

ACENA Winter Newsletter: Issue 30

In this Issue:

- [Reflections from the Past President](#)
- [Letter from New ACENA President](#)
- [2019 ACENA Membership Drive](#)
- [National CE Day 2019](#)
- [2019 ACENA Conference](#)
- [Upcoming Webinar](#)
- [Peto Day 2018](#)
- [Important winter dates](#)



Reflections from the Past President

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your President during these last two years. As I reflect on this experience, I am grateful for the work of the entire ACENA Board. I would like to share a special thank you to these Directors for their on-going dedication to moving conductive education forward in North America.

It's been a busy couple of years for our Board. To our out-going and transitioning Board Members, Anita and Liz, thank you for your commitment to your roles as Director of Advocacy and Membership. Anita did a wonderful job bringing Centers closer together for our annual CE Day celebration and Liz helped to establish our first-ever formal affiliation with other international organizations through the creation of our Partner Association membership category. Additionally, Saskia, who joined the Board one-year ago as the Director of Program Operations, worked together with Liz to establish our newly formed Membership Subcommittee. Thanks to you all for your hard work!

For our other returning Board Members, thank you for your continued dedication to the mission of ACENA. Patti, thank you for managing our books as the Director of Finance and for chairing our Research Subcommittee which has had a very active year. Alana, our Director of Practice, has done an excellent job organizing international webinars to provide opportunities for professional development for members. This year Allie, our Secretary, has established an electronic ACENA database for organizing and storing all our important documents. Brittany, has worked to keep all members up-to-date with information by managing our ACENA website and Facebook page and creating and circulating our newsletters as our Director of Communication. Also, a huge thank you to Brittany for chairing our Conference Subcommittee and for working closely with Matt and the entire staff of Sara's Garden in order to prepare for our ACENA Conference in August. Thanks to you all for organizing a wonderful opportunity for us to gather and learn from one another while celebrating CE.

As we welcome in 2019, I would like to also welcome our new ACENA President, Brent Page. Brent returns to the Board as a representative of March of Dimes Canada and has been a long-time advocate for conductive education. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue the important work of the Board as Director of Continuing Education, and I'm looking forward to what these next two years can bring.

In closing, I would like to encourage you all to find a way to get involved in ACENA this year. There are many opportunities - including a number of active subcommittees that are seeking additional members. ACENA is here to support you, and we all benefit from an active member base. Let's work together to make this upcoming year one to remember for conductive education in North America.

- Andrea Benyovszky

Letter from New ACENA President



The twentieth-century American author Thomas Wolfe coined the term 'you can't go home again', and yet, here I am in 2019 at the helm of ACENA after several years absence. And despite Wolfe, I must say, it's great to be home! From my first interaction with ACENA back over a decade now, I felt welcomed by the organization and inspired by its members whose passion and commitment to the conductive education movement was - and remains - unwavering.

As we look forward to ACENA's 2019 year, I want to thank and acknowledge the great work accomplished by the Board last year, our colleagues at Sara's Garden who hosted a terrific conference last August, and everyone who chaired and volunteered on ACENA's several committees. Your work continues to light our way forward.

Your ACENA Board is meeting in Chicago at the end of January to draft a new Plan of Work that will take us through December 2019; we welcome your input and ideas to this process!

As incoming President, I see several areas where we need to focus to move CE forward. These include:

- a bolder development of conductor training modalities that work in the North America setting;
- the development and implementation of a continuing education

credit system for North America conductors;

- a bolder engagement and cooperation with the global CE community and its associations (Peto, IPA, CEPEG, NZFCE, ECA);
- collaboration on made-in-North America CE research initiatives that use our ACENA community CE centres as labs;
- implementation of the common parent satisfaction survey, developed by ACENA members, across all ACENA CE centres, and perhaps its adoption within the larger CE global community;
- delivering the 2019 ACENA Conference (booked for the September 13-15 weekend) in Chicago; and
- championing ACENA involvement and participation in the 10th World Congress on Conductive Education to be held in May 2020 in Budapest.

There is one other area I think we need to explore: securing dollars to fund a part-time administrator position for ACENA. We all committed to creating ACENA. We all have a stake in its success. We all support ACENA as volunteers off the side of our collective desks. That however, can only take us so far. ACENA needs to move to the next level. We need a dedicated administrator who can support our work year-round, even if only part-time. Supporting such a venture will not be easy, granted. But my belief is if each CE centre, each CE training program, each CE stakeholder anted up a small financial contribution - and entrusted that to ACENA - we would have sufficient funds. It would be money well spent. To that end, I'll step up first, and, wearing my March of Dimes Canada hat, will commit our organization to making that first financial contribution.

We cannot do this work alone. And so I place a challenge before you as you sit reading this e-newsletter in your office or centre. I want you to set yourself a professional resolution for 2019: that you will commit to ACENA. And in doing so, I want you to remember that commitment is not a word, it is an action.

Yours in ACENA,

- Brent Page

2019 Membership Drive

Happy New Year from ACENA! With the arrival of the new year, we also kick-off our 2019 Membership Drive. We are pleased to report that membership dues have remained the same for this year.

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your individual and center memberships. All renewal materials can be found on our [website](#). Renew today to maximize your member benefits for the year. We have big plans for 2019 - you won't want to miss out!

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our new Membership Director, Anita Keresztury, at akeresztury@cfice.org.

National Conductive Education Day 2019

National Conductive Education Day will be on Thursday, February 21st, 2019. Last year, we encouraged centers to get



involved on social media using the hashtag, #ICAN to promote the hard work their participants were doing. We had over 10 centers participate and share their photos on social media, including the ACENA facebook page. We would like to continue to build this momentum in 2019.

This year's National CE Day theme is "Stand Up for CE". All of our participants have goals they are striving towards. In order to show the power of CE and the potential of the people we work with, we encourage centers to hold their own "Stand Up for CE" event on February 21st.

How it works:

1. Send out an email to your participants and families. Use the example below or create your own

Example Paragraph for Clients & Supporters:

At "your centre" we work with a wide variety of people with neurological motor disorders. Everyone has their own unique skillsets and goals that they are working towards achieving. While working together in a group, the clients can all be working on the same activity, but each client can be working on individualized, specific goals.

We have designed our 'Stand Up for CE' event to reflect the way we tailor the tasks for our client's by differentiating the way that each client will work on standing up to reflect the current skills they are working on. For example; one client might be working on increasing their balance and safety so they will be working on standing up with minimal support to challenge their stability, another client could be focusing on improving their strength and stamina so their activity would reflect this by working on increasing the volume or duration of the exercise.

Set a goal for yourself or your child that you can work on in class over the next month that you can achieve by National CE Day on Thursday, February 21st. Talk to your conductor about working toward this goal in class and on National CE Day, you will have the chance to 'Stand up for CE'.

2. Connect with interested participants to encourage them to set a goal they can work toward over the next month while in class.
3. Host an open house alongside this event - inviting local politicians, sponsors and potential sponsors to come and watch the clients literally "Stand Up for CE".
4. Document or video the achievements of your participants. Share the pictures on social media using the hashtags #ICAN and #StandUpforCE
5. Follow ACENA and other CE centres on social media so that you can like and share their posts and photos! Let's create some momentum and spread awareness of CE
6. Send your photos and videos to the Director of Advocacy, Olivia Doerkson at olivia@movementcentre.ca. ACENA will work toward putting together a video compilation of different centres across North America participating in Stand Up for CE so be sure to send us yours!

Other ways to get involved and spread awareness of CE:

- Develop partnerships with other centers. Learn how they spread awareness and promote CE. Share resources and knowledge between the Centers through

- these partnerships
- Present at or attend conferences in your area.
 - Connect with other organizations in your community to share info on your programs and services
 - Hold open houses, fundraisers, etc.
 - Staying active on social media
 - Share your centers news and events on the ACENA facebook page
 - Attend and promote the 2019 ACENA Conference in Chicago (September 13th-15th)



Save the Date - 2019 ACENA Conference

Chicago, IL September 13th - 15th

Please save September 14th & 15th for the ACENA Conference to be held at the Illinois Eye Institute - located in downtown Chicago! More information to follow - great speakers and presentations are being planned!

Friday, September 13th - Welcome Cocktail Party and appetizers, Chicago
Saturday, September 14th - all day ACENA Conference - Illinois Eye Institute
Sunday, September 15th - morning session & wrap up - Illinois Eye Institute

More details to follow!

ACENA Webinar Opportunity

January 16th at 5:00pm EST

ACENA would like to invite members to enjoy our winter webinar session presented by Dr. Andrea Benyovszky on the topic of traditional and non-traditional facilitation within the conductive education group setting.

Dr. Benyovszky is the full-time Director of the Conductive Learning Center in Grand Rapids, MI. She also works for Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, MI) as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Conductor-Teacher/POHI program and supervises the laboratory school. In addition, she continues to work part-time for the conductive education department at Semmelweis University/András Pető Faculty (Budapest, Hungary) and is a representative for Conductive Education in America.

She is a founding member and past President of the Association for Conductive Education in North America (ACENA) Mrs. Benyovszky holds a PhD in Educational and Behavioral Science from Eötvös Loránd University Doctorate School in Budapest, Hungary.

Title: Traditional and Non-Traditional Facilitation within the Conductive Education Group Setting

When: Wednesday, January 16th, 2019, 5:00-6:00 p.m. EST

To register please send an RSVP email to [Alana Curtin](#). Call in information will be attached with a follow up email after registration has been processed.

The webinars are free for members! If you are not an ACENA member we are currently offering memberships for the 2019 year. Please visit our [website](#) to join or renew today!

Stay tuned! In the new year, ACENA is excited to plan and offer more webinars and

various opportunities for members.

Thank you and we look forward to your reply.

Peto Day 2018

On Friday, November 30th, supporters gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of conductive education founder Andras Peto's birth as a part of the Hungarian Science Festival at Semmelweis University, Budapest. The event was filled with presentations examining giftedness in students with motor disabilities as well as personal accounts of ways to support recreational activities and fine art programs within the conductive education setting.

North America was well-represented by staff members from the Center for Independence and Conductive Learning Center (CLC) who made the trip in order to be a part of this momentous event. CLC Board President and Aquinas College President Emeritus, Dr. Harry Knopke, was asked to give a welcome address highlighting the two-decade collaboration between CLC and Semmelweis University Andras Peto Faculty - what was formerly known as the International Peto Institute.



As a part of the festivities, the International Peto Association (IPA) and the European Conductive Association (ECA) held their annual joint meeting where ACENA Board leadership was invited to attend as guests. During the meeting, there was discussion of increased cooperation between ECA and ACENA in pursuing future joint projects. Additionally, there was dialogue about the next World Congress, which will be held in Budapest in May 2020. More details to follow!

Mark your Calendars!

January 16th: Webinar on Conductive Facilitation

January 26th: Board Planning Meeting in Chicago

February 21st: National CE Day

March 5th: Board Meeting at 8PM Eastern

*Check out [ACENA's calendar](#) to stay up to date ! If you would like to participate in a subcommittee meeting, please get in touch with us to find out more!

Check out our facebook page

