



NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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NYSOEA

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Be courageous.

Courage comes in many forms, especially in this day and age: Courage to hold on to your morals and values while watching so much corruption all around. Courage to organize a clean-up of your local preserve while people in a passing car toss out garbage. Courage to mount conservation efforts in your community while our Clean Water Act and Endangered Species laws are circumvented. Courage to teach youngsters how to be good stewards of this Earth as climate change rolls towards the tipping point. Courage to be true to yourself in a world of judgement, hate, and fear.

Outdoor educators have always been courageous...at least that is how I have always perceived our community. We are courageous because we believe in what we do. We all carry the burden of HOPE for the future. We live by the adage "helping to light the light inside another person doesn't diminish your own light." Keeping our own candle lit also takes courage.

We have much to be proud about, especially regarding NYSOEA. The 50th Anniversary Conference was amazing. Our elders really brought their A-game and laid down wisdom for the next 50 years. The younger generation picked up that wisdom and are updating it with the newest definitions of inclusion beginning with the 51st Conference.

The Brandwein Institute awarded the 2018 Brandwein Medal to NYSOEA for our "...long standing commitment to inspire children to embrace the wonders of nature." We all must share this award for our collective courage in outdoor and environmental education.

Our Winter Weekend and Conference auction proceeds go towards our Brother Yusuf Campership Fund, sending up to five children to nature summer camp that wouldn't normally have a chance to attend. As we all know, an experience like this can really have a positive impact on a young mind.

The Board continues to make strides in stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and outreach, but the Board also needs your help. Please take a turn as a Regional Director or other position on the Board. Board seats are only 2 years and we ease you into it with an "Elect" year where you get to try it on for size before owning it. These courageous people are what keeps the organization moving forward so please consider joining.

Last, and perhaps most importantly, we have reached our Endowment goal of \$100,000!!! Thank you to all those who had the wisdom to start this, donate to it, manage it, hustle for it, and help to get us through the finish line! The Board of Directors and I are honored to be present during this historic occasion! But it is not the end...it is only the beginning!

NOW we must decide how to be responsible with this money. Depending on the financial markets, the endowment's interest should bear about \$5-8,000/year. Some of that should go back into the principal so it can continue to grow. There are many thoughts and ideas... conference scholarships to students, digitizing our archives, more camperships, reducing conference registration, a NYSOEA video for recruiting purposes, and many more suggestions.

How exciting for us as an organization to be at this point! There is no better time to get involved, run the NYSOEA store, join the Board, help plan Winter Weekend or a Conference... Be courageous!

Sincerely,



Eric Powers
President, NYSOEA
president@nysoea.org





2018 Conference Report

Written by Megan Hoffman, Photo by Danny Kriesburg

The 50th Anniversary Conference was a landmark conference with the theme of “Learn It...Live It...Pay It Forward” focused on remembering the legacy of NYSOEA’s past while ensuring the success of outdoor education for the future. This celebratory conference, chaired by Flo Mauro and Nancy Reichert, took place September 20th-23rd at the Greenkill YMCA Outdoor Education & Retreat Center in Greenkill, NY. This picturesque location is nestled between the Delaware Water Gap and the Catskill Mountains.

The Annual Conference is always embraced by our membership, but this 50th Anniversary Conference brought in over 200 people! There were over 50 workshops offered, along with many local field trips that showed off the natural beauty and history of the area. Highlights include the historically significant speakers Bill Hammond, Judy Braus and Dr. Dottie Shuman, the amazing music from Jay Unger, Molly Mason and Kathy Brink, the Member’s Art Show and the shoe drive to help support a local cause and pay it forward!

The rowdy auctions and raffle raised our highest amount yet- \$4,780 total!! We also raised enough money for the Brother Yusuf Campership Fund to send more than two campers to DEC Summer Camps just at this event alone! Thank you all so much to those that spent their time volunteering to run the auctions and to those that donated items! Your support is deeply appreciated.

This conference was truly a once in a lifetime experience- filled to the brim with honoring the past, while gathering excitement and momentum for the future. We had so much fun celebrating with all of you and look forward to the next 50 years!



Diversity Committee

Written by MaryLynne Malone

Thanks to the efforts of regional events throughout the State, two of the highest Campership generating events were Winter Weekend and the Sharpe Maple Celebration. NYSOEA had the ability to choose 5 campers to attend various DEC camps. Applications in the Metro and Eastern regions were higher than the rest and as such it affected the camper locations a great deal. Unfortunately, because of circumstances we still have not determined, one of our selected campers could not attend.

After discussion with the committee and various members of the Board, it has been decided that NYSOEA will no longer choose the campers, we will leave that up to the DEC. In addition, we are hoping to cut the disadvantage of travel by dividing funds to allow campers to attend summer programs that are offered by our affiliate member organizations. Affiliates will be chosen yearly and can distribute funds as they see fit. The Diversity committee is considering a name change to reflect its mission more completely: The Equity and Accessibility Committee.



The Awards Committee

Written by MaryLynne Malone

The Awards Committee has seen minimal nominations although those nominations are well deserved, it is important for all members to review past awardees and consider those who are worthy. Nominations are good for two annual conference cycles.

The Awards Committee has been perplexed by the suggestion of adding a new award, The George Fuge Award, and trying to differentiate it enough from existing awards to justify the new award. Additional suggestions were to separate the art & literature award. Discussions were lengthy but no decision was made and it was finally decided to put this on hold until after the 2019 Conference.

Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance Jan. 1, 2019 - **8,168.92**



Expenses

Phone	1,350
Office Quarterly Payments	5,000
Web Maintenance Quarterly Payments	350
Postage	1,500
Printing	3,000
Supplies	150
Insurances	1,873
Taxes & fees	50
Website	2,000
Advertising	1,000
Awards Ceremony	700
Store	1,500
Conference 2019	20,000
DEC Camperships	1,050
Winter Weekend	3,025
Accounting	1,300
Memberships & Benefits	1,100
Design Services	500
ANNS Project	500
Total	45,948.00



Income

Membership	5,500
Donations	1,500
Conference 2019	45,000
Winter Weekend	4142.17
Store	1000
Campership Donations	1400
Total	48,542.17
Ending Balance	10,763.09

Other Finances

Conference 2018 Auction Totals

Live Auction	\$3,671
Silent Auction	\$1,126
Raffle	\$943
Campership Donations	\$965

Investment Report as of October 22, 2019

Endowment Fund	\$102,255.77
Memorial Fund	\$8,017.94
General Fund	\$31,189.71

TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$141,463.42