

## **CAMPS GOVERNING BOARD REPORT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014**

**Beth Ann Graf – Chair**

**Leslie Vachon – Vice Chair**

**Greg Nissen – Director - Camping & Retreat Ministries**

**101. Mission Statement and Context:** We offer natural settings where all are welcome. Here the experience and respect for God's creation connects people in an oasis where Christian community and adventures invite spiritual growth.

**102.** The Camping and Retreat Ministries (CRM) Governing Board serves to guide and supervise the Executive Director and camping staff in carrying out our mission and the ministry.

**103.** The current Camps Task Force has been meeting regularly for the last two years regarding issues related to the CRM. Increased communication has allowed for quick turnaround on important issues, such as the sale of Epworth.

**104. *Quinipet Shelter Island Heights, NY ([www.Quinipet.org](http://www.Quinipet.org)) (25 acres -Year round)***

Quinipet's Christian sleep-away and day camps host about 500 campers over a six week season. The Community Sailing program brings an additional 100 people to our shores. Offering day camp and community sailing programs helps offset the cost of the sleep-away and keeps pricing within reach of community and church families. Quinipet also hosts church and non-profit retreats. Approximately 35% are Methodist, similar to last year.

**105.** Quinipet had \$1,343,000 in program revenue in 2014 vs \$1,419,000 in 2013. Operational expense totaled \$1,354,000. There was \$71,000 in direct contributions. Significant capital improvements totaling \$195,000 were completed, including renovations of the sailing barn, road resurfacing, and two building interiors. A mortgage for \$703,000 was accepted (3% for 30 years) from the Small Business Association through the disaster recovery program to rebuild the entire half mile of bulkhead supporting the Quinipet shoreline.

**106.** Quinipet is blessed with a small and vibrant staff: Gregory Nissen, Executive Director; Lauren Ruiz, Administrative Director; Jennifer Martin, Media and Technology; Leah Buxton, Summer Programming; Justin Savarese, Facilities and Adventure Education; and Chris Baer, Food Service Director. A number of seasonal and part time workers assist with programming, food service and facilities.

**107. *Kingswood Hancock, NY ([www.Kingswoodcampsite.org](http://www.Kingswoodcampsite.org)) (766 Acres - Seasonal)***

Kingswood offers several unique experiences: fully equipped campsites; tent and trailer sites for campers bringing their own gear, and RV sites. Programs include family camp, Woodsmoke (two week camp for youth in grades 5-12) and adult camps including welding, making Adirondack chairs and spirituality. Hathaway Farmhouse is available for retreats from October to May. The volunteer ministry includes over 80 volunteers donating from several days to weeks of time.

**108.** Earned revenue was \$58,000, slightly lower than 2013, and the operating expense was \$67,000. Additional donations totaled nearly \$14,000. 2014 capital improvements paid for by contributions and timber harvest proceeds are valued at about \$16,000. Kingswood's committed volunteer network accomplishes the majority of the work at the lowest possible cost.

**109.** Kingswood is run by longtime volunteer director Cheryl Winship; additional volunteer staff includes Mike Weinlein, (Woodsmoke camp & capital project construction) and Don Shogren (information technology, website maintenance and communications). Holly Moore is the paid Program Director for the summer season and serves as primary contact for family camp reservations.

**110.** Improvements completed in 2014 include renovation of a bathroom in the farmhouse, barn stabilization efforts, kitchen upgrades in Cove campsite, clutch replacement on Kubota tractor and complete overhaul of the website. Plans for 2015 include renovations to the craft area, nature center, bathroom in the farmhouse and a new online reservation process.

**111. Epworth High Falls, NY** Justin Savarese continued as the property manager and sole employee until its sale in September, 2014. Greg and Justin worked diligently to prepare the property for sale. Epworth was on the market for seven months and sold for \$3,225,000 to the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary. After a celebration held at the camp, it was with sadness that we said goodbye.

**112.** Proceeds from the sale (after closing costs) were applied as follows: The \$1,053,000 mortgage on the Quinipet property was paid off. Debt to CCFA, incurred between 2005 and 2014, and improvement loans from the Trustees, approximately \$885,000 in aggregate, were paid off. The remaining proceeds from the sale of Epworth were divided into two funds, both maintained by the Trustees and each just over \$546,000. One is directed to Conference capital expenditures and the other for camp capital expenditures.

**113. The Camping Ministry** With the sale of Epworth and the mortgage payoff, we look forward to an increasingly stable environment for Quinipet and Kingswood. Conference subsidy of \$79,200 was disbursed throughout the ministry for operational use. In addition, \$12,118 in Scholarship Sunday donations was collected during 2014. Scholarship distributions for both camps were made in the amount of \$21,000.

**114.** 2015 will bring changes to the ministry. Most significantly the Camps Governing Board is in a search for a new Executive Director. After 12 years, Greg Nissen is leaving the camping ministry. The Board wishes to thank Greg for his many accomplishments that will be felt throughout the camping program for many years to come. The Camps Governing Board is forever grateful for his tireless service to this ministry.