

CAMP SILVER CREEK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Changes, lots of changes!

As many of you know, our beloved leader Nick Benevidez (Z) and his wife Jennifer lost their home in Gates in the forest fires last September. While physically they are both OK, they are now faced with the tremendous challenges of rebuilding their property and their lives. Understandably, Nick felt the need to tender his resignation as President of CSCAA at this time. While we all hate to see him go, we totally understand and support him 100% in this decision. We wish him and Jennifer nothing but the best as they move forward.

Fortunately, Vice-president Pat Schrader agreed to step up and take on the job. If you don't know already know Pat, here a few words from him to help you get acquainted:

My name is Patrick "Hawkeye" Schrader and I assumed the role of Chairperson/President in October, 2020.

My experience with Camp Silver Creek goes back several decades. My first year as a camper was in 1980. In 1985 I was hired as a Unit Aide and completed that summer as a 15 year old Counselor, a role I continued through 1988. In 1990 and 1991, I was a Unit Director. During this time I met the Arts and Crafts Director, "Lizard", and we married in 1992.

I ended my first run as a staff member in 1993 as the LIT Director. Soon, it was time to send my own kids to camp, which I did starting in 2001. However, I guess I wasn't done as a staff member and In 2003 the YMCA asked me if I would be interested in being Camp Director. I was Camp Director From 2003 to 2006 and my wife and our 3 "Man Cubs" made Camp Silver Creek our summer residence.

My family has a long history with Camp Silver Creek with both my Father and Uncle attending camp in the 1940's. My Uncle was a Unit Director during the 1950s. My Brother attended and worked at camp in the 80's, 90's and early 2000's. As well, all of my children have worked at camp, so we are a 3 generation Camp Silver Creek family.

I am currently the Principal of St. Paul Middle/High School in St. Paul, Oregon. It is my intent to grow the Association and increase the level of engagement and activity of members to fulfill the mission to support, preserve, and strengthen YMCA camping at Silver Creek.

The Camp Silver Creek Alumni Association mission is to support, preserve and strengthen YMCA camping at Camp Silver Creek. The CSCAA comprises any Camp Silver Creek alumni, staff (current and former), and community members who believe that camp is an essential part of childhood. Get more involved with the CSCAA by emailing contact.cscaa@gmail.com!

Spring 2021



Silver Creek is hiring!

Camp Silver Creek is hiring! Every summer, the Y searches for young adults dedicated to creating unforgettable and magical experiences for kids. Numerous positions are available, from counselors to kitchen staff.

If your child, grandchild or other young adult you know is ready to make grilch (a Camp Silver Creek special!), be a polar bear, participate in alien hunts and capture the flag, lead songs at campfire and help

change children's lives, we would love to see them at Camp Silver Creek this summer!

For more information and/or to apply, please visit the website at <u>www.theyonline.org/careers.</u>

And if week long overnight positions seem a little too long, please check out the job openings at Camp Greider (day camp.)



Sinatra new YMCA CEO

Timothy Sinatra joined the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in June, 2020. Sinatra continues the work of Sam Carroll, who retired in October after five years of service.



Sinatra is a highly experienced nonprofit CEO noted for innovation in programs to support youth, family, and community development; collaborating with community organizations to meet local, regional and statewide needs; and bringing strategic focus, financial stability, and growth to organizations.

"A YMCA in South Florida took a chance on me when I was just starting out. It's where I found my life's purpose. I'm pleased to be returning to the organization where my career began and give back what I have learned along the way," Sinatra said.

"This is an exciting time to be joining the Y. This organization has been in the Willamette Valley for more than 128 years. This is a pivotal time in its unfolding history. We have a new building going up and a new opportunity to define how the Y can be a critical part of how families and our community rebuild in this pandemic. I look forward to working with the community to build the Y's future," he added.

Sinatra recently served as the director of organizational development for the Oregon Department of Human Services, the largest state agency serving 1.5 million Oregonians. Before that, he was the CEO of Eliada Homes in Asheville, NC, which provides services to children and families ranging from early learning to foster care to residential psychiatric treatment. Sinatra spent 23 years with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, serving as CEO of organizations in California, Virginia, and here in Salem. During his time as the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Salem, Marion, and Polk Counties, Sinatra was named the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Western Region Professional of the Year and served as the president of the Oregon State Alliance which conducted state and federal lobbying efforts.

Starship to be Camping Director at Y



Jeff Dickmann, aka Starship, is a youth development professional who has worked in summer camps, early childhood education, and challenge courses.

He joined the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties in 2021 as our Camping Services Director. Prior to joining us he was the Summer Camp Director at YMCA Camp Wapsie in Iowa and a prek teacher in Seattle.

Jeff has earned a Master of Arts (MA)

in Adventure Education from Prescott College, a Master's in Teaching from Whitworth University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry and History from the University of Washington. (Go Huskies!)

Outside of work Jeff enjoys reading, playing disc golf, watching movies, and collecting chess sets (he has over 150 different sets).

Nemo to serve as camp director



Mariah Fairman, Silver Falls Youth Sports Director will serve as the director this summer at Camp Silver Creek. Mariah has been working for the YMCA on and off since 2012, primarily at our residential camp, Camp Silver Creek, where the campers know her as "Nemo".

Mariah played volleyball and lacrosse in high school and college and values the role that sports can play in a child's life. Mariah graduated from Oregon

State University with a double major in Education and Human Development and Family Sciences. Her focus for education is Health as well as Family and Consumer Sciences. She is passionate about helping children develop life skills so that they can be successful.



Become A CSCAA Monthly Donor!

Walk with us in support of the YMCA Camp Silver Creek Alumni Asso-



ciation. The CSCAA has a 2021 goal of 50+ camp supporters to join in giving \$5 per month to create a sustainable level of funding that will help fund the CSCAA in their efforts to purchase items for camp, provide training for camp staff, provide scholarships for campers, and to pay for modest admin expenses. (like printing and mailing our newsletter)

With 50 monthly donors giving \$5 per month, that will provide \$3,000 to support Camp Silver Creek campers. Visit CSCAA online giving to sign-up: <u>http://</u> <u>bit.ly/2EEXyvy</u> Thanks to Kevin Couey and the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley for creating the monthly giving plan.



T-shirt Fundraiser raises \$1,094

Although Camp was not open last summer, several resourceful alumni decided that the year needed to be remembered and offered online sales of camp shirts to staff, campers and alumni.

Led by Sam Lewis, the crew picked two designs (one featuring a drawing by a former camper), several colors and styles of tops to choose from. Sales were open for several weeks late in the summer.

We raised \$1,094.35 for future camper scholarships through the t-shirt fundraiser. We had a great response and hopefully we will do it again! Huge kudos to Sam and her crew!!!

Camp will be open this summer !!!

Future Staffer!

Sam and Jeff Lewis welcomed Sidney Lewis on August 6th, 2020. He's a healthy happy boy and we are so excited to introduce him to his camp family and attend family camp when he's a little older!



Personal connections are key

When Timothy Sinatra sent out a fundraising appeal late last year to supporters of the YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties he got an unexpected response.

That was a handwritten letter from Kay Holtz, a 96-year-old widow in Kenosha, Wisconsin, who said she was unable to contribute financially. But she wanted Sinatra, the organization's CEO, to know how much the YMCA meant to her late husband, Roth, who served as camp director in the early 1950s.

"Our memories of his first job in Y work with Gus Moore are very happy ones," she wrote, referring to the YMCA director at the time. "I hope you reach your goal in providing families in the area with scholarships."

Sinatra said personal connections like that are key to YMCA's plans as it begins the long-awaited construction of its new building in downtown Salem and seeks to raise at least \$7 million over the next year to complete the effort.

"Everyone's always like, 'Show me the data that your organization makes an impact," Sinatra said. He prefers to turn to stories.

Sinatra took over as CEO of the organization last year from Sam Carroll, inheriting a capital campaign and construction project in the middle of a pandemic and economic downturn.

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

May 22, 2021 10 am

CSCAA meeting at Camp-watch for more details on our web and facebook pages

June ??, 2021

Work Party for Alumni and Staff at camp-watch for more details on our web and facebook pages

