

Dear NYSCDA Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting in January. Thank you again to Pierce Country Day Camp for hosting.

We wanted to provide you with some current updates from our lobbyists Tress Capitol as well as some talking points from our featured speaker at the annual Meeting Isaac Mamaysky. Isaac's contact information is on his talking points which are attached- We encourage people to reach out to him with any legal questions regarding summer camp. And we appreciate him taking the time to speak with us.

A shout out to our amazing sponsors, many of whom were able to attend our Annual Meeting. Thank you AM Skier, CardWorks, H&H and TreeMendous for your support.

Two reminders from NYSCDA:

1. Please renew your membership! We rely on your membership dues to keep up with all of the work that we are doing! You can renew online here: www.nyscda.org. **These newsletters and updates only go to our members so once we are done with renewals, you will no longer be on this mailing list unless you renew by the end of January.**

2. **Lobby Day will be February 25th in Albany** (we have a snow date of February 27th). This is an amazing opportunity to meet with legislators and learn about the work we are doing. If you've been coming to this event for years or this is your first time, we promise it will be a great day. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. More details to come.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Dan Weir, President, NYSCDA

Update from Lobbyist Tress Capitol:

Albany Politics

2020 is an election year for the entire legislature. While not much is expected to change in the Assembly, the Senate Democrats will be working hard to maintain their current majority. Since

legislative members will be spending a lot of time in their districts beginning in June, it is an ideal time to invite your elected officials to your camp and other events you may have. It is important to our work in Albany that legislative members make connections with camps in their districts.

2020 Session Update

The legislative session began on January 8th with the Governor's State of the State message. Session will end at the beginning of June, which is almost a full month earlier than usual. This means the session will be short and intense. The first few months of session will be dominated with state budget discussions, particularly on how to close a \$6 billion Medicaid gap. Since policymakers will be looking for additional revenue, we will be keeping a sharp eye out for any proposals affecting camps.

Please note that our 2020 Albany Lobby is scheduled for February 25 and the snow date is February 27.

2019 Accomplishments

In 2019, NYSCDA accomplished the following:

- 1) Passed a law that requires unregulated camps to disclose their status by providing a clear and conspicuous written notice on applications or enrollment forms, as well as provide notice at the camp facility. Notices would make clear to the public that these camps are not regulated or inspected by the NYS Department of Health, are not required to obtain a permit, not required to check the state sex offender registry, maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios, hire medical personnel or report injuries or illnesses. This information will allow families to make informed decisions before enrolling children in camp. In 2020, NYSCDA will introduce legislation requiring unregulated camps to register with the state.
- 2) Passed the NYS Camp Safety Advisory Council (CSAC) quorum law to address instances where a quorum is not available to hold a CSAC meeting. Due to Council vacancies and absenteeism, the CSAC has been unable to meet on several occasions. This new law changes the definition of a quorum, allowing the meetings to take place on schedule;
- 3) Stopped legislation that would require propeller guards on certain water vessels;
- 4) Stopped legislation that would require an escrow deposit for child care providers;
- 5) Obtained an exemption for camps to a bill placing a 7-year limit on non-profit property tax exemption status;
- 6) Obtained an exemption for camps to a bill requiring seatbelts in vehicles with 9 or more passengers - vehicles used by many camps.

2020 Active Legislation

In 2020, NYSCDA will be actively working on the following issues:

- 1) Legislation to allow camps to hire additional professionals, such as mental health

professionals;

2) Legislation that will prohibit camps from using pesticides on turf, playgrounds, athletic and playing fields. Under the bill, camps can continue using aerosol sprays for bee nests and rodent mitigation in kitchens, etc. NYSCDA is working with bill sponsors to include emergency pesticide application guidance and unregulated camps in the final bill;

3) Immunizations - the NYS Department of Health is interested in expanding immunization requirements for camps. NYSCDA is in discussions with the Department regarding limiting the expansion to campers up to 18 years old and for MMR only. NYSCDA members are urged to engage with their local departments of health to stay informed of developments in your respective regions.

Other Issues of Note

1) The state's ban on requesting salary history from prospective employees went into effect on January 1, 2020.

2) The state has banned the use of aerial spraying with Lorsban, which is an agricultural pesticide that is oftentimes used on fruit and vegetables.

--

Susie Lupert

Administrative Coordinator, New York State Camp Directors Association

212-391-5208