa		UT
Stewart, Jedidiah		UT
Timmerman, Danielle		UT
Wolter, David	SEI	UT

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This is YOUR newsletter...  
 ...so tell us what you think!

What kind of information do you need or want from a section newsletter?

Ideally, how often would you receive a section newsletter?

What is the best way for you to receive information from ACA Southwest? Electronically or Snail Mail?

Do you receive "Inside ACA"—the national ACA monthly newsletter?

What other support can the section provide you with?

Please send any thoughts, ideas, complaints, or submissions for future issues to:

Tom Dinkins, Education/Public Relations Chair  
 tomd@comcast.com

### Membership Update

Southwest Section's current camp membership is 49 (of which 48 are accredited camps). Our current membership is 132.

If you know of someone interested in becoming a member or who may be interested in having their camp accredited, have them contact Ginger Pauley, Executive Director, at (800) 265-1917 or swcamps@qwest.net

Are you a full-time student? You can be an ACA Member for just \$35 a year! And students get to attend the ACA National Conference for FREE! Visit [www.acacamps.org/membership](http://www.acacamps.org/membership) to join.



### Standards Corner

We are happy to report that all the camps that went through the accreditation process this past summer have all received their accreditation. Letters went out to the camps that received their accreditation this year in early November. If you have not received the letter, contact Greg Dodd at [gregd@tucsonymca.org](mailto:gregd@tucsonymca.org).

Many thanks to the volunteers that take the time to visit their peer camps in the accreditation process. Without you, we would be unable to have such a fine program.

Camps due for an accreditation visit this summer are:

Camp	State
Anytown Camp & Conference Center	AZ
Camp Rainbow	AZ
Camp Sky Y	AZ
Camp Wamatochick (Camp Fire)	AZ
Lions Camp Tatiyee Inc	AZ
Maripai	AZ
Mingus Springs Camp	AZ
Saguaro Camp Cedarbrook	AZ
Shadow Rim Ranch	AZ
TJCC Summer Camps	AZ
Willow Springs Program Center	AZ
Young Judaea/Hadassah	AZ
Bishop Stoney Camp and Conference Center	NM
Camp Enchantment	NM
Lone Tree Ranch	NM
Torino Foundation	NV
Camp Hobé	UT
Camp Trefoil Ranch	UT
FCYD Camp UTADA	UT

Also, please make sure you have reviewed the "List of Changes to the ACA Accreditation Process Guide (2006)". This document contains all of the pages that have revised standards—you can just print them out and put them right into your APG. You can find the PDF file online at: [www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf](http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf)



**It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.**  
 - Confucius

**It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare." -Mark Twain**

## Executive Director's Thoughts

Wow, can you believe it is the holiday season! This year has just flown by. Many of you have experienced major changes in your life over the last year, some good and some bad, but hopefully lives are starting to smooth out and return to normal..

With the tough times everyone is facing in the next several years hopefully camps will experience resurgence in attendance. Camp is one of the things that can remain a constant positive experience for both the campers and staff. The values everyone learns and begins to use at camp lead individuals to a more stable, well developed lifestyle.

I don't know how many of you have been following the progress of the 20/20 effort, but if you haven't kept up with it you can see what is happening by going to the ACA website at <http://www.acacamps.org/2020/>. There is a wealth of information contained within this link. Also, our speaker at the Annual Meeting in January in Phoenix will have a speaker from the taskforce. He will be answering your questions and providing more information to help us understand where ACA is headed in the future. Please make sure to attend or if you can't attend and have questions you would like answered, send them to [swcamps@q.com](mailto:swcamps@q.com).

### Upcoming Events

Board Meeting - Phoenix, AZ.....Jan. 14-15, '10  
Annual Meeting - Phoenix, AZ ..... Jan. 15, '10  
National Conference - Denver ....Feb. 16-19, '10  
Section Training offerings..... See Website

*Life becomes harder for us when we live for others,*

*but it also becomes richer and happier.*

*Albert Schweitzer*



## Upcoming Education Events and Trainings

Check out our website at [www.acasouthwest.org/training](http://www.acasouthwest.org/training) for the most current list and for detailed information about these and other trainings.

**Have a course or event to add? Looking for training not listed? Need more information? Contact Tom Dinkins, Education Chair, at (415) 497-1081 or [tomdinkins@comcast.net](mailto:tomdinkins@comcast.net)**

## News from National

Are you reading ACA Now, the newest electronic ACA newsletter? If not, you should be! It is designed to keep you up-to-date with all national ACA happenings. You'll get an email with all the latest news including everything from the latest in ACA research to relevant issues to standards news. :

**URGENT CALL TO ACTION – International Camp Staff Issue** 11/10/2009

**Celebrate ACA's 100th Anniversary** 11/03/2009

**20/20 Update: Accomplishments, Next Steps, and Important Dates** 11/23/2009

**Say It Big Coast to Coast!** 09/08/2009

## Send Us Your Camp Photos to Feature in Camping Magazine

ACA is collecting historical and contemporary photos from all ACA-Accredited® camps for use in *Camping Magazine*, promotional materials for ACA's 100th Anniversary celebration and the 150th Anniversary of the camp experience, and other ACA marketing and communications print and electronic publications.

In order for any photos to be considered for publication, an [online photo submission form](#) must be submitted when sending photos. The camp, camp location, and photographer if applicable must be identified on any photos or CDs submitted. An approximate date must be indicated on all scanned historical photos. Photos must be a resolution of at least 300 dpi, including all scanned files. Send photos via e-mail to [magazine@ACAacamps.org](mailto:magazine@ACAacamps.org) or mail a CD of photos to:

Attention Graphic Designer  
American Camp Association  
5000 State Road 67 North  
Martinsville, IN 46161



2474 E. Oakland St.  
Gilbert, AZ 85295-9137



**Annual Meeting – Phoenix, AZ, Luncheon January 15, 2010 location: Quality Inn Airport, 1550 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> St., Tempe, AZ, Time 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 RSVP to [swcamps@q.com](mailto:swcamps@q.com) by January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cost: Free**

**Speaker: Peter Surgenor, ACA National President  
Topic, 20/20 and the Changing Face of ACA**

Who are and how do you contact your Southwest Section board? The following is a current list of board members. If you have a need that is not being met, a question, an idea or concern, please contact any of the board members. We are here to serve you and we'd like to hear from you. The Section Board meets three times a year to serve the needs of its membership.

**American Camp Association Southwest Section Board Member Roster**

*Executive Committee*

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