

Outdoor Ministries Committee of the Virginia District Board

June 22, 2021, at Camp Bethel, 5:30pm dinner, 6:00pm meeting. Updated 6/22/2021 4:43 PM



OMC (circle if present and underline if on Zoom):

Naomi Powers (Chair), Sam Foster (Vice-Chair & Finance Chair), Stephanie Naff (Secretary), Amanda Leddy (Program Chair), Charles Huffman (Property Chair), Randall Eakin, Laura Harrington, Trish Haskins, Terry Johnson, Junior King, Ron Rucker, Peggy Sink, Scott Yingling, Barry LeNoir (ex-off Camp Director), Kathie Robinson (ex-off Treasurer).

I. Welcome, personal sharing, and prayer. – Barry LeNoir.

II. Approval of the Agenda. – Naomi Powers.

III. Minutes from the April 3 OMC meeting. – Stephanie Naff.

IV. Reports and Information:

A. Virginia District Board report – Naomi Powers.

B. Finance – Barry LeNoir.

1. Camp Bethel Income/Expense data: 5/31/2021. See attached reports.
2. "Camp Bethel PEP!" 5K is Saturday, September 4, 2021. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K.
3. Golf Tournament is Wednesday, September 22, 2021. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf.

C. Programming – Barry LeNoir.

1. Summer Camps update:
 - a. 519 campers registered, which is about 85% of our "planned-reduction" capacity for summer 2021.
2. Summer Staff update:
 - a. Our big last-minute "panic" push for summer staff netted just enough counselors, plus a full Kitchen Staff. We raised pay and promised "complete your contract" end-of-summer bonuses.
 - b. NEW "Summer Staff Adoption" program (modeled after Brethren Woods) has been an excellent so far, and the adopting individuals and congregations and their staff have been mutually UPLIFTED by these new relationships. AND, our staff are performing at a higher level. I believe it is due, in part, to the adoption program. *Thank you to all participating OMC members!*
3. 2021 Sounds of the Mountains Festival Report. – Barry LeNoir. SoundsoftheMountains.org.
 - a. 2021 INCOME: Sponsors (18) = \$21,350. Donors (76) = \$6,142.60. Tips for Tellers (32) = \$4,001.09. Total Income = \$31,493.69!
 - b. 2021 EXPENSES: 5500 SOTM Postcards = \$220.39. Tips for Tellers = \$3,873.00 (keeping \$128.09 PayPal fees from "Tips"). Performer fees = \$4,750. "7 Finger Media" = \$1,500. USPS postcard mailing 4/13/2021 = \$592.87. USPS postcard mailing 5/21/2021 = \$58.26. Camp Staff time = \$0.
 - c. NET for Camp Bethel = \$20,499.17!
 - d. Donors from 16 different states: AR, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, VA, VT.
 - e. Total story & interview views = 3,273. Total "other" videos views = 451. TOTAL VIEWS = 3,724.

D. Property – Barry LeNoir.

1. New deck at Bandage Box only needs railing slats, and interior almost complete. New Adventure Village is 90% complete and will be occupied beginning next week.
2. Mickey and his team (George & Christian) have done an excellent job keeping up with maintenance, mowing, and repairs. Earl LaPrade and Brian Mehalso occasionally help with mowing.
3. Heritage Day Festival will be in-person and on-site on Saturday, October 2, 2021. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day.

E. Personnel – Barry LeNoir.

1. We are blessed to have kept Food Services Coordinator, Wesley Shrader as long as we did, and we celebrate with a big "Thank You!" to Wes for three excellent years of service to Camp Bethel. We are accepting on-line applications for a full-time, salaried, year-round Food Services Coordinator. Application and complete information is coming this week to www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs.

2. I know there is much uncertainty in our District these days: pandemic, division in the church, and more. BUT, if it is possible, we should provide raises for our full-time staff. Retention should remain a focus.
3. *I commend our EXCELLENT staff: Jenna, Mickey, Spencer, Wes, our part-time staff George, Melissa, Christian, and our Summer Staff for a great 2021 so far, and a quality beginning to summer camps!*

V. Old OMC Business (left over from 2019).

- A. Barry has not yet created a revised Master Site Plan document. For now, with the “SEED” money being distributed, we will begin with the RV Village and its accompanying expanded septic field.
- B. Staffing decisions in a time of denominational (and pandemic) anxiety. We delayed hiring a Guest Services Coordinator, and we are now considering other more-efficient staffing models to meet our needs.
- C. Revision of Virlina District Personnel Policies. – Naomi Powers.
- D. OMC to continue considering other ways to improve camp staff morale and retention.
- E. *Other old business:*

VI. New OMC Business?

VII. Next OMC meeting = 2022 budget! Saturday, August 21, 9:00 Executive and 10:00 OMC, at Camp Bethel.

VIII. Prayer and dismissal.

Outdoor Ministries Committee 2021 Meeting Dates:

August 21, 2020 (Sat) 9:00am. Budget Meeting. OMEC meeting & 10:00 OMC meeting at Camp Bethel.

November 12-13, 2021: Virlina District Conference and OMC Reorganization, at Grandin Court Baptist.

November 13, at District Conference, 12:00pm OMC reorganization meeting during lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 13–July 30, 2021: Summer Camps & Adventures.

September 3-6, 2021: Labor Day Family Weekend, RSVP meals.

September 4, 2021 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K.

September 22, 2021 (Wed): 27th Benefit Golf Tournament.

October 2, 2021 (Sat): 37th annual Heritage Day Festival.

October 15-17, 2021: Camp Bethel at Roanoke GO Outside Festival.

November 6, 2021: Fall Volunteer Workday, RSVP free meals.

December 9, 2021 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet.

January 8-9, 2022: Winter Camp Youth & Kids' Retreat.

January 10, 2022: Summer Camp Registration OPENS.

February 12, 2022 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP.

March 10, 2022 (Thurs), 6:30pm: Sow the Seed Banquet, RSVP..

Minutes of the Outdoor Ministries Committee, April 3, 2021

OMC met on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at Camp Bethel with the following members present: Naomi Powers, Sam Foster, Peggy Sink, Amanda Leddy, Jr King, Stephanie Naff, Charles Huffman (Zoom), Trish Haskins (Zoom), Kathie Robinson, Laura Harrington, Randall Eakin, Terry Johnson, Scott Yingling.

Barry opened with prayer.

Naomi opened - CAMP IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMP! Really relied on donations last year and that will continue.

As of yesterday, camp staff has been vaccinated except for one part time maintenance person. Issue of whether we can require summer staff - question sent to Harry Rhodes and DKS. Trish brought up the question of whether this was needed with the possible side effects long term. VDH just put out summer camp guideline. For right now, to run summer camp in VA, all kids 5 and over will wear masks.

Barry - still in survival mode. Retaining staff is #1 on his list. NO furloughs. Brethren Woods cut back to half time in October.

For 2020, the penultimate bottom line is we netted \$73,238.08. Had more than that at the end of the year, but made some escrow changes. We were carrying negative vehicle escrows that were zeroed out. As of end of February, we were -28,614.01. But we do have a positive general reserve and March is looking much better.

Guest group cancellations/changes - numbers are definitely down. WBHS is planning band camp here this year.

Partnership with Virlina Disaster Response Ministries - using camp as training ground. Good short-term options available. Working with Eric Anspaugh, chair on that. Upcoming dates: April 10, May 15, May 22. Possible Breakfast at 8 am. Lunch too - but you must sign up.

SOTM - virtual again.

Mother's Day desserts - taking the place of the Sow the Seed banquet.

SUMMER CAMP PLANS: keep changing. Right now, positive direction. Information and guidance from VA is improving. Detailed guidelines from VDH. One snag right now is - to admit campers, either/or molecular covid test or 14 day health check. Don't want to do testing onsite. Barry is hoping this changes. Also another reason for adding multiple layers of safety for campers.

Box Fan Air Filters - built 17 of these this morning. Improve ventilation in sleeping areas. Minimum 1 per cabin - ideally 2. Sits on floor.

Summer Staff Adoption plans - different from last year - will be individual instead of groups. Trish asked if we'd get info on our person and Barry said yes.

RV Village - on hold currently. Has name of 2 companies that have been recommended. Will send info. SS&S escrow - \$216,816.47. RV Village is priority 1 for this money.

Camp schedule is updated. Booklet will come out soon (postcard already completed and sent) - last minute changes just last week. No Camp Too Sweet, so added additional options here.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 22 at 5:30. Will continue to have Zoom option.

Naomi closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie L. Naff