

ACENA Needs You!

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT

In a recent discussion with a couple of Board members about membership categories and benefits I summoned the ghost of President Kennedy and suggested we ought to ask members *not* what ACENA can do for them, but rather, what they can do for ACENA.

What do I mean? We need to challenge the paradigm and reconstruct membership completely. From what members *get* to instead, what they *give*. From stuff they receive to stuff they contribute. So the spirit of ACENA exists in what its members *do*. So membership is about commitment. And in knowing it is about commitment, understanding commitment is not a word but an *action*.

We encourage members to GIVE. Give of their time and talent. Join our Board. Serve on a sub-committee. We are especially asking members to reach out to fellow CE colleagues and encourage them to join ACENA. Why? There is strength in numbers! There are so few of us working in the CE field in North America that it is critical we join together to promote and expand conductive education. Don't sit back and hope for change – be part of the group that works for change. Together we all can be a powerful resource, alone we will falter.

I mention this as ACENA moves towards the close of its fiscal year – at the end of this month – and we welcome new members to the Board. Our organization is blessed to have a committed core group of individuals working to make a difference for CE in North America. These people have spent this past year volunteering on the Board or on our Standards, Website, Nominations, Conductor and most recently Membership sub-committees.

ACENA has been busy!

Here's what we've done for our Members!

- ✚ Hosted the annual conference (in Grand Rapids);
- ✚ Improved Board processes by drafting and adopting Board code of ethics, conflict of interest and whistleblower policies, and, an annual Board assessment to reflect on how we can serve you, and each other as a Board, more effectively;
- ✚ Created guidelines for use of the ACENA name/logo (more details below);

- ✚ Drafted a new Finance Manual to ensure continuity during the transition of Directors of Finance;
- ✚ Supported students training to become Conductors with an ACENA scholarship;
- ✚ Supported a new World Congress on Conductive Education Travel Award (more news on this below);
- ✚ Prepared and circulated materials for National CE Day (more news on next year's event below);
- ✚ Championed advocacy by circulating an Advocacy Package and a formal submission to a House of Representatives and a Senate Subcommittee looking at Immigration; a topic of vital interest to US CE Centers looking to hire conductors;
- ✚ Submitted an abstract - that has been accepted - to speak about ACENA at the World Congress;
- ✚ Published the first statistical profile of CE services in North America;
- ✚ Recommended amendments to the ACENA By-laws to;
 - broaden membership to include individuals with neuro-motor disabilities, their caregivers and classroom/conductor assistants;
 - provide equitable member benefits;
 - add a dissolution article;
 - tweak and clarify our mission; and,
 - provide a mechanism to ensure any quality standards identified and/or promoted are vetted by conductors;
- ✚ Drafted a member subsidy policy so an avenue exists for members in situations of hardship - where their fees are unable to be paid - can still add their voice to ACENA, access benefits and contribute their expertise;
- ✚ Conducted a survey of membership as we work to create a more engaging ACENA website;

- ✚ Conducted a survey of all CE Centers to better understand the scope of conductor salaries in North America;
- ✚ Adopted a listing of Conductor Training programs and CE-related coursework duly recognized by ACENA; a resource that clearly outlines our belief the only programs which can be termed “Conductive Education” programs in North America have at their helm a Conductor trained and certified by one of the Conductor Training programs identified in this listing;
- ✚ Continued our dialogue, through the work of the Conductor Group sub-committee, on ways to improve the experience of new conductors arriving in North American Centers, and how to professionalize the conductor experience.

Look at the work this small core group of members has achieved through their belief in CE and ACENA and their commitment to action. Was it time consuming? Sure. Was it difficult? Not really. Knowing the disparate programs we all represent, did it involve having to concede on some things we felt were important to find a middle ground we could all live with? Yes. Was it worth it? Totally!

And so, with that said, it is back to you. The ball is in your court. Imagine what else we could achieve if you raised your hand; if you agreed to add your perspective on a sub-committee. Or opted run for a Board position.

Imagine what we could achieve if you *committed*.

What can our Members do for ACENA?

- ✚ **Join the Board!**
- ✚ **Serve on a Sub-committee!**
- ✚ **Get the word out and encourage membership!**
- ✚ **Support ACENA initiatives!**



Center Spotlight: The Center for Independence through CE (CFI)

BY PATTI HERBST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CFI, CHICAGO

The Center for Independence through Conductive Education (CFI), located in Chicago, IL is delighted to share just a few success stories on recent Conductive Education graduates!



Photo: Kelly & Colleen at CFI

Kelly Langosch attended the Center's CE programming since she was 6 years old - Kelly "graduated" from CE and is now a freshman at Illinois State University. When asked how CE helped her transition to college and dorm life, Kelly responded *"Conductive Education really helps me deal with physical obstacles like opening doors or getting around campus. I understand how to problem solve to make things accessible. CE really helped teach me how to adapt the environment to my ability – I'm even taking a ZUMBA dance class at ISU and I can do it from my wheelchair!."*

Colleen Musselman also attended CE since Kindergarten and is a freshman at College of DuPage and hopes to be an Adaptive Sports Coordinator. Colleen says the top 3 things Conductive Education taught her is *"Independence, Confidence and more Confidence! I'm so grateful for what I learned physically, but I also learned how to problem solve too. CE introduced me to other kids with cerebral palsy that really understand me – that gave me a lot of confidence!"*

Both Kelly and Colleen work as classroom assistants at CFI's Summer Conductive Education Camps - they make fantastic role models for all of the children participating in the Conductive Education program.

ACENA congratulates these hardworking young women -and our best wishes for their continued great success!



Center Spotlight: March of Dimes Canada

BY ABIGAIL PAYNE, LEAD CONDUCTOR, CHILDREN'S SERVICES, MODC, TORONTO

March of Dimes Canada is thrilled to welcome Kate Linder as spokesperson of its Conductive Education® program.

Actress Kate Linder joined the March of Dimes Canada family in February. For over 30 years, Ms. Linder has played the role of Esther Valentine on the number-one rated soap opera, *The Young & the Restless* and she has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Ms. Linder was in Toronto in December, 2012 for a fundraiser in support of March of Dimes. She visited the March of Dimes' office to learn more about CE, the beneficiary of the event. While there, she met some of the young participants of CE's Early Intervention Program for pre-school to/and grade-one aged children, as well as their parents. Ms. Linder was moved when she saw firsthand the significant, life-changing impacts CE has, not only on the participant,



Photo credit: CharlesBush.com

but their family as well. We are so excited to have Ms. Linder become more involved with March of Dimes and our CE program. She is passionate about charitable work and is a wonderful ambassador for CE and our participants.

Graphic Standards for Using the ACENA Name & Logo

BY ROSENE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

For some time now, ACENA has been working on a document to help Centers use the ACENA name and logo. We're happy to announce this document is now available on our website at www.acena.org (check under the "News" tab).

ACENA wants centers to be utilizing the ACENA logo and name in their communication and marketing efforts as doing so adds value to both the center and the North American conductive education movement.

The standards provide centers a quick guide on the appropriate use of the logo and are intended to make using the logo/name simpler and easier. While the ACENA name and logo are not formally trademarked both "Association for Conductive Education in North

America (ACENA)™ and its logo are protected in their use through the fact the organization is duly registered 401(c) with the State of Illinois.

As such the ACENA name and logo may not be used by any unauthorized organization (non-registered with ACENA) or individual, unless approved by ACENA. This requirement fulfills two key functions:

- 1 It ensures a standardized, professional portrayal of ACENA to internal and external audiences; and,
- 2 It provides a clear guideline - and tools - for members to easily, accurately and professional utilize the ACENA name and logo.

We hope this helps you with your promotions and if you need a graphic file please email us at acena@acena.org.

Board Elections 2013

BY BRITTANY JENNINGS, CHAIR, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

For this year's Board election there are 5 positions up for renewal:

- President-elect (to run for this office, a member must have first served a term on the Board)
- Secretary;
- Director of Communications;
- Director of Finance; and,
- Director of Continuing Education.

ACENA Bylaws require 50% of our Board members to be Conductors as officers.

On Monday, June 10 you received an electronic ballot via email which provides you a link to the BallotBin website to register your vote for the various positions available. I want to thank those of you who agreed to step forward and run for office and also those directors who are stepping down as of July 1st - Andrea Benyovszky, Rosene Johnson and Jim Prust. ACENA would not be where it is without their expertise and contribution of time.

Voting will close on Friday, June 14th at 1630 EDT and I will update the Board at their June Board Meeting with the results prior to a formal announcement.

8th World Congress on Conductive Education Update!

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT, ACENA

The 8th World Congress on Conductive Education “*Rhythm and Balance*” will be held in Munich, Germany from October 9th – 12th, 2013. ACENA is supporting the North American CE community’s presence at the Congress in several ways.

ACENA Board members, Anne Wittig and Dave Dvorak, have had an abstract they co-wrote accepted and will be sharing an update on ACENA’s activities since the Hong Kong Congress with delegates. Board members Andrea Benyovszky, Dave Dvorak and Brent Page are sitting as advisors on the Organizing Committee and ACENA supported the inclusion of North American conductors by creating the *World Congress on Conductive Education Travel Award*.

The Award was won by conductor Krisztina Weiszaupt from Pittsburgh, PA. Congratulations Krisztina! The award will assist in supporting Krisztina’s registration for the Congress and a portion of her travel costs to Munich. As part of the award, Krisztina will be sharing lessons learned from the Congress with the North American community upon her return.



Photo: Krisztina Weiszaupt works with CE student, Benjamin

In hearing of her win, Krisztina said: *“I feel very honored and lucky to be chosen for this award. I’m very excited for so many reasons. Firstly, this award gives me the opportunity to meet with conductors, other professionals and friends in the field I haven’t seen for many, many years. Secondly, the program looks packed with fresh information, research results and scientific presentations on the CE field. I cannot wait to report everything I learn with other conductors here in North America.”*

ACENA has continued to promote the Congress and in the latest update from the organizers was delighted to see the 28 abstracts from the United States, 11 from Mexico and 4 from Canada submitted for review.

Please check out the Congress website at: <http://www.ce-worldcongress2013.org>

By-Law Amendment Update

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT, ACENA

The first set of proposed amendments to ACENA's By-laws was circulated out to members for a vote the week of June 3rd. Voting closed on Friday, June 7th and we are happy to report the proposed by-law amendments – all six of them – were approved. These will now be written into a revised version of the By-Laws that will be available on the ACENA website in July.

A notice regarding a second set of proposed amendments will be circulated to members the week of June 17th. This set of amendments covers three proposals:

- ✚ Changing bullet 2 of our mission to make it clear our role is to identify and promote (versus 'ensure') quality standards of CE;
 - ✚ Adding a dissolution article for the organization; and,
 - ✚ Adding a section to clarify the process for adoption of any identified quality standards of CE that ensures conductor involvement.
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National Conductive Education Day 2014

BY KRISZTINA A. BERNSTEIN, DIRECTORY OF ADVOCACY

Thursday, February 27th is the 5th annual "National Conductive Education Day"!

It is hard to imagine we are soon to reach the five year anniversary of CE Day. I wanted to thank all centers and members for your participation in the 2013 event. We did circulate a survey post-CE Day to solicit feedback on suggestions for next year's event.

Respondents agreed that the package we are sending out is beneficial and that they do have it in time to prepare for events. One aspect that was suggested for improvement is to try and coordinate a single, continent-wide promotional event on this day as well, so that regardless if you are in New York City, Vancouver, Orlando or Los Angeles, we could all join in an event that links members/centers and the CE community together.

We are continuing to explore this idea and a couple possibilities come to mind:

- ✚ If your center is planning an open house in/around National CE Day next February 27th, could you kindly let me know now. ACENA will work to create a customized invitation postcard that lists all National CE Day Open Houses, their locations and times, names and logos of centers that you can then circulate. It will show the public, media, funders and stakeholders the breadth of CE Centers in North America. You can send your date/time to me at krisztinabernstein@acena.org.
- ✚ We would like to create a PowerPoint presentation that targets Special Education instructors that – at a minimum – could be targeted to special education institutions operating in the cities across North America where our CE programs are operating. These professors could share this information with their students thereby increasing awareness with the next generation of special educators. Alternatively, we could also host a webinar on February 27th on this subject for interested individuals.

Your thoughts on these – and any other ideas – are welcomed! In the meantime, look for the CE Day 2014 Campaign package which will be available online as a downloadable file by November 15, 2013. Once again this year, the package can be fully customized to your center specifics and stories.

Wishing a successful day for CE and your program!

Conductive Education Baseline Statistics 2013

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT

You will remember last year in June ACENA circulated a 2011-2012 baseline statistics submission form to all known CE centers and individual providers, regardless of their ACENA membership status. Forty-two percent of active centers responded and shared their statistical results which provided – for the first time ever – document information on the reach, scope and size of our movement.

ACENA remains committed to understanding the breadth of conductive education services in North America as, by collecting service data, we are better able to help members engage in advocacy efforts and tell our stories to stakeholders, funders, media and the public.

The 2012-2013 baseline statistics form will be circulated out to all known CE centers at the end of June and we hope you will participate again this year. Remember your statistics and the story it tells count!

The *Report on Status of Conductive Education in North America* is a first and represents only 42% of the *identified* CE providers working in North America. ACENA is committed to identifying new CE programs and will work towards expanding our data in 2012-13.

ACENA Annual General Meeting

BY JESSIE BROWN, SECRETARY

Each year ACENA usually hosts an annual conference to bring the CE community together for professional development, networking and conduct business with our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This conference has historically occurred at the end of August/beginning of September.

This year is unique as the timing of the World Congress on Conductive Education in Munich - in early October 2013 - does mean members and centers face the challenge of attending two events that require travel, accommodations and registration dollars within a 6 week period. Your Board has been discussing this dilemma and has decided *not* to hold a conference this year. However, we do still require - as per our By-Laws - to host an Annual General Meeting where Directors can report to you on their activities this past year and any new business, if needed, can be transacted.

We will plan to host our Annual General Meeting via WebEx/tele-conference in early September and will be sending out a save-the-date notice shortly. You will be able to call-in toll-free to this meeting and/or participate via the internet from the comfort of your home/office.

In addition to the AGM, we will provide all members an update on sessions/activities at the World Congress on Conductive Education using a similar strategy once the Congress concludes.

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