

Florida Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment

February 2009

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Florida ACME Went Cruising!

Cruise photo gallery link

SAVE THE DATE!

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*Building Better
Marriages*

Florida ACME Went Cruising!

For the *first time ever*, the Florida ACME State Celebration was held at sea.
YES, at sea!

The 2008 State Celebration set sail aboard Carnival Cruise Lines Inspiration for a 4-day western Caribbean cruise departing from Tampa on September 18.

This cruise took our marriage enrichment couples to Cozumel, Mexico, the most beautiful island on the Yucatan. The Celebration was conducted during the two days at sea; one day going to Cozumel and one day returning.

According to the evaluations, the conference-cruise combination was a tremendous success. Debbie and Charlie Parsons worked extremely hard to plan and conduct the conference, and appreciation is extended to them. The Keynote and Workshop speakers and content mainly received excellent ratings.

Most of the comments of the participants were very positive and included: an amazing setting to have valuable quality time with your spouse, many opportunities for knee to knee dialogue, learned important information in the Workshops and from the Keynote speakers, enjoyed meeting new couples.

Many thanks go to Patty Johnson for using her knowledge and considerable time to put 506 photos in a gallery on her website so everyone can view them. Go to www.foreveryours.smugmug.com and click on "Cozumel Cruise 08".

SAVE THE DATE !

The Florida State 2009 Celebration will be held at the beautiful *Saddlebrook Resort* in Wesley Chapel (30 miles north of Tampa, just off I-75). Mark your calendars for September 25-27 and stay tuned for more information on Registration and Celebration activities.

www.saddlebrook.com



Bob & Sally Harris, ACME President Couple

National ACME is off to a great run for the 2009 calendar year. We just finished our membership fund raiser and were very proud of the Tampa group who jumped in and helped make the calls; especially to Charlie and Debbie Parsons who opened their home and set up a real phone-a-thon. That is true commitment to ACME in a big way. These funds are used to help us to grow and change as an organization and continue to reach more couples around the world. Being a part of this great Marriage Enrichment Organization helps to build better marriages.

As many of you may all ready know we are very proud of our new Executive Director Priscilla Hunt. In October, Priscilla hit the ground running when she was appointed Interim Executive Director and then accepted the Executive Director position later in October. Priscilla has been upgrading our web site. She has started ideas for Web casts, she is experimenting with couple dialogue on the internet for others to have access to. Priscilla believes that ACME can play a role, in a hurting world, right now as couples strive to hold onto their marriages and families and the job market and financial strains hit us all.

Our board has become an “out of the box” board. We are traveling to Albuquerque, NM for our next board meeting and then we will be back in Winston-Salem (our roots) in October. At the October meeting we are hoping to have as many states as possible represented by a couple or even several couples representing active MEGS. Our hope is to include every active organization attached or associated with ACME and our techniques and those using the tools of ACME. **We are reporting to all members with a conference call opportunity the week after our board meetings so that each member can know first hand what is going on, what is available to them, and where to go for more involvement.** Our web site will offer links to all the conferences that we are a part of around the world working to build better marriages.

The board has one opening right now for a couple to join the ACME Board. This is a 3 year term. If you are at a place in your life that you could travel and would like to have a voice in ACME please email Gene Wall f.e.wall@verizon.net that you have an interest and he will let you know how to apply.

Thank you for your Florida Support!

Association for Couples Enrichment of Florida, Inc. DTN: 1262477, CH3733 Account Balances 2008, by Kristine & Kip Barkley, Treasurer Couple, as of 12/31/08

	Balances 1/1/08	12/31/08		Balances 1/1/08	12/31/08
ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash and Bank Accounts			Net Worth		
Cash	0.00	0.00	State Council	1,915.95	701.23
Wachovia Checking	238.07	578.02	Scholarship Fund	7,862.09	0.00
Wachovia Money Market	18,463.67	0.00	Unallocated Grant	9,000.00	16,862.09
Ing Direct Money Market	0.00	16,462.62	Ft. Lauderdale Chapter	287.58	287.58
Non_Cash	0.00	0.00	Central Fla Chapter	101.68	101.68
Deposit for Priscilla Hunt	50.00	0.00			
	-----	-----	TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,751.74	17,040.64
Total Cash & Bank Accounts	18,751.74	17,040.64		=====	=====
	-----	-----			
TOTAL ASSETS	18,751.74	17,040.64	NET DECREASE	-1,711.10	



President Couple's Corner

John and Maxine Roy

Hi Couples,

As we sit here trying to put ideas together as to what can be said at the beginning of a New Year, we are reminded of what so many of us have tried to do in the past. We've made New Year's Resolutions!

They are full of good intentions and some of them may be fulfilled. But life, reality, whatever you may call it most of the time creeps in and we fall back into our usual routines.

John and I have a very active MEG in Tampa. We love the people and the fellowship it brings to us. As a routine, after our dinner, we sit together and the leader couple asks us all to take 5 minutes to dialogue with our spouses. Do you know what we usually say to each other? "We need to do this more often!"

There is something so special about using dialogue or "knee-to-knee". We've been given the tool to communicate with each other in a non-threatening way.

We hope you are not like us and are making that effort as often as possible.

We promise to do our part to dialogue more frequently.

Now, we want to give you a "save the date". Our 2009 Marriage Enrichment Celebration will be September 25-27 at the Saddlebrook Resort just north of Tampa.

We're going to have a wonderful, fun-filled time there. There will be more information to come. Our heartfelt thanks to Sally and Tim Glisson, this year's celebration chair couple, for all the hard work they have put in with the leaders at Saddlebrook to give us an "outside the box" experience at the 2009 celebration.

John and Maxine Roy

Florida ACME Leadership Team

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Newsletter Couple Note

As we have worked to prepare this issue of the FL ACME Newsletter, our first, we have a tremendous appreciation for all the time and talent the previous Newsletter Couples used to publish newsletters. We especially thank Colleen & Kyle Armentrout and Sally & Tim Glisson for providing information and assistance to us.

We have learned much but need to learn more to easily and efficiently prepare newsletters.

We regret any errors you may find; please tell us about them so we can note them. Also please give us your suggestions regarding the newsletter.

For better marriages, starting with our own,

Ben & B.J.

About Our Organization...

Florida ACME is a unit of ACME International, We do not use professional solicitors and 100% which has members in all 50 states and 31 of any gift goes directly to Florida ACME. Our countries. Its mission is "to promote enrichment opportunities and resources that strengthen couple relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment, and family wellness." registration number with the Florida Department of Consumer Affairs is SC-03733.

For more information, visit our website, www.bettermarriagesfl.org, or contact one of the officers or area representatives (see website).

Florida ACME is a not-for-profit 501C3 corporation.

The newsletter couple maintains the Florida ACME mailing list. If you know anyone who would welcome receiving our mailings, please send their names and address to B.J. & Ben Mather at benbjmather@hotmail.com



Happy Valentine's Day!

RELATING WELL

by
Bea Strickland

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal talked about the search for couples with very loving relationships after long marriages.

When couples were interviewed, it seemed that one thing they all had in common was that there was a lot of novelty in their lives.

They didn't just do the same things everyday. It didn't have to be some wild exotic thing like safaris or balloon rides, but just a lot of variety. It adds sparkle to our lives to know that we're have a special new treat for dinner. It's exciting to wonder about a mystery date this weekend when you don't know where your partner's taking you. Or leading your sweetie on a short scavenger hunt through the house to find a stash of chocolates (or something even sexier).

Little surprises wake up your mind; planning them gives you a happy lift. Looking forward to something a little new and special provides anticipation. It makes you happy to prepare a treat for someone who appreciates your efforts.

You'll be grateful to a partner who adds excitement to life: novelty, variety, and spouse spice!

Submitted by Debbie & Charlie Parsons, who said "Learn how to keep the spice in your relationship...contact someone about a workshop or starting a MEG. Plan on attending the next Florida celebration.



What I've Learned About Marriage

Author unknown.

Submitted by Will & Debbie Rodgers, from Jim Strickland, San Jose, CA

Together, choose 5 or 6 of the following statements for a session. Then share feelings and opinions about the statements.

- I've learned that it's not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life.*
- I've learned that no matter how good a person is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while, and you must forgive them for that.*
- I've learned that talking can ease emotional pains.*
- I've learned that it takes years to build up trust, and only seconds to destroy it.*
- I've learned that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.*
- I've learned that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.*
- I've learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you too soon.*
- I've learned that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.*
- I've learned that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for ourselves.*
- I've learned that no matter how thin you slice it, there are always two sides.*
- I've learned that it's a lot easier to react than it is to think.*
- I've learned that either you control your attitude, or it controls you.*
- I've learned that patience takes a lot of practice.*
- I've learned that there are people who love you dearly, but just don't know how to show it.*
- I've learned that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.*
- I've learned that just because someone doesn't love you the way you want him/her to doesn't mean s/he doesn't love you with all s/he has.*



Training & Certification Committee Approves Significant New Leader Certification Process!

Priscilla Hunt, Executive Director

Are you a trained Leader Couple who has not been able to complete the requirements for certification? Are you frustrated by the difficulty of following the procedures? Have we got good news for you!

The Training and Certification Committee, in an effort to make certification more flexible without compromising the integrity of the process, has approved new certification procedures. A Leader Couple will now receive credit by 1) leading a wide variety of events, 2) participating in events such as classes, workshops, Marriage Enrichment Groups (MEGs), and conferences and, 3) serving on local, state, regional or national ACME Boards.

Thank you to the T&C Committee members for their forward thinking:

Ken & Martha Cook, Chair Couple
Joan & Rich Liversidge, ACME Board Liaison
Carol & Charles McCollough
Eleanor & Gerald Roller
Jim & Lana Wheatley

For more information, please contact the ACME office at 800-634-8325.

Mace Giving Campaign a Success!

Thanks to everyone who financially donated to national ACME in 2008. These donations are vital in supporting the operating budget. A special thanks to the Tampa Meg for making hundreds of phone calls to follow up with potential donors. Couples calling included Betsy & Dennis Bradt, Art & Hope Connelly, Bob & Sally Harris, Anna & Don Orr, Charlie & Debbie Parsons, Debbie & Will Rodgers, and John & Maxine Roy. Thank you!



Go Green!

If you receive the ACME national newsletter you can now choose to receive it electronically rather than by snail mail. This saves time, printing costs, postage and trees! To make this choice, please e-mail acme@bettermarriages.org with "Go Green" in the subject line.