



The

Communique

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CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Fall 2007

San Diego: What a Delight!

The sun has set on yet another CACI Annual Convention. *San Diego: CACI's Port of Call 2007* was delightful and enlightening! About 160 CACers enjoyed themselves at the Kona Kai Hotel — with beautiful views of both the bay and marina — and have memories that will last a lifetime.

Following our opening Mass, celebrated by CACI Chaplain **Fr. Jack Frerker**, CACI hosted the Convention's 17 "First Timers" at a party given in their honor. For dinner, a beautiful semi-Hawaiian luau was arranged in the garden for all to enjoy. The after-hours party went on until...well, after hours.

Breakfast each morning was on the patio overlooking the marina. Some likened this to the Greek Isles, with the patio overlooking the marina as



Left to right: **Martha Strachan** (At-Large), **Judy Bobnick** (Twin Cities), **Kathy Moran** (San Diego), and **Sue Gentile** (At-Large) enjoy breakfast by the marina.

the hillside rises beyond. On Monday, the popular San Diego City Tour included views of the

Gas Lamp District, Sea Port Village, and Old Town, with stops at Point Loma, the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, and the Hotel del Coronado. That evening, many were on the dance floor keeping the beat with the DJ.

A two-hour San Diego Harbor tour was one of the week's highlights. More than 80 CACers loved the harbor's sights and sounds. After dinner, three charities and the **Ed Webb** Scholarship Fund were presented for the **Lou Zeleznock** Charity Collection. The big hearts of CACers showed once again, donating over \$5100. This was followed by more dancing.

On Wednesday, our "free" day,

Picture Perfect

San Diego's Weather Helped Make It an Ideal Trip

After a harrowing trip across the country — no seat on the plane, incorrect boarding pass, a friend's lost luggage — it was refreshing to see smiling faces and friendly people when I arrived in San Diego for CACI's 2007 Annual Convention July 22-27.

I was one of 17 who were attending their first CACI National Convention. I live in Philadelphia and had just joined CACI as an At-Large Member, since Philadelphia does not have a CAC chapter. The only person I knew in San Diego was my friend, **Sally Weil** (At-Large), who had been to several CAC activities and told me how nice the events are and friendly everyone is. She is right.

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Message from the President

CACI's 2007 Annual Convention in San Diego was magnificent! One thing that

stood out: San Diego's weather. If we needed a city to describe perfect weather, San Diego would be it. Wonderful hotel, great service, delicious meals, fantastic sight-seeing...and, of course, the company of 160 CACers from across the country.



Start thinking about CACI's 2008 convention in Alaska from June 29 to July 4. Although prices have not

yet been established, I can guarantee you that you will never, ever, ever be able to go to Alaska for the price that CACI will offer you. How much do trips to Alaska cost? \$3500? \$3,000? \$2000? We will do it for less than a grand. He may have negotiated the purchase of Alaska from the Russians for \$7.2 million, but

William Henry Seward was no folly!!

CACI is introducing an on-line site



Hikers on a guided heli-hiking trip walk to Yanert Glacier, just outside Denali National Park. (Kari Bodnarchuk for The Boston Globe)

where members can obtain various products imprinted with the CACI logo. Called shopCACI.com, members can order several different types of items, from clothing to stationary to knick-knacks. See the article on page 8 and check it out!

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

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The *Communique* is published by The Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI), an umbrella organization for the more than 30 local Catholic Alumni Club (CAC) chapters across the country. Members of CAC chapters are college and nursing school graduates who are free to marry in the Church.

The purpose of CACI is to host an annual national convention, facilitate communication among local clubs, and represent the interests of single Catholics in our Church at-large. The annual national convention is during the Summer and hosts more than 150 CACers from across the country. Smaller Regional Weekends across the United States are also offered, allowing CAC chapters in specific various regions of the country to come together for fun and fellowship.

CACI is a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the state of Colorado. The address of President Michael Coogan is 13517 Teakwood Lane, Germantown, MD, 20874-1034.



During a heli-hiking trip, people can walk along the ice and see glacial streams and ice falls of the Yanert Glacier. (Kari Bodnarchuk for The Boston Globe)

I am honored that CACI delegates elected me to serve a second year as CACI President.



Thank you for the trust you have placed in me!

Drop me a line at cac@caci.org or call me at 301-916-6336 with any questions

or concerns.

Michael Coogan (Washington, DC)

Anchorage, Alaska Awaits CACI in June 2008

One of the most popular songs in *Fiddler on the Roof* is **Tevye's** "Sunrise, Sunset." However, in Anchorage, Alaska during the Summer, that song becomes "Sunrise...Sunrise." That's because Anchorage enjoys about 20 hours of daylight each day! All that sunlight can soon be yours, because Anchorage is the site of CACI's 2008 National Convention from Sunday, June 29 to Friday, July 4.

In Anchorage you will discover a City of Flowers — long summer days with sunshine, amazing blossoms, and an abundance of vibrant flowers blooming in the Town Square. The South/Central region of Alaska is a playground of activities, ranging from world-class fishing to wildlife viewing. Anglers will find rainbow trout and salmon. With the mountains and lakes, this area offers advantages of remote wilderness, but is linked by roads.

The Alaska Native Heritage Center, just 10 minutes north of downtown Anchorage, celebrates the rich heritage of the state's native cultural groups. Alaska native elders and youth share traditions through live dance and drumming performances, storytelling, and art.

CACers can explore the glacier-filled waters of Prince William Sound aboard the fastest, most luxurious day cruise vessel in Alaska. Observe sea otters, seals, whales, and bird rookeries during the cruise.

A day trip by either train or bus takes CACers to the Kenai Fjords National Park on the Kenai Peninsula, located just south of Anchorage. Kenai Fjords National Park is home to many natural wonders, such as calving glaciers. The Alaska Sealife Center offers up-close views of marine animals and seabirds, including puffins.

For some of us, 11 p.m. means bedtime. For those living in Anchorage, it's the perfect time to start a hike or run near a lake or mountain. Anchorage's extended summer daylight hours allow CACers to take strolls in the beautiful downtown area. The athletes among us can watch the

Alaska: Travel for Less

CACI has an agreement with Alaska Airlines to provide a 10 percent discount to CACers flying to CACI's 2008 Annual Convention in Anchorage. Agreements are also in place for various discounts on Anchorage airfares with Continental, American, and Northwest Airlines.

In addition, Bank of America has a credit card offer allowing you and a friend to travel together on Alaska Airlines for the price of one fare plus \$50. If you and a fellow CACer split the cost, you'll each be traveling for close to 50 percent off (plus have a credit card to use in Alaska!).

Details on these airline agreements and credit card offers that reduce Alaska travel costs are available at the CACI website, www.caci.org, or by contacting **Bob Giardina** (Dallas) at bobgno@lycos.com.

sunrise on a 4 a.m. jog and start a volleyball game 18 hours later. Average daytime temperatures are in the 60s, nighttime in the 40s.

Our reservations are at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel, along the eastern shore of Lake Spenard. The lobby is warmly adorned with Alaskan heritage and artifacts. Complementary

shuttle service bring visitors to the airport and downtown Anchorage.

There may be a possible post-convention tour to Denali National Park and Mt. McKinley. A 91-mile road traverses the park, offering views of Wonder Lake, Savage River, Muldrow Glacier, and the Kantishna mining district. The park is home to caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, moose, Dall sheep, lynx, marmots, fox, and snowshoe hares.

Because of the extended flying time, CACers may want to consider arriving into Anchorage a day early. CACI has reserved rooms for the Saturday night (June 28) before the convention. Although this is an additional charge, CACers will be rested when the convention starts on Sunday afternoon.

The purchase of an Alaska Airline credit card through Bank of America for \$75 (per year) allows CACers to receive a companion ticket to Alaska for just \$50 (See accompanying box). This lets you and a friend travel to Alaska for about half the cost. CACI is looking into other possible airline discount deals.

More information on CACI's 2008 National Convention in Alaska is on the CACI web page at www.caci.org. The early-bird deadline is early March, with the final deadline later that month.

So forget about the sunset! Tevye would love for you to mark your calendars and join CACI in June at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel in Anchorage. The people, the place, the beauty — it's like nothing on earth. When you visit, Alaska becomes a part of your soul forever. Come start your endless adventure in Anchorage, Alaska with CACI next Summer!

• *Old Town, Seaport Village, and Point Loma Were San Diego Highlights*

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members choose between the San Diego Zoo and Sea World. After a full day of sun and fun, we shared our adventures at the after-hours party, where **Anabelle Goganzer** (North Jersey) made sure everyone was either eating or drinking.



Thursday, members were scattered to the winds until dinner, when the dance band *Kicks* entertained us and we slinked off to still another after-hours party.



As members hugged and kissed their goodbye's on Friday, it brought out a

strange sort of melancholy. It was hard to believe that after all the planning and organizing, everything we worked so hard on as Convention Coordinators was nearing completion. Twenty-three members went to the post-convention in Anaheim to enjoy Disneyland and bring out the "inner" kid, while 20 others stayed in San Diego until Saturday.

As Convention Coordinators, we would like to express our appreciation and send out warm hugs to the many CAC volunteers who worked to bring about such a lovely vaca-

tion. These include **Barbara Higgins** (Twin Cities) and **Mary Kay Brailsford** (At-Large) for Reservations, **Tom Evans** (Baltimore) and



Paula Hartig (Buffalo) for Registration, **Mike and Lou Kappel** (MMRV) for Name Tags, **Teresa Walczyk** (Detroit) for the Convention Booklet, **Loretta Lovell** (North Jersey) as Sacristan, and **Anabelle Goganzer** for Hospitality. **Don Luebbering** (Cincinnati) and **Jim Stammerman** (Louisville) assisted us with

Transportation, and **Helen Antoniak** (San Diego) volunteered her time and talents. There were many others who pitched in to make our jobs easier, and we are grateful!

*Janet Yntema (Detroit) and
Rita Walczyk (Detroit)
Convention Coordinators*

• *'It Felt Very Inviting and Warm'*

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I sat in the lobby of the Kona Kai Hotel, observing the excited CACers. It felt very inviting and warm. Everyone was introducing themselves and making me feel included.

In our first night in San Diego, about eight of us jumped on the hotel shuttle to Seaport Village for dinner and a little shopping. The next several days proved to be even better. Our view from the Kona Kai Hotel room was just gorgeous! Hundreds of yachts and sailboats speckled the harbor, giving way to the huge homes implanted into the hillside reaching up to the glorious blue skies.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect — 78 degrees and very low humidity — heaven! Those of us familiar with the Philadelphia area and the East Coast are used to 97 degrees with 97 percent humidity — ugh! The weather in San Diego was definitely one of the highlights.

I had the luxury of simply lying by the heated pool a few days, soaking up the sun and relaxing. As I'm still working full-time, I cherish the time to just "do nothing."

The tours were very pleasurable as well; seeing the different areas of San Diego and learning their culture was quite interesting. It was nice to tour the area with familiar faces.

I enjoyed the dances the most. I love to dance, any style, and CACI's three scheduled dances was right up my alley. The DJ (two nights) and the band played great dance music and I took delight in dancing the night away. I also met a lot of good dancers.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first CACI National Convention. I met so many pleasant people from California to Indianapolis to Cincinnati to Baltimore to Washington, DC to New York and many other places. I hope to continue their friendships and form new ones next year!

Diane Denk (At-Large)



2007 CACI Award Winners

Presented at the CACI Annual Convention in San Diego

CACers of the Year

- Baltimore – **Cis Petchik, Mike Hopcus, Judy Howe, Paul Koenig, and Mary Cimino**
- Boston – **Tim Page**
- Central Illinois – **Barry Cassano**
- Cincinnati – **Karen Winstead**
- Detroit – **Andrew Shea**
- New York – **Concetta Chirico**
- Pittsburgh – **Gary Urbatis**
- Washington DC – **Annette Calabrese and Tom Palumbo**

Outstanding New Leaders

- Baltimore – **Tina Wittstadt and Janet Kaiser**
- Boston – **Cherylann Wilson**
- Central Illinois – **Mike Harback**
- Cincinnati – **Debbie Cervantes**
- Detroit – **Marciana Janeczko**
- Washington, DC – **Jeannette Gantz**

CACI Person of the Year

Eastern Region – **Geraldus Madigan** (Washington, DC)

Mileage Award

(Chapter whose members collectively traveled the most miles to the convention)

New York (18 members traveled a total of 50,585 miles)

CACie Award

(Largest percentage of chapter members at the convention)

Central Illinois (27.2 percent)



Charlie Award

(For friendship and hospitality at the convention)

Washington, DC Chapter

Crying Towel

(A Token of Sympathy)

Janet Yntema (Detroit) and **Rita Walczyk** (Detroit)

Lou Zeleznock Charity Collection

A total of \$5,147 was collected from attendees for distribution among four charities

Community Service Awards

Class A (Chapters over 75 members):

First Place – Boston (**Kathy McNamara, Anna Tateosian, Mary Harkins, and Rich and Diane Cullen**)

Second Place – Detroit (**Javier Aguilar, Carol Hofer, Denise Joseph, Catherine Martel, Julie Callahan, and Fr. Lawrence Ventline**)

Third Place – New York (**Cathy Granata**)

Honorable Mention: Washington, DC

Class B (Chapters under 75 members):

First Place – Central Illinois (**Nancy Hoover, Mark Ferguson, Mary Catherine Haddigan, Kathleen Murray, Charles Owens, Peg Scott, and Connie Tonsor**)



Newsletter Awards

Class A (Chapters over 75 members)

First Place : Washington, DC *Potomac Crossings*

Don Bauer

Second Place : Boston *The Hub-Bub*

Diane O'Connell

Third Place : Detroit *Sparks*

Carolyn Kowalski

Honorable Mention: New York

Class B (Chapters 75 and under)

First Place: Cincinnati *CAC Connections*

Joe Matzek and Debbie Cervantes

Second Place: Twin Cities *Tales of Two Cities*

Theodora Tri

Third Place : Orange County *A Slice of the Good Life*

Irma Loera

Honorable Mention: Central Illinois, North Jersey, Central New Jersey

CACI Regional Ramblings

Eastern Region

The 2007 Spring Eastern Regional, coordinated by **Patricia Dugal** (New York) and **Loretta Lovell** (North Jersey), took place in Rockville Centre in Long Island, New York in early June with approximately 50 CACers.

On Friday evening, we enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Great South Bay aboard the *Lauren Kristy*. On Saturday, CACers enjoyed one of four tours that were offered:

Sagamore Hill (**Teddy Roosevelt's** home); Old Bethpage Village Restoration; Cradle of Aviation Museum; and the **Walt Whitman** Birthplace and the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum. Also on Saturday, the 2007-2008 Eastern Region officers were elected. In addition to my election as Eastern Region Vice President, **Evie Pullis** (New York) was elected Assistant Vice-President; Pat Dugal elected Treasurer; and Loretta Lovell was appointed Secretary.

We greeted about 60 CACers for the Saturday evening dinner/dance. The Charity Collection was for the benefit of the **Stephen Siller** (New York Fire Department) *Let Us Do Good Foundation*. On Sunday, we attended Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral and breakfast at the hotel.

The 2007 joint Fall East/Midwest Regional took place in Buffalo from October 12-14. I'll provide more details about this weekend in the next issue of the *Communique*. Plans are taking shape for the 2008 Spring Eastern Regional in

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Midwest Region

I had a fantastic time at the CACI National Convention in San Diego! When I returned home to Kentucky, I was met with record-breaking temperatures. Where were those wonderful days of San Diego in those terrible, sizzling days of August? I wanted to go back to California!

Thank you to the members of the Midwest Region for reelecting me as Region Vice President. Serving with me this year are **Barbara Renn** (Louisville) as Assistant Vice President; **Mike Kappel** (MMRV) as Treasurer; and **Andi Brosch** (Cincinnati) as Secretary. We will do our best and work together to represent you and your chapters.

MMRV is sponsoring the 2008 Spring Regional weekend in the St. Louis area. Contact **Mike Kappel** for more information. Reservation forms can be downloaded from the CACI web site at www.caci.org.

My appreciation to **Kevin Brown** (Chicago) and his helpers for a wonderful Midwest Regional Weekend in Schaumburg, Illinois in May. The joint Fall Eastern/Midwest Regional was in Buffalo in mid-October.

We are all saving our pennies for the 2008 CACI National Convention in Anchorage, Alaska. I know that the Midwest Region will be well represented. At least it will be cooler there than it was in Kentucky in August!

You can reach me at my new e-mail address: baccordino@insightbb.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Barbara L. Accordino (Louisville)
Midwest Region Vice President*

Western Region

Thanks to the Western Region delegates who elected me to serve as the CACI Western Region Vice President. Please join me in welcoming other members of the Western Region Board — **Dolly Sanzone** (Los Angeles) as Assistant Vice President; **Maureen Van De Moere** (Orange County) as Treasurer; and **Helen Winters** (Colorado) as Secretary.

I look forward to working with the Western Region chapters and the CACI Executive Board. I believe we can come up with some new,

creative ideas to spur membership growth! Working as a



team, we can help one another reach other professional single Catholics who have yet not heard of CAC. And there are plenty of them who would love to know there is an organization for them!

Look for our next Regional in Las Vegas the weekend after Easter

(March 28-30). Dolly Sanzone and I have lots of ideas on how to make this another Regional to remember.



I am as far as your telephone or computer keyboard. Contact me at wither 818-363-0621 (home), 818-404-1137, or via E-Mail at lacac-1@socal.rr.com.

*Marie Acebo (Los Angeles)
Western Region Vice President*

CACI Awards First Ed Webb Memorial Fund Scholarship

Stace McRaney, a Master's Degree candidate at the University of San Francisco's School of Education, is the recipient of the first scholarship distributed by CACI's **Edward T. Webb** Memorial Fund.

Stace teaches at St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and lives in Waveland, Mississippi. Both his home and his school suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. Stace's selection meets Ed Webb's vision of helping young people advance educationally, since he is involved in shaping young minds and values.

In a letter to CACI, Stace wrote, "I want to offer my sincere gratitude for your generosity. The aid you have given me was indeed a blessing. At a time when so much was so difficult since Hurricane



Katrina, this offering certainly lightened the burden. It is through the efforts of groups like yours that Catholic education will

continue to flourish in our country. I offer you my sincere thanks for what you have so benevolently done to aid me in my vocation as a

Catholic educator."

The University of San Francisco is a Jesuit institution, and Stace is enrolled in the university's Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership Program.

Ed Webb was the first CACI President in 1957 whose foresight and determination directly led to the creation of our association.

Bob Giardino (Dallas), Administrator, Edward T. Webb Memorial Fund

It's Been Dandy!

Just a note to say what a pleasure it has been serving as CACI's



Eastern Region Vice President for the past two years.

CACI is a strong group of people who gather together as friends at CACI

Regionals and Nationals. Friendship is what it is all about. In that vein, I give special thanks to **Tom Evans** (Baltimore), **Mike Hopcus** (Baltimore), **Neal Hyatt** (Washington, DC), **Anabelle**

Goganzer (North Jersey), and **Patricia Dugal** (New York). You



"guys" were so helpful to me that it's hard to express my feelings in words.

Hope to see all of you at upcoming CACI Regional Weekend and National Conventions.

*Loretta Lovell (North Jersey)
Outgoing Eastern Region Vice President*

• Eastern Region Vice President: 'CACI Has Given Me So Much'

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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina April 17-20. Check your local chapter newsletter or contact me at 718-655-3365 for more information.

I have been an active member of the New York CAC since the early 1980s. In addition to running many activities, I served on the chapter's Executive Board in a number of offices, including twice as President. On the Regional level, I served as Secretary when **Larry Bleu** (Washington, DC) was Eastern Regional Vice President. On

the International level, I served as the CACI Secretary when **Evie Pullis** was CACI President. I have also coordinated four Eastern Regionals: Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania in 1990; Pinegrove Dude Ranch in New York State in 1995; Newburgh/West Point, New York in 2000; and Troy/Albany, New York in 2005.



I look forward to serving again on the CACI Executive Board as the Eastern

Region Vice President and helping to run this great organization for professional Catholic singles. Through CACI, I have established many good friendships and made the acquaintance of many people, and participated in many wonderful trips and activities on the local, Regional, and International levels. Serving as Eastern Region Vice President provides me with yet another opportunity to "give back" to an organization that has given me so much.

*Gerry Voelkel (New York)
Eastern Region Vice President*

Open for Business: ShopCACI.com!

Always struggling to find the perfect gifts for your favorite CACers? Tired of coming up empty-handed looking for CACI items on eBay? Have you screamed yourself hoarse from yelling, "Where can I purchase CACI items for my friends and family?"

Well, scream no more, CACers — ShopCACI.com is here!

ShopCACI.com is your "one-stop" shopping store for all your CACI items embossed with the CACI logo. What to purchase a lovely ladies long sleeve pique polo with the CACI logo for the CAC Volleyball Chair? ShopCACI.com has it! How about a snazzy CACI shirt for dad? ShopCACI.com has it! And hey, be



honest — you've always wanted to wear a leather jacket with the CACI logo emblazoned like a badge of honor. ShopCACI.com has it!

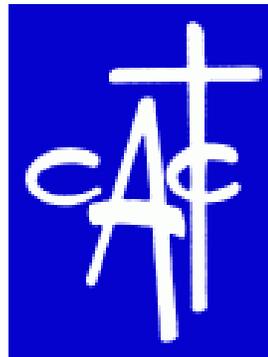
CACers can order clothing, stationary, and travel items. You can even purchase game accessories for all those terrific Games Nights in your chapter. All items have the CACI

logo and are shipped direct to your home. If your chapter has a special event and would like to have a custom shirt or gift made, other merchandise is



available. Your local chapter's logo can be added as a selection. Think of the possibilities!

Check out our new online shop for CACI logo goods at www.ShopCACI.com. For more information, contact CACI Treasurer **Susie Shearer** at 330-494-4613 or Smiles2uUSA@aol.com. And remember, when you look good, we look good!



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