

# NEWSLETTER

## Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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Newsletter, February, 2000

### Ray's Rhetoric



Remember the MPAEA survey you completed a few months ago? You were asked some fairly specific questions as to how your MPAEA could be improved. While the data have not been thoroughly critiqued, I believe what you told us is very impressive and gives the board great direction.

MPAEA members who responded enjoy the association's publication, *Journal of Adult Education*. It is read completely, or at least some of the articles are read, by nearly 100% of those that answered the survey. This tells the board that the *Journal* is an important benefit for the members and you can bet that you will see this continue, but as an improved publication. One improvement decision already made by the board is that one issue will follow a theme with all articles addressing a single subject.

And, the annual conference—nearly 100% of the respondents have attended at least one conference with nearly three-fourths of respondents attending more than once. Would you believe one MPAEA member has attended 26 conferences . . . he or she must be getting something from them. Many individual comments concerning the conference were ideas for improvement, and these ideas will, if at all possible, be implemented starting with the conference this year in Utah. For instance, watch for an emphasis on specific subjects such as Utah's two pre-conference sessions, Internet Basics and True Colors.

WOW, you all belong to a lot of organizations in addition to MPAEA. Nearly 60 different organizations

were listed by respondents as organizations to which they belong.

Finally, and very exciting, is the proposed concept of a Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Adult Education Certification. Nearly 71% responded with definite **Yes** and nearly 8% indicated **Maybe**. Watch this one! MPAEA is dedicated to the highest quality and most meaningful service it can provide and judging from the responses given this will be high on the list.

The responses to this survey were not even close to 100% of the membership; thus, we need to hear from the rest of you. What do you think? Is the information we have received correct? What could MPAEA do to help you the most? Are we missing something? As I have said in past columns—cards, drums, letters, Faxes, phone calls, smoke signals, carrier pigeons—any kind of communication will work, but the bottom line is that we want to hear from you. What are your thoughts on MPAEA and its direction? The easiest way to express your views and opinions, which again I repeat, is to click onto the MPAEA website, then with another click you can get directly to either of your board members, other states board members or the association officers. Use it! Internet is easy, fast, reliable and direct!

#### Contents

President's Message	1
MPAEA Governing Board and Directors	2
Conference Information	2
Dynamic Program	3
Awards Nomination	3
News From the States	4
Pre-conference Workshops	8
Family Literacy and Culture	8
KUDOS KORNER	8
Questions & Answers	9
Journal Information	9
Membership Application	9
Upcoming Events	10

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## Journal of Adult Education Editor

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## *Where We've Never Gone Before*

### MPAEA Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah

April 26-29, 2000

Start the conference off right by attending one of two pre-conference workshops, Internet Basics or True Colors. These workshops are offered on Wednesday afternoon and will be followed by a reception.

Thursday's keynote speaker is Dr. Margaret Wheatley. Dr. Wheatley will be followed by breakout sessions that encompass all strands of adult education from corrections education and GED preparation to college, distance education and work experience. Sessions include Celebrating Life, The Latest in Brain Research, Basic Skills, Literacy Tools, Distance Education, Statistics, Education Provider Partners, and many more. Many workshops will be hands-on participation.

The MPAEA annual business meeting will be held during the luncheon on Thursday and UAACCE is hosting a reception at the Hansen Planetarium in the evening.

Friday begins with keynoter Carl Boyd, Urban Education for National School Conference Institute (NSCI), with his address, *No One Rises to Low Expectations*. Breakout sessions on Friday continue the theme of the conference and offer a great variety of information. These sessions include Transitioning ABE Students, The Institute for Adult Education, Computer Connections, Family History Writing, Negotiating Through Conflict, Reading Abilities, The Synergy of Faculty Collaboration, Squashing Ants, Impact of Crime on Victims, Learning Strategies, Firing Up Fractions, North to Alaska, and more, more, more. Friday night Steve James and Company will entertain at the **Broadway Night and Dancing Banquet**.

On Saturday, capstone speaker Tom Jackson, Active Learning Foundation, Utah, will end the conference with *Moving From Preaching to Teaching*.

For more information contact Gaylin Rollins, [gaylin.rollins@allc.alpine.k12.ut.us](mailto:gaylin.rollins@allc.alpine.k12.ut.us); Sandra Grant, [sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us](mailto:sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us). To register use the form included in this Newsletter or find it on the website listed below.

### MPAEA WEBSITE

[www.uvsc.edu/mpaea](http://www.uvsc.edu/mpaea)

Access the MPAEA listserve  
[mpaea-l@cebrigham.usu.edu](mailto:mpaea-l@cebrigham.usu.edu)

## DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN MPAEA REGION

### Adult Basic Education: Positioning Adults for Lifelong Learning

There is a great deal of talk these days about the critical nature of family literacy. Programs such as Even Start have brought public attention to the critical need for intervention services that target not just children, but their parents and grandparents as well. It is gratifying to those of us in Adult Basic Education (ABE) that this indisputable fact is finally being acknowledged.

ABE practitioners have recognized for years that when adults improve their basic skills, get their GED, and/or enter college, the entire family benefits. Children, especially those in primary grades, who see their parents reading or doing homework begin to emulate them and soon the entire family becomes engaged in learning as an adventure and a pleasure.

ABE is the only statewide system with no eligibility requirements other than educational need for those out-of-school youth and adults performing below what might be expected of a high school graduate. Estimates of this target population in Idaho range from 140,000 to more than 200,000. There is no charge for services for those qualifying adults who wish to become involved.

In Idaho, we have six Regional Adult Learning Centers, with Eastern Idaho Technical college (EITC) serving all of Region VI. All of the Centers do an outstanding job of providing basic skills instruction, General Education Development (GED) preparation, and English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to their communities.

At EITC, our program includes structured classes in English, math, reading, computer, government, and ESL. We also offer individualized instruction in basic skills and GED preparation and testing, both during the day and in the evenings. GED preparation and a family literacy program is also offered at the Haven, a local homeless shelter. In communities throughout Region 6, an area spanning 22,000 square miles, we offer additional classes in GED preparation, ESL, and basic skills. In conjunction with the Madison County School District (Rexburg), we are partners in an Even Start program, providing the adult education component of this nationwide family literacy project.

Before a student is placed in classes or other modes of instruction, they are first given a diagnostic test that targets areas of deficiency. Students can see approxi-

mately what grade-level they are at in each of the three areas of reading, math, and English and, if their scores are above a certain level, the test also gives a GED predictability score. Once students have taken the test, they meet with an advisor to review the results and to determine which avenue of remediation to pursue. This practice is standard throughout Idaho.

ABE programs, statewide and nationwide, are dedicated to helping students succeed. When we see our students go on to higher education or specialized training and then watch them find gainful employment, we know that their actions and ours have far-reaching, positive effects on generational literacy, sociocultural awareness and responsibility, economic stability, and citizenship. Lives are changed by learning and as faculty and staff, we feel privileged to facilitate some of that miraculous change!

If you know an adult in Southeast Idaho who could benefit from our services, please have them call the Regional Adult Learning Center at 524-3000 ext. 3386. For those who live in outlying areas within Region Six, our toll-free line is 1-800-662-0261. Our staff will be happy to direct them to the Learning Center in their area.

Submitted by Peggy Nelson

## SOMETHING NEW!! MPAEA AWARDS NOMINATIONS

This issue of the Newsletter includes (for the first time) a nomination form for the MPAEA Awards to be given at the conference in Salt Lake City. This is an effort to get more of the membership involved in the nomination process. In past years, the task of nominating persons for the various awards rested primarily with the board members from the eight MPAEA states. It is the desire of the Awards Committee that this "opening up" of the nominations process will make it a bit more democratic and create a greater interest among the membership in the awards process.

Nominations should be mailed to:

John A. Tollakson  
University of Wyoming-NE Region  
Box 1500  
Sheridan, WY 82801

## *News from Arizona*

Work on the Arizona statewide Adult Education Standards Project has moved into year three of a five-year plan. This project, while lead by the Division of Adult Education, is actually being accomplished through the hard work of volunteers from programs all over Arizona. To date, content Standards (which tell us what a student should know and be able to do) in Reading, Writing, Math, ESL, and Citizenship are finished and programs have begun implementing them in their classrooms. Science and Social Studies Content Standards are in the focus group stage and plans are to have them ready by the end of June. Performance Standards (which tell us how good is good enough) drafts are back out of focus groups for editing with the expectation they will also be done before the new program year starts in July. The newest phase, Assessment Standards, was begun in early January for the purpose of making recommendations in the selection of uniform assessment instruments to be used by all ABE programs in Arizona. As those of you who are engaged in similar projects in your states know, this is a large project that will have an even larger impact on the way programs do business in the future. To help programs understand and put the standards correctly into practice, a team of Standards specialists has been selected. After being trained, they will share their standards expertise with their ABE peers throughout the state for the next two and a half years.

AALL puts on regional mini-conferences every year with the financial help of the MPAEA State Professional Development Fund. Hopefully, your state associations are also taking advantage of this wonderful contribution MPAEA makes toward staff development within the MPAEA region. AALL will gather in Prescott on March 4th and in Bisbee on June 10th for a morning of professional development activities, followed by a board meeting. Such regional mini-conferences are a great way for the association to visit the different areas of the state and network with local ABE program staff, while facilitating meaningful staff development activities at the same time.

A hearty congratulations goes out to the Pima County Adult Education program and Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County program for receiving the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Adult Education and Literacy Programs. Awarded for the first time in three years, it is noteworthy that two of the ten awards were won by programs in Arizona. Arizona is proud to be the home of these excellent programs. From all

of us in the field of Adult Basic Education, "Way to go!"

Lastly, it's that time of year to start thinking about board elections. AALL expects to elect a President-Elect, a Treasurer, and five new board members this spring. Let's all remember to be active in the forthcoming MPAEA board elections as well. Both elections give us another way to serve this wonderful profession we have chosen.

Submitted by Blair Liddicoat

## *News from Colorado*

Pam Smith was recently appointed Director of Adult and Family Literacy at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Pam has an extensive background in family literacy and elementary education and brings to CDE a vast knowledge in program development and implementation.

Ms. Smith started her career in education as an elementary school teacher in Nottingham, England, where she was born and raised. In 1989, she became the Even Start Coordinator for Adult Learning Source in Denver where she implemented a new Even Start program at three different sites.

In 1994, Pam moved to the Colorado Governor's Office to oversee the First Impressions Early Childhood Initiative and later the Toyota Family Literacy Grant. While overseeing these programs, she also initiated the Fairview Family Literacy Program with Youth Crime Prevention/Intervention (YCPI) grant money.

After completing her tenure with the Governor's Office, Pam coordinated two Even Start sites for the Southwest Family Centers, developing programs for inner city families in Denver.

Pam's goals as the Director of Adult and Family Literacy at the Colorado Department of Education include expanding programs to better serve families that are in need of family literacy and lifelong learning.

Submitted by Cathy Calderwood

## News from Idaho

Greetings from the great State of Idaho. Winter still abides in some places; others are enjoying spring-like weather. Here in Lewiston, I saw one of our grounds crew trimming a section of our lawn yesterday. This morning, one of the workers was edging the grass. Spring is on the way.

The Idaho Legislature is back in session. Our Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) President, Suzanne Robinson, spoke to the House and Senate Education Committees about Adult Education during the first week in February. Her speech focused on lifelong learning and adult education and how important it is to Idaho citizens. This opportunity came to ILLA via the Idaho Coalition for Adult Literacy (ICAL). Each year, ICAL sponsors a legislative breakfast to "inform" the legislature about education and literacy. About three years ago, they invited ILLA to participate. It is a wonderful opportunity to help legislators and others understand the importance of lifelong learning "and how it seeps into and spreads throughout every facet of Idaho's learning communities."

One of Suzanne's analogy should be spread to the rest of the MPAEA crowd. She writes, "When you help educate adults, they influence those they encounter like the hot fudge on an ice cream sundae. Their information trickles down, warms all passed over, and spreads influence and knowledge all through their travels—finally mixing and flavoring all at the base of learning."

Idaho adult educators challenge the rest of the adult educators of the Mountain Plains states (if they haven't already done so) to try to become an agenda item at the legislature or assemblies of your state. We suspect that some of the ABE/literacy crowd already do this, but people in all of our states need to understand that funding adult education in all of its aspects is really providing opportunities for parents to enhance their own education. Consequently, funding adult education constitutes "double duty dollars." These parents ultimately return home and positively influence their children.

The Lewis and Clark Summer Symposium, with a theme of *Two Centuries, Two Peoples*, will focus on Story Telling and rendezvous on the Weippe Prairie, the meeting site of Lewis and Clark's Corp of Discovery and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Submitted by Darrel Hammon

## News from Montana

The Professional Development Committee, chaired by Diane Dohrman of Glendive met in Helena in early December. The committee is composed of Jack Powers, Deer Lodge Corrections; Christine Mimmack, Great Falls ABE Center/Alternative School Director; Lucy Smith, Literacy Program Director, Flathead County; and Gloria Gregg, MSU College of Education Department Chair.

The summer institute with credit from MSU is a viable professional development activity and will be offered again this summer on the Bozeman campus. The input from the MAACE membership strongly supports this partnership with MSU. The committee will continue to study ways to facilitate the summer workshop in the future. Thanks go out to Gloria Gregg and Carla McLaughlin at MSU for their continued help with this year's summer institute.

An understanding of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is critical to everyone in adult education. Thus, the committee focused on ways to provide WIA professional development for all ABE centers.

Becky Bird, Montana ABE Director, is studying the possibility of offering workshops through METNET, with all ABE Center personnel attending at a site nearest them. This delivery system is ideal for quick and easy dissemination of information.

The Montana Family Literacy Initiative announces a conference on family literacy to be held in Helena, March 2-4, 2000. Jack Gladstone will open the conference on Thursday evening with *Building Bridges, Linking Cultures*. Workshops on developing collaborations, adult literacy education, early childhood development, and family literacy program design will be presented. In addition, four Montana Initiative projects will present family literacy models they developed to fit their communities. The state plan for family literacy will be presented and input will be solicited throughout the conference.

The MAACE Conference will be held this fall in Billings on October 18-20 at the downtown Billings Sheraton. Mary Dvarishkis and Mike Joyce, Billings Adult Education Center, are coordinating the conference.

Melinda Lynnes of the Miles City Adult Basic Education Center was chosen as the MAACE Educator of the Year at the MAACE conference in Polson last October. Melinda will receive an expense paid trip to the MPAEA Conference in Salt Lake City this April.

Submitted by Norene Peterson

## News from New Mexico

It is not only a new millennium for the nation but is also a new millennium for adult basic education in New Mexico. After 34 years of professional development through Project 223 at UNM under the direction of Greg Bowes, New Mexico is partnering with new agencies for leadership. The New Mexico coalition for Literacy, under the direction of David Godsted with Rebecca Gault in charge of professional development, is heading up professional development for New Mexico ABE.

New Mexico adult educators and students gathered at the Round House (NM Capitol) for ABE Day on January 20. A display of photographs and program brochures was in the rotunda all day. A group of ABE students presented short vignettes of life for the ABE students. A press conference was held in the rotunda at noon with the ABE teacher of the year and a young Navajo woman who had earned her GED followed by postsecondary training. This young woman is now employed and supporting her children. The press conference was attended by many journalists and the presentations were given TV coverage.

The NMAEA Board met in the afternoon with planning on-going for the NMAEA conference in Taos in May and the Mountain Plains Conference in Albuquerque in 2001. A full day of activities was wrapped up with a legislative reception at the La Fonda in Santa Fe.

The following day the ABE program directors met with the full leadership team which consists of Alex Kolkmeier, Insight, Inc., the evaluation leader; Will Grant, BLAST, student leadership; and David and Rebecca of NMCL. Pat Chavez, State Director for ABE, presented an update of where we are with funding requests from the state legislature.

Submitted by Marilyn Jackson

### Did you know?

When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at a rate of 25 miles per hour.

It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.

There is an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald's Big Mac bun.

The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1.

## News from Nevada

The Nevada Adult Education Association (NAEA) will hold its annual convention March 29-31 at the San Remo Hotel in Las Vegas. Focusing on the theme *Let's Work Together: Collaboration, Coordination, and Integration*, presentations include the new GED exam, learning leadership at a distance, workplace literacy needs assessment, student development of course objective, and much more! Contact Conference chair Martin Bauer, 775/829-9030; mbauer@tmcc.edu.

Three Nevada communities are in the process of becoming Certified Literate Communities and three more have shown interest, reports Project Director Vicki Newell (775/356-1007). In addition, Jay Thiessens, Nevada's first winner of the National Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award, has joined the Literate Nevada Task Force. Jay discussed his victory over illiteracy in a *People* magazine article last year. Vicki, Marta Hall, and Nancy Cummings will discuss Georgia's original program and their success in Nevada at MPAEA's April conference.

Additional winners of adult education mini-grants for practitioners were announced mid-February. These grants are intended to fund new and creative projects and ideas (up to \$1,000) for use in a classroom or tutoring environment. Previously funded projects include a portable multimedia learning lab, building tents and kites in family literacy programs, and participation in Literacy Link's on-line LitTeacher seminars geared to integrating technology into the adult education curriculum. Contact: Sharyn Yanoshak, 702/253-6280; syank@ix.netcom.com.

Administrators of funded adult education programs and of Nevada's larger adult high school programs attended the eighth annual Management Academy, February 9-11 in Las Vegas. Participants focused on learning new ways to deal with change—and the ambiguity of change.

Submitted by Julee Henson and Sharyn Yanoshak

### FUN PHRASES

O

MD  
PA  
PhD

LE

VEL

# REGISTRATION FORM

**“Where We’ve Never Gone Before”**  
**MPAEA Conference**  
**April 26-30, 2000**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Member	Early Registration April 5, 2000	Late Registration	_____
Full	\$169	\$189	_____
Students*	\$ 25	\$ 45	_____
Non-Member			
Full	\$189	\$209	_____
Student*	\$ 35	\$ 55	_____

**Pre-conference Registration - Wednesday, April 26, 2000: 1 - 5 p.m.**

Member			
“Distance Learning”	\$49	\$69	_____
“True Colors”	\$49	\$69	_____

Non-Member			
“Distance Learning”	\$59	\$79	_____
“True Colors”	\$59	\$79	_____

**\*Student Registration does not include meals.**

Extra Meals:

Breakfast	\$18	Number: _____	_____
Lunch	\$20	Number: _____	_____
Banquet	\$35	Number: _____	_____

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail Registration Form to:

**Make Checks Payable to: MPAEA 2000 Conference**  
**And Mail to: % Gaylin Rollins, Chairperson**  
**702 West 350 South**  
**Orem, UT 84058**

**Hotel Information:**

\$99 + 12% tax- Double or Single  
 + \$20 for each additional person

**Wyndham Hotel**

215 West South Temple  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
 Phone: (801) 531-7500  
 Toll-free: (800) 996-3426

## News from Utah

Utah has just finalized their Federal Adult Education Local Grants. The grantees include: the school districts of Alpine, Davis, Emery, Granite, Iron, Jordan, Ogden, Tooele, Salt Lake City, Box Elder, Carbon and Juab. Community based organizations include: the Asian Association, Cedar READ program, Guadalupe Schools, and the Literacy Action Center. The grants will run from December 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000. Deputy Superintendent Gary Carlston announced that David Steele will be the new coordinator for Planning and Project Services, replacing Larry Horny, who recently retired. David will begin working on April 1, 2000. He is currently a Utah State Senator and chairs the Appropriations Committee and the Interim School Committee. David is also the Adult Education Director for Davis School District. Utahans wish David well in this new endeavor.

The Utah Association for Adult, Community, and Continuing Education (UAACCE) was asked to help host four Bidder's Conferences for technical assistance for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Larry Horny and Sandra Grant were sent to Washington D.C. to be trained. The CS Mott Foundation is funding the technical assistance conferences held during January and February in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and California. These conferences were held to help grantees write for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants that are due on March 20, 2000.

The new UAACCE Board of Directors is currently establishing the committee structure and creating working goals for the new year. President Lynne McKenna is working hard to make sure that all three groups are represented on each of the standing committees. The committees will then choose their chair and work on their goals for the year. UAACCE is also working on the MPAEA 2000 Conference, *Where We've Never Gone Before*, to be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake City, April 26-29.

UAACCE is beginning to work on their annual conference to be held in October. President-elect Cindy Krueger will be the conference chairperson. UAACCE is also a cosponsor of the Light on Literacy Conference to be held March 30-31, 2000. The literacy conference, held in Provo, will include all levels of literacy. For information on any of these conferences, contact Sandra Grant, (801) 538-7844, fax: (801) 538-7882, or email: sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us.

Submitted by Sandra Grant

## News from Wyoming

The merge in Wyoming is completed and working very well. Our first joint conference was held in Cheyenne in October and was well attended. Membership is up in Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association, and the added diversification can only improve the services available for adult education.

The Fall 2000 conference will be held in Cody on September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn. We are looking forward to another outstanding meeting. Former U.S. Senator Al Simpson, a Cody native, may be available for an appearance, and he always makes things come alive with his wit and offhand remarks about politics. All MPAEA members are invited to attend all or any part of our conference.

Jeanne Cox from Pine Bluffs in Laramie County died this past year. Jeanne was a longtime adult educator in Wyoming and an active member of adult, lifelong learning, and library associations including MPAEA. We shall miss her pleasant smile and her loyalty to and support of adult education. May her "Office in the Sky" be well equipped and have many angels waiting for tutoring assignments. Happy Winter Wonderland to all.

Submitted by Jim Fassler

## Eighth Annual Folk School in the Mountains

You are cordially invited to participate in the **Eighth Annual Folk School in the Mountains** program sponsored by the Department of Adult Learning and Instructional Technology at the University of Wyoming. The Folk School program, scheduled for June 5-10, allows participants a unique opportunity to participate firsthand in a week-long residential program in which participants live, work and learn together.

Inspired by the early 19th century Danish folk schools, the UW Mountain Folk School is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to connect with the historical, cultural and geographical significance within the Snowy Range Mountains as well as within their own lives. In a variety of group and individual activities (e.g., hiking, historic site exploring, reflecting, journal writing), participants examine culture, nature, and their place within both contexts.

If you are interested in experiential learning, adult education, self-directed activities, surrounding yourself in nature's beauty, making new friends, consider participating in this year's program. To receive an informative brochure, contact Kris Brewer at (307) 766-3247 or [kbrewer@uwoyo.edu](mailto:kbrewer@uwoyo.edu) or visit our website at <http://ed.uwoyo.edu/Departments/depalt>.



## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### INTERNET BASICS

Robert Ward, Network Manager for the School of Continuing Education at Utah Valley State College says, "the Internet can affect the way you work, learn, and view the world." It serves as an invaluable tool in conducting research, buying products, and using resources from around the globe. We'll discuss email, web browsers, censorship and much more. Participants do not need to be experts to enjoy the net and get the most use out of a computer.

### TRUE COLORS

Over time, and through years of research, personalities have been identified and studied. This workshop will use the TRUE COLORS as a way to understand the differences in people's operating style. This workshop will give participants an understanding of the four basic personalities. The workshop will help participants understand why and how people react differently to the same information and how their reaction can effect everyday living. This understanding will lead to identifying possible strategies that can be developed to facilitate better working conditions. Service Learning Consultant Nikki Lovell and Adult Education Specialist Sandra Grant, both with the Utah State Office of Education, will present ways to help everyone be more successful and positive at work, home, or play.

## KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to Jim Fassler of Worland, Wyoming. Jim has recently retired from the education field for the second time, most recently from the University of Wyoming where he was employed as the administrator of an outreach office in Riverton.

Jim still continues to serve both the state lifelong learning association, as well as MPAEA, as a board member. It takes a unique kind of commitment to the field of adult education and lifelong learning to continue these obligations at his own expense when no longer employed in the field.

Mr. Fassler is currently one of two persons who are responsible for the next Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association Conference to be held in Cody, WY, in the fall. Jim's willingness to continue to enhance the status of lifelong learning in Wyoming and the Mountain Plains region should be a positive example to all MPAEA members.

### 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](mailto:vickkath@isu.edu), fax (208) 236-5806 or to Sandra Grant, email [sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us](mailto:sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us), fax (801) 538-7882

## FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

Responding to, planning for and learning about culture is of paramount importance. It is also important not to make assumptions about people based on what is read or what we think we know. Ask questions and make inquiries about what is appropriate and acceptable in each community because each community and school has its own unique culture. Like the builder of a house, family literacy can put up frames, build the walls, lay floors and install the windows. But the culture provides all of the wallpaper, furniture and decorations that make a house a home.

Time is essential. Family literacy is a tough and complex program to develop. And programs need time to develop their skills, recruit families, establish them-

selves in the community, build collaborative efforts with other resources and build their own team. The team must share a common vision and mission for the program. And the team should include administrators, whose support is essential to the success of the program.

Networking among programs that are isolated by their locations is essential. Newsletters that highlight program news and events, provide training information about parenting, child development and adult issues are an important resource. Programs can improve and build from each other's successes. Regular phone contacts, internet, mailings and training opportunities offer additional time to network and communicate about what is going on in programs.

## Questions and Answers!

1. What exactly does it mean when you say "dog days?" For example: dog days of summer.

Ans: Most commonly used to describe the hot sultry period of summer from about July 3 to August 11. Named for the time when Sirius (the dog star) is in conjunction with the sun. Sirius is brightly visible just before sunrise in the eastern sky in mid July. Sirius is hotter than the sun but is 50 trillion miles from earth.

2. Do any totally online certification programs in adult education exist in the Mountain Plains service area?

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.

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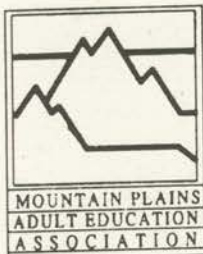
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## Upcoming Events

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| March 2-4             | Montana Family Literacy Initiative Conference, Helena, <i>Literacy—It's All in the Family</i><br>Contact Gloria Gregg, <a href="mailto:iedgg@montana.edu">iedgg@montana.edu</a> ; Joan Morris, <a href="mailto:jmorris@state.mt.us">jmorris@state.mt.us</a> ; Chloe Fessler, <a href="mailto:chloemizoo@aol.com">chloemizoo@aol.com</a> |
| March 30-31, 2000     | Utah Literacy and Adult Education Coalition Conference, Provo<br>Contact Sandra Grant, <a href="mailto:sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us">sgrant@usoe.k12.ut.us</a> ; Eileen Smart, 801 521-9050;<br>Gwen Vance, 801 373-8200.  |
| March 29-31, 2000     | Nevada Adult Education Association Annual Conference<br>Contact Martin Bauer, <a href="mailto:mb@unr.edu">mb@unr.edu</a>  |
| April 16-19, 2000     | University Continuing Education Association Conference, <i>Riding the Waves</i><br>San Diego, CA  |
| April 26-29, 2000     | Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference, <i>Where We've Never Gone Before</i><br>Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah.  |
| June 5-10, 2000       | 8th Annual Folk School in the Mountains, Snowy Range Mountains, Wyoming<br>Contact Kris Brewer, <a href="mailto:kbrewer@uwyo.edu">kbrewer@uwyo.edu</a>  |
| June 22-24, 2000      | Lewis and Clark Summer Symposium, <i>Two Centuries, Two Peoples.</i><br>Contact Darrel L. Hammon, <a href="mailto:dhammon@lcsc.edu">dhammon@lcsc.edu</a>  |
| September 26-28, 2000 | Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association Conference, Cody<br>Contact Jim Fassler, <a href="mailto:fassler@trib.com">fassler@trib.com</a>   |