



## January 2022 Happy New Year!

### From the CEO...

So – another year has begun! And like every new beginning, there is promise and potential. I certainly feel this here at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. We have a new leader at our boys' camp – [Bill Hinton](#) has just started his work with us but brings exceptional experience from his previous camps. I have such high hopes for the partnership that will develop between Bill and Amanda Macaluso... a partnership that will strengthen the relationships between our camps and encourage both collaboration and mutual support.

We have new leadership at the board level. Mimi Dyer and John Kelley have stepped into the roles of president and vice president, respectively and, while we lost such stalwart volunteers as Casey Robinson, Julie Witten Lloyd, and Brad Middlekauff (all of whom rotated off the board), there is a strong corps that remains.

We finished 2021 in a strong financial position. This came because of higher-than-anticipated camp enrollment, two five-figure YMCA of the USA grants, and strong year-end fundraising. Of course, a second round of PPP funding didn't hurt – a loan that we've just learned has been fully forgiven.

We're entering 2022 with our two camps both hovering around 70% enrollment for the upcoming summer – a strong position when compared to historical camper numbers. We've barely begun our marketing and promotion efforts and have almost six months to reach/exceed our enrollment goals.

To be sure, we still have some formidable challenges ahead of us. Notwithstanding the currently strong enrollment, we've got to figure out how to consistently fill our camps every summer. We've got to address a significant amount of deferred maintenance and bring our facilities up to a high level of quality. We've got to figure out where, in a post-COVID world, year-round programs and activities factor into our mission and operating plan.

And – oh yes – there's this lingering pandemic...

Right now, with the promise of a new year and the momentum that we've created, there's a sense that our challenges are conquerable. We'll certainly need the help of our community, but there are most definitely bright days ahead for Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

**Dave**

[Dave DeLuca](#)

CEO – YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

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### January Moments

What are January moments? They are the memories of little things that happened at camp that help to keep us going through the long, cold months of winter – until we can all be together at camp next summer.

Every day this month we are posting January moments on social media. Check out Facebook and Instagram to see these comments and to reminisce about your own time at camp... moments

that sustain you throughout the year.

It is not too late if you would like to submit **your** January moment to be considered. Please send 1 – 2 photos of your memory with a brief description to [amacaluso@hayowentha.org](mailto:amacaluso@hayowentha.org). The most-liked January moment will receive a free camp hoodie! Send in your memories today!

## Frolicking through the Last Frontier

*By Mary Tobin*  
**2021 AHWL Alaska Trip Leader**

*Photo on right:*  
*Backpacking portion of the trip*  
*on the side of Mt. Ripinski.*



Rainbow sunsets on top of snowy mountain peaks. Card games on rocky beaches, laughter echoing through the cove. Ice climbing on a glacier, singing to keep our hearts full and bodies warm. Snacking on fresh Salmon Berries along the trail. Waking up to the sound of the ocean and the brisk, pristine air. Encouraging each other up steep passages. Frolicking through forests, mountains, beaches, and meadows in the Last Frontier. These are the scenes that flood my memory when I think of adventures in Alaska this past summer.

After our flight and ferry journey from Traverse City, we were picked up in Haines, Alaska, and driven along the ocean and through the forest to the Chilkoot High Adventure Base (CHAB) camp. From CHAB, we embarked on three separate trips: backpacking, mountaineering, and sea kayaking.



We were taught various outdoor skills, including traveling in rope teams across glaciers, walking with ice axes, sea kayaking techniques, and cooking delicious backcountry cuisine. Our personal favorites were Pad Thai and Nutella Banana Crepes!

We also enjoyed an Eagle Float where we saw incredible wildlife and campers guided the raft themselves. We ended the trip with all three AHWL Alaska groups.

***Photo above: Looking out on the beach toward Davidson Glacier on the Sea Kayaking Trip.***

We enjoyed a cook out and dance party together, surrounded by the names of past AHWL Alaska groups, as we cherished our final night at CHAB.

Each day brought new challenges, accomplishments, songs and experiences. Before we knew it, we were welcomed back at camp in the middle of the night with cheers that echoed throughout the piney wood hills.

A moment that stands out was when we went ice climbing on Flower Mountain. We worked together in rope teams to traverse a glacier and ascend to the climbing location. We each took turns using ice axes and crampons to climb the ice wall. While we were waiting, the group sang songs, danced, and kept the energy up to support fellow climbers and keep WARM! As we started to get cold after a prolonged time on the ice, the enthusiasm of the group kept spirits high as we all climbed successfully!



Singing & supporting one another while Ice Climbing



Ice Climbing on Flower Mountain

The adventures, scenery, and laughter from three weeks in Alaska is something I will cherish forever. It was amazing to see what can be accomplished through a willingness to try new things, a group-focused mindset, and a positive attitude. I am thankful to AHWH for giving me the opportunity and I am excited for groups who will go in the future!

Photo on right: CHAB with AHWH leaders Carynn Randolph and Kyleigh Bonfield



## New Board Chair for the State YMCA!

At the December 6, 2021, meeting of the State YMCA of Michigan Board of Trustees, Mimi Mosher Dyer was elected to the position of board president. She replaces Christopher Rode, who served for six years.

Mimi says:

*"I have served on the board for numerous years and am excited to act as the Board President. Our camp - at two lakes - is in great shape and I'm proud to have the opportunity to lead the board."*

*My first year of six years at Camp Arbutus was in 1977 and I had a very memorable time learning new activities and making lifelong friends. My five daughters have all attended camp and been on staff for numerous years. My girls hold the record for the greatest number of camper sisters in one session. I am very confident to say that my love of travel started at Camp Arbutus.*

*My world opened up to foreign counselors and camp friends coming from Merida, Mexico. I fell in love with sailing and have continued to spend time on sailboats. My favorite times at camp were the Sunday evening ceremonies. I can also say that camp sparked my desire to form relationships with all sorts of people. My experience during those summers led me to become an active, happy, confident, and optimistic woman."*

Mimi lives in Cincinnati and currently serves as the board chair for La Soupe, a local non-profit organization that works to address hunger and child poverty. She also volunteers for other Cincinnati-area non-profits.

Mimi is the first Arbutus/Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha alumna to serve as board president.

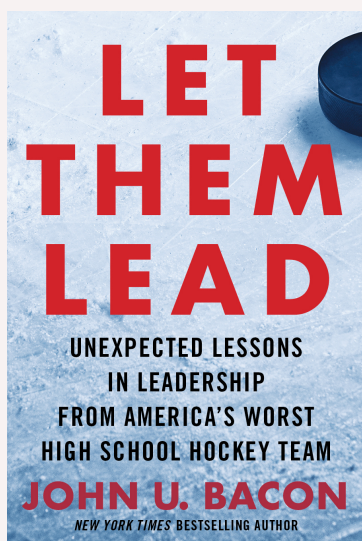
## Joe O'Connell Joins Board

The State YMCA of Michigan Board of Trustees has added Joe O'Connell to its ranks. Joe has a long history at Hayo-Went-Ha, starting as a family camper in 1987. He's been a summer camper and staff member and a volunteer on the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Joe works in the State of Michigan Budget Office and focuses his efforts on child welfare. He holds a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin (Public Policy) and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Michigan State. Joe will serve on both the B & G and Finance Committees.



*In his board application Joe wrote: "I am passionate about Hayo-Went-Ha, which is one reason that I've missed very few work weekends in thirty-plus years. If offered the opportunity to serve on the board of trustees, I will bring my budgeting and policy analysis expertise to the work of governing both camps. I believe that camp values, relationships, and experiences help to shape lives."*



## John U. Bacon to Address 2022 Summer Staff!

Acclaimed author John U. Bacon just happens to be a Camp Hayo-Went-Ha alum, as he spent three summers on the shores of Torch Lake as both a camper and staff member. John's latest book – *Let Them Lead: Unexpected Lessons in Leadership from America's Worst High School Hockey Team* – has generated incredible buzz and is "a fast-paced, feel-good book that leaders of all kinds can embrace to motivate their teams to work harder, work together, and take responsibility for their own success."

When Dave DeLuca read the book, he immediately saw its value as a way to share leadership lessons with summer camp staff. And – who better to impart these lessons than the author himself! Dave reached out to John with an invitation to speak to the combined HWH/AHWH staff teams during our 2022 pre-camp staff training experience.

It only took an offer of grilled cheese and tomato soup in Kresge to get John to say yes (John negotiated for bug juice)! We're so grateful that John has carved time out of his incredibly busy schedule to speak with our team.

If you've not yet read 'Let Them Lead,' you're missing out. You can learn more about the book and the author [here](#).

## Join Us for the 2022 Summer!

Programs at both sites are filling fast! Some of the most popular trips have waitlists, but we try our best to get campers in their first or second choices. Summer will be here before you know it!



[Click here to register!](#) Please reach out if you have any questions regarding summer [camp](#) dates,

rates, and programs. Call: 231-544-5915 if you need help with registration.



## 2022 Campership Applications!

Each summer our camps provide fun, impactful experiences for kids whose families otherwise could not afford a camp session. In 2021 our financial assistance (campership) program allocated more than \$150,000 to such families. This allowed eighty-five children to experience our summer camp programs.

New for 2022 is our procedure for awarding campership funds. This year the camp directors will make allocations on a rolling basis starting this month. Information about our campership program may be found [here](#).

Our campership fund is made possible through donations by camp alumni and friends who believe in the YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps mission and wish to see all children have access to a camp experience. You can support our campership fund by [making a secure, online donation](#).



### Our Contact Information

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