

DCE Connection

A newsletter for the Developer of Counselor Education

Fall 2002



Bernard Teeninga, training coordinator

Feed the Fire



One of my favorite things about camping is the evening campfire. There is nothing nicer after a day of swimming, fishing, hiking, cooking, or just reading and eating, than a nice fire in the firepit.

It gives off a cozy colorful glow and the warmth of the fire feels good in the evening. When I sit in front of a campfire I feel relaxed and at peace with the world. I love to get a bag of peanuts in the shell and sit there cracking the shells, and digging out and eating the peanuts, and throwing the shells into the fire. Did you ever notice how the shells cause the fire to flare up? It doesn't last long of course, but they still feed the fire a little. After a while the fire starts to die down and it's time to fuel the fire by putting on more wood. Soon we have lots of flame again as well as a hot bed of coals. The fire can continue to burn as long as there is a supply of wood to fuel it.

As I was sitting by a campfire this summer cracking peanut shells, enjoying the peanuts, and, of course,

throwing the shells into the fire; it struck me that the DCE program is kind of like a fire.

It starts like a roaring new fire, then slowly settles into a glowing heat giving bed of coals. I also thought about how, like a fire, DCEs need to be refueled regularly in order to keep the fire burning.

Every time we complete a Phase 1 training session we have a group of new fires going out to councils and providing training. As they gain experience and confidence, their workshops get better. But after a while, things can start to become routine and the fire starts to die down little by little. Once in a while something happens to add a few sparks and some flames to the fire. But in order to keep the training effective we need to *feed the fire*.

There are a few ways we can feed the fire.

One way is by going back for more training through which we can

get new ideas as well as sharpen our skills. This training can come by attending regional training conferences which are being planned by the regional training coordinators. Another is by getting a refresher by repeating a Phase 3 training session, which are held each fall.

Another way to feed the fire is by getting new DCEs to be part of our teams, thereby adding new ideas and different styles as well as new ways of providing training.

Regardless of how you feed your fire as a DCE, make sure that the fire is fed. Stoke your fire on a regular basis so that the fire of good training does not die in your council.

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The Midwest Region gets a new RTC

Change is inevitable. That is also the case in regard to DCE. On page 3, you will read about Ken Dekker's departure as Regional Training Coordinator for the Midwest Region. Of course, this meant that we needed to find a new RTC and so a search was initiated.

There are a number of qualified men in the region who could do the job, and we praise God that He has led one of them to accept the challenge. While at the international camporee, Bernard Teeninga had a chance to discuss the task of RTC with Wayne VanMersbergen of Hawkeye Council. Wayne is well versed in the Cadet program and has served in a variety of capacities in his council. Wayne has been an active DCE since 1991 and has served as team leader as well.

Wayne's location in the center of the Midwest Region puts him in a prime position to help the other DCEs in the Midwest as well.



Wayne VanMersbergen, Midwest RTC

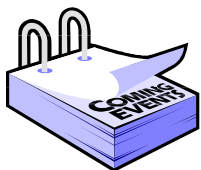
Even though Wayne is still trying to get a handle on what his task is all about, we are confident that if you are looking for help or seeking advice or input, Wayne will do his best to help you out or assist you to get the help you need.

You can contact Wayne at:

Address:
102 E Hemlock St.,
Pella, IA 50219

Phone : (641) 628-3963
Email : franway@kdsi.net

Welcome to the team, Wayne!

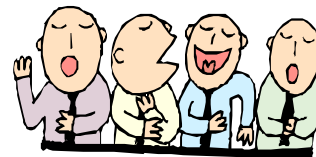


DCE Training

- Phase 1 March 27-29, 2003 in Flamborough, ON
- Phase 2 October 24-25, 2002 in Grand Rapids, MI
- Phase 3 September 19-21, 2002 in Flamborough, ON

Conference Dates

- North & South Central Regions • November 2, 2002 in Fremont, MI
- Eastern Region • November 9, 2002 in Flamborough, ON
- RTC Conference • January 9-11, 2003 in Byron Center, MI



Conference Info

All Cadet counselors and junior counselors are invited to attend these regional conferences

North & South Central Regions Conference

When: Saturday, November 2, 2002
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: First Reformed Church
348 East Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Some workshops will be:

- One night craft projects
- Creative bulletin boards
- Rope making
- Cadeting out of the law
- a group study of Exodus 3:1-12
- First aid basics with Dr. Steve
- Basic wilderness survival
- Radio controlled model airplanes

Special for DCEs

There will be a special two hour session for you in the afternoon. It's a must, so don't miss it!

Contacts:

Frank Ayre • 231-924-3411
Lewis Deters • 231-924-3341

Eastern Region Conference

When: Saturday, November 9, 2002
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Calvary CRC
Flamborough, ON

Theme: Looking Back to See Forward

Some workshops will be:

- Junior Cadets
- Guide Trails
- Fly tying
- Canoeing
- Wire art
- Make a Cadet-a-pult
- Personal devotions

Registration forms and information will be sent soon to head counselors.

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Thanks, Ken Dekker!

Illiana Council, the Midwest Region, and the Calvinist Cadet Corps say thanks to Ken Dekker.

May 10th, 2002 was more than just the Illiana Awards night. It was also the night that Illiana Council and the Calvinist Cadet Corps said "Thanks" to Ken Dekker.

At the RTC Conference last January, Ken Dekker announced that he felt called to be involved in a different area of ministry with his church. He asked to be replaced as RTC for the Midwest Region, and he planned to end his other Cadet activities as well.

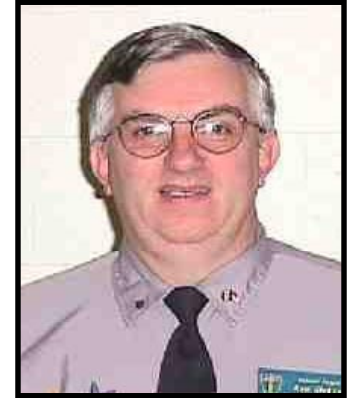
Ken has been involved with Cadets for a long time. He's been a counselor for 27 years, and a DCE since 1988. For a brief period of time, he worked as Mike McGervey's sidekick, helping with the actual DCE training. In 1996, Ken was part of the DCE Task Force which met to review and suggest changes to the DCE program.

Later, when the changes were implemented, he was the natural choice to be Regional Training Coordinator for the Midwest Region.

Since then, Ken has worked hard to help the DCEs in the Midwest Region provide the needed training for the counselors in their councils. With his efforts as RTC, the number of DCEs in his region has doubled.

Ken's hard work and dedication will be missed in the Midwest Region, and also in the whole Calvinist Cadet Corps. We thank God for the service Ken has given and the influence he has been. We pray for God's blessing on Ken's future efforts and ask that he not forget us as we will not forget him.

Thanks, Ken!



Ken and his wife LuAnn



Ken receives a certificate of appreciation from Bernard Teeninga

Regional News



Being International is a Way of Life for the Northwest Region

Cadeting's Northwest Region boasts four councils — one in British Columbia and three in Washington. They've been holding occasional training conferences and other events together since long before it became popular. In fact, they were second only to Ontario in setting up regional events. But for the Northwest Region, participation involves crossing an international border.

Still, more than four dozen men registered for the conference that took place last March 16 at Sonlight CRC in Lynden, WA. Starting at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until 4:00 p.m., the agenda gave participants time to attend three workshops, hear a keynote speaker, and still get home at a reasonable time, no matter how far a person had to travel (well, except for those from Grand Rapids).



Marlin Hendricks, regional training coordinator for the Northwest Region, made a fine master of ceremonies.

Workshops included hands-on training in model rockets, games, woodworking, kite building, glass etching, and Dutch oven cooking. Others dealt with being a cadre counselor at the international camporee and promoting cadeting to your church, parents, and community.

Lunch was great! The main course was the food that the men had prepared during their workshops. They enjoyed superb salmon, lasagna, and much more.

During lunch there was a community building activity for each table. The challenge was to see which table could build the highest tower



Clarence VanKampen of First CRC (Abbotsford, BC) demonstrates how, through years of practice, you can actually scoop a full gallon of potato salad onto your plate in one spoonful.

that would support a cup half-filled with water. The building materials were gumdrops and toothpicks!

It was a day well spent, and the organizers did a fine job preparing everything. To those counselors from Inland Empire, Cascade, NW Washington, and Fraser Valley Councils: If the organizers plan another such event in the near future, it would be well worth your time to spend your day there. Your ministry will be blessed for it!



Bill Diephuis of Sonlight Community CRC (Lynden, WA) inspects a tower for sturdiness and balance.

Coming Soon!

DCEs, DON'T MISS OUT! The packaged workshops previously available have been improved and are being published under the title **Basic Training**. The workshop modules, all contained in a single three ring binder, are *The Counselor's Planner*, *Getting the Most from the Cadet Profile*, *How to Lead an Effective Bible Discussion*, *How to Teach a Merit Badge You Don't Know Anything About*, *How to Use the Crusader for More than Bible Topics*, and *Disciplining Boys: Building the Goals of Cadeting*. Watch for more information as **Basic Training** nears completion.