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Winter Events

January

January 10: Marketing Subcommittee

January 18: Research Subcommittee

January 25: ACENA AGM

February

February 7: Board meeting

February 16: National CE Day

February 28: NACA AGM

March

March 7: Board meeting

*For a list of 2017 events, remember to
check out our [ACENA Calendar!](#)*

*If you would like more information on any
of these events or wish to attend,
please contact
bjennings@marchofedimes.ca*

ACENA AGM

January 25th, we held our Annual General Meeting via phone conference and Go-To-Meeting. I would like to thank all of you that were able to call in and join the meeting. It was wonderful to have so many members on the line. We more than doubled attendance from the previous year's meeting! We are all hoping that you will continue to be involved and help further the important work of ACENA.

On behalf of the ACENA board, I would like to once again thank our three outgoing board members Andrea Berez-Prewitt (Director of Practice), Vicki Briley (Director of Operations) and Katie Lightfoot (Secretary). We are all thankful for your service to the organization and for sharing your time and talent with the board.

Additionally, I would like to thank Brent Page for his on-going support of the board and its work. Though his "official" tenure as President and President Emeritus have come to an end,

9th World Congress on Conductive Education - Budapest, Hungary

This past December, the 9th World Congress on Conductive Education was held at the Andras Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary - the home of Conductive Education. It was a productive and informative gathering of Conductive Education teachers, centers, practitioners and researchers from around the world.

ACENA members participated in several presentations including 25 lectures, 20 posters and 3 plenary talks! Some of the abstracts will be made available on our [website](#) in the near future, so stay tuned!



ACENA is also proud to congratulate fellow members, Patricia Herbst (Center for Independence through Conductive Education, Chicago, IL) and Gyorgy Benyovszky (Conductive Learning Center, Grand Rapids, MI) on receiving the "Honorary Conductor Award" for their outstanding activities carried out in the interest of conductive education. Thank you for your continuous contributions in helping bring Conductive Education to our communities!



he continues to offer his guidance and expertise at the board level.

Our current board has been hard at work tackling our goals for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. Thank you to Gabi Molnar (Treasurer), Anita Keresztury (Director of Advocacy), Beth Lynch (Director of Continuing Education), Brittany Jennings (Director of Communications), and Liz Filkins (Director of Membership) for your willingness to continuing serving at this level. Patti Herbst (President Emeritus), we all are thankful for your leadership over the past two years, and are all grateful for your continued contributions to the board.

I would like to welcome our new board members Alana Curtin (Director of Practice) and Allie Powaser (Interim Secretary) and also give a special thank you to Christina Bingham-Simko who was elected as the Director of Operations, but has since needed to resign due to family reasons. We wish you all the best, Christina.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you are looking for ways to get more involved in ACENA. We are currently looking for someone to fill the Director of Operations position on the board, as well as members for various subcommittees that are currently operating. Not only can your participation help you to stay involved, but it can also help your program to be eligible for free center membership.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me by email or by calling 616-575-0575. I am available every Monday afternoon after 4:00 pm EST.

Best wishes,
Andrea Benyovszky

Membership Renewal

On behalf of the ACENA Board of Directors, I would like to encourage you to renew your ACENA membership. We are pleased to announce that membership costs have remained the same as previously. Renewal information can be found on our [website](#).

Take advantage of the wide range of networking opportunities, professional development resources, and world-wide peer-to-peer support we have to offer.

Last year, the ACENA Board of Directors focused its efforts to:

- Offer valuable resources at a finger's touch with our new and improved website
- Provide greater professional development and networking opportunities through webinars and the 2016 ACENA Conference



I would like to thank ACENA for awarding me the WCCE scholarship. The opportunity to attend the ninth world Congress on Conductive Education in Budapest, Hungary was truly an honor.

As a presenter, I had the privilege of sharing information about the work I began in doing in February, 2016, developing and running support groups for individuals with cerebral palsy who attend the Center For Independence Through Conductive Education in Countryside, Illinois. I have

been given the unique opportunity to be on the ground floor of this new program. As I stated in my presentation, it is so important to not only address the physical needs of children with disabilities but also to address the socio-emotional needs that accompany living with a physical disability.

During these group sessions we address many important issues that are on the minds of these children and adolescents. As time goes on they are much more responsive and actually look forward to these group and individual sessions. There is something incredibly powerful about being able to share thoughts, feelings, and concerns about what it's like to live with a disability. We discuss how it is possible to lead a full and productive life. As I am a graduate of the Center For Independence myself, I am able to relate to these individuals on a more personal level. They see that they too can have a bright future. I was able to attend the University of Illinois and I'm currently in graduate school completing my masters of social work.

The sessions are designed to be age-appropriate with topics that are relevant for their age group. We are also planning sibling support groups and parent support groups. I find that the benefit of my personal experience allows me to be seen as someone who has succeeded and I started exactly where these individuals are now.

One of the benefits of the World Congress was information being shared by many individuals from different disciplines. There was great opportunity for everyone in attendance to learn new and innovative techniques. The presentation I was a part of with my colleagues was well received. The hope is that centers around the world will implement this type of program for their students.

Again, thank you so very much for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,
Ani Hunt

New: CE Center Feature Sara's Garden, Ohio

When your loved one has a disability, condition or disease, you want to be able to obtain the best treatment options possible - even if that is hundreds or thousands of miles away. Many of the families we serve travel a great

- Expand research on Conductive Education through the Research Subcommittee. This work will continue in 2017, two studies on CE will be published later this year
- Spread the word on the benefits of Conductive Education. ACENA marketed CE at two National Conferences in 2016. Several more are planned for 2017.
- Continue our mentorship program. ACENA links Conductors and Conductive Education Programs to experienced mentors in the field of Conductive Education. Just ask to be linked to an ACENA mentor
- ACENA grew to 78 individual members in 2016. We plan on breaking the 100 mark in 2017!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about membership or your membership status.

Sincerely,
 Elizabeth Filkins, CET
 ACENA Director of Membership
liz.filkins@gmail.com

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION DAY

We are very pleased to announce that the National Conductive Education Day will be held on February 16, 2017!

Celebrate the unique skills of people with physical disabilities and the Conductive Education professionals who help them on their journey towards independence.

You can get involved by:

- Speaking with local programs, board members, donors, and families about the positive effect of Conductive Education on people with physical disabilities
- Share this day on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- **WEAR GREEN!**
 Green is the color that represents this day - we encourage individuals to bake green cookies, wear a green t-shirt, send out green postcards with Conductive Education fun facts on them, etc.

Help raise awareness in your

distance from home in order to get treatment their loved ones need. It can be a long time to be away from home, and many times it can divide a family.

We know first-hand how that feels and how it impacts a family... we went through it ourselves. In 2002, our family suffered a tragedy when our beloved Sara Joy Rychener-Burkholder passed away due to complications that arose during the delivery of her first child, Jackson. Because he was without oxygen during the delivery, Jackson sustained trauma to his brain and was later diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy.

Doctors informed us that the damage to Jackson's brain was permanent and would never improve. They gave us a list of things Jackson would never accomplish and painted a very negative picture for Jackson's future.

Our families refused to accept these grim predictions about what Jackson's life would and would not be. During our search and subsequent journeys across the country seeking treatment for Jackson, we met so many families who, like us, were emotionally, physically and financially strained trying to ensure that their loved ones were given every opportunity for increased independence. We decided to serve these families by establishing a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called Sara's Garden.

In 2006, we were finally able to obtain a visa which allowed us to bring our first conductor over from Hungary. We began by offering a summer program in July in hopes of raising awareness of Conductive Education throughout Northwest Ohio. The response from area families was amazing and our program has continued to grow. The Conductive Education team at Sara's Garden now provides daytime programming for early childhood, youth and adolescent students through our school, New Horizons Academy. We also provide before school, after school and summer programming that serves infants, early childhood and adults.



In addition to Conductive Education, Sara's Garden provides clients with specialized, comprehensive Autism Intervention, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration and Speech-Language Pathology services. Our experienced team of licensed professionals serves clients from across North America.

Conductive Education Center. If you have a unique idea to celebrate National CE day, let us know!

Send us pictures of your Center celebrating for our website and don't forget to wear green!

North American Conductor Association AGM

NACA AGM will be held Tuesday February 28 at 7pm EST.

NACA members, join us to review the work that has been done over the past few years, to talk about how we can move NACA forward and how you can become more involved!

For more information contact Beth at bethlynch83@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Margy Nelson from the Movement Centre of Manitoba for being honoured in the Manitoba Legislature for her strength and dedication as well as her work with The Movement Centre!



From left to right: Dr. Nigel MacDonald, Board Member, Margy Nelson, ED, Rochelle Squires, MLA, Tim Steadman, Board Chair, client Max, and his mom Liz.

Honourable Rochelle Squires, MLA for Riel, honours constituent Margy Nelson for her work in founding the Movement Centre of Manitoba. To watch the video, click [here](#).

What started out as an organization that treated only children with Cerebral Palsy, has grown to serve clients of all ages and conditions... such as ALS, Autism, Burns, Cancer, Cerebral Palsy, Lyme Disease, Migraine, Multiple Sclerosis, RSD, Seizure Disorders, Spinal Cord Injury, Sports Injury, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury and Wound Healing.

At Sara's Garden, we ensure that serving families is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to provide independence and the freedom to live life to its fullest!

Brief Summary of my experience at the 9th World Congress on Conductive Education

by Saskia Kramer



The 9th World Congress on Conductive Education (CE) took place in Budapest. It was well organized by the Andras Peto College, the International Peto Association, and the Andras Peto Foundation. Two days of pre-congress were followed by three days of intensive and remarkable congress sessions. We were all thrilled to meet with each other, listen to and participate in numerous exciting presentations and discussions.

The Congress was very successful. It's diversity really highlights how Conductive Education has spread all over the world. To reflect on the countless positive aspects of the congress could take ages. So, I will highlight the moments that most stood out for me.

The presentations and plenary talks were not just topical but also made us think and wonder. One of these talks was Melanie Brown - "Baby and bathwater." She talked about what elements of CE should be preserved and what can be changed. "The globalization of CE in the past year has been immense. This has led to children and adults being able to access and benefit from services provided. Conductors the world over, have had to adapt to new social expectations, new environments and new national systems of working- none of this being regulated as perhaps would happen within other professions. This has led to development in the work but has this come at cost?" These are issues that I and other conductors I have to face every day. Working in the US with Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists in different settings make my everyday work very different. I have to adapt the method and make it work in different

GET INVOLVED!

There are many opportunities to have your voice heard in ACENA.

Join a subcommittee today to help spread Conductive Education across North America. Here are some upcoming projects we would love to have your help with:

- ACENA Conference Subcommittee
- Marketing Subcommittee
- NACA
- Research Subcommittee

To get involved today, please contact [Brittany Jennings](#).

[ACENA.org](#)

Looking for information on upcoming events, research and activities for ACENA? Check out our website:

- [RESOURCES](#)
- [ACENA CALENDAR](#)
- [NACA](#)

Certain pages under our Resources section are only available to ACENA members using the password Acena123.

ACENA Facebook Group

Make sure you join our [ACENA Facebook group](#)



To learn about upcoming ACENA activities and receive information and articles relating to Conductive Education.

circumstances; in a whole different world than what I am used to. I found it very important to discuss what defines CE. What are the parts I can change and what are the components I have to hold onto? I loved how Melanie presented and did not give an answer but gave us homework and challenged our thinking. After this presentation, thinking and talking about it with multiple colleagues, I have a working definition that will constantly evolve.

It was also great to see how CE in different countries works very well with other methods and assistive equipment that mutually improves both practices. Some of these include: Hippo therapy in Germany, the Mollie suit in France, and the iDoctum SEN that uses visual perceptual skills. As conductors, our goal is to ensure the growth and improvement of our students. It is extremely important to be informed and open minded about the new practices and changes within our field.

BOOST's main goal for this conference was to learn how Conductive Education is placed in different educational and healthcare systems. Since Boost CE started a year round program only 6 months ago, we wanted to learn how, and in what form, could CE exist and flourish in Northern California. Being able to connect with professionals (especially in the US) to see what they have done and how they built their practice, gave us several great ideas on how we could implement CE and build a successful, intelligent structured year round program that fits well within our population. Our second goal was to develop connections with the community of conductors. We hope to be able to return this favor or pay it forward in the future.

I would like to thank the board of ACENA for giving myself and BOOST such an amazing opportunity by supporting us with the scholarship. Additionally, I would also like to thank the organizers of the congress for setting up such a high quality event. I am looking forward to the 10th Congress and plan to support the CE community in any and every way I can.

Sincerely,
Saskia Kramer, CET
BOOST Conductive Education Director
United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay
