



The

Communique

Vol. 36, No. 1

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Winter 2010

OH, BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES

“Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesty, above the fruited plain...” Did you know that “America the Beautiful”, written by Katherine Lee Bates was inspired by Pikes Peak? Now all current and former CACI members will be able to witness the awesome beauty of our country at the very site where these immortal words were written, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our convention, from Sunday, July 18 to Saturday, July 24, 2010 will be held there to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a club, staying at the Crowne Plaza only a few miles from downtown. Witness for yourselves the breathtaking scenery, not only Pikes Peak, riding the Cog Railway to the top of the 14, 110 foot summit, but, Garden of the Gods, Cave of the



Winds, the Air Force Academy, the Olympic Village where athletes train year round, the Colorado Springs Zoo which is on the side of the mountain, nearby Manitou Springs, Cripple Creek and the Spectacular Royal Gorge.

Immerse yourself in the Old West with a planned trip to the Flying W Ranch, exploring the restored buildings, eating a Chuck Wagon dinner and being entertained by a Wild West show. There is so much to do and see, you may need some extra time to fit it all in. Due to the altitude of Colorado Springs, a period of time to adjust to the elevations is recommended, so come in a little early to enjoy the sites and acclimate to the thinner air.

To get to Colorado Springs, there are a some options for you. The local airport is within a few miles of the Crowne Plaza and the hotel offers a free shuttle to and from it. Train service is also available to those of you who have extra time to spend to enjoy the ride and see this magnificent country of ours. You could also fly into Denver which is about 60 miles or so from Colorado Springs and rent a car to get there. Denver is be-

ing considered for a post-convention from Saturday to Monday. There will be more information in the next Communique about this.

Some of the sites mentioned previously are being considered for day tours at an additional cost. The price of the package is \$849 (double occupancy) for a six day convention which includes six breakfasts/lunches (your choice), four dinners with one dinner offsite at the Flying W Ranch, dances at the hotel and after hours parties.

Since this will be our 50th Anniversary, we want to invite former CACI members including those who have married to be with us and celebrate this monumental event. So mark your calendars now for July 2010 to be in Colorado Springs with all your friends.

For further information, contact Barbara Accordino at 502-969-2272 or 502-553-1476 or via e-mail at: baccordino@insightbb.com or contact Rhonda Higgins at 812-284-4349 or via e-mail at: rhiggins4349@sagelink.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Fellow CACers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the confidence that you have placed in me by electing me as your President. These are challenging times for CAC and with your help and guidance, I hope to meet them.

The biggest challenge that the Board and I are facing is the decrease in membership. I am currently preparing a letter which will be sent to the presidents of the local clubs as well as the delegates asking for their assistance on how to increase membership. As members of CAC, I am also asking you for your help. Many of you have

been in CAC for a long time and have ideas on how we can do that. If you have any ideas, please contact by phone, mail or internet. My phone number and address are listed below. My e-mail address is msbunkerville@yahoo.com. If you choose to contact me by e-mail, please reference CACI in the subject line.

For those of you who are on FACEBOOK, take a look at CAC's FACEBOOK page, just search for Catholic Alumni Clubs International and you'll find us. This is only the first step that the Board is taking to increase membership.

As President, I am also planning on attending the Midwest Regional in Peoria and the Eastern

Regional in Wildwood Crest. At both of the Regionals, I look forward to meeting with you and getting your ideas.

On another note, we are in final preparation for our annual Convention/Vacation in Colorado Springs and we are planning to invite Alumni of CAC. If you know of anyone who falls into this category, please contact either Rhonda Higgins or Barbara Accordino with their name and address. This promises to be a fun time for all and I hope to see many of you there.

Loretta Lovell

CACI President

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

2009-2010 Officers

- President:* Loretta Lovell (North Jersey).....201-723-6692
- First Vice President:* Susie Shearer (Detroit).....330-494-4613
- Second Vice President:* Kevin Brown (Chicago)..... 847-358-6036
- Treasurer:* Steve Valko (St. Louis) 314-680-3303
- Secretary:* Teresa Walczyk (Detroit) 248-336-0391
- Eastern Region VP:* Evie Pullis (New York)..... 201-342-5256
- Midwest Region VP:* Mike Kappel (MMRV) 618-397-2320
- Western Region Treasurer:* Frank Canham (Colorado)..... 303-477-3572
- Past President:* Rhonda Higgins (Louisville) 812-284-4349
- Chaplain:* Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh)..... 724-745-6560

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 Loretta Lovell, 19 Oakwood Lane, Thiells, NY 10984

EASTERN REGION HAPPENINGS

The new Eastern Region officers are:

Eastern Region Vice President -
Evie Pullis (New York)

Asst. Eastern Region Vice President
- Margie Cronin (New York)

Eastern Region Treasurer - Pat
Dugal (New York)

Eastern Region Secretary - Loretta
Lovell (North Jersey)

The Spring Eastern Regional took place at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk, Virginia the weekend of May 1-3, 2009. It began with a patriotic show entitled "International Tattoo" on Friday night. After the delegates' meeting on Saturday morning, there was a walking tour of Norfolk which included a visit to the MacArthur Museum, Hunter House and the U.S.S. Wisconsin. Later, there was a dinner/dance/cruise which ended a busy, fun-filled day. On Sunday morning, we went to Mass at a local church, and then chowed down on a bountiful brunch. For those who stayed later on Sunday, the group took a ferry ride over the Elizabeth River and then toured Portsmouth. A native was their guide, Rose Finan. Many thanks to Gerry Voelkel and her committee for the wonderful weekend. Thanks also to the Tidewater CAC, especially Bill Mee, for all of their help.

The Fall 2009 regional was an Eastern/Midwest Regional which was held at the Crowne Plaza in Alexandria, Virginia the weekend of October 1-3, 2009. The weekend began on Friday evening with a bus ride around Washington, DC with stops at the Korean and World War II memorials. It was so beautiful to see the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln monuments lit up! After the delegates' meeting

on Saturday morning, we were off to see our nation's capital, which included tours of the capital building, the Franciscan monastery, and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. After a dinner/dance, an after hours party capped off the day. Mass was celebrated on Sunday morning followed by a delicious brunch. For those who wished to stay for the day, there was a dinner at Gadsby Tavern. Many thanks to Neal Hyatt and her committee for a great weekend.

At the Eastern Region delegates' meeting on October 3, 2009 in Alexandria, Virginia, the delegates voted on two free packages for a regional, paid for by the Eastern Region (as long as we have the funds to cover it in the Eastern Region treasury). The regional coordinator will receive one, and the other package will go to whoever the regional committee chooses to get the other package.

Plans are well underway for the next regional in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey. Please keep the weekend of June 11-13, 2010 open.

'Til next time, God's blessing to all!

- Evie Pullis

"Oh, those Wildwood Days!"



Midwest Region Update

Greetings to all CAC'ers! The Midwest Region has been working on ways to make the Region grow. We have established a Quarterly newsletter for the region and held several seminars on the topic. So far we have not found the solution. We ask all CAC'ers to brainstorm and make suggestions. The more ideas brought forth the better the chance of turning membership decline into membership increase. That is the way we want to go.

Since the last Regional update several successful meetings have been held. A short description of these events follows.

Louisville Spring Weekend

The Spring Midwest Region Weekend was held May 22nd to May 25th in Louisville. There were 27 in the hotel. At the dances the number got up to about 40. There was a city tour combined with a visit to a winery on Saturday. The tour was very enjoyable. Mass on Saturday was at the Cathedral. On Sunday the tour was a trip to Churchill Downs. The tour included a tour of the track and then covered seating. There was a nice view of the races. As always there were winners and losers among the CAC'ers who made bets. All in all, it was a nice event. Some CAC'ers went to the Abby Road Festival and enjoyed the music of the Beatles. Another good reason Louisville was a great space to go to. At the Delegate meeting the current Regional VP (Mike Kappel) and the Assistant Regional VP (Andi Brosch) were re-elected. The Treasurer Russ Ruhling and Secretary Tracey Becker were reappointed for the coming year. The Region's Chap-

lain for next year was not yet selected at this point. Sometime after the meeting, Fr. Ventline the Region's chaplain agreed to serve another year.. All clubs were represented personally by vote or proxy except for Pittsburgh. The profit for the weekend was \$1699.12. The Louisville club gets \$679.65 for the club and \$169.91 for a workers party. The region's share is \$849.56. An Educational Seminar to promote club growth and help get new members was held. Kevin Brown from the Chicago club helped bring off the wonderful seminars and is chairperson for the ones planned in the future.

The National CAC Vacation Week

The National Convention was held July 12th - July 18th at Lake George, New York. There were 135 in the hotel. At the dances there was a wonderful DJ and one night there was a Square Dance. The dance floor was full most of the time. On Sunday and Monday there was a local area tour which covered Lake George and Saratoga Springs. It was helpful to know the history and location of the top local sites. On Tuesday a tour of Albany was offered. The state capital and the Museum were the main areas visited. On Wednesday the day was a free day. The tour offered was a trip to Cooperstown. The town houses the Baseball Hall of Fame. In the evening there was a ice cream social. That was a great way for folks to get together. On Thursday there was a trip to see Fort Ticonderoga. This gave one a chance to see another Famous Fort which was in addition to Fort William Henry which was right at the convention hotel. On Friday the tour was a train ride in an old time train and a vigorous tour of some young caves at Stonebridges. The whole week was fun packed. There was plenty to do even if one did not

take any of the tours. The area offered a beautiful lake and the wonderful Adirondack Mountains. The new elected national officers for the coming year are Loretta Lovell (North Jersey) CACI President, Susan Shearer (Detroit) First VP, Kevin Brown (Chicago) Second VP, and Steve Valko (St. Louis) Treasurer. The next National convention will be in Colorado Springs July 18-24, 2010. The delegates voted to hold the 2011 convention in Rapid City (Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands). The dates for the 2011 convention are July 10-16, 2011. **Save these dates.** The are great sites for meeting CAC'ers from around the country and exploring the local sites.

Midwest-Eastern Regional Weekend October 2-4, 2009

Hosted by the Washington, DC. Club and the Eastern Region

The capital of our great country provided a great sightseeing weekend. We saw the Capitol building; Washington at night was a beautiful site, not commonly seen by the casual tourist. We visited some of the monuments, drove down famous Constitution Avenue, and saw Pennsylvania Avenue where all the parades take place; drove by the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial. On Saturday, we visited some lesser known sites, like the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception one of the largest churches in the Eastern Hemisphere followed by a tour of the Franciscan Monastery with its underground tunnels modeled after the catacombs in Rome. Some folks went downtown on their own to visit all the sites. Sunday evening we had a nice dinner at Historic Gadsby's Tavern where we could relax and come down from the high of being in D.C

Our hotel, the Crown Plaza, on N. Fairfax Street, was located in Old Town Alexandria Virginia. Some rooms have a view of the city of Washington, the Washington Monument and the Potomac River. We visited King Street where there are many Shoppe's and restaurants of all types. One last comment is a big "Thank You" to Neal Hyatt, for planning this great weekend. Please let your club know what they missed and invite them to our next Regional in Peoria May 28th -31st , 2010.

Future events

Fellow Midwest Region CAC'ers and those from all other regions please plan on coming to future Midwest events as well as those of your own region and those of the National organization. They are great ways to meet folks from all over the country. From reading about the past events you can see that they are fun events to attend. At this time the future regional events in planning are Peoria May 28th -31st , 2010, Asheville Oct. 2010, Memphis May 2011. The last two are still in the planning stage and the location can change. When details are finalized you will be informed. Please plan to come to future weekends. The National week vacation will be in Colorado Springs July 18th - 24th, 2010.

Got Community Service?

Has Community Service withered away in your club? Does your club not bother to submit a Community Service report because the "same old clubs" always win? Does your club think that its Community Service activities aren't "real" Community Service? CACI has news for you!

We're changing the Community Service Award. Thanks to the generosity of a long time CACer, CACI will be offering a \$ 100.00 supplemental prize for clubs who haven't submitted a Community Service report in the past five years. Reports submitted by qualified clubs will be judged; the club with the best Community Service activities wins the prize. This supplemental prize is independent of the regular Community Service award, so a club can potentially win \$ 200.00 for its Community Service activities.

In addition, there will also be a \$ 100.00 supplemental prize for the most innovative Community Service program run by a club. An innovative Community Service program can be either a nontraditional activity or a traditional activity done in a nontraditional way. An example of a nontraditional activity would be a music program; an example of a traditional activity done in a nontraditional way would be if the club provides good tea to a food bank. This supplemental prize is independent of the regular Community Service award, so a club can potentially win \$ 200.00 for its Community Service activities.

For more information regarding Community Service, contact - Kevin T. Brown
2nd VP CACI-Phone:(H) 847.358.6036(Cell) 847.452.7799
(W) 224.698.3067
Email: ktb4489@hotmail.com

Club growth ideas

At the past few seminars held at Midwest Regionals and joint Eastern-Midwest Regional's there have been many ideas that were suggested to promote club growth membership and leadership wise. This article will present many of them. If some are left out due to me not talking very good notes, I apologize. They will not be presented in any particular order as all seem to be good ideas.

(1) make a business card which has a prayer such as this

Young, Adults, Single, Supplication

By Father Lawrence Ventline

O God, Through the intercession of Francis and Clare, Augustine, and Monica, and Blessed Solanus Casey, and all the communion of Saints for Singles. Help hear, and Join us we implore you, to inspire and move Men and Women to be curious about the Catholic Alumni Club.

Call or contact (your clubs contact here) at (phone number) or (your clubs web address) or (your clubs contact's e-mail address)

On the other side

Your clubs full contact information

The next step is to schedule a parish visit with a pastor in your club area. Put the event on your club's schedule as a opportunity to go to mass together followed by breakfast. Before mass club members pass out the cards to all members of the parish that attend mass. After the mass one person from you club goes up and talks about your local club and CACI and asks all interested to join. This should produce many new members.

(2) partner with organizations / websites that work with Catholic Singles

The Newman clubs at colleges can

be a way to recruit new young members, Perhaps a "junior" CAC group can be started at the colleges so that they know about CACI and can know that after graduation they can join your club or others around the nation.

Look into Catholicsingles.com This organization works to match singles around the nation. If you can partner locally with them you might be able to get an increase in members through their database of members that live in your area. Our local clubs give them a good place to meet others in their locale.

(3) review your clubs membership requirements vs. what CACI has in their constitution and see if by broadening your local clubs requirements you can increase you membership in a way that is good for all

(4) Have classes in leadership so that more members will be willing to take on the various jobs that need to be done if a club is to have successful events and meetings.

(5) Make use of modern means of communication whenever possible to promote your local club. Some examples could be Facebook, Twitter, Texting, etc.

(6) promote religious events in your Club to reinforce your clubs commitment to work with the church in helping singles.

The above are only some of the ideas presented. It is hoped this gets you thinking about how to make your club grow. Please send me your ideas and I will try to see that they get sent out to all the clubs. Lets grow in strength. Thanks for your attention to this issue.

CACI/Ed Webb Scholarship Awards

In 2009 every club had the opportunity to nominate a school to receive scholarship money and each of the three CACI regions made awards. Schools receiving money are, as follows:

* Eastern region selected Christ the King Preparatory School, Newark, nominated by North Jersey CAC

* Western region selected Nativity Catholic School, Los Angeles, nominated by LACAC

*Midwest region selected Madonna University, Livonia, MI, nominated by Detroit CAC. Midwest region also split a scholarship between Althoff Catholic High School, Belleville, IL, nominated by

MMRV CAC and Cristo Rey High School, Kansas City, nominated by KCCAC

The Edward T. Webb Memorial Fund (aka CACI Scholarship Fund), established by the 2006 CACI Board of Directors at the Calgary convention, has now provided financial assistance at all levels (elementary, high school, university) of Catholic education and has helped six students total. CACI's Ed Webb Fund has in a small way participated in the training of Catholic school leaders, helped individuals stay in school during these difficult economic times, and has assisted Catholic educators battle poverty by educating at risk students. All CACers can take pride in this charitable activity of our association.

SETTLING STRESS: SPIRITUAL SOLUTION

A regular routine like that of my grandma in Cheboygan feeding her chicks in sun or rain, wind or snow, each day very early. I watched. Learned to live what I witnessed. Stress alarms one to detach as Saints Theresa of Avila, Spain and John of the Cross teach. A Divine disconnect, stress invites one into regular daily routine - to pray, eat, exercise, work, laugh, connect, play, and pray again to reconnect with Divine. Get into a regular routine. Attach to a daily plan, but, don't grip to tight. If you miss a day, start the routine again. Move on. Be gentle with yourself. E-Z does it. Next: Spiritual solutions to address anger. Eph. 4:26: "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil." Begin your regular routine now. Go on.
-Fr. Lawrence Ventline, D.Min.

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