

OMA Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2010  
Camp Eder

Thanks for coming.

OMA—Outdoor Ministries Association of the COB. For a history, read Kum Ba Yah, the book. We are providing our own leadership. Camps and individuals able have and will provide leadership, be ready to step up if called. Steering Committee is the group that gathers to lead. Made up of: three Camp Directors, one Secondary Staff Person, two camp volunteers, one pastor theologian, one District Executive, and the Treasurer.

Currently serving: Gieta Gresh, Camp Director; Linetta Ballew, Secondary Staff; Margo Royer-Miller, Volunteer; Jen Crispin, Volunteer; Debbie Eisenbise, Theologian; Herman Kauffman, DE; Rex Miller, Treasurer.

Mission statement: OMA: connecting, enlivening and supporting the dynamic ministry of Church of the Brethren camps.

Budget—\$68,000 in bank (BBT, checking with First National in Fredericksburg, PA), includes Four Horsemen Fund, Environmental Grants, and Checking Account. Rex explained the budget. First year in two that we've had growth due to the economy. Membership letter is not out yet, so the memberships will still come in. This year the gifts include Ed Poling's bike ride to Annual Conference. At Conference, we ended up spending more than normal on the tickets for the luncheon, not as many people came as anticipated. \$1,000 scholarship to Gieta for her seminary training. Scholarships were given for this gathering as well. Training Events covered expenses for Rex Miller, Jen Crispin, and Andrew Schnepf to participate in National Council of Churches Outdoor Ministries Summit. Messenger Ad is part of Special Projects. The treasurer money goes to Joann at Camp Swatara who handles the OMA money. We think we will end the year in surplus with the memberships that are anticipated to come in. MSA.

Newsletter—If you did not receive a Newsletter, you are not on the current mailing list. Please make sure your information is there. The goal is two Newsletters a year, depending on the news from all the camps that are submitted. Send ALL news to Barry (March and September) at his e-mail: [campbetheloffice@gmail.com](mailto:campbetheloffice@gmail.com).

Messenger Ad—The Steering Committee has been submitting an ad to the Messenger every May to publicize camping in the denomination. Barry needs good action pictures for the next ad. This was not a budget line item in the past. We always asked camps who can give, to contribute money. It has cost about \$900. Please contribute to the next ad if you can, send your contribution to OMA office.

Websharing— <http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/OMA.htm> Hosted on the Camp Bethel website. Any camps with good logos, images, etc can post these for sharing. Beg, borrow, and steal. Ask if there is a certain photo or resource needed. Minutes from last meeting will be posted on the site. Corrections will be made if necessary. No objections raised to this process.

Membership—Fees have remained the same for 10 years. We will add a student membership for \$20 and raise the other fees a bit. The camp membership is 1% of budget. The only change this year is to create a minimum membership of \$100. If 2011 budget has already been accepted, there is a grace year with the hope that the \$100 minimum will be possible in 2012. The membership letters will be going out to explain this. Question raised, will this knock out the

smaller camps? Hopefully this will be addressed in the letter, with the openness to work together on this. Membership levels are: Student \$20, Individual \$35, Family \$55, Sustaining \$150, Professional \$175, Lifetime \$500.

Volunteer Awards—2010, Pat and Alfred Wiley from Peaceful Pines: plumber, treasurer, step in as superintendents as needed, have been giving to camp for years. Send your nominations for 2011 to Gieta, forms came in the Newsletter and are available online at <http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/OMA.htm>. Forms due by February 20, 2011.

Staff Awards—2010, Mike Kauffman from Camp Mack, has served the camp in many capacities, is now guest registrar, does a great job. Send your nominations for 2011 to Gieta, forms came in the Newsletter and are available at <http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/OMA.htm>. Forms due by February 20, 2011.

Environmental Grant—If you have received a grant in the past, please send Gieta ([chiefgieta@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefgieta@yahoo.com)) any information you have, we'd like to build up an archive. 2010, Camp Bethel and Brethren Woods received grants. Brethren Woods created a composting system and rain barrels in six living areas. Also developed some educational materials to support these projects. Camp Bethel built a platform education village for a full-immersion experience. Send applications to Gieta. Forms are in the Newsletter and online at <http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/OMA.htm>. Due February 20, 2011.

Opportunities to Serve—Steering Committee positions open are two Director/Manager positions. Replacing Barry is a full three-year term. We propose that Jen's unexpired term will be filled by a Director completing her final year and then serving a full three-year term—for a total of four-years of service. Dean Wenger volunteered and was approved for the four-year term. Gene Karn volunteered and was approved for the three-year term. Jen Crispin is willing to fill the unexpired volunteer term (one more year), MSA.

Retreat Planning—This event has recently been called OMA Annual Retreat, to allow for as many participants as possible. November 13-17, 2011 will be at Inspiration Hills. Four people will serve on planning committee (former camp host, future camp host, and current camp host, plus one person at large). Planning committee is now: Alan Patterson, Janice Kaltenbaugh, Shannon Kahler, and Linetta Ballew. November 11-15, 2012 will be at Camp Harmony. 2013 will be at Camp Mack. 2014 could be at Camp Koinonia, Steering Committee will contact them.

National Conference—Next conference is 2012 at Camp Harmony. Planning Committee will be: Janice Kaltenbaugh, Jerri Wenger, Shannon Kahler, and Mike Neff. Date concerns are noted for committee to consider, Virlina District Conference and Progressive Brethren event are the weekend before our OMA Annual Retreat and would conflict with the National Conference event if held prior to our Annual Retreat. In a spirit of partnership to make events more valuable, could we look at partnering with another denomination from time to time? Steering Committee is pursuing the possibility of working with Mennonites in the future. National Conference of Churches is creating a networking website that shows what all denominations are doing.

Other ways to serve—An OMA archivist who can collect all historical documentation and submit it every three years to the national archives is called. Dean Wenger volunteers.

Disabilities and Inclusion project—NCCCOM is looking at how to be more inclusive for children and youth primarily. They contacted the COB offices to seek someone for a committee to work on this. Anyone have experience in this area? Please let Linetta ([program@brethrenwoods.org](mailto:program@brethrenwoods.org)) know if there is anyone who would be a good fit for this position.

Denominational presence 2010—

NYC workshops went well—Chelsea Goss and Tina Lowe (Camp Bethel summer staff) presented “Life After Camp” and “Campfire Jam”. They had 15-20 to discuss the ways one can be involved when too old to be a camper. About 70 came to share camp songs. Future workshops will be led by the YPTT.

NOAC—Rex led a workshop on the NOAC theme of legacy, looking at how to serve camps.

ACMNP—ordained COB minister, Jared Long, serving in the Grand Canyon resigned and moved to Iowa. He is no longer there, but seminary students are sometimes present.

NCCCOM—Josh Brockway will represent COB on curriculum committee, paid for by the denomination. Rex will continue to serve on National Council of Churches Committee on Outdoor Ministries.

Manchester College—4-square tournament to set a World Record for longest game played. Want to publicize OMA as part of this and have us publicize their event.

Mentoring Program—working on making this more intentional and specific. A job description is being created to clarify these roles. The goals are to support new staff members at camps. Contact OMA if you have a staff person who would like to have a mentor. If you would be willing to be a mentor, let the Steering Committee know. Job Description will be posted on website.

Youth Peace Travel Team—Cambria Teter, Marcus Harden, Hannah Wysong, Tim Sollenberger-Heishman. Diversity, strength of leadership. Visited several western camps. Had some personality struggles and by the end of the summer they were ready to be finished. Margo was not at Orientation, Jerri did the camp-related training. Margo was at Debriefing at the Schrock farm. See the last Newsletter for a list of the Kudos the team gave for each of the camps. They had a life-changing experience and were ready to go home.

OMA has a Facebook page, please check it out.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Royer-Miller