

# A HISTORY OF CADETING

An abbreviated record of God's work through the Calvinist Cadet Corps from its inception.



2020

# INTRODUCTION

Cadeting is an outgrowth of a boys' organization known as the "Christian Boys' Club League." This group took the initiative to promote a program of activities and skills which were appealing to boys. The Calvinist Cadet Corps is pleased to present this brief history. Although our God is not often mentioned herein by name, His hand is everywhere present. Enjoy.

**Calvinist Cadet Corps**

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## 1950

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September 11 — The first constitution was written.

The CRC synod appointed a committee to study Boy's Club activities during the year.

## 1952

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January 24 — A Boy's Club Leaders Federation was formed to unify the activities within the clubs and give direction to future development.

February 28 — At a meeting of the federation, it was decided that the greatest need was a handbook for leaders.

August 28 — A standing Handbook Committee was formed. The first official membership was received consisting of a few CRC groups from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**October 16** — The first constitutional revision was made. This was the actual beginning of the Calvinist Cadet Corps.

Bible Lessons for Recruits, a booklet written by Mart Keuning, was adopted as the first official Cadet Bible lessons.

The first budget of \$200 was adopted for that year.

## 1953

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February 26 — A meeting revealed a membership of 30 clubs. A contest was planned to select a name, verse, and motto.

May 1 — This meeting revealed no progress on programming.

September 21 — During this meeting, it was decided to ask Mart Keuning to conduct a counselors' workshop in crafts and programming.

The possibility of realizing the first campout was discussed with Mart Keuning, then director of the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds.

## 1954

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January 15 — Roy Vander Vennen reported at this meeting that two responses had been received to a *Banner* article which discussed cadeting within the church. He also reported that five or six clubs are now close to federation membership. Jack Knol reported that only five entries had been received for the name, verse, and motto contest.

March 12 — It was decided to ask Mart Keuning to author the first guidebook.

April 22 — The first leaders' mass meeting was held at the Seymour CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with Mart Keuning as speaker.

The need for a full-time worker was discussed and a request was forwarded to the Christian Reformed Synodical Youth Committee for assistance. At a meeting held with them at the Young Calvinist Federation office, the committee agreed that a worker plus a handbook were necessary — but that they could not give financial aid to either.

A decision was made to employ Elton Piersma for a two-month period.

The first fund-raising project was introduced — selling license plate stickers.

May 13 — The Federation Board met with Mart Keuning to develop suggested outlines and Bible lessons.

A United Calvinist Federation was proposed, but no action taken.

November 2 — Mart Keuning presented his final draft of the *Cadet Guidebook* to the Federation Board. Roy Vander Vennen announced that a meeting had been scheduled to introduce cadeting in Holland, Michigan. The men drove in a blizzard to make the meeting.

December 3 — The completed guidebook was presented to the counselors in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

December — Mart Keuning made a tour to Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota to promote cadeting.

## 1955

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April 21 — The first Cadet stationery was printed.

June 17 — Synodical approval was given to cadeting.

October 26 — It was recommended that Muskegon be contacted in the interest of cadeting.

November — The first *Clarion*, a magazine for counselors, was published.

## 1956

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February — The first meeting of a separate Board of Trustees was held. The first order of CCC patches was placed.

April — The first Cadet bulletin covers were approved.

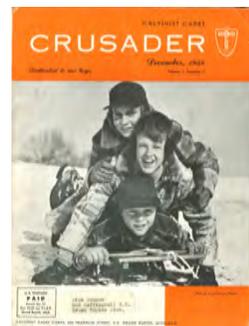
The first Cadet uniform was adopted.

## 1958

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September — Jake Heerema was hired as executive director.

December — The first issue of the *Crusader*, the magazine for Cadets, was published.



## 1960

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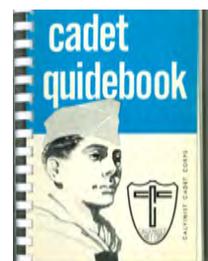
April—The first Cadet counselors' convention was held at Cicero, Illinois.

## 1961

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The counselors' convention was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

August — Jake Heerema resigned as executive director and Mart Keuning was hired to replace him.



## 1962

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A counselors' guidebook and revised Cadet guidebook were published.

June — The counselors' convention was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Ruth Grit was hired as part-time secretary.

## 1963

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Lou Bomhof took office as the Corps president, beginning his first of two two-year terms.

Henry Driesenga was hired as Business Manager (later changed to Executive Secretary).



**Lou Bomhof (L)**  
**Henry Driesenga (R)**



June — The counselors' convention was held in Chicago, Illinois.

September — Mart Keuning resigned as executive director and was replaced by Stu Hamstra.

## 1964

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January — Stu Hamstra resigned as executive director and was replaced by Mart Keuning.

Mart Keuning started yearly council visits and introduced the first Certified Counselor Course during this year's tour.

July — The counselors' convention was held in North Haledon, New Jersey.

## 1965

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Merit badge booklets and counselor aid booklets were introduced.

It was reported that cadeting had: 336 clubs in 21 councils, 1,275 counselors, and 6,000 Cadets.

July — The counselors' convention was held in Muskegon, Michigan.



## 1966

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Huron & Erie Council in Ontario, Canada began splitting into what was to become a total of six councils by 1970.

The Calvinist Cadet Corps became a division of United Calvinist Youth and moved to 1321 Alger SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan — a house next to the YCF building on the site which was to become the location of the UCY building in 1971. The other two UCY divisions were the Young Calvinist Federation and Calvinettes.

July/August — The first international camporee was held in the Rocky Mountains near Denver, Colorado, with approximately 300 in attendance.

August — The counselors' convention was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



**Cadets spending time with their counselor**

## 1967

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Irv Lundell took the reins as the Cadet Corps president.

August — The counselors' convention was held in Pella, Iowa.

Promotional film strip programs were introduced.

## 1968

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August — The counselors' convention was held in Holland, Michigan.

A new Certified Counselors' Course was introduced during Mart Keuning's council visits in 1968 and 1969.

## 1969

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Arie Verkaik assumed the Cadet Corps presidency.

June — The counselors' convention was held in Dalton, Illinois.

July/August — The second international camporee was held, again near Denver, Colorado.

August — Mike McGervey was hired as executive director. Mart Keuning left cadeting to become director of the Orbitor program. (He remained half-time until the first of the year.)

September — Ruth Grit began working as full-time secretary.

## 1970

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February — The Cadet Congress adopted a written set of goals for cadeting and mandated a revision in the Cadet program that would update the material to better meet these goals plus add the dimension of “witnessing” as a formal and integral part of cadeting.

July — The counselors’ convention was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario — the first one to be held in Canada. It was the only one to be a combined convention with Calvinette counselors.

## 1971

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February — The Cadet Congress adopted the Program Revision Outline, decided to hold only one Congress per year, and mandated a study of a possible name change.

March/April — The executive director visited the Cadet organizations of Australia and New Zealand for the first time. The object of the visit was to encourage and help them become self-sufficient sister organizations.

March — Along with Calvinettes and YCF, the Cadet Corps moved offices into the new UCY building located on the corner of Kalamazoo, Alger, and Nelson SE in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

June — The counselors’ convention was held at Lake Okoboji in Iowa.

July — Correspondence was received from St. Paul’s Church in Sussex, England regarding the formation of a Cadet club. It was reported in October that a club had been started.

December — Correspondence from Pusan, Korea, indicated that a Cadet club would be started in that country.



## 1972

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March — A new fiscal year was established to begin March 1. It was reported that cadeting was having financial difficulties and that steps were being taken to solve the problem.

The three divisions of UCY joined with the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions in training leaders from all over Canada and the US to hold “Youth Aflame” seminars stressing the need to reach the youth of our communities.

July/August — The third international camporee was held in Land-Between-The-Lakes, Kentucky with approximately 420 in attendance.

August — The counselors’ convention was held at Alma College in Alma, Michigan.

August — Congress held a 2½ day planning session to make a complete evaluation of the Cadet program. A new Fair Share and Pledge system was instituted.

September — A revised Counselor Certification Course, cassette library, and workshop module series was introduced to update the counselor training program.

September — A Canadian supply center was established in Ontario.

October — Cadeting celebrated 20 years of service to God.

## 1973

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Lyle Kole began a four-year term as Corps President.

The *Counselor's Manual* of the revised Cadet program was introduced.

Ten counselor aid books were written.

A *Cadet Camping Certification Manual* was written.

The counselors' convention was held at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

An advanced program for 14–15-year-old boys, called Voyageurs, was begun.

Canadian and US cloth supplies were first purchased in the respective countries.

## 1974

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The Guide Trails program for 12–14-year-old boys was drafted.

A decision was made to hold one Congress meeting per year in January in Grand Rapids.

A new publication, the *Counselor Package*, with Bible discussion aids and projects was scheduled to begin in the fall of 1975.

The counselors' convention was held in Toronto, Ontario.

## 1975

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"Packet B," later called "Packet I," later called "Counselor Guidebook for Recruit•Pathfinder•Builder," currently called "R•P•B Merit Badge Aids" was written for the *Counselor's Manual*.

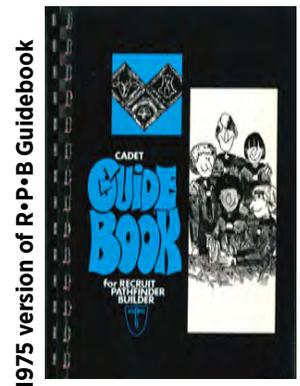
Director visits to councils every two-and-a-half years was mandated.

The *Crusader* was reduced from ten to seven issues per year.

July/August — The fourth international camporee was held at Mt. Pilchuck Tree Farm in northwest Washington, about 60 miles from Seattle, with approximately 450 in attendance.

Dave De Groot was hired as Programming Assistant and contact with non-council clubs.

The counselors' convention was held near the Amana Colonies, Iowa.



## 1976

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The *Guide Trails* program was developed — a ministry for 12–14-year-old boys.

Titles of Guide Trails books were determined and staff began writing them.

The counselors' convention was held in San Diego, California.

A *Congressman's Handbook* was produced.

## 1977

Congress authorized the hiring of Paul Uzel to complete the writing of the Guide Trails program.

Dick Broene assumed the position of Corps President, serving in that capacity for six years. During his term in office, Congress expanded the position for two possible reelections, making it possible for a president to serve six years, instead of four.

Counselor education was promoted through the use of multi-media programming, and an audio/visual library was initiated.



**Lyle Kole transfers presidential duties to Dick Broene**

Spring — Mike McGervey, executive director, and Dave De Groot, programming assistant resigned.

June — Dave Koetje, a Christian school principal from Des Plaines, Illinois, took over as executive director.

The balance of the Guide Trails booklets were completed.

The counselors' convention was held at the Snow Mountain YMCA Ranch near Denver, Colorado. Twenty-five years of cadeting were celebrated.

## 1978

Rev. Marv Vander Vliet became chaplain for the CCC.

Additional counselor aid booklets were developed. A community flier was developed.

The 250 Mile Hiking Award was approved in addition to the 100 Mile Hiking Award previously approved.

Counselor education media aids were developed.

Clubs from denominations other than Christian Reformed joined in cadeting.

May 15 — Bob DeJonge was hired as programming assistant and assistant *Crusader* editor.

A *Counselor's Manual* for Guide Trails was developed.

The counselors' convention was held in Chicago, Illinois.

July/August — The fifth international camporee was held at Hoag's Lake in Manistee National Forest, Michigan, with approximately 600 in attendance.



**Rev. Marv VanderVliet**



**Camporee registration table 1978**

## 1979

The Fair Share procedure was changed, now requiring all clubs to send an annual registration fee and offering.

The "Counselor Certification Course" became the "Counselor Education Course."

More counselor education media aids were developed.

A standard Camping Certification test was produced.

The possibility of a program for 7-8-year-olds was investigated.

July — The counselors' convention was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan at Calvin College.

## 1980

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January — Henry Driesenga retired and Ruth Pylman (formerly Ruth Grit) replaced him as administrative assistant. Alice Meyers was hired as Secretary.

June — Executive Director Dave Koetje and President Dick Broene went on a good-will tour to promote cadeting to the existing 33 clubs in Australia.

July/August — The counselors' convention was held in Vancouver, BC at the University of British Columbia.

## 1981

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The Junior Cadet program was introduced for 7- and 8-year-old boys.

July/August — The sixth international camporee was held at Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota, with nearly 900 people attending.

August — The counselors' convention was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario at the Sheraton Brock Hotel.



**Dick and Dave at camporee**

## 1982

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After 30 years of ministry and growth, cadeting was a network of 3,000 counselors working with 14,500 boys in 600 clubs throughout North America.

July — The counselors' convention was held in Holland, Michigan at Hope College.

September — A pilot counselor training program called Developer of Counselor Education (DCE) was initiated, drawing men from ten councils.

## 1983

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January — Congress expanded the radius of the executive committee eligibility from 250 miles to 400 miles. This made it possible for six additional Canadian councils to serve. No US councils were affected.

January — Orville Baas replaced Dick Broene in what was to be five years of service as Corps President. During his presidency, the Congress changed rules so that a president could serve two three-year terms instead of three two-year terms. That left Broene as the only person to be elected president for three successive terms.

February 1 — Executive Director Dave Koetje announced his resignation to pursue a career as a school administrator.

June — A new non-paid staff position opened up to keep communication between the Corps and non-council clubs flowing. Myron Rau of Kalamazoo became the first club consultant to the non-council clubs.

July 18 — Dick Broene, former Corps President, was hired as executive director.

August — The annual counselors' convention was held at Biola University in La Mirada, California.



**Orville Baas**

## 1984

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July/August — The seventh international camporee was held at Sonny Meadows near Yosemite National Park, California, with approximately 800 in attendance.

The counselors' convention was held in Des Moines, Iowa at the Marriott Hotel.

Mike McGervey was brought back to lead Phase 2 of the pilot DCE program.

December — The Corps office purchased its first computer, an IBM compatible with graphics capabilities called Mindset.

## 1985

January — Congress approved a new step in leadership training: the three-phased Developer of Counselor Education course.

April — Rev. Ron Noorman replaced Rev. Marv Vander Vliet as Corps Chaplain.

April 19 — Richard Wierenga, Vice President of the Cadet Corps, was killed in a plane crash. In his honor, the Big Brother Fund for needy Cadet clubs was renamed the Richard Wierenga Memorial Fund.

May — Director Dick Broene attended the Evangelical Press Association (EPA) annual convention in the Chicago area. *Crusader* magazine won two significant awards: best magazine in the youth category, and most improved magazine overall. There were more than 300 magazines as EPA members at the time.

August — The counselors' convention was held in Chicago at the Ramada, O'Hare Hotel.



Chaplain Ron Noorman



## 1986

April 7 — With the purchase of an Apple Macintosh Plus and Laserwriter Plus, the Corps became computerized and got into desktop publishing — the cutting edge of modern technology.

July/August — The counselors' convention was held in Toronto, Ontario at the Constellation Hotel.

## 1987

January — After working twenty-five years for the Cadet Corps, Ruth Pylman retired and Alice Meyers took over as executive secretary.

February — Approval was given to expand our computer system to include a computer for each desktop. All computers were connected to a single hard drive and the printer. Soon, all records were on the new computer system.

July — The counselors' convention was held in Grand Rapids at the Marriott Hotel.

July — The eighth international camporee was held at Camp Beaver Dam near Orangeville, Ontario, with approximately 1,050 in attendance. It was the first international camporee to be held in Canada.

September/October — The first *Crusader* produced entirely on computer was published. Word processing, cutting and paste-up, and all page makeup was now being done on computer for each of the Cadet publications.

Cadet staff: Dick, Bob, Alice



## 1988

January — Congress mandated that all materials should be upgraded to include both US and metric measurements.

January — Gerry Bysma was elected to the position of Corps President, the first Canadian to hold that office.



Gerry Bysma at camporee

All Counselor Educational Series filmstrips were completely updated and steps were taken to convert them to VHS videotapes.

August — The counselors' convention was held in Sioux Center, Iowa at Dordt College.

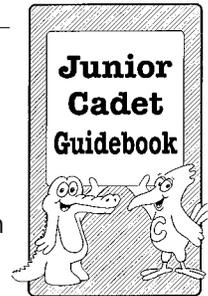
The CCC worked with favorite *Crusader* author Sigmund Brouwer to produce a full length novel, *Indians in the Deep Woods*. This Ricky and Joel Kidd book was to be the start of Mr. Brouwer's career as an author for Victor Books, writing more Ricky and Joel stories in *The Accidental Detectives* series.

## 1989

The addition of the Sports Card Collecting Merit Badge for the R•P•B program brought the number of badges available to the 9-11-year-old Cadets to 79.

The Junior Cadet program was given more structure with the addition of merit badges and ranks, something not previously available to this group.

June — The annual counselors' convention took place at the beautiful Estes Park YMCA Ranch in Colorado.



## 1990

January — Within hours of Congress adjournment, our President Gerry Bysma, Executive Director Dick Broene, and Programming Assistant Bob DeJonge flew to Tasmania, Australia to take part in the first Australian international camporee. The event lasted from January 8-18 and involved 130 participants, ten of whom came from North America.

A new 100 Mile Canoeing Award joined the special Hiking and Cycling Awards as an incentive to the Cadets.

The Hunter Safety Guide Trail was developed.

The Junior Cadets were offered the option of wearing a T-Shirt or the same uniform shirt worn by the older boys.

July — The counselors' convention moved to the west coast. Point Loma College in San Diego, California was the site where 275 counselors, wives, and children met.

The ninth and largest international camporee to date was hosted by Hawkeye Council near Cedar Falls in northeast Iowa. It was also the most challenging, as a flood forced the men to find a new location and make drastic changes merely five days before the event began. A total of 1,150 campers had to be rerouted and settled in a new spot. God, as always, provided the blessing needed, and a wonderful experience was the result.

## 1991

After seven and a half years, Myron Rau's term as non-council club consultant came to an end. He was replaced in that position by Herb Potts of Illiana Council.

President Gerry Bysma began his second three-year term as Corps President, and Rev. Ron Noorman began another three-year term as Corps Chaplain.

With the development of a Chess Merit Badge, 81 merit badges became available to those in the R•P•B Program.

The Cadet Corps adopted an official pledge to the Canadian flag.

An advance in the leadership training program, known as Developer of Counselor Education, was made. Former executive director Mike McGervey was contracted to develop packaged workshops, write a DCE newsletter, provide advanced training, and much more.



Mike McGervey

The United Calvinist Youth, after many years of efforts, finally became recognized as a tax-exempt organization in Canada. The Canadian organization was named United Calvinist Youth Association, Ontario.

June — The Christian Reformed synod was faced with a recommendation to initiate their own youth organization. This had a number of possible implications for the three divisions of UCY, and representatives were sent to Sioux Center, Iowa to present the UCY side of the issue. The results were favorable: Synod determined that the UCY divisions were doing a fine job and should remain autonomous. We were left with our structure and financing intact. In addition, the CRC appointed a youth committee to work with UCY in serving the needs of the denomination's youth.

July — The counselors' convention took place at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario.

December — The Corps offered an abbreviated form of cadeting to sons of missionaries. Just as there are non-council clubs, now there would be non-club Cadets. Boys were given a free annual subscription to the *Crusader* and a free *Cadet Guidebook for Independent Cadets*.



**Jo Illbrink (GEMS), Brian Bosscher (YU),  
Dick Broene (Cadets)**

## 1992

January — Hank and Monica Moritz of Geelong, Victoria (Australia) represented the Australian Cadet movement at the annual Congress.

July — The counselors' convention was held at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville, Indiana. With Illiana Council as host, cadeting celebrated 40 years of ministry. Peter and Alice Krins from Croydon, Victoria (Australia) joined in the celebration.

## 1993

January — An addition of five new merit badges brought the total number of available merit badges in the Recruit•Pathfinder•Builder program to 86. Badges for the Junior Cadet program increased to eight.

July — Heritage Council hosted a highly spiritual counselors' convention at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

July — The 1993 International Camporee broke attendance records, bringing 1,300 people to a wilderness setting between Kalkaska and Grayling, Michigan.

The Calvinist Cadet Corps, along with the other two divisions of United Calvinist Youth, worked to formulate a new youth ministry — a coed ministry for the junior high age. Dick Broene, director of the Cadet division, chaired the planning committee.

The Cadet Corps initiated the *Independent UPDATE*, a concise newsletter specifically designed for the counselors in non-council clubs.

## 1994

January — Congress declared that the recommended car kit for all model car derbies would no longer be the one produced by Cub Scouts, but one produced by cadeting's own Illiana Council.

January — Clarence Dykhous succeeded Gerry Bysma as Cadet Corps president, serving the first of two terms. By the time Clarence was finished six years later, the Corps would have been blessed by Canadian presidents for 12 consecutive years.



**Clarence Dykhous & Gerry Bysma**

March — After fourteen years of dedicated service, Alice Meyers retired as executive secretary. She was replaced by Laura Reinders, a recent graduate of Calvin College.

July — For the first time in 30 years, the counselors' convention went east again. It was hosted by Eastern Council at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, New Jersey.

November — Computer technology made it possible to try an interesting experiment with personnel. Bob deJonge was given permission to work from his home, coming into the office only twice a month. This experiment was given a six-month test run, which became Bob's normal work place for years to come.



**Cadet staff: Laura, Dick and Bob**

## 1995

January — No new Guide Trails project books had been written in more than fifteen years, but this year gave us two — *Money Management* and *Law and Order*.

Advancement in technology made possible another advancement in leadership training. The firm, Training Plus (Mike McGervey), was contracted to provide us with Computer Based Interactive Multi-Media Training (CBT). As the name implies, it's training that a counselor can complete at his own pace and on his personal computer.

August — The counselors' convention went back to Niagara Falls, Ontario to the same hotel where it was held in 1970 and 1981.

## 1996

January — Congress gave the Junior Cadet program a leap forward by adding first grade to the program (until this point, only second and third graders were involved). They also added six new merit badges and a complete set of Bible lessons.

January — A DCE task force was set up to look into the future of counselor education within the Cadet Corps.

February — Kathy Door was hired as executive secretary, replacing Laura Reinders who left to work for Calvin College.

July — The international camporee broke attendance records once again, and this time the record was really smashed.

At 1,813 campers, the registration was 39% higher than ever before, despite the high cost of travel for most of the participants. The camporee was in Bow Valley Provincial Park — the Canadian Rockies in Alberta. Hosted by Central Alberta, and with help from Greater Edmonton and Stampede Councils, the camporee was the most ambitious yet. Activities took full advantage of the mountains. They included a 12 mile hike over a mountain, mountain biking, a chairlift ride overlooking Lake Louise, whitewater rafting, and a grueling orienteering course.

August — The counselors' convention brought participants to Muskegon, Michigan for a great weekend at the Holiday Inn. Turnout was limited, due in part to the camporee, but a good time was had by all.



**Clarence Dykhouse & Chaplain Noorman**

## 1997

January — Congress gave the guidebooks a new format. The *R•P•B Guidebook* was made smaller by removing the merit badge worksheets and making them separate 8.5 x 11 pages. The *Junior Cadet Guidebook* kept the merit badge worksheets but had the Bible lessons removed and made into separate worksheets.



**Bernard Teeninga**

The DCE program received a comprehensive overhaul, with the formation of regions. Each of the six regions had a regional training coordinator, and those men reported to the staff training coordinator, a position ably filled by Bernard Teeninga of Dundas, Ontario. Mr. Teeninga had already been coordinating training in Ontario for years. Another change in DCE structure was that each council began working toward having a DCE team, rather than simply individuals.

January — Mary Broene, who had worked for Cadets from her home as proofreader and typesetter, was hired as part time staff to help Kathy in the office.

January — Frank Ayre replaced Herb Potts as the non-council club consultant. He was joined by Ben Dykema, who served as assistant club consultant, a new position.

July — An informal study showed that the term “non-council club” presented a negative image, making some individuals feel like their club was a non-entity. The Corps changed the name to “independent club.”

July — Rush Creek Council hosted the annual counselors’ convention at the beautiful downtown Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Robert and Wendy Verdouw from Tasmania, Australia, were two of the participants.

## 1998

January — The addition of four merit badges to the R•P•B program brought the total number to 92.

July — The counselors’ convention took place at the Haworth Center, a part of Hope College in Holland, Michigan. It was well-run and people professed a wonderful experience, but attendance was low. The executive committee, at their next meeting, agreed that it was time to look into the possibility of boosting counselor education through regional training events.

## 1999

July — For the first time in forty years, there was no counselors’ convention. Congress had determined that there would be none in the year of an international camporee. Instead, regional conferences were promoted and began catching on.

August — London Mills, Illinois was the site of the eleventh Cadet International Camporee. The event attracted 1,082 participants to experience God in the wilderness. Ken Dekker of Illiana Council, who had hosted the 1985 and 1992 Counselors’ Conventions, used his competence to chair the host committee of this camporee as well.

September — The new edition of the *Counselor’s Manual* included a counselor aid booklet written to reduce the risk of child abuse, a sad sign of the times.

## 2000

January — Congress met at Heritage CRC in Byron Center for the first time, beginning a relationship that would work well for us for many years.

January — The Junior Cadet program was given a boost with the addition of a Green Star award for outstanding Junior Cadets.

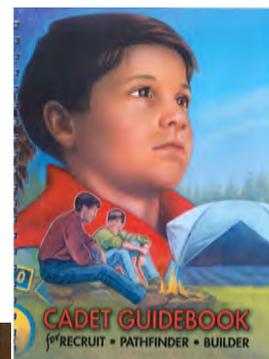
January — Cadets were offered a new top award – the Servant Leader award. To earn it, a boy has to progress through all the ranks of cadeting, show significant leadership in a council event, and participate in a Christian service project for at least five days. A significant award, it would not be earned by anyone in cadeting for years to come.

January — Henry Bosch began serving the first of two terms as president of the Cadet Corps.

July — The Fraser Valley Council (Southwest British Columbia) hosted a fantastic counselors’ convention in Harrison Hot Springs, BC.



Assistant Chaplain Gerry Bijsma  
at camporee



R•P•B Guidebook in 2000



President Henry Bosch

## 2001

January — Congress adopted a mission statement for the Calvinist Cadet Corps: “Helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life.”

January — The addition of five new merit badges — Baking, Welding, Pet Care, Woodcarving, and Fishing Rod Building — brought the total number to 100 for the Recruits, Pathfinders, and Builders to choose from.

January — International Camporee eligibility rules were changed, reducing the minimum age by a half year, and allowing a boy who had completed fifth grade to register no matter his age.

July — The Grand Valley Council invited counselors and their families to the Potawatomi Inn and Resort in Angola, Indiana for a fine weekend of education, inspiration, and fellowship at the counselors’ convention.

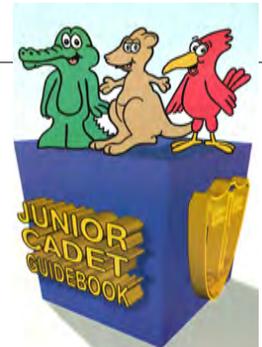
## 2002

February — Programming Assistant Bob deJonge and Director Dick Broene promoted the Cadet ministry at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) in Toronto. The group is made up of individuals in charge of church education in their congregations. The congregations come primarily from the members of APCE. The Christian Reformed denomination is a member, making this a good target group for Cadets. Youth Unlimited and GEMS had exhibits alongside Cadets.

July — The second largest international camporee to date was held at Camp Chinook in Southwest Alberta. The 1,538 registrants experienced some new activities, such as fishing, kite building, climbing, and rappelling.

October — Cadeting turned 50 years old. Records now showed that it had 632 clubs, 4,113 counselors, and 12,878 Cadets. As always, not every club returned a count of its membership, so actual numbers were slightly higher.

November — The Corps completed work on a new *Head Counselor Handbook*. A *Head Counselor Certification Course* and head counselor stripe for the uniform completed the new emphasis on proper training for head counselors.



Updated 2002

## 2003

January — After 18 years as Cadet Corps chaplain, Rev. Ron Noorman retired. He was replaced by Dr. Marvin VanderVliet, the man he had replaced 18 years earlier. Bert Bakhuyzen replaced Frank Ayre as independent club consultant, and Frank Ayre replaced Ben Dykema as the assistant.

For the first time, the Cadet Corps contracted with a development consulting firm to help raise funds for the annual budget.

May 31 — The Cadet Corps hosted its first annual fishing tournament fundraiser. Despite windy and wet weather, the 61 registrants had a great time and brought in about \$5,500 for the organization.

July — The counselors’ convention in London, Ontario celebrated 40 years of cadeting for the Huron and Erie Council, and 50 for the Cadet Corps. More than 200 people learned what it means to be “Anchored to the Rock.”

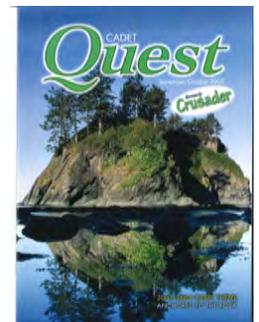
September — The first issue of *Cadet Quest* was published. *Cadet Quest* replaced *Crusader* as the magazine for Cadets ages 9-14.



Marv VanderVliet



Bert Bakhuyzen



## 2004

January — Congress spent considerable time in a brainstorming session, doing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) of the organization.

April 19 — Cornel Rylaarsdam, the Southwest Regional Training Coordinator, passed away after a painful two and a half year struggle with liver cancer. Friends made donations to the Calvinist Cadet Corps in his honor, starting the Cornel Rylaarsdam Memorial Fund. Initial gifts brought in about \$4,000.00. Following Cornel's wishes, the funds are used to subsidize needy boys and men registering for international camporees.

April 23 — The Cadet Corps staff and board spent the day in a visioning session, looking at what cadeting is and what it could or should be. The session was moderated by former CCC director Dave Koetje.

July — Bear Creek Council hosted the counselors' convention in Sarnia, Ontario with the theme, "Water of Life."



**Cornel Rylaarsdam**

## 2005

January — Congress faced two of the issues that had been brought up at the visioning session the year before. They considered (1) making it possible to change the name of the organization and (2) investigating alternatives to the Cadet uniform. Both proposals went down to resounding defeat as congressmen showed satisfaction with the status quo. One new merit badge was added to the R•P•B program — Blacksmithing.

July — Hawkeye Council hosted a tremendous international camporee at Camp Diamond Trail near Runnells, Iowa. Host Chairman Ken Zylstra, who had labored for many years planning the event, spent the camporee week in a Des Moines hospital, having had his gall bladder removed just before camp started. Nevertheless, the Lord blessed the 1,288 campers there with great spiritual blessings ... and extreme heat and humidity.

Fall — The September/October theme for *Cadet Quest* was "The World Belongs to God." This was also the first time that Cadets, GEMS, and Youth Unlimited shared a common annual theme: Stewardship. Each division presented it their own way.

October — Kim Keller joined the Cadet staff as a part-time secretary.

**New president Mike VanderMeer promoting the 2008 camporee**



## 2006

January — As the terms of president and chaplain came to an end, Mike VanderMeer became the new president. Of the last four presidents, he was the third Canadian to assume the position. The new chaplain was Rev. Ron Noorman, who had previously had the position from 1985 to 2003.

January — The Calvinist Cadet Corps received an invitation to bring the cadeting ministry to the Reformed Church of East Africa, which claims 4,200 congregations in Kenya.

July — Central Alberta Council hosted nearly 250 people at the counselors' convention in Canmore, Alberta. It was the kickoff to the annual theme, "Shaped for Service."

August — Programming Assistant Bob deJonge, Executive Committee Member Warren Post, and Executive Director Dick Broene made the initial trip to Africa to introduce the Cadet ministry to the people of Kenya. In Eldoret, they spent three days training about 30 people to become Cadet counselors. From that small start came six Cadet clubs.

**Counselor training in Kenya**



## 2007

July — Grand Rapids North, with the help of Grand River and Thornapple Valley Councils, hosted the counselors' convention at the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids, bringing in 187 people.

August — President Mike VanderMeer and Director Dick Broene returned to Kenya for another year of training counselors there. This time, eleven men took the training and each started a new club.

Fall — Chad Huisman was the first Cadet to earn the Servant Leader Award.

## 2008

August — An international camporee in Ontario drew the largest camporee attendance outside of Alberta. It came to an abrupt end halfway through, when rain and mud forced an evacuation from Camp Northern Lights, causing some to give it the nickname, Camp Northern Mud. Still, it was an uncommon blessing to see how the men and boys worked together to survive. God is indeed good.

## 2009

January — President Mike VanderMeer and Director Dick Broene promoted the Cadet ministry at another APCE Conference (see February 2002) in San Antonio. It generated a modest amount of interest, but no new clubs.

July — Hawkeye Council hosted the counselors' convention in Des Moines, Iowa. For the first time, an African representative attended. Daniel Nandwa, the Cadet coordinator for the Reformed Church of East Africa, attended the convention and then spent three additional weeks in the US, visiting with Kenyan clubs' sponsors and renewing acquaintances.

August 14 — A Cadet Corps visioning team held its first meeting and determined that the primary focus of the ministry's efforts needs to be the leaders: getting them, keeping them, training them, and filling them with enthusiasm. They soon determined that a great priority for the ministry is to make the Cadet Corps a culture of prayer.

## 2010

January — With a light Congress agenda, an entire Friday afternoon opened up for the regional training coordinators and visioning team to introduce the new focus with every council that was represented there. The afternoon was spent in discussing leadership matters and in prayer.

January — President Mike VanderMeer and Director Dick Broene promoted Cadeting at the APCE Conference in Nashville, TN.

July — Southern California Council welcomed Cadet families to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego for a rewarding counselors' convention, knotted together with Christ.

July — Though the Cadet Corps had exhibited at the CRC synod for years, this year we promoted the ministry at the synod of the United Reformed Church on London, Ontario. We were warmly welcomed.

October — President Mike and Director Dick returned to Kenya for the first time in three years. Frank Kuipers and Nick DenOudsten from Central Alberta joined them for a counselors' conference. The intent was to study the R•P•B Guidebook and change it to fit the African culture.



**Corps Staff: Mary, Bob, Kim, Dick, Kathy**



**Kenya training**

## 2011

January — Congress learned that the number of Cadet clubs had continued its two-decade decline. There were a total of 564 clubs in North America, down from a high of 658 clubs in 1992

January — The CCC's third consecutive year of promotion at APCE saw Broenes and VanderMeers in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

June 27–August 3 — The international camporee returned to Michigan. Twelve hundred men and boys spent the week at Camp Whitetail, about seven miles southwest of Reed City. A torrential downpour on the last night dropped eight inches of rain on the camp in four hours, making the departure slippery and challenging for the third international camporee in a row. The road commission had to come in with a road grader to rebuild the road before we could leave.



President Mike VanderMeer at camporee

## 2012

January — Larry DeHaan assumed the position of CCC president and Jim Hoekstra took over the position of CCC chaplain. Mike VanderMeer had been president for the past six years, and Ron Noorman the chaplain for 24 of the last 27 years.

January — Congress approved a proposal to allow the Cadet ministry to change its name. This proposal had come to Congress several times since it was first introduced in 1972. It had never before passed. As a constitutional change, the proposal needed to be approved by a two thirds majority of all Cadet counselors. By July, it had been defeated, 63% in favor and 37% opposed.

February — Cadets had its first exhibit at the Ligonier Conference in Orlando, Florida. This conference draws over 4,000 attendees and most of them had never heard of Cadeting, and were very receptive to the ministry.

July — Niagara Council hosted about 225 people at the counselors' convention at the Americana Conference Resort and Spa in Niagara Falls.

The president's gavel is passed to Larry DeHaan



Chaplain Jim Hoekstra

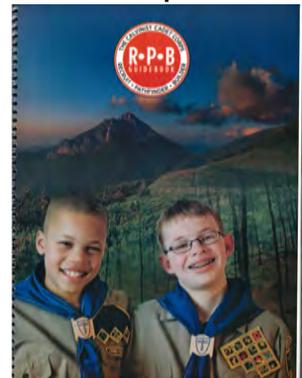
## 2013

January — Clubs may purchase supplies direct from the supply centers if their councils approve.

February — The Boy Scouts began planning to include homosexual membership causing many of their number to seek other programs. Cadets received many inquiries, and our exhibit booth at the APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) Conference a week later drew the attention of many.

August — The annual counselors' convention was sponsored by six councils of West Michigan and met at the Hilton Hotel in Grand Rapids. Though turnout was low, those who attended were truly blessed.

### RPB Guidebook updated 2013



## 2014

January — Congress approved making the CCC mission statement a landmark for Cadet counselors: *"Counselors state your mission: Helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life."*

January — Congress approved a ten-year service stripe for Cadet counselors in addition to the current two-year stripe.

March — Dick Broene announced that he would be retiring from the role of Executive Director at the end of the fiscal year (February 2015) having served as Executive Director for 32 years, longer than all the other directors combined.

July — Cadets and counselors once again traveled to Alberta for the International Camporee. Kamp Lone Pine was interrupted when the campers were evacuated to a local church overnight as a precaution while a storm moved through the area.

August — Bernard Teeninga retired as Training Coordinator.

November — The Executive Committee selected Steve Bootsma, a Canadian, to be the next Executive Director.

## 2015

January — Congress approved including the Westminster Confession as a doctrinal standard of the CCC. This was approved by a vote of all counselors by the end of May. Another Constitutional change that was approved by Congress and the members was making service on the Executive Committee be a three-year term instead of a two-year term.

January — Congress adopted a CCC prayer statement: *Be joyful always. Pray continually.*

March — Dick Broene's plans to retire were delayed as Steve Bootsma's immigration paperwork was taking longer than anticipated. Dick continued to work in the office until Steve's arrival.

July — Revisiting the Lamplighter Inn in London, Ontario, site of the 2003 Convention, 199 people were *Hooked on Christ* as Bear Creek and Huron & Erie Councils hosted the counselor's convention.

## 2016

January — Daniel Nandwa — CCC's Kenyan club coordinator — spoke at Congress and met with many Michigan and Ontario clubs and councils. He reported that the number of Kenyan clubs has increased from about 30 to over 80!

January — Congress approved a change to the CCC Constitution to require counselors to be certified in order to vote in Corps affairs. This was approved in May by a vote of all counselors.

February — With immigration finally approving Steve Bootsma to become a U.S. resident, Steve took over the duties of Executive Director, almost 15 months after accepting the position. The entire Corps is grateful to Dick Broene for his additional work during the time of transition.

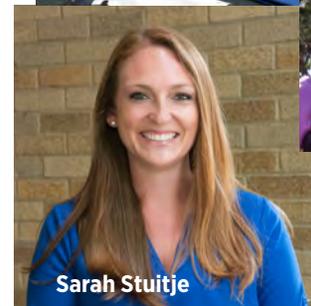
April — Our Executive Secretary, Kathy Door, passed away unexpectedly.

August — Sarah Stuitje was hired as Office Manager/Assistant Designer.

## 2017

January — Congress approved allowing Independent clubs to operate as Christian Cadet Clubs, while still operating under the banner of the Calvinist Cadet Corps.

July — Camp Elk Run was the home for over 1200 men, boys and staff for a week as the International Cadet Camporee returned to the Black Hills of South Dakota. For the first time in five camporees, there were no weather related issues to report.



## 2018

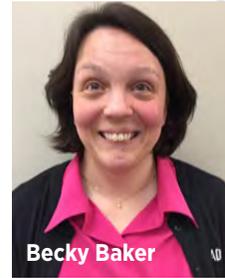
January — Dave Mast started as the new CCC president.

January — Becky Baker became the newest member of the Corps office staff as a part-time secretary.

March — After more than 21 years of faithful service, Mary Broene retired from her role as secretary in the Corps office.

August — Russ Roozeboom joined the Corps, filling the newly created position of Marketing & Promotions Coordinator.

December — With the introduction of four new merit badges, Life and Death, Spelunking, Chivalry, and Clay Target Shooting, cadets can now choose from over 130 badges.



Becky Baker



Dave Mast



Russ Roozeboom

## 2019

August — The cadet staff moves suites across the hall to the old GEMS space to make room for growth. This summer every division in the building gets a new space.

October — Executive Director, Steve Bootsma, Coprs Chaplin, Jim Hoekstra and cadet counselor, Robb Lamer, traveled to Kenya to train counselors. For the first time ever, men traveled from South Sudan to train as counselors.

December — After more than 40 years of service, Creative Director and Programing assitant, Bob deJonge retired.

## 2020

January — Trevor Burnett joined the Cadet staff. He filled the role of Creative Assistant after Sarah Stuitje took over for Bob deJonge as Creative Director. Trevor will also take on the new role of Video Production.

Scott Klooster becomes the first remote Executive Committee member after being elected at Congress. This comes after Congress approved remote members in 2019.

February — The RPB badge book gets a brand new look. The complete makeover includes full color pages, more writing space, and the 50 most popular badges. The rest of the badges will be available online.

March — A global pandemic, Covid-19, changes a lot of things around the world, including the whole Cadet (and DYM) staff working from home.

April — for the first time ever, due to Covid-19, the International Camporee, Camp Great Lakes, is postponed for a year.

Trevor Burnett

