

## Greeting from **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries**

It has been an exciting but busy time since the 2009 Synod Assembly when the **separate incorporation of the camps** was approved. While the ministry of the camps has not changed, there have been changes in the governance of the camps. A date of February 1, 2010 was set as the start of the fiscal year for the new corporation and therefore a target date to have the new corporation in place and functioning.

The first order of business was the filing of the **Articles of Incorporation** which were filed with the State July 2, 2009. We were notified on August 6, 2009 that we were now an active nonprofit corporation. In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Synod Council elected the three initial board members representing the synod and set their terms. They are Judy Rehmel, 3 year term; Allie Burbrink, 2 year term and Rev. Mike Brown, 1 year term. From this point on, there will be one board elected every year by the Synod Assembly. The other board members were recommended by the OM Committee and elected by the Incorporator and they are: Bob Bosserman, Anita Harder, George Schmalz with 3 year terms; Tony Miller, Rev, Mark Sloss, David Thurman, with 2 year terms; Jim Dowling, and Ralph Thiele, with 1 year terms. All terms run from February 1, 2010.

Another initial activity that needed to be done was a **title search** and review of all the properties to be certain that the titles and description were all correct before they could be transferred to the new corporation. That has become a more involved process than anticipated and is still in process but nearly complete.

It was also necessary to obtain **insurance coverage**, so an extensive review was done to determine our needs. Several insurance companies were invited to make a presentation of their services and to make a proposal to us. A recommendation was made and accepted at the August board meeting.

At the August 28, 2009 OM meeting the Bylaws were presented and ratified and the election of the officers was held. The **Officers of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky Inc.** are Bob Bosserman, President; Jim Dowling, Vice-president; Allie Burbrink, Secretary; David Thurman, Treasurer and Ralph Thiele, Associate Treasurer. Rev. Mark Radloff was also appointed Executive Director. We also invited Mark Burkhardt, Director for Outdoor Ministry of the ELCA, to meet with us at this meeting to give us some insight and advice on what was ahead of us in the transition from an advisory committee to a Board of Directors.

Some basic **committees** were formed to better focus on the all the items that we faced. There is an Executive Committee along with a Finance and Development Committee, a Program Committee and a Property Committee. These committees, except the Executive Committee, are made up of board members, former LOM Committee members and others that have shown an interest in the camps.

We also filed with the Internal Revenue Service for 501(C)(3)status and received that status February 19, 2010. We then filed for our State Sales Tax exemption.

There were many items that needed to be put in place regarding the **financial management** for the Corporation. We needed to set up our bookkeeping, bank accounts, payroll, transfer vendors accounts, and others as well as cancel any accounts that were set up to be paid through the synod. The Finance Committee has been working on these items with the Executive Director and most all of this has been done. This Committee, along with the help of our CPA, have developed their charter, and various policies.

The **Property Committee** has been doing a review of the three camps and their physical facilities to develop maintenance plans, capital needs plans, safety review to be certain we are in compliance with various regulations and standards and review of use policies.

The **Program Committee** has started looking at the programs we offer, reviewing what other camp and retreat centers are offering and will be looking at what programming might be provided to meet the needs of those who use the camps or would use the camps.

As you can see there is a lot going on with the transition to a corporation. There is still a lot to accomplish as we look to how we can better serve our Indiana-Kentucky members. However, to better serve you, we need your input and help. So do not hesitate to contact any of us about your thoughts or needs.

In His service

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