

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 2

Newsletter, August, 2000



Just Thinking!
Larry Wickham

July 6-8 the Board of Directors were in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the summer board meeting. Thursday afternoon I met with the Board of Directors from the New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) to discuss several issues. One topic dealt with the upcoming

MPAEA Conference scheduled for April 25-28, 2001. Leonard Begaye serves as President of NMAEA and is also a member on the MPAEA Board of Directors. Thursday evening we met with several members of the NMAEA in Old Town Albuquerque for dinner and to experience some of the sites and traditions of that area. I find it very interesting to visit the different cities and states and discover the heritage and culture that make up their background. I guess it would be part of my "continuing education."

Friday and Saturday board members met from 8:00am to 5:00pm and discussed many important items that affect all of us in the MPAEA area. Our discussion of the upcoming conference included the dates, location, call for presenters and other aspects of the conference. Board members took a tour of the facilities at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and found it very suitable for our needs. Lisa Breschi from Albuquerque will be our "point person" and is leading out with some exciting conference plans. Currently we are sending out forms for *Call for Presenters* and hope each of you will sincerely consider making a presentation next spring. This will be your opportunity to discuss a topic of interest to you and perhaps many other people. A *Call for Presenters* form can be found

in this newsletter or you may contact Lisa at lbreschi@nm.net.

There will be 160 rooms reserved for MPAEA participants, but we need to make reservations very soon. At the same time of our conference, the "Gathering Of The Nations" will also be held in Albuquerque. Motels will be very busy and it may be difficult to find other housing. We are hoping we can tie in some of the activities of the "Gathering" with our conference. Please watch carefully for information from the planning committee.

We also discussed the last conference held in Salt Lake City and want to thank all those who participated in the planning, presenting or other aspects. It was very successful and the things we learned will help us plan and carry out more professional conferences in the upcoming years.

The Board spent one afternoon updating and writing the MPAEA Handbook so we can better coordinate the decisions and actions that are made by the board for the organization. This will help us immensely as we go into the next century. We also discussed several changes that may be made in the constitution. More information will be forthcoming and when it is received, we ask you to consider each of the changes and be prepared to vote on it during the Business Meeting of the conference next spring.

My sincere thanks to each Board member for being in attendance and for all the hard work. You can be very pleased with those who are serving you.

Contents

President's Message	1
MPAEA Governing Board and Directors	2
www.mpaea.org	2
Dynamic Program	3
News from the States	4
KUDOS KORNER	7
FOOD FOR THOUGHT	8
The Fortune Society	8
Constitution	9
Journal Information	9
Membership Application	9
Upcoming Events	10

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Journal of Adult Education

Editor

Darrel Hammon, Idaho
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<www.mpaea.org>

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association's web page has moved to a new and more convenient location. The new address is <www.mpaea.org>. The web page is being coordinated from the University of Wyoming Outreach Office in Gillette, WY by John Tollakson with the assistance of Dawn Kiesel. Several new and/or improved features are worth checking out.

The *What's New* section includes items of current interest along with a photo album, both of which will be updated regularly.

The *Information* section now contains a copy of the current budget of the Association, a listing of the various committees, and the complete minutes of all MPAEA meetings.

The *Membership* page includes an application form which can be printed and used in the recruitment of new members. This page will also list all MPAEA members by state once this information becomes available.

Email links are included in the *Officers* section providing the membership with easy access to the officers and the board members of their state. Hopefully, this will stimulate more feedback to the MPAEA Board.

The MPAEA Newsletter is reproduced on the *Publications* page on the web for the member's convenience. With the October 2000 issue of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Journal of Adult Education, the table of contents will be posted with information regarding how visitors to the MPAEA Web Site may order the MPAEA Journal.

A visit to the *Conferences* page will provide information regarding the 2001 conference in Albuquerque. Included are approximate registration fees, hotel costs, and links to the Albuquerque Visitors Bureau, the conference hotel, and the Gathering of the Nations home page.

Included in the *Organizational Links* page are links to the state associations in the Mountain Plains Region as well as other life-long learning associations and resources.

In the near future, the *Interactive* section of the web page will be "up and running."

Remember that <www.mpaea.org> belongs to you, the membership. Members are encouraged to send suggestions and/or information for the web page to John Tollakson, johnt@uwyo.edu.

MPAEA WEBSITE
www.mpaea.org

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

DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN MPAEA REGION

Students Are the Winners in Montana

In all of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs throughout the country, students are the core of the programs. They have always given more than they have received. Because of this, those who work at the Adult Education Center in Billings, Montana, are the winners. Some of the Center's students want to share their thoughts about learning and the Center:

- ✓ I am so glad about myself because now I am a different person because I learn English.
- ✓ What is important to me? It is getting better in reading. Reading is very important to me.
- ✓ I really hate to admit this, but I have begun to enjoy math.
- ✓ I once was a teenager who got mixed up and into trouble with the law, but now I am getting an education and setting goals.
- ✓ I once was a thug, a drug dealer, a thief, but now I am a role model.
- ✓ I never thought I would see the day when at my age I would be back in school when I could be thinking about retiring.
- ✓ I once was afraid of being a failure. Now I realize that the only failure is not being willing to try. For most of my life I've played it safe. If I attempted to do something and I didn't succeed, I gave up. I was too afraid of the shame of failure to try again. Sometimes even if I did succeed, I still wouldn't continue. I just couldn't risk the possibility of failure...I know now that I am not a failure. I am a woman who is not afraid to try and not afraid to succeed.
- ✓ There have been many people that have influenced me over my life, but I would like to write about a place that has influenced me. It has a very positive environment and it is a great place to grow. It is the Lincoln Center...I can't say enough about my experience here. I have excelled more than I thought possible. The teachers have encouraged me to go just a bit farther than I thought I could go. They do it in a way that makes me feel so good about myself. Not only has it been a great experience for me, but I also see it in most of the people who are here.

Adult Basic Education has been an active component of the education scene in Billings since 1964. For the past 36 years the Adult Education Center has provided instruction

for students ranging in ages 16-75+ and educational levels k-12+. Enrollment has increased from only 94 students annually to well over 1,000 students currently. Students enter the program for a variety of reasons: to become functionally literate citizens, to study for the GED, to prepare for college or technical training; to upgrade for entry into the job market, or to increase skills for job advancement. The Center is located in the heart of downtown Billings with satellite programs at the Billings Women's and Family Shelter, Yellowstone County Detention Center, and the Montana Women's Prison.

The Center is unique for a variety of reasons. First, the Center is a part of the local School District #2 and is housed at Lincoln Center, District #2's administration center. Second, it maintains a full-time day staff of 10 teachers (2 language arts, 2.5 math, 1.5 social studies/science, 1 business, 1 jail, and 2 prison), 2 counselors, 1 Title I assistant, 1 testing technician, 1 secretary, and a full-time director and a part-time evening staff of 5 teachers. Third, the Center has 6 to 15 station computer labs in 7 of its classrooms. Not only are all of the labs networked and internet-accessible via a T1 line but also they are networked to an Integrated Learning System (ILS), Destinations. And finally, the Adult Education Center is an alternative site for some of the District's high school students.

The Center prides itself on its flexibility. Like many ABE programs, it is an open-entry/open-exit, year-round facility. In the past it has been a recipient of the U.S. Department of Education Secretary's Award for an Outstanding ABE Program. The Adult Education Center's staff would be proud to have you visit them. As one of its students said, "I believe the Adult Education Center is a crucial part of our community. If we want our society to grow and improve as a whole, education is the way to achieve that goal." Come on up to Montana and see us sometime!

WELCOME BACK

A big welcome back to Jean and Rich Fleming. The Flemings have moved to Hobbs, New Mexico where Rich will be Vice-president of Instruction at New Mexico Junior College and Jean will be a Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of the Southwest. Jean and Rich have been valued members of MPAEA for many years.

According to Jean they are really glad to be back home in the west again.

News from Arizona

The "Lazy Days of Summer" do not apply to the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL). On June 10, 2000, the Association hosted the last of its quarterly professional development meetings in Bisbee, Arizona. Bisbee was once a thriving mining town at the turn of the century, but when the mines closed the town nearly became a ghost town. But, in the last twenty years it has re-emerged as a thriving art center in south-eastern Arizona and is home to the famous Copper Queen Hotel considered by many as a premier hotel in the early twentieth century.

Bisbee is also home to a branch campus of Cochise College, which cosponsored this event along with MPAEA and AALL. The sessions included developing Internet lessons, addressing phonological awareness, GED, Arizona State Adult Education Standards, and a trip to the Yucatan. As you can see the variety of sessions offered something for everyone. In addition to these, I attended a session on reducing stress, which is my nemesis as a principal. I learned five techniques to recapture the spirit of the child in us all. 1) Listen to many types of music; 2) Appreciate diversity; 3) Keep an open mind and learn to appreciate all styles of people and things; 4) Learn new set of R's-record, recall, and recreate; and 5) Take a nap or power break. I'm still trying to put these suggestions into practice.

AALL elected a new President-elect, Claire Ludovico, and Margaret Quintana took over as the new President from Miriam Kroeger. Thank you, Miriam, for a job well done and congratulations to Margaret and Claire.

Margaret proposed that the Board have a retreat in July to conduct Strategic Planning. The event was held in the cool pines of Pine, AZ. Several committees were formed who were charged with establishing goals for the year. In addition, the membership list will be reviewed in order to invite others to join the committees. A summary of the planning document is available by contacting Margaret via email at mequintana@uswest.net.

The final summer activity for AALL was the Summer Camp on August 5, 2000, held in the White Mountains. This was a family event sponsored by Northland Pioneer College. The program titled, *The GED, Geology and You*, will focus on the local geology of the area presented by Randy Porch, who holds an MS in Earth Science. Families spent a day at Fool Hollow Lake State Park and explored the geological record.

As you can see, AALL is a rich source of lifelong learning opportunities. Check us out on the web as a link to the MPAEA web site.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Power

Members of the board of the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning met for an overnight retreat in mid-July. Trying to escape the 100+ degree heat of Phoenix, we journeyed to the cooler air of the Mogollon Rim in Pine, Arizona. Perhaps we thought our thinking would be clearer. While some of us may have started out grumbling, (another weekend away from home), we all ended up feeling that our time together was very worthwhile. We regrouped and set our course for the new year. We even found out what sort of dare devil stunt we may have pulled in our "younger" years, if we had famous or infamous connections, or where we'd like to journey in the future. We developed a group story for each person there, with a lot of laughter and good fun thrown in. We also took a look at our committees, our organization and our projects. We broke into groups of two or three to brainstorm ideas.

We have homework to do, but we have a great group to do it. Our most pressing project is the AALL Awards Conference in October. We have been organizing mini-conferences throughout the state for the past three to four years, but this is the first large conference in quite a while which the association has organized on its own. In addition to workshops and presentations, the conference will be an exciting venue for our awards-Rookie of the Year, Award of Excellence in honor of Gary P. Tang, Lifelong Learning Advocate in honor of Francis E. Blake, and Lifetime Achievement in honor of Gary A. Eyre. If those names are familiar to some of you, Arizona is very proud to have had these men involved in lifelong learning in our state. I invite you to find out more about the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning through our website-www.az-aall.org.

Submitted by Miriam Kroeger

FUN PHRASES

PLOT

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News from Colorado

Colorado Adult Educators have been busy implementing programs into the one-stop delivery system initiated by the Workforce Investment Act. Local providers have been developing memorandums of understanding with the local workforce boards to begin delivery of services to one-stop clients.

Colorado has been very innovative in how they allocate funds to the local one-stops by initiating a state-wide rural consortium board through the Colorado Department of Labor. Each rural region in the state has a representative on the board to determine how funds will be distributed within the state. This has given the outlying areas of the state a stronger voice in determining how programs in their area will be funded. Adult Education is currently working on getting an appointed seat on the rural consortium board, but we do have a local provider on the board serving in another capacity that can speak for adult education.

The website for more information on adult education in Colorado is cde.state.co.us/index_adult.htm. For more information you can contact Debra Fawcett at fawcett_d@cde.state.co.us.

The Colorado conference will be held October 25-26 in Longmont, Colorado.

Submitted by Cathy Calderwood

News from Idaho

Mark your calendars and arrange your schedule NOW to attend the 59th MPAEA Annual Regional Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 25-28, 2001. This promises to be an incredible experience. In July the Board met in Albuquerque to check out the impressive facilities and get in gear for a fabulous "Lifelong Learning: the Never-Ending Story" opportunity. Albuquerque hosts are planning to provide all of us with a truly memorable gathering in the unique multi-cultural setting of Albuquerque. This will be one you won't want to miss.

Also, make note of the University Continuing Education Association's (UCEA) Region West conference October 11-13 at the spectacular northern Idaho resort of Coeur d'Alene. Dr. James Vortruba, President of Northern Kentucky University, will be the keynote speaker and there will be many outstanding sessions. Check out <http://www.lcsc.edu/UCEAwest>. With Lewis-Clark State College as host this event will be well worth your time.

Our Idaho Lifelong Learning Association's (ILLA) An-

nual Conference is nearing. This will be held in the spectacular setting of Sun Valley in the fall-October 22-24. Educators, trainers, and administrators of all aspects of adult education will come together for "Lifelong Learning: Bridging the Millennium," a truly worthwhile professional improvement event. Contact ILLA President, Suzanne Robison, at (208) 522-3000, extension 3361, or reach her at suzanne@eitc.edu. The American Association for Training and Development-Treasure Valley Chapter will join ILLA to make this the best state conference yet in Idaho.

Recently Rexburg hosted its 15th Annual International Folk Dance Festival with eight countries represented in this rich multi-cultural event; Bulgaria, China, Slovakia, Croatia, Israel, Mexico, Germany, and Hawaii. Tourists and tour groups from all over the country raved about the expert dance teams and enjoyed the spirit of world unity.

America's largest private two-year institution, Ricks College in Rexburg, will become Brigham Young University-Idaho. The name change should become effective sometime within the next year and give "Ricks" the opportunity to become a four-year university. A large number of bachelor degree programs are being planned to meet the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students from all parts of the world. Check out the Ricks' website at <http://www.ricks.edu> for up-to-date information on the transition.

Submitted by Carol Hughes



News from Montana

Attending the MPAEA conference in Salt Lake City this past April was "just what the doctor ordered!" The weather was perfect. Flowers were blooming everywhere, which was quite a treat for us northern folks at that time of year. There were lots of friendly people with lots to share and learn. The conference held a wide variety of sessions to choose from each day, with topics ranging from specific "how-to" classroom techniques to the more light hearted "feed your spirit" types of sessions.

Both keynote speakers were highly motivational. Margaret Wheatley spoke eloquently about how to work and live effectively in a society permeated by cynicism and exhaustion. She focused a great deal on the strong correlation between quality personal relationships and quality learning. She also emphasized the importance of engaging our students, co-workers and employees to set their own goals rather than imposing our goals upon them. Her message being, "When people set their own goals, they exceed them, when they're told what to do, they retreat."

Carl Boyd spoke and sang to us to emphasize his message that "students don't rise to low expectations." He related his theme through a variety of moving and often hilarious stories and personal experiences.

All of this was informative and motivating, yet the highlight of the conference for the Montana attendees was clearly getting to see the expression on Yvonne Hauwiler's face upon the announcement that she received the Award of Merit from MPAEA, 2000. Congratulations Yvonne!!

Submitted by Kim Heist, Livingston, MT

News from Nevada

Preparations are under way for the National Literacy Day Dinner at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas on September 8, 2000. *Famous Amos* is the featured speaker at this event which unites business, political and communications personnel to focus on the need for lifelong learning. Teachers, students, volunteers and programs will be recognized for their work on behalf of the cause of literacy. Funds raised by this event go to the Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition.

Nevada's bicameral legislature is scheduled to begin meeting in early 2001. Providers and professionals across the state are busy preparing recommendations for funding revisions for all phases of Adult Education including Adult High School, ABE, ESL and Literacy Providers.

Submitted by Julee Henson and Vicki Newell

News from Utah

This has been a busy time for Utah. In July the Utah Association of Adult, Community, and Continuing Education held a two-day Grant Writing Workshop in St. George, Utah. The instructor was Lynn Lee, a retired grant writer for Utah State University. The workshop was well attended, and had a variety of participants - from the general public to university personnel. Everyone enjoyed the interactive workshop and the St. George area. The workshop was so well received that another workshop will be held in September at Snowbird Resort near Salt Lake City during the Octoberfest.

Utah's Summer Institute was held on August 7-8. The keynote speaker for Monday was Thomas Sticht, a well-known adult educator from California and a liaison to the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Sticht has written many articles about adult education and travels the world looking at and evaluating other adult education programs. In addition, adult education awards were given for Outstanding Adult Education Program: Ogden City School District's Adult Education Program; Outstanding Leadership: Gaylin Rollins for Alpine School District. Outstanding Teacher Awards were given to Dave Smith of Ogden City School District and Tim Collins of Granite School District and the Outstanding Contribution Award went to Jeff Galli from the Utah State Office of Education, Corrections Education. The entertainment was provided by Rob Hamblin, a local singer and disc-jockey with dancing after the banquet. Kim Ratz from Minnesota's Community Education was the keynote on Tuesday. Kim spends a lot of time training around the world. He is also a songwriter and singer. Kim proved to be a very entertaining speaker. Breakout sessions ranged from curriculum networking sessions in history, science, life skills, and health to a directors' orientation. Other topics included adult basic education concerns, adult high school completion, literacy, the new English language/Civics education, data management system training, Ed TRACK, and many others.

The UAACCE annual conference will be held in Park City on October 22-23 at the Park City Marriott. President-elect Cindy Krueger, conference chair, has included a strand of technology education. A Utah based computer and technology group will bring in a classroom of computers for the strand - this promises to be a highlight of the conference. The keynote speaker will be Chile Chavez. Chile is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker and consultant specializing in helping people and organizations realize, develop, and celebrate their potential to achieve worthy goals. Her unique mixture of humor and leadership insights has helped make her one of the country's most sought after speaker on contemporary issues and possibili-

ties. Her leadership roles on Boards of Trustees, the chamber of Commerce and Superintendent of a large metropolitan school district lend credibility to her message on enlightened leadership. Her message is delivered in an energetic, entertaining and content-rich way. UAACCE is very fortunate to have a speaker of Chile's caliber as a keynote for this year's conference.

UAACCE's membership committee has compiled, published, and distributed over 300 copies of their Resource Directory. The directory includes adult, community, and continuing education programs; a membership directory; community-based organization; library programs; and many other resources that will be useful to the membership and others. Requests continue to come in for additional copies of the directory. All in all, it has been a busy summer.

Submitted by Sandra Grant

PowerPath

Twenty Montana adult educators and literacy volunteers participated in a *PowerPath Certification Training Workshop*, July 31-August 3, and a *Share the Power Community Forum* on August 4. All sessions were held on the Flathead Valley Community College campus in Kalispell.

Laura P. Weisel conducted the training and facilitated the forum. *PowerPath* is an intake, diagnostic screening and intervention system for adult basic skills programs. It screens for learning differences, builds a diagnostic profile of strengths and weaknesses, and prescribes strategies for learning which accommodate the individual.

Dr. Dale Jordan describes *PowerPath* as "by far the best assessment package for identifying specific learning differences in adults. It offers a great deal of information in a brief format. Those who use *PowerPath* have an extremely well-designed, yet simple-to-administer system that deals kindly with human need."

Adult Basic Education staff and Adult Literacy tutors agreed that *PowerPath* will be extremely useful in helping us and our students better evaluate individual learning needs and identify best methods for accommodating those needs. *Share the Power* gave us an opportunity to explain the tool to some of the Human Resource and Social Service providers with whom we "share customers." It was an excellent week for all who could participate!

Submitted by Lucy Smith

KUDOS KORNER

Gloria Bouie dropped out of high school in Louisiana in 1946. On June 7, 2000, at age 70, Gloria received her high school diploma at the Clark County School District Alternative Education Graduation Ceremony. Seated with honor on the stage as the Adult High School speaker, Gloria recounted a life of service to others. One of 15 children, she worked to help support the family. She married at 19 and had 11 children of her own. Each of her children finished high school. Some have college degrees or joined the military. Gloria and her children were regular visitors to the public library. Gloria loved to read and continued to do so all of her life. In 1989, Gloria moved to Las Vegas and took a job in housekeeping in a hotel where she worked until she retired in 1996. She had begun attending classes at the Adult Education Programs, and upon retirement, made getting her diploma her first priority. Gloria loved her literature classes, and suffered through her math classes. In 1997, she passed her proficiency examinations, and in late June of 1999, she finished her credit requirements. She wanted the "Pomp and Circumstance," so dressed in a gold cap and gown, a nervous Gloria addressed the crowd. She thanked her children, grandchildren, teachers and all that had supported her. As she told her story there wasn't an eye in the house without a tear: a tear of joy, a tear of hope, a tear of pride. When the graduate's names were called and each one walked across the stage to receive their diploma, the biggest ovation belonged to Gloria.

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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 accomplishment to Kathy Vickerman, email vickkath@isu.edu, fax (208) 282-5806 or send to Jacquelyn Power, power@fiestanet.com.

**Don't ever take a fence down until
you know why it was put up.**

Robert Frost

59th Annual Regional Conference
Mountain Plains Adult Education Association
April 25th-28th, 2001
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Conference Partners:



New Mexico Adult Education Association
Leonard Begaye, President
Crownpoint Institute of Technology
PO Box 849, Crownpoint, NM 87313
505-768-4125 • FAX 505-768-5644



New Mexico Coalition for Literacy
Rebecca Gault, ABE Coordinator
PO Box 6085, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6085
1-800-233-7587 • FAX 505-982-4095

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. We will offer sessions in adult basic education, continuing education, industry training, and literacy. Selected presenters will be notified by December 1, 2000. All presenters must pre-register for the conference.

Proposal Guidelines

The conference committee invites proposals from members throughout the region. Proposals should follow the theme of lifelong learning in the 21st century. Suggested topics might include technology of education, family literacy, integrating life skills and employability skills into the ABE curriculum, learning disabilities and individual learning styles, culturally prescribed teaching and learning, and instructor competencies. Sessions may be 50 minutes or 80 minutes in length.

**LIFELONG
LEARNING
THE NEVER-
ENDING
STORY**

THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

All of us in Adult Education are involved in the process of learning, and we have our own stories that have brought us to this place. Whether we are administrators, teachers, tutors, or students, we share in the excitement generated in our classrooms and our institutions.

We need to honor our origins—our culture, traditions, and the personal path that each of us takes in life as we strive to become effective citizens, workers, and family members, and give voice to our experience. But there is a common denominator that transcends our individual circumstance.

We are all adult learners, engaged in the process of lifelong learning. Together we can spread the word to our community about our GED programs, workforce training, and literacy: Adult Education—it's the Never-Ending Story.

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 complete forms to Rebecca Gault, New Mexico Coalition for Literacy, PO Box 6085, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6085.

Proposals must be postmarked by October 19, 2000

Session Title (10 words or less): _____

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

Session Length: 50 minutes 80 minutes

Session Objective: _____

Session Format:

- Demonstration
- Roundtable
- Panel Discussion
- Paper

Preferred Room Arrangement:

- Classroom (chairs with tables)
- Banquet (round tables of 8)
- Theater (moveable rows of chairs)

Lead Presenter: (Contact person)

Name: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Co-presenter Name: _____ Title: _____

Biography (25 words or less for single presenter, 50 words or less for co-presenters):

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

- Flip Chart
- Slide Projector and Screen
- VHS/VCR and Monitor
- Other (per request) _____
- Overhead Projector and Screen
- Cassette Tape Player
- Computer/Monitor

Selected presenters will be notified of acceptance by December 1, 2000.

All presenters must pre-register for the conference.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Success is not a pie, with only so many slices to go around. The success of others has nothing to do with your success. Nor is your success measured by what others say or what others accomplish. We all have the tendency to compare ourselves with others. But the happy people in this life know it's not against others that we compete.

The late Henry Fonda once said that a thoroughbred horse never looks at the other racehorses. It just concentrates on running the fastest race it can.

On our track to success, we have to fight the tendency to look at others and see how far they've come. The only thing that counts is how we use the potential we possess and that we run our race to the best of our abilities.

Dennis Waitley & Reni L. Witt/*The Joy of Working*

The Fortune Society

Charles W. Washington
with Donna James
and Jessica Scannell

In 1967, the off-Broadway play *Fortune and Men's Eyes* raised public concern about the impact that prison life was having upon inmates and ex-offenders. The play, written by ex-offender John Herbert, shocked and intrigued audiences as they witnessed actors portray some of the harsh realities of life in the "joint." Inspired by a desire to create an organization that would help ex-offenders help themselves, a small group of people, headed by David Rothenberg, who produced *Fortune and Men's Eyes*, formed The Fortune Society.

The Fortune Society is a nonprofit community-based organization dedicated to:

- ◆ helping ex-offenders break out of the destructive cycle of crime and incarceration;
- ◆ helping young people develop the resources they need to lead productive lives before they commit a serious crime;
- ◆ educating the public about prisons, criminal justice issues, and the root cause of crime.

Fortune offers ex-offenders counseling, career development, treatment for substance abuse, AIDS/HIV assistance, information, and referrals. Fortune also offers an extensive education program that includes assessments, GED preparation, and one-to-one tutoring in reading, math, social studies, and English as a second language.

Upon entering Fortune's education program, students go through an orientation period that gives special education teachers an opportunity to observe and assess their behavior and needs. If a learning disability is suspected, teachers work to accommodate the student's style and strengths. In some cases, the student is referred to an outside agency for formal diagnosis.

At the end of each term, students in the Fortune Society's Math Education Program take a test to determine their grade equivalent in math. The following week, students are asked to complete a math self-assessment to reflect on themselves as math students for the past term. They share experiences, feelings, thoughts, and goals that come to mind when they read a series of "starters" such as "What surprised me..." or "What challenges me..." Nishel Taufeeq records, "This time I think I got every last one of them right. Even the hard ones. I took a lot of math tests in my life, but this is the first time I've been getting a lot right. Since I've been here; the more I do it, sometimes I do feel like saying 'Forget this!' with the new math you be giving us, but then I say, 'Wow!' I'm comprehending things I never could comprehend before."

Other students are asked to keep journals about their past experiences. Allen J. wrote:

I spoke in front of a student body of about 300 people. I spoke about how hard it was to hide the fact that I did not know how to read and spell; hide it from friends and family. I told them that it was harder hiding it from them than it was learning how to read and write. I also told them that I was forty-five years old and working on my GED with hopes of going to college.

I also mentioned the fact that I used drugs to hide my problem, and at the age of forty-three I got busted. I was mandated to go to the Fortune Society for counseling on drug use. That is where I enrolled in the education program.

Yes, it is hard, but I'm sticking to it because I know how important it is to have an education and go on in life. I don't do drugs any more and I don't want to. My tutor, Ruth, is the best of all. She is also hard as a rock and don't take no stuff. She stays with me no matter what.

Constitutional Amendments

The MPAEA Board voted at the Association's summer board meeting to present several amendments to the MPAEA Constitution to the membership for approval at the annual business meeting of the Association in Albuquerque. Those changes will be editorial in addition to adding a new board position, Electronics Communication Officer, to be appointed at large by the President and approved by the Board. The person holding this position would serve a one year term and could be reappointed. This is the same procedure that is utilized when appointing the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.

The Electronics Communication Officer would be responsible for the Website, assist in facilitating electronic communication among the membership, and communicate electronic information to the membership in a timely fashion.

This notice meets the requirement to notify the membership of MPAEA of the intent to amend the MPAEA Constitution.

Submitted by John A. Tollakson

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
 Lewis-Clark State College
 500. 8th Avenue
 Lewiston, ID 83501

For more information contact the editor at email, dhammon@lcsc.edu or call (208) 799-2282.

MPAEA Membership Application

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

Lou Workman, Treasurer
 Utah State University
 2777 North 1600 East
 Logan, UT 84341

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

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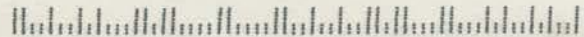


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Upcoming Events

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| September 8 | Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition, Las Vegas, Nevada |
| September 27-29 | Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association Conference, Cody, Wyoming. For more information call (307) 754-6280. |
| October 5-7 | International Adult Learning and Technology Symposium, Jackson, Wyoming |
| October 11-13 | University Continuing Education Association Region West Conference, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. For more information call (208) 799-2282. |
| October 19-20 | Montana Association of Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Billings, Montana |
| October 20-21 | Arizona Association of Lifelong Learning Awards Conference, Phoenix, Arizona |
| October 22-23 | Utah Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education Conference, Park City, Utah. For more information call (801) 256-5742. |
| October 22-24 | Idaho Lifelong Learning Conference, Sun Valley, Idaho |
| October 25-26 | Colorado State Adult Education Association Conference, Longmont, Colorado |
| April 25-28, 2001 | Mountain Plains Adult Education Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. <i>Lifelong Learning- The Never-ending Story.</i> |