

## **From the President**

### **ACENA NEEDS YOU – YOU NEED ACENA!**

By Dave Dvorak

Your elected Directors have been very active in the past few months, engaging in the creation of promised materials, making program visitations and informing legislators in Washington, D.C. about conductive education. By now you should have received multiple materials indicating the reasons why you should join ACENA.

If you have not joined, please consider doing so TODAY! ACENA will be most successful by having a large number of members. You need ACENA and ACENA needs you! Your program will only grow stronger as we inform parents and leaders throughout North America on the advantages of conductive education and how they can support this much needed effort.

Three newsletters are planned for this year, as well as major updates to our website. Planning is under way for another August CE Workshop. The research articles, due process materials, “standards” manuals, and PR materials are being developed and will be available soon. To take immediate advantage of these and other services, please submit your application and dues TODAY.

ACENA wants to be your organization! The next decision is yours! If you have any questions regarding ACENA membership, please do not hesitate to contact any ACENA officer.

## **Share Your Voice, Share Your Knowledge, Strengthen Conductive Education Join ACENA Today!**

The 3rd annual workshop for conductors and program administrators is going to be held at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, organized by CLC and ACENA in August 2007.

Please contact Andrea Benyovszky or Borbala Goda with related questions or ideas on topics and presenters!

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# ACENA NEWS 2007

## **President Begins Program Visitations**

By President Dave Dvorak

As your President, Dave Dvorak plans to visit as many Conductive Education programs throughout North America as possible. These visits should provide a personal forum to get to know you and accomplish the following:

1. Bring information and answer your questions about ACENA
2. Obtain ideas for future ACENA newsletter stories, website postings, additional materials, etc.
3. Discuss ways to grow Conductive Education in North America
4. Collect programmatic information, including enrollments, strengths, needs, etc.

The information will provide an accurate summary report of CE in North America. This report can be used for sharing with respective leaders within states, as well as for lobbying activities at the national level.

These visitations started in February, 2007, when meetings were held with six program representatives from the states of New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Program Directors, Conductors, parents and board members were very warm in their welcomes and the extent of gratitude expressed. The visits were an excellent time to gather ideas for ACENA to consider. Collected ideas include the creation of PR materials to share with programs, collecting parent written success stories to share with the ACENA membership and featuring a program's successful project in the ACENA newsletter.

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## **February Visits to Six Legislative Offices including the Office of Sen. Clinton**

By Director of Advocacy Erika Nagy

In order to increase awareness, gain support and acknowledgement for Conductive Education, Dave Dvorak, President, and Erika Nagy, Director of Advocacy, visited the offices of three legislative officials each from New Jersey and New York in Washington, D.C. during February 2007.

Our objective in conducting these visits was to provide elected officials with a background of Conductive Education, develop a solid relationship and to ask for their support in expanding services. During these meetings, we stressed the urgent need to have more resources available which would aid and advance the development of existing, and the creation of new, Conductive Education programs in North America. We respectfully requested acknowledgement and support on both the national and state levels for Conductive Education services within and outside of the public school setting.

These visits will enable us to be successful in forming a working relationship with these officials by answering their further inquiries, providing updated information on a regular basis and arranging for visits in the future to local Conductive Education programs. We look forward to sharing further details regarding this effort and assisting all ACENA members with legislation-related activities. Please feel free to contact us at:

erikanagy@acena.org

## By Director of Membership Judit Roth

### ***Dear Conductive Education Teachers (CET):***

When I relocated from Hungary to the United States ten years ago, I had very limited access to professional and personal advice here. If you were a CET and recently moved to the United States, you would have been facing similar problems, such as language barriers, cultural differences and the lack of knowledge of the American educational and medical systems.

All this may have prevented you from providing a high quality CE program. But not anymore! ACENA is bringing conductors together who are working in North America. Even if you are the only CET in a particular state, you can have access to others trained in Hungary, England, or the U.S. We are all here to promote what we believe in: conductive education! Let's do it together. Sign up today! ACENA is here to serve you and represent you.

We know that it is not easy to settle in a new country, or to establish and run a CE program on your own! So call or e-mail us with questions regarding children in your group or about how to establish credit in the U.S.! Join us: Together we will be stronger!

### ***Dear CE training program students:***

ACENA is the only membership organization in North America bringing together individuals from the Conductive Education field. If you want to learn about the different centers on this continent, and if you are interested in continuing education, sign up to ACENA today!

For more information, please feel free to contact me  
at 757-228-5390 or  
[juditroth@acena.org](mailto:juditroth@acena.org)

## By Director of Program Operations Patti Herbst

When the Center for Independence opened 10 years ago, a very wise friend gave us some excellent advice that we still adhere to today... "Don't recreate the wheel – become a cog on the wheel that is already rolling down the hill or you may get run over!"

ACENA is committed to that philosophy as well! Use your precious time effectively! ACENA is available to address CE issues, act as an advocate, and provide easy access to journals, fundraising ideas, research, due process hearings, marketing and other resources relevant to CE. If you need help, don't wait or hesitate – contact us! We are here to serve you and the larger community of Conductive Education.

All of us at ACENA are committed to moving conductive education forward. We will work for our members, but we also need our members to work with us! All of us recognize that the field of Conductive Education is at a crossroads. Given the relatively low number of CE professionals worldwide, an orchestrated grass roots movement is needed to ensure it's future, not only in North America, but also throughout the world. By joining ACENA you will share your wisdom, insights and experiences and ultimately strengthen and support the profession. We are such a small, interdependent community. We need to join together to support, mentor and encourage each other's work - just imagine the incredible wheel we could be!

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