CALENDAR

For more information & events, go to www.lomnetwork.org.

November 1-5, 2018:
Leadership Training Event

November 5-9, 2018 (with auction on Nov. 7):
LOM Conference

December 3-5, 2018:
East Midwest Territory Gathering

March 18-21, 2019:
LOM Executive Directors’ Gathering

May 13-17, 2019:
Interim Exec Director Training

November 10-14, 2019:
The Great Gathering

SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you miss these at facebook.com/lomnetwork

- West Midwest Territory Gathering
- Who’s Going to the Conference
- Don’s Travel Posts

Check out our featured site! Camp Chrysallis (TX), is our latest camp to be shown on the homepage at www.lomnetwork.org.

It’s Conference Time!

We are excited about the LOM Conference that’s coming up and glad over 120 will be with us. It's going to be an exhilarating program; a beautiful time to be in Texas; and a great opportunity to share ideas and build collaborative friendships with some of the most creative, energetic people in the world.

CONFERENCE APP: You can view pertinent conference information on our “app” which can be viewed on a web browser on your phone or other mobile device. Visit http://app.lomnetwork.org.

ELECTION DAY: November 6 is the first full day of the conference. Remember to vote before you leave home.

EXHIBITORS: We will also have exhibitors and ministry partners on hand for them to show their wares and services. A list of exhibitors that will be at the conference are posted on the conference app. You can view a list of exhibitors here: http://app.lomnetwork.org/partners/.

TRAVEL AND DIETARY NEEDS: If you are attending the conference or LTE and you have done so, complete this form so we have your correct travel and dietary needs: https://tinyurl.com/lomtravel. You must have completed this in order to have a seat on the shuttle to TBarM. When you arrive at the San Antonio Airport, there are two terminals, Terminal A & B. Go to baggage claim, gather your luggage and head to Terminal B Carousel #1. Look for a greeter with a sign reading “LOM - Welcome to Texas,” and please check-in with the greeter. Shuttle times will be based on arrivals. If you have flight delays or complications along the way, please call Randy Youngquist-Thurow at (919) 880-4512. If you are driving to the LTE or LOM Conference, find directions and the GPS address at https://www.tbarmcamps.org/retreats.

TWEET: We will live “tweet” from our conference in November. We invite others to also tweet from the conference using hashtag: #lomconference18. See what is happening by searching for the hashtag or visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lomnetwork.
THE LOM AUCTION: Plan Ahead and Talk to Your Spouse!

The LOM Auction is coming soon and there are some great items available for you to bid on. We will have our traditional silent auction along with the big auction! There are some amazing trips and packages being put together by our outdoor ministry sites for this year’s auction. There are also some packages from our LOM business partners that will save you money in your camp’s budget. We have an Alaska adventure, the Montana experience, North Dakota hunting and fishing, Minnesota canoeing, a South Dakota pheasant hunt, Texas dancin’ and barbeque, Colorado ski trips, and maybe even a trip to New York. We also have GSB donating a survey and analysis package again and ACA is donating $750 of online training for your staff that will greatly improve your ministry. In addition to the trips and special services, we will have some of the iconic auction items that have made the auction so fun: Christmas cookies for Luthercrest; the very last two mugs from Lutherlyn; pottery from Holden Village; and the infamous custom cribbage boards from Colorado.

So, you need to talk to your spouse or significant other before you go to the conference. Tell them you are going to bid and bid high so that you get one of these great items. Your purchase at the auction makes a world of difference for our organization. And, as an organization, we are going to tithe 10% of the auction proceeds to the Camp Eduardo Roig in Puerto Rico to help them get back on their feet following Hurricane Maria.

There are two easy ways both you and your organization can be involved in the auction. Consider putting a trip package together that your organization can provide as part of the auction. We are still taking items and trips! This could be a week at a beach front cabin, a backpacking trip or a canoe trip, something that your organization specializes in - you get the idea. OR you could provide items for the silent auction that will take place at the same time as the live auction. These items can really reflect your camp or the area that you come from. Anything from locally crafted beers to coffee to custom pottery, and jams and jellies.

Please contact Dave Jarvis at auction@lomnetwork.org for more details and to get a form to register your auction items. Let’s make this the best auction ever! The LOM Auction catalog will start being filled as items come in. Keep checking for updates. See you in Texas!!
Conference Auction

Create Your Own
Your Staff Training Package

Choose from among ACA’s online courses, live webinars, recorded webinars. Build a custom online package for your camp staff. Add your own logos and your own materials, including articles, documents, assignments, quizzes, forums, wikis, and glossaries and track learner progress. Valued at $750 (choose 3.0 CECs for up to 50 persons).

Save time and money | Content you need all in one place
Customize with your content | Track you staff’s progress

Value: $750

Note to Auction Purchaser: Please contact Kim Brosnan at the American Camp Association 800-428-2267, ext. 314 or kbrosnan@ACAcamps.org
Mental Health Ministry Plan
A new opportunity for proposals to develop a three to six-month Mental Health Ministry Plan and receive up to $10,000 to assist in implementing such plan in 2019. As many as 25 grants at $10,000 each will be funded. Questions can be directed to Disability.Ministry@elca.org Proposals will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2019, and funding is predicted to be a total of $250,000 by January 2020. Please find attached the Request for Proposal. You may also find the document here: https://elca.org/disability in the box entitled “New Grant Proposal.”

LOM Board Election Deadline Reminder
The deadline to receive ballots for the LOM Board election is coming soon! Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2018. This is a position for and individual who serves or has served as an outdoor ministry board member. All of the primary contact persons for all of the organization members of LOM have been sent, by snail mail, the ballot. Please send it to Jon Skogen as soon as possible. If you can’t find the one that was sent to you, please contact Jon: administrator@lomnetwork.org

Outdoor Ministry Survey from Jake Sorenson
In 2014, we had 332 camps respond. In 2016, we had 311 camps. This year, we’re hoping for over 400. These data will be ready for the Great Gathering in 2019.
Survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OMCamps2018

List Your Jobs
In addition to the LOM website, there is now another place you can list any job openings at your site. The United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries welcomes free job listings from any Outdoor Ministry Connection partners, which includes LOM. Submit information to: http://umcrm.camp/contact/job-postings/submit-a-listing/. You can also view listings on their website at http://umcrm.camp/contact/job-postings/
Order the 2019 Curriculum  
“Transformed Community: God’s Agent of C.H.A.N.G.E.”

The LOM Curriculum for 2018 continues to be available on the LOM website for purchase. This curriculum conjures up images of a mighty band of superheroes with secret missions. When we take on the mission of being God’s agent of change in the world, we must be ready to be transformed—individually and together—and to discover that our not-so-secret identities will probably not conform to the world’s expectations. This is not always an easy thing to say yes to, but when the mission is attempted together and in community, we discover that we are aligned with God’s will, powered by God’s spirit, and that there is purpose and joy in being Christ’s life-giving and love-giving presence in the world as God’s hands and feet.

You can now purchase the curriculum on our website at https://www.lomnetwork.org/curriculum/. LOM Members get a discount, so be sure to click the right price when ordering. And, multi-site organizations will use a discount code, listed on the website, to get a multi-site discount. You pay full price for your first site and a discounted price for other sites.

Congratulations to Randy Youngquist-Thurow, executive director of Agape-Kure Beach Ministries (NC) and Mir Youngquist-Thurow, Director of Agapé Center for Environmental Education. They are new grandparents!!! Kaden Rey Thurow has arrived into this world. The proud parents are Kai Thurow and Lauren Large Thurow. Kai is the son of Mir and Randy. We all give thanks to God for the new arrival!

Congratulations to Jesse Weiss who just started in his new position of executive director of Amnicon (WI)!!! Jesse is well known throughout LOM because of his involvement during the last several years, notably as a member of the LOM Curriculum Committee and a writer for chapters of the LOM curriculum. He represented LOM in the group that chose the theme of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering which was the same theme that LOM used for our 2018 curriculum. We wish you all the best in your new position, Jesse, and we are confident that Amnicon is going to continue to be a great ministry in the days ahead.
Words from Don

By the time you get around to reading this newsletter, many of us will be making our final plans to travel and be together in New Braunfels, Texas, for the LOM LTE and Annual Conference. We have a great enrollment for the conference and I’m sure it will be the outstanding event of the year that we have grown to expect – outstanding opportunities to get new ideas, learn about best practices that have been developed for outdoor ministries, build relationships throughout the LOM network, be inspired, have lots of fun, and be renewed for the busy times that await all of us in the year ahead.

And for those who will be experiencing the Leadership Training Event (LTE) that precedes the conference – what a treat you have in store for you! This is LOM’s signature educational event and with the faculty that’s lined up for this year’s LTE, it promises to once again be an event that will have profound impact on your career and on the outdoor ministry site where you are currently serving and will be serving in the future. As always, this event is in high demand and we have reached the capacity enrollment!

When these annual events conclude, it’s always a little sad that we won’t have similar opportunities to get together with colleagues for another whole year (sort of like having to wait another year for Christmas on December 26).

But here’s the good news! There will be other opportunities between now and next November. The East Midwest Territory (EMT) will be gathering on December 3-5 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Officially, EMT is all the LOM organizations in Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, but if you’re from another state and want to join in on what promises to be a great event for ALL camp staff, check it out: https://www.lomnetwork.org/event/east-midwest-territory-event/

And for all our executive directors, we’ll look forward to everyone getting together March 18-21, 2019, at Briarwood (TX). All the program details are currently being worked out and we will soon be making an announcement, probably in time for our next newsletter.

So…as you provide opportunities for relationship-building for so many people, don’t forget to attend to building the relationships that will be helpful for you in all the important ministries you lead. Nothing in this world is more urgently needed than the ministries of relationship-building, all in the name of Jesus, you are making a reality in the context in which you serve.

Thank you for your ministry!

Don Johnson,
Executive Director
Largest Compass Points Class Features LOM Presence

Compass Points, a cooperative program of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association, Outdoor Ministries Association of the United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries, held two courses recently which included some LOM folk! Compass Points courses are intended for learners who would like to expand and deepen their knowledge in camp and retreat ministry.

In October, two courses were held at Kavanaugh Conference and Retreat Center in Crestwood, KY. The first course was Non-Profit Business Management and featured a wide range of topics relevant to the managing a non-profit business including communications, governance, risk management, finances, and a basic business plan. The class was taught by Dan Scheneman of Heartland Presbyterian Center (Parkville, MO) and Lauri SoJourner of Lake Logan Conference Center (Canton, NC). This was the largest Compass Points class in the program’s history. Three participants were members of LOM. Hannah Damon on Camp Amnicon, Jesse Klosterboer of Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center, and Judy Smith of Calument took the course.

A few days after that group began, a second Compass Points course was held. “Articulating Our Mission, Role, and Values” was also held at the Kavanaugh Center. Jesse Klosterboer was a student at that end, which also featured LOM’s Randy Youngquist-Thurow of Agape-Kure Beach Ministries and Cat Holbert, director at Lazy W Ranch in Southern California, as teachers. The focus of this class was mission. Identification and implementation of mission, core values, and philosophy are central to all aspects of successful camp and conference ministry: program, site management, hospitality, marketing, finances and more.

The Compass Points program is also in partnership with Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Participants come from a wide variety of positions, facility types, and program models.
Everyday Anytime Leaders

I believe it was a Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference where I first heard about Walt Kallestad. One of the keynote speakers mentioned a book that he had written. It sounded good, so I bought The Everyday Anytime Guide to Christian Leadership. The book really resonated with me. I liked his ideas and have used his book to teach my summer staff his principles on more than one occasion. The thing I liked most about his work was how he defined leadership. What is your definition of leadership? What do you think makes a good leader? And who are some leaders that you admire? Why?

As I define leadership, I think ideas, vision, and determination play an important role. And, I think that leaders need to be opportunistic, taking advantage of items that present themselves a certain time and place. Walt Kallestad defines leadership in an acrostic:

- **L**ove Unconditionally
- **E**nvision the Future Exceptionally
- **A**ffirm Continuously
- **D**iscipline with Determination
- **E**nergize Others Enthusiastically
- **R**isk Boldly
- **S**erve Selflessly
- **H**ope Relentlessly
- **I**magine Immeasurably
- **P**ray Persistently

Ask ten people how they would define leadership and you will probably get ten different answers. Everyone most likely has an opinion on what good leadership is and what it means to be a leader. So, this month, let us think about how we define leadership. See what comes to your mind as you ponder these statements:

A leader has a focal point and sticks with it. A leader is committed to whatever it is that he or she is leading. A leader is willing to do anything they ask his or her followers to do. A leader is effective when they truly believe his or her own confessions. A leader enables change by influencing others to do things they otherwise would not do on their own. A leader takes his or her organization to new heights of success. A leader has faith in people and is sensitive to his or her followers. A leader just doesn’t say, “Get going.” He or she says, “Let’s go.” A leader uses his or her heart as well as his or her head. A leader is a self-starter, has a sense of humor, and sees the big picture.

Feel free to e-mail me at webmaster@lomnetwork.org with your definition of leadership. Maybe your definition will inspire someone else’s leading as Walt Kallestead inspired mine. –Chad Hershberger