WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF CAMPGROUND OWNERS



61st ANNUAL

WACO



CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW

MARCH 13-17, 2024

New Owners Meet-Up!

Meet with other new owners and get advice on what is most important to attend for the day! Held in the Top Shelf bar between the hotel and convention center, just outside the Kids Kamp room (aka - Little Bar).

Meet on Wednesday at 8am - Thursday & Friday at 7:30am.

Led by The WACO Young Professionals Group!

Annual Meeting Full Report

If you would like the full Annual Meeting Report, please stop at the WACO Registration Desk!

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center IOOI Amber Avenue Stevens Point, WI 54482 Phone: (715) 344-O2OO





WACO Board Of Directors



Be our eyes & ears! If you hear or see something that needs to be corrected, let your Board Members or Exec. Director know!



Our goal is to make this conference easy for you to attend and enjoy. Please don't hesitate to tell a staff member immediately if you need assistance. Our members mean the world to us and we are happy to help in any way we can. If you have an experience that is not world class, please let a member of the WACO Board or your Executive Director know immediately. Your experience here is important to us. If you are new to the convention – just look for a STAFF member or a Board Member. There are no silly questions – we are happy to help!



How May We Help You?





Lori Severson – *Executive Director* Address: P.O. Box 228, Ettrick, WI 54627 Email: lori@seversonandassociates.com

Phone: 608-525-2327 Fax: 608-525-2328

Cell phone: 608-792-5915



Mark Hazelbaker- Attorney
Address: 559 D'Onofrio Drive,
Ste. 222 - Madison WI 53719
Please email or call the WACO
office to route questions for Mark.

NEW! Use our online form to send legal questions to Mark!

Our legal hotline is one of your best member benefits. By submitting your questions to the WACO office first, we are best able to track and report on Mark's answers to questions that may be an issue for many members and put that data in one central place for you to refer to anytime! Should you choose to NOT use the hotline and contact Mark Hazelbaker directly, you will incur costs to your campground. Submit at: https://bit.ly/WACOlegal

WACO Executive Director

Lori Severson 608-792-5915

WACO Staff

Danielle Todd 608-386-0752 Tina Severson 608-386-3673 Lisa Black 608-317-9238

Registration

Laurie Smith 608-399-4817

General Convention

Questions

WACO Office 608-525-2327



Danielle Todd



Tina Severson



Ryan Lipke

Kids Kamp

Becky Lipke

Lisa Black



Have a question? We have the answer!

Call any number below!

Vendor Set-up And Direction

Laurie Smith



608-484-1045

608-317-9237

Ryan Lipke



Becky Lipke



Carla Brown



Bonnie & Mickey Wood



Mary Zeigler



Kiley Smith



Michelle Forsyth

Our members are out of this world! ... Tell us how to make your experience amazing!

Tuesday Evening Check-in & Registration

Tuesday evening early registration will be open from 5:00pm - 7:00 pm. Our registration area is open 7:30 am on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for your convenience. Registration is set up at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, directly outside of the Trade Show area. The hotel has the schedule of convention activities at the front desk if you have a question. The auction items and baskets should be taken to the registration table where they will be logged in.



Consulting Options





New Owners Meet Up: Wed. at 8a - Thur. & Fri. at 7:30a

Location: Top Shelf Bar (aka Little Bar) — Outside Kids Kamp Room

Calling all rookies and newcomers! This quick meet up is hosted by the WACO Young Professionals group. Meet, greet and network with others in the same new position as you are! Find a mentor and

see who knows what, and how you can get the most out of your WACO convention experience! Chat about what's most important to be a part of for the upcoming day!

Need to know more about all the great OHI or WACO Benefits?





Text Jim Button, your OHI Area 3 Representative at (920) 570-0764 to set up

a time to chat about how both OHI and WACO can benefit you and your business!

Membership Update Area (near **Registration Desk)**

Update your listing on the WACO Website right at convention! Bring a flash drive with 4 or 5 photos and we will update your listing for you to be sure



everything is current for the 2024 season! NO charge, NO hassle! Set-up your appointment by texting Danielle at (608) 386-0752!

Private Legal Consultations with Mark Hazelbaker WACO Attorney

Talk about your personal legal issues! Ask about agreements, review mobile home licenses, park regulations, Employment issues, or general legal



QuickBooks Consulting with CSAW Associates

Set up a time to learn more about how QuickBooks works, upgrading or getting started. Stop by the



Lemonade stand near the WACO registration to chat with Chris Metcalf (WACO Accountant)!

Know Your Numbers with John Jaszewski - Bring your P&L to convention and John will show you, AT NO CHARGE, exactly what your park is worth now and will show you quick and easy ways to increase the value of your park. He's set up by Thursday, so book early! Knowledge is Power. Whether you're thinking of selling or need more leverage for refinancing or expanding the park, schedule a confidential consultation and John can show you exactly what the Banker and Appraiser will be looking for. Schedule an appointment at convention by texting John at 507-450-5626.





Things You Need To Know



Money Made Simple

- Find your personalized bid number behind your name tag in your show badge! This number has been specifically assigned to you. This can be used to "charge" any auction/raffle items. Please be sure you receive a receipt with all of your purchases. Simply show our staff member your bid number and sign for the charge.
- Your bid number can be used to bid on silent auction items, live auction items, buy raffle tickets, etc.
- PAC (Political Action Council) items are the only exception (they must be paid by personal check or cash).
- You may check your balance at any time during the convention by asking at the registration desk.
- You can pay your balance by check, credit card, cash, WACO bucks or a combination!
- Plan to have your account balance settled no later than 9:00 am on Sunday.
- Not from Wisconsin? No problem! We take all "out of state" currency!

Valet Directory Pickup

Pick up your Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners directories at the show. Simply ask any trade show associate for help loading them to your vehicle. It can be done any time throughout the tradeshow. (Note: only throughout daytime hours please.) Distribute them to your community while getting our directories in the hands of your guests.

Earn 20 \$3,000 WACO Bucks entry tickets by picking up your directories!

Visit the WACO Website! Scan me!

Silent Auction Rules

- To place a silent auction bid, write your bidding number in the starting bid space or on the line following the highest current bid.
- Indicate your bid in the appropriate space on your bidding row.
- In order to be valid, all new bids must be higher than the previous bid by at least the minimum raise indicated at the top of the bid sheet. \$5.00 is the usual amount but please check each auction item.
- A bid is construed as an agreement to purchase the listed item(s) at the amount indicated.
- All bidders must be 18 years of age or above.
- All winning bids must be settled before 9:00 am on Sunday by cash, check or credit card.
- In order to protect the integrity of all bidders, please do not scratch out bids. Simply contact one of our volunteers for assistance if you wish to withdraw your bid.
- The auction will close at the announced time at which time the highest bid on each bid sheet will be declared the winner. If multiple people are still interested in bidding at the end − a final bid off will be allowed where each participant puts in a final sealed bid on a piece of paper. The highest final bid will be awarded the item.
- Don't leave the convention without written documentation of what you have purchased and won.
- Bids may only be voided by an auction volunteer or staff member.

See something that needs our immediate attention?
Call Lori at 608-792-5915
Sunrise to sunset!



Things You Need To Know



Can't Attend a Seminar?

All seminars and information (if provided by the speaker) are available for our members. If you were unable to attend a session, please feel free to pick up the materials near the WACO desk. This information is available on a first come, first serve basis and if seminar information is provided prior to convention. Information from seminars will also be available on the WACO Website in the "Members" tab two-weeks post convention.

Basket Social

Bring the best campground basket and win bragging rights! Earn the traveling trophy for the basket with the best sales numbers on Friday night! The basket winner also gets \$1000 to spend at any supplier on Saturday! And EVERY campground that brings a basket gets tickets to win a \$1,000 gift card. If you enter multiple baskets the TOTAL is added together! Ask your suppliers and communities to contribute and earn your community/campground a mention on the WACO Campground website & directory! Last year the winner was Stoney Creek RV Resort.

Earn up to \$8,000 to spend at the 2024 trade show!

Win Big!

Check out how you can earn chances to win \$\$\$ to spend at the trade show!

- TWO WINNERS Win \$1000 if you have the basket or combination of baskets, that raises the most money Friday Night! Yes, you can combine several baskets!
- Win \$1000 if you win the PAC auction gift card!
- Earn up to \$1000 by participating in our social media contest in the WACO member group, telling us your best convention takeaway over the years!
- Earn up to \$1000 by playing our buying game on Friday night!
- TWO WINNERS DRAWN Win \$1000 to spend at the trade show if you purchase from the right supplier! Winner drawn Saturday at 3pm!
- Win an extra \$1000 to spend at any Show Sponsor! Pulled at our Trade Member Dinner Friday Evening.

ALL money is to be spent at the 2024 trade show (ends Saturday at 4:30p!)

How To Earn Tickets to Win \$3,000 in WACO Bucks!

20 tickets for Registering before February 20

20 tickets for stopping by the Membership Update Area by Registration

20 tickets for presenting a class!

50 tickets for every auction item you bring.

50 tickets for every \$200 sponsorship level!

50 tickets for purchasing raffles from registration

20 tickets by picking up your directories.

50 tickets for each bottle of liquor you donate

50 tickets for bringing a bottle of wine!

5 tickets for each educational course you attend.

5 tickets for each course evaluation turned in.

50 tickets for bringing a basket.

Participants are responsible for collecting their tickets.

Sunday morning simply rip your tickets in half. You keep one half and the other half goes in the bucket for the drawing. Must be present on Sunday at 11:00am to win!

20 tickets for any PAC fund donation you make.

20 tickets for every \$100 you spend at the auction

10 tickets for each raffle item you purchase.

30 tickets for attending the round tables on Sunday

30 tickets for returning Convention critique on Sunday

20 tickets for participating in any Basket Raffle

20 tickets for attending the Wednesday night event

20 tickets for completing the WACO survey!

25 tickets for participating in the PAC auction!

25 tickets if you registered in advance!

5 tickets for introducing a new member!

30 tickets for every vendor you purchase from.

Bring your receipts to registration.

Win \$3,000 in WACO Bucks! Earn your tickets!



Go High Tech - QR Codes



Sometimes having everything on your phone or tablet can be convenient. We understand that. You are now able to download each convention day's schedule onto your mobile device to ensure you are in the loop for that days activities. *Open the camera on your Smartphone or a* QR Code Reader App, scan the codes above and watch as each day appears!

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday



WACO IN THE NEWS!

With Jeff Crider

Jeff Crider is a long-time freelance writer and media relations consultant for campground and RV industry associations across the country. He's here looking to interview parks for the following topics – stop at the registration desk to sign up for an interview time!

Topics for Jeff's media outreach campaigns coming soon!

Feelin' Social? Tag Us! #CampWithWACO







WACO Members who helped with a presentation for the WACO conference get 20 \$3,000 WACO Bucks entry tickets per session! Please get them at Registration! Thanks so much for helping us all be a great industry!

Want to volunteer to help with **WACO projects? Contact WACO** or your Board of Directors!

Information from seminars (if available from the presenter in digital form) will be available on the WACO Website in the "Members" by two weeks post-convention.



WHY AM I NOT GETTING WACO EMAILS?

Sometimes a member accidentally "unsubscribes" from our WACO email lists. When that happens, the office is able to send a ONE TIME link to add you back to our distribution listing. This does require you to "accept" the link and we cannot do it without you accepting it on your end.

IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT GETTING INORMATION, GIVE US A CALL AND WE WILL CONFIRM WHAT EMAILS WE HAVE ON FILE FOR YOUR CAMPGROUND!



MISS A SEMINAR?

Head to the tables right next to the registration desk to find any available extra handout materials from seminars!

If you're looking for something you don't see, ask a staff member to put you on our list to email you the presentation and/or handout you're looking for!



As our membership grows, the need for increased efficiencies grows!

At Severson & Associates, we've installed a phone system with a mobile app service, allowing our staff to take calls from anywhere. Calls coming into the general office line at (608) 525-2323 are immediately routed to various staff members. The system tracks calls coming in, going out, and messages received.

Voicemails are automatically emailed to all staff associated with that particular client!

We also use Asana for project tracking and assignments, allowing our office to task staff with emails and member requests efficiently.

These new systems
ensure your questions
are sent to the proper
staff member quicker - so
you'll get the answers
you need!

HELLO MY NAME IS...

BILL W.

Friends of Bill W. - Meets in the Bayba Boardroom (Located next door to Kids Kamp)
Wednesday – Thursday – Friday at 5pm

2024 Special Camping Weekends

Sign up now to participate, and be included in the advertising for these weekends on the WACO website and our Facebook page!

Scan here with
your smartphone camera
to sign up now
online!





Heroes Weekend | May 17-19, 2024

This is a weekend that campgrounds typically offer free camping for heroes, including Military, Emergency personnel (Police, Fire and EMT's) and more. It is up to each campground who is considered a "hero" to take advantage of this deal. Some campgrounds include healthcare workers and teachers.

Camping For Kids Weekend | May 31-June 2, 2024

This is a weekend that campgrounds host different events throughout the weekend that raise money for the Gilbert Brown Foundation which supports over 156 children's charities throughout Wisconsin.





Join The Facebook Party!





Ever wonder how campground owners get information quickly from so many resources?

Join us in our Facebook group...

WACO Campground Members

It's a private group where you can ask anyone a question and they will give you their opinion! You can buy and sell, ask questions, create a survey or show off something new in your park!

There is also an Activities Group specifically for WACO members as well. Gather up some great ideas any time of the year! We currently have over 270 members. Come and join the party!

Want the Whole Family Educated?

Pets are allowed at the Holiday Inn Express for an extra nightly fee!





WACO Show Special Service



Take a break and relax! Chair massages available at WACO!



MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!



Schedule - Wednesday (3/13)



The two daylong seminars (ServSafe & CPO Pool School) REQUIRE pre-registration! Stonefield **Harvest Room Banquet Room Trillium Room Woodland Room** Room New Owners: Get **Building & Cabin** Survey Savvy 8:30 am -ServSafe CPO - Pool School **Inspections** Angie Servi, the most out of 9:30 am (8:30am-4:15pm) Neuman Pools convention! Jerry Anderson JAMPS Strategic Russell Reeves Development Young **Note that lunch Professionals & will be from 12:00 -**Participants do WACO Office not need to bring 12:30pm if you Get the most bang Personality Styles Time Mastery: 9:45 am laptops as testing registered for this for your WACO Lori Severson and **Increase Your** 10:45am will be done with a Membership buck! Carla Brown Productivity course. Tina Severson and Angie Servi, paper test. Danielle Todd, JAMPS Strategic Test will be taken WACO Office Development on Thursday. Writing a Great Peaceful 11:00am -**Press Release CLOSED Campgrounds:** 12:00pm Jeff Crider **Navigating Conflict** FOR *Bring your laptop Angie Servi, LUNCH for a more hands-JAMPS Strategic SET-UP on session!* Development 12:00pm -**Lunch & Learn Session:** 1:45pm **Campground Victory with Lori Severson** (Banquet Room) Grab some lunch from our wonderful sponsors as we chat about energizing, empowering, excelling and boosting your business. Learn some ways you can do this like paying it forward and other "feel good" stuff that you should be incorporating into your business and leadership! Free Lunch Sponsored By: Gilbert Brown - Pizza Donated By: Brew Pub - Lotzza Motzza Pizza, Fazolli's, Salad and Dessert & Milwaukee Pretzels Panel Discussion: The | Scams & Fraud Cracker Barrel for 2:00pm -ServSafe CPO - Pool importance of **Targeting Small** Large Parks (100 3:00pm (8:30am-4:15pm) School branding & social **Businesses** Sites or More) Russell Reeves Neuman Pools media in today's Jeff Kersten, Moderated by Jim (8:30am-4:15pm) world! **DATCP** Button Cracker Barrel for Cake Walk Man Cave: An 3:15pm -Small Parks (50 Sites Decorating **Open Discussion** 4:15pm or Less) Help decorate Jim Button Moderated by Adam cakes for tonight's Malsack Cake Walk!





SEMINARS - WEDNESDAY MARCH 13

Morning Seminar Descriptions

ServSafe

8:30am - 4:15pm

Russell Reeves

Harvest Room

The state of Wisconsin requires licensed foodservice operations to meet certain food safety and sanitation regulations, including having at least one manager or operator certified in food protection practices. Take this course at a reduced fee and be sure you can meet the State of Wisconsin Requirements.

(8:30a-4:15p) WI - ServSafe CFPM Course & Proctored Exam: This is an 8-hour classroom course that meets or exceeds state requirements. Includes the ServSafe CFPM Course book, 8-hour class, and Proctored ServSafe CFPM Exam.

(3:00-4:00p) WI - ServSafe CFPM Proctored Exam: Individuals interested in the ServSafe CFPM Exam for recertification. Includes only the Proctored ServSafe CFPM Exam. This piece is also for those who have taken the ServSafe CFPM Exam, and failed, and need to re-take the exam.

CPO - Pool School

8:30a - 4:15p

Mark Othmer

Woodland Room

The CPO seal of approval is assurance to commercially owned pool and spas that their facility and their swimmers are under the supervision of trained professionals. CPO certification courses are designed to provide individuals with the knowledge, techniques, and skills of pool and spa operations. Including pool and spa chemistry, testing, treatment, filtration, maintenance, automatic feeding equipment, government requirements and more. The CPO certification program requires participation in either a two-day class taught by a certified instructor or the blended format that combines an online Pool Operator Primer Course and a one-day Pool Operator Fusion Course. The CPO certification program requires participation in either a two-day class taught by a certified instructor or the blended format that combines an online Pool Operator Primer Course and a one-day Pool Operator Fusion Course. The CPO certification program requires an open book exam and is valid for five years. Successful completion of the certification program provides eligibility for CEU credits and is good for 5 years.

New Owners: Get the most out of convention!

8:30 - 9:30a

WACO Young Professionals & WACO Office Staff

Stonefield Room

Calling all newbies! Come learn how to get the most out of your WACO convention & trade show experience! Know what things are most important to attend and why; then ask all your questions!

Building & Cabin Inspections

8:30 – 9:30a

Jerry Anderson

Banquet Room

What do you need to build your own rental units? What is required if you acquired cabins in your park. How can you be sure you are meeting code. We will leave time for a Q&A with a guy who truly knows that cabin code!

Survey Savvy

8:30 – 9:30a

Angie Servi

Trillium Room

Unleashing Insights for Success -- Learn how to leverage free and low-cost tools to design and launch surveys that capture valuable insights from customers. You'll also learn what to do once the results come back, to analyze data to boost overall satisfaction. Elevate your business by making data-driven decisions!





SEMINARS - WEDNESDAY MARCH 13

Morning Seminar Descriptions

Get the most bang for your WACO Membership buck!

9:45 - 10:45a

Tina Severson and Danielle Todd

Stonefield Room

Make sure you're taking advantage of all parts of your WACO Membership! Tina and Danielle from the WACO office will do an overview of your many member benefits and answer any questions you may have!

Personality Styles

9:45 - 10:45a

Lori Severson & Carla Brown

Banquet Room

In today's work environment you need an edge to keep your valued employees. It's not always about money. Learn about different personalities and how to best communicate to them. Determine how to make them feel valued and important so they remain loyal to you. Each personality has preferences, learning how to say it will make you the employer of choice! This system is great for working with family and employees

Time Mastery: Increase Your Productivity

9:45 - 10:45a

Angie Servi

Trillium Room

Learn time management techniques and supercharge your productivity. If you're ready to unlock more productivity potential, join this session for take-home tools you can apply at your business that will help you maximize the minutes in your day!

Coming Soon

11:00a - Noon

Coming Soon

Stonefield Room

Coming soon.

Peaceful Campgrounds: Navigating Conflict

11:00a - Noon

Angie Servi

Trillium Room

This workshop is designed to help you handle conflicts and have important conversations with less hostility. Learn practical strategies to resolve issues and improve communication. You'll get tools to defuse tension, resolve disputes, and foster positivity!





SEMINARS - WEDNESDAY MARCH 13

Afternoon Seminar Descriptions

Panel Discussion: The importance of branding & social media in today's world!

2:00 -3:00p Tia Anderson, Sarah Krause and Christie McCowen

Stonefield Room

In this open discussion, session we will chat about branding and social media and why it's important for your business to have it covered in today's world. Our panel leaders will each have a couple talking points to get started but bring your questions on these topics to ask them and the rest of the room!

Scams & Fraud Targeting Small Businesses

2:00-3:00p Jeff Kersten - Outreach Specialist,
Bureau of Consumer Protection/DATCP

Banquet Room

You spend a lot of time building your business. But, if all your hard work falls into the wrong hands, it can affect your reputation, your bottom line, your customers, and your employees. The more you and your employees learn about scams and fraud that target small businesses, the more protected your business will be. The Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will discuss the different types of scams and fraud, how to help prevent it, steps you can take to help protect your business, and what to do if you become a victim of a scam.

Cracker Barrel for Large Parks (100+ Sites - suggested numbers!

3:15 - 4:15p

Jim Button

Trillium Room

Join this Q and A whether you are a large park or are hoping to be one someday! Topics discussions include how to create profit centers, how to upsell, and how to create additional revenue from maximizing site types. How did other parks grow their business – what worked and what didn't? Best and worst ideas!

Cracker Barrel for Small Parks (50 Sites or Less - suggested numbers!

2:00 – 3:00p

Coming Soon

Stonefield Room

Topic discussions include: What does my park have to offer? Do I advertise it correctly? What activities can be done with little support or cost? How can I grow if I want to – what do I need to know if I don't want to grow? At what point will I be able to expand and what are the ways I can do it?

Cake Walk Decorating

3:15 – 4:15p

YOU!

Banquet Room

Come help us decorate cakes for tonight's good ole' fashioned cake walk!

Man Cave: An Open

Discussion

3:15 - 4:15p

Jim Button

Trillium Room

What basic maintenance issues create problems – and what are the best solutions? What are the best man cave ideas you've heard? What have you implemented?



Wednesday (3/13) Evening Events



4:00pm

Featuring...



CASH BAR OPENS!

Get your Loaded (Or Unloaded!)
Bill's Lemonade from CSAW!

Tonight's special pricing sponsored by:



A true WACO Fan Favorite!

> ONLY \$3!



4:30pm

WELCOME RECEPTION: UNDER THE BIG TOP! (BANQUET ROOM) The Ringmaster will walk you through a top



The Ringmaster will walk you through a ton of fun! Get great ideas you can use at your next campground event!

- Join in our 'get-to-know-you' circus game! Fill your board and get a chance to win \$1000 to spend at the trade show!
- **Join the Monkey Race:** Get on a bike and race to the finish winners get tickets!



Get your frozen drinks courtesy of Island Oasis! Margaritas and Sangrias!

5:00pm

RING MASTER TEAM CHALLENGE

Come support your WACO Board Members as they compete in teams of two for the title of Head Ring Masters – play their circus games to win great prizes and at the end of the night, the team who raises the most money for the association will win the title!

More information on this fun event coming soon!



🚅 Schedule - Thursday (3/14) 🐈



	Harvest Room	Woodland Room	Stonefield Room	Banquet Room	Trillium Room
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Social Media Basics Stevens Point Area CVB Staff	Neuman Pools Remaining coursework and testing.	A Beginners Guide to ChatGPT and How to Use it in Your Business! Sarah Krause	Employee Practices & Policies Chris Metcalf, Holly Hoffman, Sarah Krause, Restaurant Association Rep.	A Goal Setting Workshop – for life and business! Allyson Hurley Note: This is a
9:45 am – 10:45am	Legionella and What You Should Know! Ted Tuchalski, DATCP and Bruce Meiners, DHS	*Testing will begin late morning.*	POWTS DSPS Representative	Finding Great Help! Lori Severson and Kiley Smith	hands-on workshop scheduled from 8:00 to 10:45am with a 15-minute break scheduled at 9:30am.
11:00am – 12:00pm	Pool Code Conversations Mary Ellen Bruesch, DATCP		Legislation Today Jason Culotta	CLOSED FOR LUNCH SET-UP	Camping Units: Inspection Codes and Requirements DSPS
12:00pm - 1:45pm	Presentation oNational AntheDATCP Awards	f Colors and Salut m – Veterans plea	e to WACO Memberse stand to be rec - Lori Severson &	heon (Banquet ers Who Have Serv cognized! - Sung by Tina Severson to pa ng soon!	ved ⁄ Sarah Krause
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Food Safety James Kaplanek, DATCP	Activities, Crafts and Games, oh my! Carla Brown, Kiley Smith and Ryan Lipke	Electrical Code FAQs DSPS Representative	PR & How to Manage an Incident at Your Park Ben Quiggle, Woodalls	Maintenance Panel Mark & Ben Stefan, Joe Ledger, Ryan Lipke, Matt Pargman, Scott Kollock
3:15pm - 4:15pm	DATCP Panel DATCP	Getting to Know the DSPS Amusement Ride Program Tim Condon & Andrew Amacher	The ABCs of SEO Stevens Point Area CVB Staff	Mastering the Art of Interview Questions LeaAnn Gieck	For the Love of All Things Seasonal Mark Hazelbaker





SEMINARS - THURSDAY MARCH 14

Morning Seminar Descriptions

Social Media Basics 8:00 – 9:30a Stevens Point Area CVB Staff Harvest Room

Coming soon.

CPO – Pool School 8:00a – Noon Neuman Pools Woodland Room

Remaining coursework and testing. The final testing will begin late morning.

A Beginners Guide to ChatGPT and How to Use it in Your Business 8:00 - 9:30a Sarah Krause Stonefield Room

Learn the many ways that ChatGPT, an AI-powered chatbot, can improve your business operations and customer service. Hear the numerous uses of ChatGPT, including marketing applications, social media content creation, automating routine office tasks, enhancing customer service with personalized recommendations and 24/7 assistance, and so much more! Join us to discover the life-changing benefits of utilizing the incredible ChatGPT for your business!

Employee
Practices & Policies

8:00 - 9:30a

Chris Metcalf, Holly Hoffman, Sarah
Krause, Restaurant Assoc. Rep.

Banquet Room

This session will explore employee practices and policies. Our experts will answer your questions like how old do you need to be to work, what equipment can I run, how do I handle tips, what sales tax issues do I need to address, and what agencies can help?

Clearing The Path: A Goal Setting
Workshop – for life and business!

8:00 - 9:30a

Allyson Hurley

Trillium Room

Designed to be tailored to your personal or professional growth, this workshop will guide you through common steps of goal setting and equip you with the clarity and insight necessary to make thoughtful and adaptable improvements. Included in this workshop will be an opportunity to create and establish your own goals and roadmap through written reflections and group exercises.

Legionella and What You Should Know!

9:45 – 10:45a
Bruce Meiners, DHS

Harvest Room

Coming soon.

POWTS 9:45 – 10:45a DSPS Representative – Coming soon! Stonefield Room

Coming soon.





SEMINARS - THURSDAY MARCH 14

Morning Seminar Descriptions

Finding Great Help!

9:45 – 10:45a

Lori Severson & Kiley Smith

Banquet Room

Learn where to get quality employees that work for your park! Understand what is needed from both ends. Hear from actual work campers, J1 students, workforce development candidates and more, as well as folks from the parks who have employed them. Determine ideas on how to keep them excited once they are on your team!

Pool Code Conversations

11:00a - Noon

Mary Ellen Bruesch, DATCP

Harvest Room

Review ATCP76 revisions, documents to help you better report and track your pool chemical treatments, safety processes for interlocking, and more! The Q&A in this session is the best – if you have any questions on your current pool set up, show up here!

Legislation Today

11:00a – Noon

Jason Culotta

Stonefield Room

Get a glimpse of rules and conversations happening in legislation today and how those directly and indirectly impact your business in the campground industry as a private business owner. The more you know, the more you can help yourself and your fellow members!

Camping Units: Inspection Codes and Requirements

11:00a - Noon

DSPS

Trillium Room

Coming soon.

Food Safety

2:00 - 3:00p

James Kaplanek, DATCP

Harvest Room

Coming soon.

Activities, Crafts and Games, oh my!

2:00 - 3:00p

Carla Brown, Kiley
Smith and Ryan Lipke

Woodland Room

Join this session to chat all things activities, crafts and games that can work at any size park! Hear from our panel on some of the best ideas they've done at their own parks and share your own too! Walk away with new ideas to try!

Electrical Code FAQs

2:00 - 3:00p

DSPS Representative

Stonefield Room

Coming soon.





SEMINARS - THURSDAY MARCH 14

Afternoon Seminar Descriptions

PR & How to Manage an Incident at Your Park

2:00 - 3:00p

Ben Quiggle

Banquet Room

This session will offer a practical look at the importance of public relations and how park owners and operators can prepare should an incident occur at their park. Ben Quiggle, editor of Woodalls Campground Magazine, will help park owners and operators navigate the types of issues they might face at their parks and help session participants learn how to create a PR Crisis plan. This session will be interactive as Ben will engage with participants on a variety of scenarios and tackle pressing questions on how park owners and operators should respond in different situations.

Maintenance Panel

2:00 - 3:00p

Mark & Ben Stefan, Joe Ledger, Ryan Lipke, Matt Pargman & Scott Kollock

Trillium Room

Maintenance workers assemble; we're talking all things maintenance! Our panelists will share some of their best tips and tricks, best checklists, favorite equipment, and more. But this will also be an open forum for you to share your best ideas too!

DATCP Panel

3:15 – 4:15p

DATCP

Harvest Room

Coming soon.

Getting to Know the DSPS Amusement Ride Program

3:15 - 4:15p

Tim Condon, Safety
Inspector & Andrew
Amacher, Section Chief,
Field Services DSPS

Woodland Room

DSPS staff will review with Campground Owners what is considered an amusement ride and how to register that amusement ride with the Department to obtain a Permit to Operate – which is REQUIRED in 2024. DSPS staff will also go over what Campground Owners should expect during the inspection process, the rates involved and there will be time for Q&A!

The ABCs of SEO

3:15 - 4:15p

Stevens Point Area CVB Staff

Stonefield Room

Coming soon.





SEMINARS - THURSDAY MARCH 14

Afternoon Seminar Descriptions

Mastering the Art of Interview
Questions

3:15 – 4:15p

LeaAnn Gieck

Banquet Room

Are you ready to elevate your interviewing skills? In this presentation, we'll delve into the art of crafting effective interview questions – ones that get to the heart of what we truly want to know from candidates. The key is to ask the right questions in the right way, ensuring valuable insights without stepping into potential legal pitfalls. In this session, we'll review a general interview template, how/when to tailor questions based on the relevant role, learn techniques to ask questions ethically/inclusively and understand the significance of behavioral questions to encourage genuine responses and predict future performance. We'll also analyze real-world examples by role playing to understand the do's and don'ts of several questions that may come up during the interview process. Lastly, we'll open up the floor to review any audience interview question examples and review the best way to handle.

For the Love of All	Things
Seasonal	

3:15 - 4:15p

Mark Hazelbaker

Trillium Room

A session reviewing all things legally related to including Seasonal Guests on your property – agreements to use, renewal letters, removal letters with step-by-step process to remove, important phrases to include and those to NOT include. A guide to making things very clear for your Seasonal guests and you as an owner!



Thursday (3/14) Evening Events



4:15p	Cash Bar Opens – Beer Tasting & Root Beer Tasting by Point Brewery
4:45p	STEAK FRY & SHRIMP! BROUGHT TO YOU & SERVED BY YOUR WACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS! Sponsors: Vista Royalle Campground, Evergreen Campsites and Tunnel Trail Campground! This meal is included in your registration and will feature: steak, shrimp, beer brats, hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, salads, chips, pickles and dessert!
5:30 – 6:15p	OHI (formerly ARVC) Updates: Make 2024 Your Best Year Ever With Paul Bambei Hear how the value of OHI can bring new profits to your park. Paul Bambei will walk you through benefits that are simple to understand and apply, many of which you've never seen before. Bring your mobile phone to capture several QR codes that will be displayed on screen that will lead you to the resources that are the treasure of 2024.
6:15 – 6:30p	Legislative Efforts Update With Tina Severson Regulations are on the rise, and so are the changes to Legislation! What can we do as the State and Federal government bodies, along with Towns, Cities, and Counties, continue to regulate our businesses and increase fees associated with our campgrounds?
6:30 – 8:30p	PAC Auction with the Weiss Family WACO PAC Fundraiser – Must Be paid By Personal Check Or Cash – Must be paid prior to end of convention - NO BUSINESS CHECKS ALLOWED. PAC Auction Paddle Sales: Buy your paddles for \$30 each or 6 for \$150! PRIZES INCLUDE: • Announcing soon!

The WACO PAC is a non-partisan fund supported by voluntary personal contributions by WACO members. For more information, pick up a PAC brochure.



Schedule - Friday (3/15)



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	Harvest Room	Woodland Room	Stonefield Room	Banquet Room	Trillium Room
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Coming soon!	Topic Coming Soon! Holly Hoffman	Coming soon!	Increase your bottom line: Step up your game on digital marketing; what works, what doesn't Mark Koep, CampgroundViews	WACO Young Professionals Round Table Discussions #1: 8:00 to 8:45am #2: 8:45 to 9:30am Tia Anderson
9:45 am – 10:45am	How Up to Date is Your Hiring Process? Mark Hazelbaker	Topic Coming Soon! Anders Helquist	Let's Talk Electrical Heidi Doyle and Paul Corteau, Utility Supply Group	Stop Wasting Money: Step by step on how to measure, control & revise your marketing strategies Mark Koep CampgroundViews	WACO Young Professionals Annual Meeting Tia Anderson
11:00am – 12:00pm	Coming soon!	Coverra Insurance Sponsor Session Presenter coming soon!	Maximizing Income and Calling All Profits John Jaszewski, Campgrounds4Sale .com	CLOSED FOR LUNCH SET-UP	Strategies From The Mouse Lori Severson
12:00pm - 1:00pm					

Lunch & Learn Session (Banquet Room)

Information coming soon!

1:00pm – Trade Show Kickoff with the Echoes of Camp Randall Band!

Join the line as it marches past each booth to kick off the 61ST Annual - 2024 WACO Convention Trade Show!





SEMINARS - FRIDAY MARCH 15

Morning Seminar Descriptions

Coming Soon	8:00 – 9:30a	Coming Soon	Harvest Room
Coming soon.			

Coming Soon	8:00 - 9:30a	Holly Hoffman	Woodland Room
Coming soon.			

Coming Soon	8:00 - 9:30a	Coming Soon	Stonefield Room
Coming soon.			

Increase Your Bottom Line: Step up your game on	8:00 -	Mark	Banquet Room
digital marketing; what works, what doesn't?	9:30a	Koep	banquet Room

Unlock the potential of your park's website to drive early-year bookings! This session focuses on innovative strategies and practical methods to turn your website into a powerful booking magnet. Learn how to engage visitors effectively, streamline their journey from browsing to booking, and implement conversion tactics that resonate with your target audience. Whether you're looking to optimize your website layout, refine your content, or employ persuasive calls-to-action, this session will provide you with the toolkit to elevate your online presence and boost your early season occupancy rates.

Table Discussions (Two Topics)	WACO Young Professionals Round Table Discussions (Two Topics)	8:00 - 9:30a	Tia Anderson	Trillium Room
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Topic #1 (8:00-8:45a): Coming Soon

Topic #2 (8:45-9:30a): **Coming Soon**





SEMINARS - FRIDAY MARCH 15

Morning Seminar Descriptions

How Up to Date is Your
Hiring Process?

9:45 – 10:45a

Mark Hazelbaker

Harvest Room

In this session, we'll discuss resident managers and employee agreements, job descriptions, on-site housing leases, and performance metrics. We will also take a peek at the new Employment Verification Form and what you should know!

Coming Soon

9:45 – 10:45a

Anders Helquist

Woodland Room

Coming soon.

Let's Talk Electrical

9:45-10:45a

Heidi Doyle & Paul Corteau

Stonefield Room

Join Utility Supply Group for an open forum discussion. Group talk about basic electrical needs, various equipment, important NEC & NFPA code topics. This will also cover current trends in the industry, including electrical infrastructure stress, preventative maintenance tips, submetering methods, EV charging, USG's unique electrical layout service and much more.

Stop Wasting Money: Step by step on how to measure, control & revise your marketing strategies.

9:45-10:45a Mark Koep

Banquet Room

Step up your digital marketing game and outshine the competition! In this session, we'll dive into what really works in the realm of digital marketing for campgrounds and RV parks. From leveraging social media to exploring the latest digital advertising trends, we'll cover the full spectrum of online marketing. You'll learn how to craft campaigns that resonate with your audience, understand the pitfalls to avoid, and discover tools for measuring and controlling your marketing efforts. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned marketer, this session will equip you with insights and strategies to elevate your digital footprint and connect with more outdoor enthusiasts.

WACO Young Professionals Annual Meeting

9:45 - 10:45a

Tia Anderson

Trillium Room

Open to all WACO Young Professional members and prospective members. Join us for our annual meeting as we discuss our group, our impact on the WACO organization, and plans for next year.

Coming Soon

11:00a - Noon

Coming Soon

Harvest Room

Coming soon.





SEMINARS - FRIDAY MARCH 15

Morning Seminar Descriptions

Coming Soon	11:00a – Noon	Coverra Insurance	Woodland Room
Coming soon.			

Maximizing Income and Calling All Profits	11:00a - Noon	John Jaszewski	Stonefield Room
Calling All Profits			

In times of higher interest rates and recessions looming, the time is now to capitalize on the opportunity to maximize your income streams and create long lasting ways to ensure that profits get and remain at acceptable and even better than acceptable levels. Now is the time to understand that debt is not the enemy if it's structured correctly! I have been in this industry for more than 20 years, and I've seen all the turbulent and terrific times in this industry. The trick is learning to navigate both times correctly and profitably. This session will be free flowing and spontaneous – just like the markets so bring your questions and let's navigate through them together!

Strategies From The Mouse 11:	:00a - Noon	Lori Severson	Banquet Room
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Learn the strategies used by the MOUSE team for years. Understand how your leadership style and ability to change makes all the difference in your business. Determine how to challenge yourself and your employees to be the best possible team!

Coming Soon	11:00a - Noon	Coming Soon	Trillium Room
Coming soon.			



Schedule - Friday (3/15)



1:00 - 6:00pm - Trade Show Open!

Support those who support our organization, and keep your registration costs low by shopping with these vendors!

NEW! TWO WINNERS DRAWN!

Earn \$1000 to spend at the Trade Show on Saturday just for shopping Friday!

BUY.... BUY.... BUY....WHY...WHY...WHY?

Our suppliers need to take orders back to their offices to make the business work! They are the reason we have a great show with amazing opportunities. Please help our show be the best it can be by asking any supplier you work with to show you their WACO TRADE MEMBER card! Thank our supplier members by purchasing at the show!



4:00pm – Beer Available at Sponsor Booths!

Stop by any of these booths to grab a cold adult beverage!

Gama Sonic | MouseMix | North Camp Properties | Sales & Income Tax Advisory Network | Wilcor International



6:00pm - Dinner is served!

Suppliers, please join us for dinner and tonight's keynote speaker!

There will be other games and raffles like a 50/50 and more going on tonight as well!



7-9pm – Keynote Speaker, Joe Teti

Includes a Q&A and Photo Opportunity!

Get inspired and motivated from a man who's been through it all!

Joseph Teti is the co-star of the show Dual Survival on the Discovery

Channel, as well as a former Force Recon Marine, Army Special
Forces "Green Beret", and a former operative in a highly classified
government counter-terrorist unit. Mr. Teti is also a published author.

9:00pm – Trade Show Shopper Drawing!

Stick around and you could win \$500 to spend at any of these Show Sponsors! Must be in the Banquet room to win!

AccessParks

Campgrounds4sale.com

CampgroundViews

Coverra Insurance

FirstMid Bank

Harris Golf Carts

Jim's Golf Cars

Utility Supply Group



Schedule - Saturday (3/16)



7:30 –	Breakfast served in the Banquet Room!	
8:00am	Specially made for you and served by Jim Button & Scott Grennon!	
8:00am	WACO ANNUAL MEETING - Banquet Room	
9:30am	Scott Kollock— Call to order Secretary's Report - Approvals Treasurer's Approvals Nominations from the floor	Learn where the organization has been and where we are going!
	Nominations Elections PAC Report ARVC update	Bloody Mary Bar at Coverra Insurance Booth starts at 9:30am. Tips go to the Gilbert Brown Foundation!
	Any other new business Adjourn - Celebration & WACO Update	es Board Member Recognition
9:30am	TRADE SHOW OPEN!	
4:30pm	Remember, placing orders at this s convention costs down! Please sup who support you! Please thank you	port our suppliers
11:00am	Grab-N-Go lunches serv	ved in the Banquet Room!
1:30pm	Vendors a	re welcome!
2:00pm		
4:00pm	Circus Exhibitor Game	
	Announ	cing soon!

3:00pm - \$1,000 Vendor Drawing

TWO WINNERS DRAWN!

Be in the trade show area for your chance to win the 3pm Drawing! This year we will choose a campground name, match one of the three vendors and win the \$1000 – match none and win tickets to get a chance to win big money on Sunday! There are no losers here!



Board of Directors Nominees





Ben Stefan - Grand Valley Campground

I am Ben Stefan and my family has owned and operated Grand Valley Campground since 2005. I grew up working in the campground from a young age. As a second-generation owner I now work full time at the campground with my parents, brother, wife and sister-in-law. I also worked as a Systems Engineer in the IT department at Moraine Park Technical College for 10 years while working at the campground every weekend. WACO has helped my family grow our campground in so many ways. I hope to be on the WACO board to give back and share the knowledge that I have learned from WACO over the past 20 years.



Lea Ann Gieck – Skillet Creek Campground

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Lea Ann Gieck, and I am writing to express my keen interest in joining the WACO Board of Directors. Having recently "retired" from my role as the Regional Vice President in Human Resources/Staffing, where I managed a team of 70 and oversaw operations across 20+ office locations, I bring a wealth of expertise in developing people, implementing system and process improvements, and leading teams to surpass financial targets. My professional background is complemented by my current role as co-owner and operator of Skillet Creek Campground, a venture my husband and I purchased in 2021. Over the past three seasons, I have successfully collaborated with government entities, contractors, engineers, and surveyors to expand the campground, adding over 100 RV sites, 9 rental units, and a 1-acre swimming pond. Additionally, I manage the front-end operations, including the camp store, reservations, customer service, and activities. My proficiency in marketing allows me to contribute to the businesses success with a keen eye for content and graphics. I take pride in my ability to excel in execution, consistently delivering high-quality products and services within deadlines. Joining the WACO Board of Directors is an opportunity for me to give back to an organization from which I have gained invaluable information, connected with the right resources and people, and continue to grow in the industry. I firmly believe that my diverse skill set and experiences make me a valuable candidate for the position. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the success and growth of WACO, and I am confident that my background aligns well with the organization's mission. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the possibility of discussing how I can contribute to the Board further.



Sarah Krause – C&D Hospitality

I am thrilled to be running for my second term on the Waco Board, drawing upon my eight years of invaluable experience at C&D Hospitality. Passionate about the camping industry, I have cultivated a deep appreciation for its intricacies and have been privileged to contribute to its growth. My journey at C&D Hospitality has not only honed my skills but instilled in me a profound love for the camping sector. Embracing the collaborative spirit of the industry, I find joy in learning from my peers and fostering a sense of community. As a current member of the board, I have relished the opportunity to actively contribute to shaping the future of the camping industry. Being part of the board allows me to play a pivotal role in creating cherished family memories through the growth and development of our beloved industry. Join me in this endeavor to continue building a thriving camping community that leaves a lasting impact on families and enthusiasts alike. Your support will propel us towards a future where the camping industry flourishes, making memories for generations to come.



Schedule - Saturday (3/16)



Be in the Banquet Room for the WACO Auction by 5:30pm and get 20 \$1,000 WACO Bucks drawing tickets!

5:30pm

7:00pm

WACO Auction Begins – Many items including things like...

Items coming soon!





Show the world how much FUN we have here at WACO! Tag us in your social media posts!

Use Hashtag #WACOcircus



/wicampgrounds



ewicampgrounds





Schedule - Saturday (3/16)



Catalogue and Re	
7:00pm	Dinner is served!
7:30pm	Silent Auction Closes
7:45pm	 Gilbert Brown Foundation Awards GBF Supporter Recognition - Top Campground Fundraiser Award Dates for the 2024 Camping For Kids Fundraiser Weekend! Foundation Awards Campground Awards Presentation Evening Program Hall of Fame Inductees Hall of Fame Volunteer Inductee President's Award Campground Celebrations Mentions from ARVC with Jim Button Board Member Introduction Drawings

2024 Hall of Fame Inductee



Yogi Bear's
Jellystone of
Caledonia

Avoid the checkout line on Sunday morning! Settle up your bills tonight!

Your accounting team will be ready for you to check out until 9:00pm tonight.

Please settle up prior to 9am Sunday.



Sunday Wrap Up (3/17)



9:00am -10:45am - Structured Cracker Barrel

Lori Severson to facilitate. Listed presenters will bring three ideas to get us started!

- Biggest sales tax audit issues to watch out for Holly Hoffman
- Learning Options: Other Conventions, Halloween shows, etc Lori Severson
- Year in review: Top 5 legal issues *Mark Hazelbaker*
- Best Activities Tiffany Pargman & Deneen Pedersen
- Social Media Trends WACO Young Professionals
- ...and more coming soon!

We will have materials on all of these subjects and more to hand out while your peers help to give you information on what their personal history has taught them!

Learn from those who have gone before you!

10:45am - Kids Kamp Graduation

Watch the WACO Kids Kamp graduates get their certificates and fun gifts!

11:00am - \$3,000 WACO Bucks Drawing

Get your tickets ready and see if you're a winner of the \$3,000 in WACO Bucks! At this time, we will also wrap up all other conference drawings that have not been drawn already. Please pick up your items before leaving!

Before you leave, be sure to...

Pick up any hand outs that are still available, drop off your badges at registration and say your good-byes, good-lucks and farewells!

We wish you all a successful 2024 season!