

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR COUPLES IN MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

June 2009
Vol. 13 No. 2

2009 Celebration “Games Couples Play”

Saddlebrook Resort
Wesley Chapel, Florida
September 25-27, 2009

On behalf of Florida ACME, you and your spouse are cordially
invited to attend the

2009 Florida State Celebration of Marriage.

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This year’s Celebration will be a real treat. Please join us for a relaxing weekend at the beautiful Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel (30 minutes north of Tampa, one mile east of I-75 at exit 279). Check out www.saddlebrookresort.com for more information on their 500,000 gallon Superpool, European-style luxury Spa, Fitness center, 45 Tennis courts and two 18-hole Arnold Palmer signature golf courses. Saddlebrook even offers a children’s program. Be sure to ask for our ACME room rate before or after the Celebration event.

Our **keynote speaker** this year will be **Dr. Nick Hall, Ph.D.** A medical scientist and professional speaker, Dr. Hall has been published in over 150 periodicals and featured on CBS’s 60 minutes, BBC’s Nova series and more. He currently is the team building coach at Saddlebrook Resort and has promised to take his research linking the mind and body and attribute this to marriage and relationships. Visit www.drnickhall.com for more information about his programs, books and audio series.

Keynote Speaker - Friday Session: “We Know What To Do, So Why Don’t We Do It?”

Why don’t we do the things we say we’re going to do? Could it be we don’t have time, are afraid of failure, don’t believe we can...these are merely excuses. In this interactive session you will explore the obstacles that hold you back in your relationship endeavors and learn how to convert this frustration into an incentive for a successful marriage.

Keynote Speaker - Saturday morning session: “Winning the Stress Challenge with your Spouse”.

Stress is good for you. It’s a stimulus for physical, mental and spiritual growth. However, it is during times of recovery from stress when the growth actually occurs. Most people do not need less stress; they need more recovery. This program will describe your options and what is best for you and your spouse.

See page 4 for Weekend Schedule. See insert for Registration information.

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If you loved “*Happily Ever After*”: International Marriage Enrichment Celebration in Orlando in 2007, you’ll want to Save the Date!

Better Marriages Conference July 7-10, 2011 in Albuquerque, NM

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
Voted Best Hotel in NM, 2008
<http://www.hhandr.com/albuquerque.php>

Florida ACME Loses a Leader

Nothing shocks us like the unexpected, sudden death of a loved one. We wake up each morning believing that this day will be like all the rest, never expecting tragedy. So it was the morning of May 6 when we learned that John Roy had died unexpectedly earlier that day at the age of 71. He had had some heart problems lately, but seemed to be in general good health – until that fateful morning.

Marriage Enrichment meant a great deal to John and Maxine Roy and truly enriched their lives. As a result, they became ACME leaders and were passionate in their desire to share what they found with others.

They were serving as President Couple of Florida ACME this year and were very involved in helping to plan the Florida ACME Celebration at Saddlebrook coming in September.

Prior to their work as President Couple, John and Maxine participated in ACME activities at the local, state and national level. Locally, they were very active in the Tampa MEG. At the state level, they were Conference Coordinators twice and also led workshops at state conferences, including a mini-retreat. They attended IMEC 2004 in Fort Worth and were part of the Florida ACME group that hosted IMEC 2007 in Orlando. They were a trained Leader Couple.

John was the essence of a vigorous, generous life. His enthusiasm knew no bounds, his optimism was ever present, and his outgoing sense of humor swept us all up in the fun and joy of life.

He was everyone's friend. Those close to him were especially blessed. He was always there for them and pitched in wherever he felt needed or able to help in some way.

He was very talented and knowledgeable and shared his gifts in many ways. Music was a very important part of his life. He and Maxine were long-time church choir members; they were in the Tampa Master Chorale and also sang in the Tampa Oratorio. Last fall, they enjoyed a trip to Scotland with the church choir. John was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and helped build two cabin-residences at Cedarkirk, his church's conference grounds.

A memorial service for John was conducted on May 16 at his church in Tampa. Stories abounded from his family and friends about his caring nature and generosity to friends and strangers alike. Afterwards, his ashes were scattered in Tampa Bay at his request – John loved the water.

John was a good friend who will be sorely missed.

After careful consideration and prayer, Maxine has decided that she will complete what she and John began by continuing their term of office as President Couple of Florida ACME. That term will be over at the end of the Celebration at Saddlebrook in September. This will be very hard for her, but it speaks to her courage and strength that she is willing to do this.

(Submitted by friends of John in the Tampa MEG.)

ACME National Board Meeting & Dream Session

We need you! As a grass-roots organization, input from the individuals, chapters and state or regional organizations is crucial. We invite you to bring your ideas and dreams for the future to our October meeting. With your help, we'll create a stronger strategy for building better marriages, beginning with our own!

October 23-24, 2009 in Winston-Salem, NC starting Friday at 6:00 p.m. and ending Saturday at 8:00 p.m. To find out more, ask questions or to RSVP, call 800-634-8325.

RENEWING OUR ROOTS - A Vision and Strategy for Action

Priscilla Hunt, Executive Director

Better Marriages: The Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment began as a grassroots movement. For 36 years we have thrived thanks to couples, like you, who share a common vision and passion to build better marriages, beginning with their own.

Grassroots movements thrive, not because of someone at a national office in North Carolina, but because people like you in Florida share a common vision and passion. The energy of a grassroots movement doesn't trickle down; it bubbles up. Its vitality, in other words, flows from its *roots*.

We're excited to unveil a *renewed focus on our root system*. Our ability to fulfill our mission to promote better marriages is only as strong as the depth and health of our root system: our local, state and regional organizations. I can't overstate the importance of Florida Better Marriages in this picture. You are one of our strongest state groups!

We are taking strategic steps to strengthen the national-grassroots connection. We believe that these efforts will result in:

1. Renewed Vitality

2. Renewed Resources

3. Renewed Growth.

I'll be working hard with the Florida Board to provide support and resources to strengthen your programs and events. You're doing a lot of good things that we hope to share with our other state groups so they can learn from you.

We're renewing our roots. We're doing so because marriage matters and what ACME provides to couples is more crucial than ever. Our first project is an overhaul of our website to make information and resources available at your fingertips. We need your financial support to make it happen.

Please support this exciting new stage of our development by making your tax-deductible donation by calling us at 800-634-8325 or visiting www.bettermarriages.org and clicking on Donate Now. We'd love to hear from you as soon as possible!

Officers of Florida ACME

President Couple

John (deceased) & Maxine Roy

813-985-3266 maxineroy@verizon.net

President-Elect Couple

Jena & Richard Congdon

305-271-6596 rcongdon@bellsouth.net

Marketing Couple

Debbie & Charlie Parsons

813-286-2406 parsonsCD@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary Couple

Debbie & Will Rodgers

813-875-4450 Rodgers@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer Couple/Web Couple

Kristine & Kip Barkley

954-784-8307 KipBarkley@aol.com

Conference Coordinator Couple

Sally & Tim Glisson

813-254-3205 SallyGlisson@verizon.net

Assistant Conference Coordinator Couple

Cindy & Ross Alander

813-251-2791 calande@tampabay.rr.com

Newsletter Couple

B.J. & Ben Mather

352-256-8540 benbjmather@hotmail.com

Newsletter Couple Note

We thank Sally Glisson for her important assistance to us in preparing this newsletter.

Ben & B.J.

Our newsletter editor couple maintains our ACME mailing list. If you know of anyone who would welcome receiving our mailings, please send their names and addresses to Ben and B.J. Mather at benbjmather@hotmail.com

Florida ACME is a unit of A.C.M.E. International, which has members in all 50 states and 31 countries. Its mission is "to promote enrichment opportunities and resources that strengthen couple relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment, and family wellness."

Florida ACME is a not-for-profit 501 © (3) corporation. We do not use professional solicitors and 100% of any gift goes to Florida ACME. Our registration number with the Florida Department of Consumer Affairs is SC-03733. For more information, visit our website or contact one of our officers or area representatives.

www.bettermarriagesfl.org

2009 Florida State Celebration of Marriage

Weekend Schedule

Friday, September 25th

12:30pm	Leadership Team Meeting
2:30	Leadership In-Service
4:30-7:00	Registration
7:00-8:00	Welcome and Keynote Speaker - Dr. Nick Hall
8:00	Social, Snacks and Cash Bar

Saturday, September 26th

Breakfast - *on your own*

9:00-4:00	Mini-Retreat
9:00-12:00	Keynote Speaker - Dr. Nick Hall
12:00-2:00	Lunch - <i>on your own</i>
2:00-4:00	Workshop or Ropes Course (see insert for details)
4:00-6:30	Couple Free Time
6:30	Cash Bar opens
7:30	Sit down dinner
8:30	Dancing and social time

Sunday, September 27th

8:30-9:00	Optional Worship Service
9:30-11:00	Sit down full Breakfast (Includes brief Business Meeting and Celebration closing)
12:00	Checkout Time

You must contact Saddlebrook Resort at 1-800-729-8383 Ext. 4401 to make your room reservations, get directions, schedule childcare, golf, tennis, ropes course or spa. Room rates begin at \$110 + tax. Be sure to mention you are with the *ACME Celebration*.

Celebration Fee and Payment Information:

Postmarked on or before August 25: \$205/couple
Postmarked on or after August 26: \$235/couple
(Fee includes Keynote, workshop, Friday snacks, Saturday night dinner-dancing, Sunday morning breakfast and all materials). Contact Sally and Tim (see below) for any dietary needs.

Make checks payable to *Florida ACME*

Contact information:

(813) 254-3205 SallyGlisson@verizon.net

Celebration information and Registration form are also available on Florida ACME's website at www.bettermarriagesfl.org/events.htm

Send completed form (or register online) to Sally and Tim Glisson at the address on insert, along with Celebration fee. Be sure to reserve your room and ropes course direct with Saddlebrook.

SEE INSERT FOR REGISTRATION FORM

Association for Couples
In Marriage Enrichment
c/o Ben & B.J. Mather
2220 NW 46th Street
Gainesville, FL 32605-5703



Celebration Activities

Saturday, September 26th

Mini-Retreat - introduction to ACME (marriage enrichment)

9am-4pm includes a lunch break.

Leader Couple: Pamela and Robert Samms

Pamela and Robert have been married for 45 years. They live in Jacksonville and are an ACME Certified Leader Couple. The Mini-Retreat is strongly encouraged for couples new to ACME (marriage enrichment).

All Workshops and Ropes Course will begin at 2:00pm and end at 4:00pm.

Workshop A: Team Up For Fun

With all that life has to offer, it can be hard to have fun in your marriage. This workshop will help you and your spouse get your "Team Spirit" back into shape. Leader Couple: Anna and Don Orr. Anna and Don have been married for eight years and have been ACME Members for eight years as well. They live in Tampa.

Workshop B: Gathering a Game Plan

Explore ways to establish the "rulebook" of your relationship to help you and your spouse deal with the obstacle courses and reach a successful finish line in your game of marriage. Leader Couple: Patty and Troy Johnson. Patty and Troy have been married for almost eight years and have been ACME Members for eight years as well. They live in Clearwater.

Workshop C: Getting the Huddle Right *Communication on the Run*

Life is fast paced. When communication goes from connectedness to separateness, learn how to increase intimacy and defuse conflicts while discovering tremendous growth opportunities. Leader Couple: Doug and Mindy Johnson. Doug and Mindy live in Tampa, they are a newly Certified Leader Couple and have been married for three years.

Workshop D: Saddlebrook Ropes Course

Built to interact with your spouse and other participants allowing for relationship, trust and marriage-team building. \$80/couple. Please contact Yvonne Bohannon at (813) 907-4470 to schedule.

Return form to: Sally and Tim Glisson
2424 W. Prospect Rd.
Tampa, FL 33629

REFUND POLICY: Cancel on or before September 4th = full refund of Celebration fee. Cancel on or after September 5th - 50% refund of Celebration fee. Please call Saddlebrook direct for their cancellation policy.

If you have any questions about scholarship money for the Celebration, please contact: Charlie & Debbie Parsons at (813) 286-2406 or ParsonsCD@tampabay.rr.com.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO SALLY AND TIM GLISSON

CELEBRATION REGISTRATION

Names: _____

(please note names to be used for name tags)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Wedding Date (include month and year): _____

Are you a first-time Celebration attendee?

Circle: Yes or No

Please circle either the Mini-Retreat or One Workshop:

Mini-Retreat 9:00-4:00 break for lunch

Workshops 2:00-4:00 (select one)

A: Team Up For Fun - Anna & Don Orr

B: Gathering A Game Plan - Patty & Troy Johnson

C: Communication - Doug & Mindy Johnson

D: Ropes Course - Additional \$80/couple



Are Your Needs Being Met?

We all have 6 basic human needs:

- 1) *Certainty* - the need to feel safe and secure.
- 2) *Uncertainty/variety* - the need to have some change.
- 3) *Significance* - the need to feel important to someone or to know we matter.
- 4) *Connection and Love* - the need to connect and feel loved by another.
- 5) *Growth* - the need to feel as if we are moving forward (if we aren't growing we are going backwards, or worse dying).
- 6) *Contribution* - the need to give back something.

As a couple, turn knee-to-knee and begin a dialogue discussing each one of these needs and how you feel they are being met. Are you meeting your partner's basic needs? If not, how can that be changed? Is your partner meeting your needs? If not, how can that be changed?

When you *satisfy any two needs* of a person, you have a connection. When you *satisfy four of the needs*, you create a bond. When you *satisfy all six needs*, you will have a fulfilling, intimate, and secure relationship.

(Author unknown. From Charlie and Debbie Parsons, in the Florida ACME Newsletter, May, 2008.)