



Encouraging, Educating, Equipping,
and Empowering Camp and Retreat Leadership

July 20, 2020

*“And now these three things abide: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” –
1 Corinthians 13: 13*

“But let justice roll down like a river...” – Amos 5:24

LOM Board Approves a Statement of Anti-Racism for LOM

At its meeting on July 16, the LOM Board of Directors approved this statement as an official position of LOM:

“Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) commits to being an anti-racist association. As followers of Jesus Christ, LOM deeply believes that love and justice are at the core of our mission and ministries. We commit to the constant ongoing work of anti-racism.

“We believe unequivocally that Black Lives Matter. We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others. We stand in solidarity with protestors doing the hard work of love in action.

“For LOM, the hard work will include identifying, discussing, and challenging issues of race and color, along with the impacts they have on LOM, its member organizations, its systems, and its people. Admittedly, LOM is a network made up of imperfect organizations and individuals. As such, we acknowledge that racist actions can be conscious/intentional or unconscious/unintentional. We also acknowledge that identifying racism as an issue does not automatically mean those involved in the act are intentionally racist or intending for a negative impact. We commit to identifying and correcting any inequities we discover and developing a better understanding of ourselves during this purposeful process. We resolve to explicitly and publicly affirm anti-racism as an important part of our identity.”

Additional Actions of the LOM Board at the Meeting on July 16

- Cancelled the 2020 Executive Directors Gathering which had been postponed to August 31-September 3. More details being sent soon for those who were registered for this event.
- Approved a revised LOM 2020 budget based on the financial consequences being experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Asked the LOM executive director to continue exploring the possibility of the LOM Board joining with the Boards of Directors of the other associations in the Outdoor Ministries Connection (OMC) for a combined anti-racism training (virtually).

- Received and approved the outside auditor's financial review for 2019 and authorized the Form 990 for 2019 to be filed with the IRS.
- The LOM Annual Meeting is customarily held during the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference for 2020 has been cancelled. So, the Board decided to conduct a virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Please mark the date and time on your calendar. **Tuesday, November 10, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Time. And, if an additional session becomes necessary, Wednesday, November 11, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Central Time.** Agenda will include reports, approval of a 2021 budget, election of officers for the ensuing year.

New Podcasts: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/podcasts/>

A new podcast has been posted recently on the LOM website. It's an interview with Knute Ogren, Development Director at Calumet (NH). He shares some of the details that went into planning for and running their recent "One Day of Giving" campaign. It turned out to be very successful and Knute has been generous in sharing ideas with the rest of the network that you might find to be helpful.

Watch for another new podcast that will be coming soon. This one will be with Kyle Lefler, Associate Director at Flathead MT). They have, like so many other organizations, been scrambling to find alternative use of their site in the wake of cancelling summer camp for children. Their attention to all the protocols necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic will be especially helpful for those who are making their plans for the fall season of retreat and rental groups.

Updated Statistical Summary of the Status of Traditional Overnight Summer Camp for Children throughout LOM

- There are 89 member organizations of LOM. Collectively, they account for 119 sites or programs that rent sites.
- 15 of these organizations, accounting for 22 sites, do not offer their own summer camp program for children. Many of these do, however, host other groups that provide overnight summer camp for children.
- This leaves 74 organizations and 97 sites that do offer their own summer camp for children.
- 58 organizations accounting for 77 sites have cancelled summer camp for children.
- Among the above camps that have cancelled summer camp for children, 49 organizations accounting for 65 sites are remaining open for alternative uses of their camp facilities.
- 16 organizations accounting for 20 sites are attempting at least some summer camp programs for children. The vast majority of these, however, are doing so with a drastically reduced schedule and drastically reduced capacity for enrollment.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of LOM in the ways you make possible!

Don Johnson, Executive Director