

DCE

# Connection

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEVELOPER OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION



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## A WINNING SEASON

IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON AGAIN and each weekend many of us sit and watch our favorite teams play — pro, college, or high school. Each week Kim Keller from the Corps office and I rib each other about how our favorite college teams did that weekend. Sometimes she gets to rub it in to me that my team lost. Sometimes I get to tell her that her team lost. Thankfully our teams win more than they lose and we can say they are both having a winning season.

When listening to sportscasters, I hear them talk about how a team was well prepared or ill prepared. They talk about how well one team scouted the other team. They talk about how the important players executed during the game and how the team clicked together or didn't. And they discuss plays out of the playbook — what worked and what didn't.

As I was thinking about that I realized that a lot of these things reflect what's important for DCEs and their teams to do.

Being well prepared is vitally important when we plan learning experiences for counselors. Whether we are prepared or not can make all the difference to the success of the workshop. Did we have everything we needed or that the participants needed? Did we know the material to present? These are important issues.

How well did we scout the other team? I call this choosing the right topic for our audience. Do we understand how it works or what the real challenge is? Did we investigate why there's a problem and where the weaknesses are? Did we cover what we need to present to help participants overcome that problem or improve their skills?

Next, we need make sure we click with the participants and work together to fix the problem or improve their skills. We need to execute and help them to be able to execute.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to help them learn from the playbook (Cadet material). We need to show them how to locate the answers to their problems and to find where help is available to improve their skills. Then we have to help them understand the whole playbook — the extent of the Cadet materials — so that when they carry out their task they can execute to the best of their abilities.

Football is a tough game and only the prepared do well. The same holds true for being involved in the ministry of cadeting. Our job is to help prepare everyone we can for the task ahead. The end result will be helping boys to grow in all areas of life.

That's what we call a winning season.

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# 4TH GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

**AUGUST 23, 2008**  
**A** WAS A GREAT DAY for a golf tournament. That worked out well for a group in Ontario, because it was the date they had planned the fourth annual Calvinist Cadet Corps golf tournament. Forty-three golfers brought their expertise, equipment, and enthusiasm to the Dundee Country Club in New Dundee, Ontario. There they played a round of golf, competed in both putting and chipping contests, and enjoyed a fine dinner. Then they each returned home with a prize. We had four returning golfers from the USA side of the border, making this a truly North American Tournament. This year also brought more lady golfers as well as our first two golfing Cadets (each golfed with his dad).



CCC President Mike VanderMeer gives his team their first lesson.



Two Cadets with their fathers: Marty and Kevin Merkus, Derrick Grift Jr. and Derrick Grift Sr.

## DCE Training Weekends



- |                |                     |                        |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Phase 1</b> | March 26–28, 2009   | Flamborough, Ontario   |
| <b>Phase 2</b> | October 9–11, 2008  | Grand Rapids, Michigan |
| <b>Phase 3</b> | October 23–25, 2008 | Flamborough, Ontario   |

## Regional Conference Dates

- |   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Northwest Region                        | Early 2009; date and place to be determined (TBD) |                        |
| North Central and South Central Regions | November 1, 2008                                  | Zeeland, Michigan      |
| East Central and Eastern Regions        | November 8, 2008                                  | Strathroy, Ontario     |
| Midwest Region                          | Date and place TBD                                |                        |
| North Region                            | Date and place TBD                                |                        |
| Southwest Region                        | February 2009                                     | Escalon California CRC |

# FROM THE DCE IDEA BOARD

## 1. SHOW AND SHARE

— BY HENRY BOSCH, HERITAGE COUNCIL



**A**S CADET COUNSELORS, we are always on the look out for new projects, crafts or activity ideas. As DCEs, we are always trying to think up ways we can better assist our fellow counselors with these challenges. As we do needs assessments and look for workshop ideas, some simple and helpful ideas might be out there without us even realizing it. Why not try this method that the DCEs of the Heritage Council have been using for the last few years.

For council meetings and training workshops they rotate among each of the clubs in the council. Each club gets a schedule before the season begins so they know when it is their turn to host. The meeting begins with the host club doing the opening exercise and devotions. After the opening, the host

club leads a 5–10 minute session of “Show and Share.” This is a time when the counselors from the host club show and talk about things they have done as a club such as projects, crafts, outings, fund raisers, promotion ideas, service projects or whatever they feel would be interesting or helpful for their fellow counselors. The Show and Share has been a great discussion starter as well as creating new ideas for expanded workshop possibilities. The Show and Share has worked very well for the council plus it gives clubs ownership in the council meetings. Following the Show and Share time the training workshops are led by a DCE or member of the host club assisted by the DCEs. Once training is done, there is a short break for coffee time, followed by the business meeting. This schedule has worked well.

## 2. THE MYSTERY JAR WORKSHOP

— BY CAL STRUCK, GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL



**WHAT IS IT?**  
**W**A container. The thoughts, concerns and questions a counselor may have can be endless. We ask our counselors to submit these on a slip of paper and place them in the container. This can be done at any counselor meeting.

### How does it work?

The DCE begins the workshop by removing a slip of paper from the jar. He opens it up and reads the question or comment and then asks if anyone in the group has ever experienced this type of situation. This gets a discussion started and this can be similar to a brain storming session. Before you know it there are a dozen responses and many times they help lead to a positive solution to the question or concern.

### What are the results?

Amazing is the only way I can describe it! The Mystery Jar workshop allows everyone to participate. The quiet or shy counselor usually hears a comment that leads him to make a comment or ask for clarification of a point.

One very important thing that should be done is to have a counselor record all the comments or suggestions along with the original question. These can be typed up, photocopied, and distributed to all the counselors in the council at the next meeting.

The Grand Rapids Council tries to include a Mystery Jar workshop several times during the course of the Cadet season. It works well for us and I am sure that it will work in other councils with positive results.

# A 2007 PROMISE FULFILLED

**T**HE THREE CALIFORNIA COUNCILS — Golden Bear, Pacific Sierra, and Southern California met for the second South-west Regional Counselors' Conference on Friday evening and Saturday, February 22–23, 2008. Hosted by the CrossPoint CRC Cadet club (Chino, CA), the event drew 37 men for a weekend of learning and fellowship. Special guests Mike VanderMeer (Corps President) and Bernard Teeninga (Corps Training Coordinator) joined the California counselors for this conference. They had planned to attend the first one in 2007, but Bernard's health issues kept them home.

On Friday evening, Bernard opened the conference with a workshop that asked the question, "Are You God's Man?" Bernard reminded everyone that cadeting is a calling from God, where service is done with one eye focused on God, who gives us all things, and the other toward the boys who should see the counselor as a godly example.

Saturday morning the men enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast and then faced a choice of workshops. Jim Grasmeyer (SC congressman) taught effective compass reading and land navigation. As a final project, the men had to navigate a course over a large open field on the back lot of the church property.

Other counselors met with Bernie Gabrielse (SC DCE) to learn the history behind cadeting — a workshop that both encouraged and helped participants understand the roots of the Cadet ministry and its inherent strength based on the Word of God. The workshop included old issues of the *Clarion* showing pictures of men with other than gray hair!

In a workshop designed specifically for the 2008 International Camporee, Chuck VanGorkum (GB DCE) showed the practicality of designing and building a shelter. By using engineering design software and the "big screen," Chuck showed a step-by-step process that was realistic and practical. He also produced a scale model of what the shelter should look like. This workshop was timely considering the need to build waterproof shelters at Camp Northern Lights in August.

In the afternoon, the men again had a choice — "Glass Etching" by Dave Lewis (SC treasurer) or "What Happens when the Cadets Leave?" taught by Craig Doty (SC DCE), which taught how to use the Cadet meeting evaluation form. The purpose was to improve the effectiveness of the counselor's ministry by improving the Cadet nights for local clubs.

After a break for coffee and cookies, the counselors listened to Mike VanderMeer discuss the Guide Trails ministry. Mike reviewed challenges that accompany boys as they grow out of the R•P•B program. The counselors were shown the variety and breadth of the Guide Trails program. Each Guide Trail provides older boys with a wide spectrum of information and skills in a series of exercises. Mike used the Aerotech trail as an example.

Another group of counselors took advantage of Bernie Gabrielse's workshop on "Putting the Cadeting Ministry All Together."

As the conference came to a close and men prepared to head home, everyone was encouraged by Bernard, Mike, and Bill Mulder (Artesia Trinity head counselor) to seriously consider the 2008 International

Camporee. Then Doug Laber (PS president) closed the conference with prayer and dismissed the men with hope to see them again in 2009 when the conference moves to Escalon CRC.

—Craig Doty



Top: Are You God's Man?

Next down: Glass Etching

Third down: Camporee shelter construction

Bottom: Lunch time