

The Bell

Issue 46, October 1, 2022



OUR FIRST EVER CAMP SERTOMA CONFERENCE!



HOW THIS THING GOT STARTED...



ACCORDING TO OUR BYLAWS WE NEED TO HAVE AN ELECTION FOR OUR OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES EACH YEAR. OUR ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING COULDN'T BE HELD AT OUR REGIONAL CONVENTION, BECAUSE THERE WASN'T A REGIONAL CONVENTION. SO A GROUP OF US THOUGHT, "WHY NOT GATHER A BUNCH OF CAMP SERTOMA LOVERS IN ONE ROOM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS." AFTER ABOUT 900 ATTEMPTS AT A DATE THAT WAS GOOD FOR EVERYONE, WE SETTLED ON SEPTEMBER 24. RICK VANDIVER OFFERED ST. MICHAEL'S AND ALL ANGEL'S FOR OUR VENUE AND WE WERE OFF AND RUNNING. GOALS: 1. GATHER SERTOMANS. 2. GIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT CAMP. 3. WORK ON SOME OF THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE IMPROVED. 4. REMIND OURSELVES THAT CAMP IS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR CAMPERS, THEIR FAMILIES, OUR COUNSELORS, AND US! 5. GIVE A STEP BY STEP DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION FROM OCTOBER 1 RECEIVING OF RESERVATION FORM ALL THE WAY TO DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP CAMPERS AND BEYOND. 6. HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS ABOUT IDEAS THEY HAVE TO MAKE OUR CAMP BETTER. 7. HAVE SOME FUN. 8. HAVE OUR ELECTION. 9. GET SOME SNEAK PEAKS AT THE CLEMSON GAME. 10. GET FOLKS OUT AND ON THEIR WAY HOME PROMPTLY.

RICK VANDIVER SET UP THE ROOM



LINDA V AND KAREN BAIER CHECKED PEOPLE IN



CLUBS BROUGHT THEIR CLUB BANNERS





IN THE STATE OF OUR CAMP ADDRESS, DALE REMINDED US THAT OUR CAMP IS AWESOME AND OUR CAMP IS NEEDED. OUR STAFFING ISSUES THIS SUMMER MEANT ONLY 145 KIDS WERE ABLE TO ATTEND CAMP SERTOMA. WE HAD 70 KIDS ON A WAITING LIST, REGISTERED AND HOPING TO GET IN.

MEANWHILE, THE SOCIAL ISOLATION, FAMILY STRESSORS, ECONOMIC PRESSURE, AND THE ABILITY TO RETREAT HAVE LEAD TO A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AMONG OUR CHILDREN (CAMPERS AND COUNSELORS). CAMP IS A HUGE PART OF HELPING THE CHILDREN OF OUR STATE FIGHT THIS BATTLE AGAINST DARKNESS.



"Summer 2021 at camp will give kids a chance to catch up on all the face-to-face time they have missed—and reintroduce the skills they need to navigate life's ups and downs. **“One of the best things camp does is offer kids 24 hours of no escape—they can't turn their screen off, shut down their tile, or block a friend which forces, in the best possible way, kids to navigate not only the wonderful aspects of the deep friendships that they can only develop at camp, but also to have to hang in there when the going gets tough,”** continued Steiner-Adair. “There are so many ways through technology where kids can ghost and avoid challenging conversations, avoid conflict, and avoid apologizing. Camp historically has been a deep skill building training ground for developing social emotional intelligence. While many children have been able to maintain their academic learning, experts are concerned about the impact of Covid on children's social and emotional well-being and development and that's where camp will have a huge impact this summer.”

**CATHERINE STEINER-ADAIR,
CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST**

FORMER CHAIRMAN OF CAMP SERTOMA AND HIS DAUGHTER KATIE SHARE THEIR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES ON CAMP SERTOMA, INCLUDING POIGNANT STORIES OF THE LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT CAMPERS HAVE HAD ON THEM. GREGG SHARED A STORY OF THE FIRST TIME HE PICKED UP A CAMPER AT THEIR HOME AND THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATION IN THAT CHILD WHEN HE PICKED HER UP ON SATURDAY...FROM NERVOUS AND SHY TO OUT-GOING, EXHILIRATED--NOT WANTING TO LEAVE CAMP AND "WE COULDN'T GET HER TO STOP TALKING ABOUT CAMP THE WHOLE DRIVE HOME.



KATIE HAS BEEN A CAMPER, CIT, COUNSELOR, WATERFRONT STAFF, SUPERVISOR, CAMP PARENT, FOSTER PARENT, RESPITE CAMP DIRECTOR AND HAS WITNESSED FIRST-HAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CAMP TO HER DAD, HER FAMILY, HER CHILDREN AND HER FOSTER CHILDREN. SHE AND HER HUSBAND, MATT, MET AT CAMP AND HAVE NEVER LEFT!



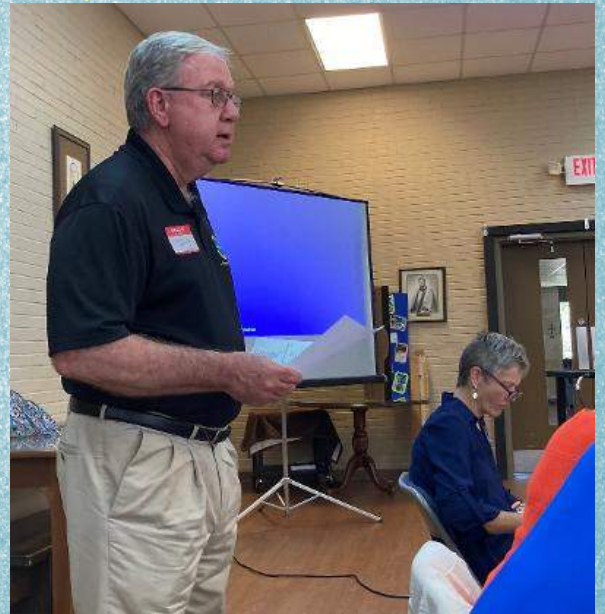
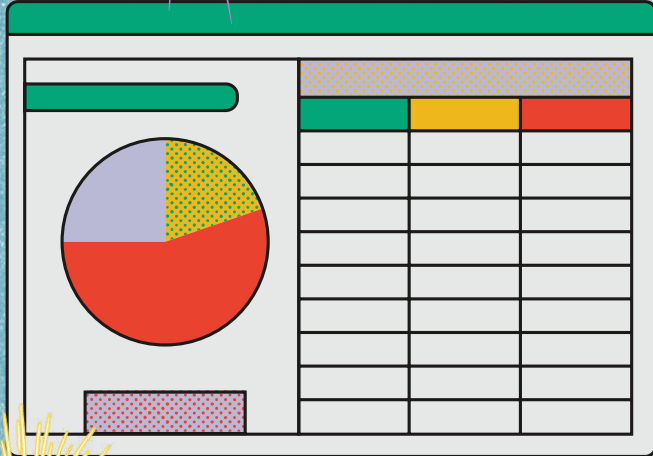
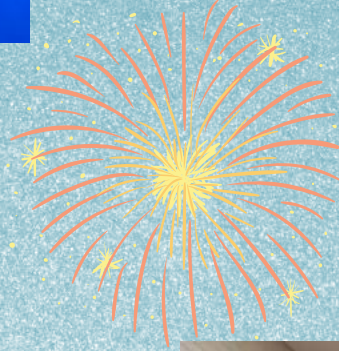
OUR AWESOME CAMP DIRECTOR, LESLIE CONRAD, SHARED THE UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE AT THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY OUTDOOR LAB, THE BEAUTIFUL HOME OF CAMP SERTOMA. THE NATION-WIDE PROBLEM OF GETTING COLLEGE-AGED PEOPLE TO WORK 6-8 WEEKS DID, INDEED, AFFECT OUR CAMP THIS SUMMER BUT LESLIE IS ALREADY AT WORK SIGNING UP SOME OF THIS YEAR'S STAFF TO RETURN NEXT SUMMER AND THEN WILL TURN TO FINDING THE BEST OF THE BEST, FIVE-STAR, TOP-SHELF SUMMER STAFF TO SERVE OUR CHILDREN NEXT SUMMER. WE CAN HELP BY TALKING ABOUT CAMP TO EVERYONE WHO WILL LISTEN AND GETTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO MIGHT WANT TO WORK AT CAMP IN TOUCH WITH LESLIE.



WE ALSO NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO END UP BEING OUR CAMP COUNSELORS HAVE BEEN IMPACTED JUST AS GREATLY AS ANYONE ELSE BY THIS PANDEMIC. THEY NEED LOVE JUST AS MUCH AS OUR CAMPERS DO.



**KEITH ROBERTS, TREASURER,
OUTLINED OUR ACCOUNTS,
ENDOWMENTS, EXPENSES AND
PLANS TO STEWARD THE NEARLY 1
MILLION DOLLARS ENTRUSTED TO
OUR BOARD FOR THE GROWTH AND
EXCELLENCE OF CAMP SERTOMA.**



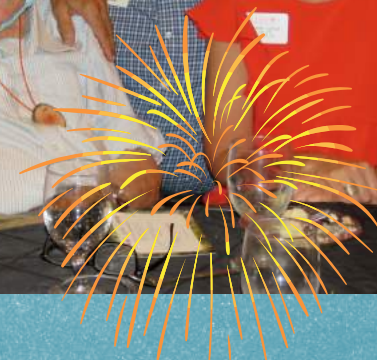
**KEITH IS ALSO A GEORGIA BULLDOG
AND WAS FORCED TO LISTEN TO
CLEMSON TIGER FOOTBALL
COVERAGE THE ENTIRE 2.5 HOUR
DRIVE HOME.**



CHARLIE WHITE HAS BEEN A PART OF CAMP SERTOMA FROM THE BEGINNING AND HE HAS RECRUITED 28 CAMPERS FOR THE CLEMSON SERTOMA CLUB FOR THE LAST 12 YEARS. EVERY EYE WAS LOCKED ON CHARLIE AS HE TOOK US THROUGH HIS PROCESS FOR RECRUITING AND REGISTERING CAMPERS.



IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT, YOU SHOULD ASK CHARLIE ABOUT HIS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM THAT FULLY FUNDS ALL 28 OF CLEMSON SERTOMA'S CAMPERS EVERY SUMMER!





THE ESTEEMED RICK VANDIVER, CO-CHAIRMAN OF CAMP SERTOMA, AND THE MAN WHO PULLED THIS EVENT TOGETHER, REVIEWED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR OFFICERS, OUR TRUSTEES, OUR CAMP SERTOMA REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS IN EACH CLUB AS IT RELATES TO CAMP SERTOMA. RICK ALSO HOSTED OUR EVENT AND WAS OUR OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

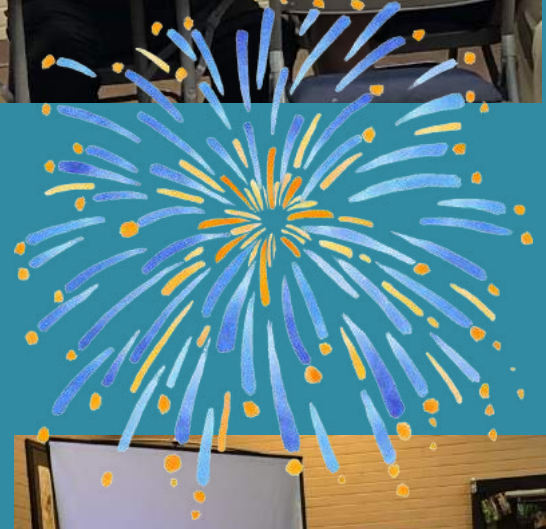


WE THEN ELECTED OUR CHAIRMAN, CO-CHAIRMAN, TREASURER AND 3 TRUSTEES... HANNAH CASEY, LOWER COAST, JEAN SCHWALBERT, LOWER MIDLANDS, AND RYAN KEESE, UPSTATE WEST.



IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GREENVILLE, SC WILL HOST OUR ATLANTIC COAST REGIONAL CONVENTION APRIL 2023!







START EARLY.
RESERVE EARLY.
RECRUIT EARLY.
REGISTER EARLY.

YOU'LL GET REGULAR EMAILS FROM CAMP REGISTRAR ON THE STATUS OF YOUR CAMPERS
KEEP NUDGING THEM ALL THE WAY TO
COMPLETION OF REGISTRATION

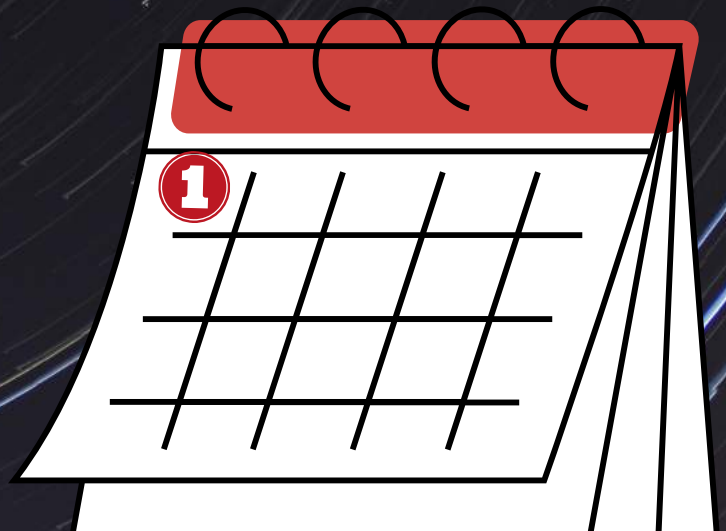
ONLY PUT MEDICATION ON THE HEALTH FORM
THAT THE CHILD WILL BE TAKING AT CAMP!!!
SERTOMANS ARE HANDS-ON SERVANTS—IF YOU
USE A NON-SERTOMAN TO HELP WITH YOUR
CAMPERS, STILL BE INVOLVED.

MAKE SURE PARENTS/GUARDIAN AVAILABLE BY
PHONE DURING CHECK-IN FROM 2-4 ON SUNDAY.

WE MUST HAVE UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR YOUR CLUB'S OFFICERS EVERY YEAR AND EVERY
TIME THERE IS A CHANGE.

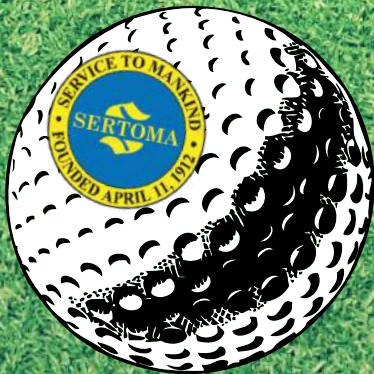
WE OPERATE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU
RECEIVE AND READ THE EMAILS THAT ARE SENT.

WE BELIEVE THE BELL IS A POWERFUL AND
INSPIRATIONAL TOOL FOR YOU, YOUR CLUB, AND YOUR
DONORS. PLEASE READ AND DISTRIBUTE IT ON THE
FIRST OF EVERY MONTH.



INVITE CAMPERS TO YOUR CLUB MEETINGS
INVITE YOUR AREA TRUSTEE TO YOUR MEETING
HAVE LOCAL NEWS COVER YOUR SESSION OF CAMP
USE OUR WEBSITE, REFER TO OUR WEBSITE
USE THE BELL TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB EVENTS
BRING CLUB MEMBERS TO OUR WORK WEEKEND

Text a friend..





**HOW WILL YOU
SPEND NEXT SUMMER?**



**UP FOR A LIFE-
CHANGING
EXPERIENCE?**

CONRAD@CLEMSON.EDU

*Join this
amazing family*





I GET TO LOVE YOU!!!

