

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1

Summer Newsletter, August, 1999



Ray's Rhetoric

I know I am going to sound like a broken record but, MPAEA members you have no idea what a great and hard working board serves you and the organization. At the recently completed board meeting in Salt Lake City, those who

represent you spent a long two days discussing and planning how you, the member, could be better served, and could get more for your membership dollar. Each was committed to this task and never once wavered. We are very, very lucky indeed to have this kind of dedication toward improving the lot of adult educators in the MPAEA region.

In my last column, I mentioned a few things that your board is considering as positive changes in the benefits you receive from your MPAEA membership. But, at the Salt Lake City meeting we really got down to business and got very serious about these possible changes. Several proposed improvements in membership services that we would like to have your opinion of are very significant. Please give these items some thought, then give your state's board members or me some feedback. We would love to hear from you. In fact, to make the association really beneficial to you, we must have your feedback.

One of the changes on which the board has decided to focus is finding out what current membership benefits are of most value to you and if they could be improved. And then, of course, we would like to know what benefits you would like to see the association offer. You will soon be receiving a sur-

vey asking for your opinion about the services and benefits MPAEA is now providing and what improvements could be made in the future. What benefits would you like to see the association offer? Questions will be asked about the Journal, Newsletter, the annual conference and so on. Please complete that survey—it will definitely lead to better service from MPAEA.

The board is also considering adding a pre-conference workshop or workshops that would be devoted to special interests such as: correctional education, adult high schools, adult education program directors, continuing education coordinators, and other specializations. But, the theme is that individuals from like programs would come together in a structured setting to learn from each other, share ideas and program successes, and promote means by which they could support each other. What are your thoughts—is this worth pursuing?

How valuable would a Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Adult Education Certification be to you? While this is only in the very early planning stages, the board is very serious about creating a certification program, if there is enough interest. What do you think?

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MPAEA PRESENTS NEW AWARD

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association will be presenting a new award at the next annual conference to be held in Salt Lake City in the Spring. This award will be called the *Outstanding Legislator Award* and will be given to honor a legislator who has proven to be a *close friend* to adult education and lifelong learning. The legislator shall have utilized his/her influence in the legislature to promote and enhance lifelong learning opportunities for the citizens of his/her state.

The recipient shall be from the state in which the annual conference is held and will be nominated to the Awards Committee by the MPAEA Board Members and Officers of the host state and/or that state's lifelong learning association. The recipient will receive an engraved plaque for his/her "Significant Contributions To The Enhancement of Adult Education In —(state)—."

MPAEA AWARDS

It is not too soon to be thinking about the persons you believe the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association should honor with the awards given annually at the MPAEA Conference. Once again the Association will be giving the Award of Merit, Lay Leader Award, and Awards of Excellence.

The Award of Merit is given to honor a MPAEA member who has made an outstanding contribution(s) to furthering the concept of adult education at the community, state, regional, or national level.

The Lay Leader Award is given to honor a person in a profession outside of education (such as; community leaders, business leaders, religious leaders, etc.) who have proven to be a *close friend* to adult education and lifelong learning.

The Award of Excellence is given to honor an individual from each of the respective MPAEA states who has made significant contributions to the advancement of adult education at the local or state level. The recipient must be a member of the respective state association or MPAEA.

Further information and a nomination form will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Submitted by
John A. Tollakson
Chair, Awards Committee

MPAEA WEBSITE

www.uvsc.edu/mpaea

Access the MPAEA listserv
mpaea-l@cebrigham.usu.edu

DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN MPAEA REGION

Reading Buddies: A Solution to Childcare Needs

The Learning to Read Program (LTRP) recently qualified as a semifinalist for the Ford Foundation's Innovations in American Government Award for its Reading Buddies Program.

LTRP is a library-based adult literacy program providing literacy instruction through one-on-one tutoring conducted by trained volunteers. Adult learners with children often have difficulty attending their tutoring sessions because of a lack of adequate childcare. LTRP's solution was to establish Reading Buddies, a program through which a child is matched with a college student trained to work one-on-one with that child.

The pair works together in the library for one and one-half hours per week for fifteen weeks in the fall and spring. Fifteen to eighteen children are served each semester—two thirds from the families of adult learners enrolled in LTRP and one third identified as at-risk readers and referred from the general public. More than 95% of the buddies-big and little-complete a full semester with the program, and about half of the children continue for two years or more.

Reading Buddies is made possible through a mutually beneficial partnership between LTRP and the University of Colorado (CU) Farrand Academic Program. LTRP has seen higher adult learner attendance and retention rates. College students benefit by earning college credit for the time they donate and gaining real-world work experience. CU wins through advertising this opportunity for service learning. Reading Buddies is prominently featured in a brochure sent to parents of college-bound high school seniors. Finally, the children benefit by learning to enjoy reading. Listening to stories they have chosen to be read by trained volunteers leads to a new affection for books, reading, and a renewed interest in learning.

If you are interested in starting a similar program, contact your local university or community college and ask to speak with the person in charge of setting up service-learning partnerships. You are also welcome to contact LTRP Director, Diana Sherry at (303) 444-2926 or email, sherryd@boulder.lib.co.us.

Submitted by Diana Sherry

30 Reasons to Go to College After 30

Submitted by Dixie Darr, M.Ed. Dixie has been teaching adult college students for twenty years. The last fifteen years have been spent with the University of Phoenix teaching writing, research, lifelong learning and assessment of prior learning. She also teaches on-line for Jones International University.

Twenty years of teaching adult college students has taught me many valuable lessons, including some of the reasons adults endure the hardship of adding college classes to their already overloaded schedules. Here are the top thirty:

1. To finish what you started
2. To achieve a personal goal
3. To qualify for a better job
4. To keep your current job
5. To change fields
6. To follow a dream
7. To try something new
8. To ask questions
9. To seek answers
10. To earn a degree before your kids do
11. To graduate with your kids
12. To use your employer's tuition reimbursement program
13. To prove it's never too late
14. To seek knowledge
15. To get a raise
16. To wear a cap and gown
17. To beef up your resume
18. To learn new skills
19. To develop your mind
20. To show you can
21. To improve your self-esteem
22. To fill the empty nest
23. To take advantage of adult-friendly programs
24. To meet like-minded people
25. To open your mind to new possibilities
26. To qualify for a higher degree
27. To set a good example for your kids
28. To start a new family tradition
29. To quit explaining why you don't have a degree
30. Because you finally know what you want to be when you grow up.

Congratulations!

Gary Wixom, formerly with Utah Valley State College in Orem, has accepted a position with the Utah System for Higher Education. Gary will continue as Treasurer for Mountain Plains Adult Education Association.

News from Arizona

Blair Liddicoat and I recently returned from the MPAEA Summer Board meeting excited about the upcoming conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The dates for the MPAEA Conference will be April 26-30, 2000 at the Wyndham Hotel. Call for proposals are available by contacting the Board members or on the website at gaylin.rollins@allc.alpine.k12.ut.us.

Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) is planning its 4th Annual Summer Institute Camp at Rio Salado Community College on August 28, 1999. The focus of the camp will be on grant writing and the art of facilitation.

The Arizona Adult Education State Conference will be held in Phoenix on September 29-October 2, 1999. AALL will be hosting a preconference session on September 29 with Dr. Stephen Brookfield who will talk on *Becoming a Critically Reflective Adult Educator*. In addition, AALL will be coordinating the facilitators for the conference. Blair and I will be planning a MPAEA presence at the conference. Please contact Charles Hoyt at the Arizona State Department of Education for further information on the state conference. He can be reached at (602) 542-5259 or via email at choyt@mail1.ade.state.az.us. Or, for more information on the AALL schedule of events go to the website at literacynet.org/arizona/aall.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Power



THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

"I did see an empty spot in parking lot A, but by the time I got there, it had already been posted on the Internet, and there were 500 applicants ahead of me."

News from Montana

Summertime means reports and grant writing for many Montana adult and community educators. Up in the northwest corner, Literacy Volunteers and Flathead Valley Community College have collaborated on a number of proposals for bringing new learning and skills training opportunities to individuals and families. We're excited at the strength our combined force of college instructors and community volunteer tutors will lend to the comprehensive services we envision. Adult education and family literacy, supported by career staff and community volunteers—a winning formula all the way around!

Another winning effort: the Flathead County Detention Center recently converted a staff break room into a classroom for inmates. After nearly 10 years of juggling for space, Literacy Volunteers can now conduct small group and individual tutoring sessions in a room equipped for learning. Whiteboards, individual work tables, video equipment and a secure file and storage unit complete the setup. Certainly, this is a powerful show of support for education by the staff and administration of the Flathead County Detention Center. Bravo!

Submitted by Lucy Smith

Upon winning the race for Yellowstone County Commissioner, former adult educator, Jim Reno, retired from the position of Director of Adult Education for Billings School District #2. since 1970 Jim had been actively involved not only in local Adult Basic Education and Community Education programs but also in state and regional adult education activities. Many will miss him in his former position, but all know he will always be a strong advocate of adult education. Good luck, Jim, in your new position as the "Com-mish."

Dr. Woodrow Jensen is now the new Director of Adult Education for Billings School District #2. Woody is originally from Pasippany, New Jersey, and completed his undergraduate work in physical education at Temple University in Philadelphia. His graduate work was done at the University of Wyoming with a Master's Degree in Physical Education and Doctorate in Educational Administration. Varsity gymnastics kept Woody very busy in college and has provided a good foundation for his new job as Director of Adult Education since he is learning the ropes of adult education and jumping through the hoops. Welcome to Adult Ed. Woody!

Submitted by Norene Peterson

**2000 Annual Conference
Mountain Plains Adult Education
Association
Salt Lake City, Utah
April 26-29, 2000**

Proposal Selection

Proposals will be selected by the conference committee with the assistance of professional associations collaborating with MPAEA. In keeping with the ideals of lifelong learning, this conference will offer sessions for all members of MPAEA. Thus, we will offer sessions in adult basic education, continuing education, industry training, high education and community education.

Proposals must be postmarked to the committee by October 15, 1999.

Selected presenters will be notified by December 1, 1999.

All presenters must preregister for the conference.

Proposal Guidelines

The conference committee invites proposals from members in all eight states. Proposals should follow the theme of "Where We've Never Been Before" and focus on lifelong learning in the future.

Suggested topics might include:

- technology of education
- motivation
- fitness
- anatomy of education
- marketing of education
- speed and/or construction of education
- distance learning
- self improvement

ALL Sessions will be 80 minutes in length.



Presentation Proposal Form

(Please print or type) Proposals may be submitted on this form, faxed, or e-mailed. The information will be used on the conference program. Please keep within the word count guidelines. Send completed forms to: *Sandra Grant, Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 or fax to (801) 538-7882 or email: sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us*

Proposals must be postmarked by October 15, 1999

Session Title (10 words or less): _____

Session Abstract as it will appear in program (50 words or less): _____

Session Objective: _____

Session Format: Demonstration Roundtable Panel Discussion Paper

Preferred Room Arrangement: Classroom Banquet Theater

Lead Presenter: (Contact Person)

Name: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day-phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Co-Presenter(s): Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Biography (25 words or less for single presenter, 50 words or less for more than one presenter): _____

Audio/visual equipment required: (Please check equipment needed.)

Flip Chart TV/VCR Overhead
 Screen Slide Projector Cassette Tape Player

Computer Equipment Please Specify: _____

(If computer equipment needed is not available, you will be notified)

**Where We've
Never Been
Before**

**Salt Lake
City,
Utah
April 26-30,
2000**

Selected presenters
will be notified of
acceptance by
December 1, 1999.

All presenters must
pre-register for the
conference.

For overall conference
information call or email
Gaylin Rollins, conference
chair.
(801) 227-2441
gaylin.rollins@allc.alpine.k12.ut.us

News from Nevada

The Literate Nevada Task Force, coordinated by Vicki Newell, hosted the first meeting for Project Vision. The goal of the project is to develop a long-range Strategic Action Plan for Adult Education that will strengthen its partnership in the one-stop system and increase its effectiveness. Participants represent a wide range of programs including: adult basic education and state leadership activities, adult high school diploma programs, GED test centers, prison education, alternative education, continuing/community education, the Nevada Literacy Coalition, the Nevada Adult Education Association, the State Council on Libraries and Literacy, and the state Job Training Office.

The Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition, the International Association of Business Communicators, and various southern Nevada businesses are planning the 3rd Annual International Literacy Day Dinner, to be held on September 8th at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas.

Submitted by Julee Henson and Sharyn Yanoshak

News from Utah

Utah is hosting the Adult Education Summer Institute in Park City on August 9-10. The Institute features GED 2001, New National Reporting System, hands-on training in ESL, math, SEOP design, transcript evaluations, Learning Disabilities Accommodations, and much more.

On September 2-3, the Refugee Symposium will be held in Salt Lake City featuring children and trauma, highlights of refugee experience in Utah, action plans for the coming year, and updates on both state and federal levels.

UAACCE Annual Conference held in Park City on October 25-26 will feature Thomas Stitch, tracks for adult, community and continuing education, and personal development.

On November 1-3, a Service Learning Conference will be held in Provo. The focus of the conference is service learning models that work.

Submitted by Sandra Grant

News from New Mexico

The ABE Directors and other staff members met in Albuquerque August 9 to 11 for a summer institute. The awardees of the leadership projects—professional development, evaluation, and student leadership—shared their plans for the year.

Jan Naslund prepared an Assessment Idea Book and shared her expertise and ideas on assessment in ABE. This summer institute and an ABE Administrators' Handbook were the finale for Project 353 which has assisted ABE directors and staff under the leadership of Greg Bowes for 20 years.

Submitted by Marilyn Jackson

News from Wyoming

The merger of the Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association (WLLA) and the Wyoming Alliance for Literacy (WAL) is accomplishing what it was intended to do. It was hoped that with the merger, numbers in WLLA would increase. Membership is up 26% at midyear (now) and further growth in the association is anticipated. This number is significant as about 50% of the WAL membership were members of both associations prior to the merger.

WLLA will be holding a fall conference this year at the Hitching Post in Cheyenne October 6-8. The theme is *Last Chance for a New Frontier* and the keynote speaker will be Jep Enck of the Human Resource Institute in Fort Collins, Colorado. His presentation is entitled, "The Power of We." **Any member of MPAEA or their respective state association is welcome to attend the conference at the WLLA membership rate. Wyoming particularly invites those persons involved in lifelong learning in northern Colorado to attend.**

For conference information, please contact Jeannie Peacock, University of Wyoming, PO Box 3294, Laramie, WY 82071 (1-800-448-7801 ext. 1,1,4), email jpeacock@uwyo.edu or John A. Tollakson, Box 1500 Sheridan College, Sheridan, WY 83801 (1-307-674-6446 ext. 6110), email john@radar.sc.wyecn.edu.

Submitted by John Tollakson

Multiuse Campuses: A Plan That Works

Gaylord Community School in Gaylord, Michigan, is a bustling center of activity from the first light of dawn to well after dusk. People of **all ages** come and go until late into the evening for a multitude of activities that include attending classes and meetings, catching up with friends, getting a flu shot, and seeing a play. That's because in addition to a high school, the campus also includes senior and day-care centers, classrooms for adult education, an auditorium for the performing arts, a community health-care site, and even a space that can be booked for weddings and other special occasions.

In another area of the country, elementary, middle, and high school buildings are all situated on one centrally located campus that makes up the entire school district. Also included in this innovative layout are a state-of-the-art theater, a community resource center, and a multipurpose athletic arena, all of which are used extensively by the entire community.

Both of these schools are models of a growing movement toward multiuse community campuses that serve as "anchors in the civic life of our nation," according to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. Secretary Riley expressed concerns about the current increase in the number of students caused by the Baby Boom echo (children of the Boomers) and how that population is going to further stress the already crumbling infrastructure of American schools. He also mentioned the need for resources—to employ more teachers, bring technology into the classroom, strengthen educational curriculum and opportunities for **all ages**—and the pressing need to build and renovate schools. That led to a discussion about the necessity and benefit of involving the whole community in the design and use of new school facilities.

It is a shame that the majority of schools are used only a third of the day, three fourths of the year, by only a fifth of the population. Considering that there will be more school construction over the next decade than at any time since the 1950s, it just makes sense to consider the intergenerational and community benefits of multiuse spaces, benefits that include everything from establishing better learning environments to getting more bang for the tax buck.

There are many additional bonuses for multiuse educational complexes: they create an exciting community hub, bring life and culture to a central area, and revitalize and nourish the neighborhood in which they are located.

It's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Editorial by Horace B. Deets

KUDOS KORNER

This issue's kudos go to **Betty J. Frey of Tucson, Arizona**. Early in the 1950s, Frey was working on a Navajo reservation in Arizona when a Navajo couple asked her to help them learn to read and write English. That experience led her to start the Tucson Adult Literacy Volunteers in 1960. At first Frey provided literacy classes for Hispanic women. Then she developed a system to train tutors.

Over the years Frey has taught Adult Basic English and English as a Second Language to hundreds of students. But by teaching tutors, she has had a hand in indirectly teaching thousands more. At 85, Frey volunteers her services supervising what is now one of Tucson's premier literacy centers.

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Is there someone you would like to recognize?

The MPAEA region has many gems like the one above. Let's not keep them hidden any longer. Send a short biography of the person and a description of their activity to Kathy Vickerman, email vickkath@isu.edu, fax (208) 236-5806 or to Sandra Grant, email sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us, fax (801) 538-7882

continued from *Ray's Rhetoric*

Another possible MPAEA benefit you might receive, as a member would be a discount in the purchase price of books. How does that sound? Is this something the board should vigorously pursue? These are just some of the things being discussed by your organization for this coming year which we believe will make Mountain Plains an even better association.

However, I end this as I started, to make this organization one that really serves your needs we have to hear from you. Cards, letters, FAXes, phone calls, smoke signals, carrier pigeons, drums—any kind of communication will work, but the easiest way is to click on to the MPAEA website; then with another click you can get directly to any of your board members or officers. Use it—it is really easy!

FUN PHRASES

late $c e^{\wedge} \phi_{-}$

ALL/WORLD

Questions and Answers!

1. What is the one thing you do that helps you complete administrative tasks more efficiently?
2. What idea would you like to try this year but you could use some help/guidance to initiate?
3. Who is the best keynote speaker you have ever heard?

Send your responses to Sharyn Yanoshak, MPAEA board member from Nevada at email-syank@ix.netcom.com or fax-(702) 253-6280. All responses will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

Please forward questions for future issues of the newsletter to vickkath@isu.edu, fax (208) 236-5806 or mail to Idaho State University, Campus Box 8015, Pocatello, ID 83209.

Journal of Adult Education

The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education is a refereed journal intended to serve as a voice for the translation of theory to practice for the membership of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). It seeks to disseminate clearly written articles which have the potential of stimulating thought, discussion, and inquiry among those in the MPAEA region.

The purposes of the MPAEA Journal include the following:

1. To provide a regional forum for the discussion and debate of current and pertinent issues in the field of adult education;
2. To stimulate research into adult education;
3. To seek examples of innovative practices and procedures;
4. To feature ideas and visions regarding the future of adult education;
5. To review current literature.

Those interested in submitting manuscripts to the Journal should send three copies of the article to:

Editor, MPAEA Journal of Adult Education
University of Idaho Graduate Center
800 Park Blvd., Suite 200
Boise, Idaho 83712

For more information contact the editor at email, mtomlin@uidaho.edu or call (208) 334-2999.

MPAEA Membership Application

Please select desired membership, detach form and return with dues to:

Gary Wixom, Treasurer
Utah System for Higher Education
462 West Chokecherry Creek
Orem, Ut 84058

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

Individual

Individuals	\$20
Libraries	\$20

Institutional

Colleges & Universities	\$45
State Education Agencies	\$45
Public Schools, Corporate	\$45
Other	\$45

Membership Information

Application Date _____

Name _____

Institution _____

Department or Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Business Phone _____

Residence Phone _____

Email Address _____

**Make checks payable to:
Mountain Plains Adult Education Association**

All membership dues are tax deductible

Upcoming Events

- August 28 Fourth Annual Summer Institute Camp
Rio Salado Community College, the institute will focus on grantwriting.
- September 2-3 Refugee Symposium, Salt Lake City
- September 28- October 1 Arizona Adult Education State Conference, Phoenix
- October 6-8 WLLA Fall Conference - *Last Chance for a New Frontier*, Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne.
For more information contact Jeannie Peacock: fax (307) 766-3445 or email jpeacock@unwyo.edu.
- October 12-17 AAACE Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas.
For more information, contact fax number (202) 223-4579 or email Anna_Darin@dc.sba.com.
- October 17-19 ILLA Annual Conference - *Climb to Discovery*, Sun Valley Inn
- October 25-26 UAACE Annual Conference, Park City
- November 1-3 Service Learning Conference, Provo



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