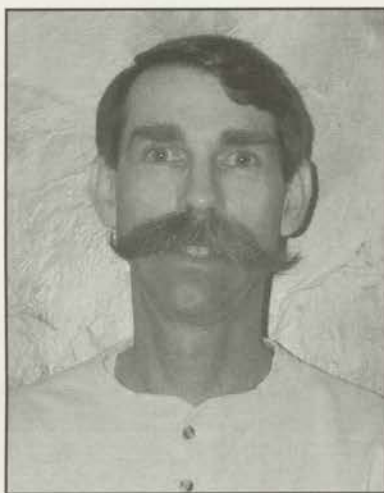


# NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3

Newsletter, November, 2001



### THE PRESIDENT BLARES!

Blair Liddicoat

#### Fall, State Conferences, and Student Recognition

Ah the fall! What a great time of year in the MPAEA region. It can mean different things in different MPAEA states. In many of the states we look forward to the leaves changing colors on the trees but frown at the prospects of having to rake them up. In the far northern states you await your first snowfall while

the southern states are at the other extreme. For example, in the Phoenix area we look forward to our own version of cooler temperatures, those of only double digits.

It turns out, however, that almost all of the MPAEA states had something in common during the period of October through the first week of November. I'm referring to state conferences that were held pretty much everywhere. The MPAEA Board this year committed to having an Executive Committee member represent the Board in attending each state's conference. My thanks to the other Executive Committee members who assisted with this. The Board considered this an excellent opportunity to see firsthand the wonderful things that get done in all the states, meet some of those people who do them, and show the support MPAEA has for its member states and their associations.

I was personally pleased to join the Montanans at their state conference in the middle of October. There I attended a pre-conference board meeting, the MAACE Business meeting where I got to extend greetings from the MPAEA Board, and a number of interesting breakout sessions. I also met Ms. Becky Bird, the State Director of Adult Education. All in all, I enjoyed their hospitality and had a great time. Needless to say, I also represented the MPAEA Board in Phoenix recently at the Fall AALL Conference. It was, as usual, an excellent conference and I found the length of the airplane ride to be

much more to my liking than when I went to Montana.

While I still look forward to attending the Nevada State Conference, those of you in the other states have met other members of the MPAEA Executive Committee. I'm sure they enjoyed their visits, as I did. On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you for the invitations.

At this point you are probably wondering where the student recognition part is. It is the focus of a new project the MPAEA Board has initiated throughout the eight states. The Board wants to expand the National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) within the MPAEA region. If you have never heard of the NAEHS, I am not surprised. It is mostly active in the East. It was started in 1991 in South Carolina by Mr. Lloyd Weaver and is now headquartered in Kentucky. It is similar to the National Honor Society, which you are probably familiar with, except this is for the adult literacy, ABE, GED, and ESOL students we all serve.

To get this project started, individual adult education programs in each MPAEA state must decide if they want to and can start an NAEHS charter. The MPAEA Board realizes that not all programs

Continued Pg 9

#### Contents

President's Message	1
MPAEA Governing Board and Directors	2
Awards Information	2
Dynamic Program	3
State News	3
Scholarship Information	6
Fed Appeals Court Ruling	8
Tips to Help CE Students	8
Concept of Literacy	10
Lessons from Cyberspace	10
Journal Information	11
Membership Application	11

## MPAEA GOVERNING BOARD

### President

Blair Liddicoat, Arizona  
(480) 517-8108

### President-Elect

Yvonne Hauwiller, Montana  
(406) 522-6012

### Past-President

Larry Wickham, Idaho  
(208) 356-1040

### Treasurer

Lou Workman, Utah  
(435) 867-4857

### Secretary

Kathy Vickerman, Idaho  
(208) 282-4545

## Board of Directors

### Arizona

Miriam A. Kroeger  
(623) 535-2766  
Connie Armstrong  
(480) 517-8036

### Nevada

Vicki Newell  
(775) 356-1007  
Julee Henson  
(702) 799-0170

### Colorado

Cathy Calderwood  
(970) 563-9036  
Patricia Thorpe  
(303) 344-0358

### New Mexico

Leonard Begaye  
(505) 786-4125  
Diana Lopez  
(505) 737-5145

### Idaho

Carol Hughes  
(208) 656-9253  
Michael Tomlin  
(208) 364-4031

### Utah

Roger Porter  
(801) 222-8004  
Andy Shinkle  
(435) 797-1797

### Montana

Norene Peterson  
(406) 247-3720  
Margaret Girkins  
(406) 756-3884

### Wyoming

Rom Bushnell  
(307) 754-6280  
Judy Turner  
(307) 746-3603

## Journal of Adult Education

Editor

Darrel Hammon, Montana  
hammonD@po.mcc.cc.mt.us

## AWARDS COMMITTEE SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR MPAEA AWARDS

Your MPAEA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for awards which will be presented at the Annual Conference in Phoenix, May 1-4, 2002. Nominees must be current members of Mountain Plains Adult Education Association.

Please note the insert in this issue of the Newsletter that explains the awards and includes a nomination application. At this time the committee would like nominations for the **Award of Merit**, **Lay Leader Award** and the **Award of Excellence**. There will be one recipient of the Award of Merit and the Lay Leader Award. There will be one recipient from each state for the Award of Excellence.

As stated in the award information, three awards are also given to Arizona exemplars. The awards for **Educator of the Year**, **Learner of the Year**, and **Legislator of the Year** will be given to Arizonans.

Please fax or mail your nominations to Carol Hughes (address on application form). If you are not sure of eligibility, contact your state MPAEA board member. Board members and telephone numbers are listed at left. Email addresses can be found on the website, [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org).

**Everyone**—take a look at the great people around the region and get nominations into the Awards Committee Chair as soon as possible. *Don't put it off!*

Also included in this issue of the Newsletter is information on Scholarships. MPAEA offers three types of scholarships to members. **The Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies** is awarded to a student enrolled in any institution in the eight-state region who is studying adult education.

**The Professional Development Scholarship** can be awarded to one person from each of the eight states to be used by that person for attending workshops, conferences or for conducting research.

**The Scholarship for Innovation** is offered to a program that has instituted a new and innovative idea pertaining to adult education that can be replicated throughout the eight-state region. See information pages for addresses of the committee chairs. If you have questions, contact your state board member listed on this page.

MPAEA WEBSITE  
[www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)

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

## DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN MPAEA REGION

### New Mexico State University- Alamogordo Receives Program of the Year Award

This program was established in 1964 and has a rich history of excellence that included a *Program of the Year Award* in 1995. Despite its small size, it is very responsive to the needs of the community, especially in serving those "most in need, and hard to reach."

Tribal authorities contacted this ABE program because they were relocating inmates that were incarcerated in Ute, Colorado, back to the reservation in Mescalero. This program responded immediately by establishing a class site inside the Detention Center offering GED/Life Skills classes to the inmates. Classes were recently established at the local Otero County Detention Center for male and female inmates despite several obstacles. Over 20 people attended the GED/Life Skills classes at the Wright House Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center. This GED program is now an integral part of their rehabilitation.

The closing of the White Sands Forest Products saw mill, a major employer in the area, displaced approximately 85 workers. The program responded by providing GED and ESL classes and other services to the displaced workers. The program immediately formed a special ESL class for a group of the misplaced saw mill workers and provided the needed meeting space for resource managers. Human suffering was minimized by offering support such as life skills and citizenship classes to these workers.

Through a grant received by NMSU-A, disadvantaged youth in the Alamogordo and Tularosa area have obtained information about college and have taken summer training.

NMSU-A ABE has the highest pass

rate achieved by those that took the official GED test in the State of New Mexico and will continue to remain high through the dedication of their part-time teachers. The participation rate of training is 95-98% participation in teacher and staff in-services and regional workshops.

The opportunity to "walk-the-line" was offered to the general public. GED graduates that had never participated in a graduation ceremony were recognized at the graduation ceremony. The public outreach brought ten people including an 80 year old woman who obtained her GED in the 1970's.

### News from Nevada

As Nevada grows, so grows its ESL population and need for expanded services. As the economy slows and the job market tightens, more and more under-educated adults are turning to our adult education programs to increase their skills. We know Nevada's adult education concerns are not unique; but they are creating a new mindset among providers and decision makers in our state. Consequently, Nevada is in a "cowboy up" mode!!!

Teacher training for the new GED is being held throughout the State—three of our Adult Basic Education folks are traveling the state teaching our teachers. A two-day meeting was recently held for our GED Chief and Alternate Examiners and negotiations continue with Oklahoma scoring to be Nevada's centralized scoring site. In the meantime, folks are beatin' down our programs' doors to get their GED before the new changes take affect January 1.

Until this year, our Adult Education Consultant has carried the burden of oversight for our nine Adult Basic Education programs, 14 Adult High School Diploma programs, and over 20 GED test Centers. An adjustment

in the Adult High School Diploma allocation formula has brought needed oversight help. Two longtime Nevada educators—Carl Shaff and Sydney Franklin—have been contracted by the State Department of Education to provide technical assistance and leadership to the Adult High School Diploma programs.

Past Mountain Plains Board Member, Sharyn Yanoshak, is approaching Nevada's Professional Staff Development needs with vigor and innovation. Through her ABE State Leadership Activities grant, she has developed a course catalog of Teacher Training Opportunities for our ABE programs. Each program has scheduled at least two of the training workshops offered. Sharyn is also in the process (5th draft, I think) of developing an ABE Teachers' Credential. The criterion to obtain the credential is based on student outcomes and is designed to accommodate teachers with degrees, lay teachers, and community volunteers.

Members of our Nevada Adult Education Association are being rounded up to serve on various and sundry committees in preparation for the MPAEA 2003 Conference. A preliminary contract was recently signed with Boomtown, the site of the conference. On the banks of the Truckee River and at the base of the Sierra's, Boomtown promises to be a fantastic setting as all Mountain Plains members COWBOY UP IN 2003. Together we'll bust the frontier of lifelong learning with Nevada as host.

Submitted by Vicky Newell

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Bill Furney has become the  
consultant in the Center for  
At Risk Education at the  
Colorado Department of  
Education.**

## News from Arizona

By the time you read this, the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) will have held its Fall Conference. We were fortunate to have Dr. Richard Cooper spend the afternoon and evening of November 1 with us. AALL purposely scheduled an evening session since we realize that many of our participants are employed, not only in the education field, but also in other sectors of the business world, and they would not be able to take time away from their "day" jobs to be with Dr. Cooper. On the following Friday, ESOL teachers took a look at the Standards for Teachers of Adult Learners which are being developed by TESOL, while GED teachers participated in training on the new 2002 GED tests. Friday afternoon, conference participants learned more about the culture of poverty in an informative session based on Ruby Payne's book, A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Our presenters, Linda Mead and Marilyn Box from Mesa Public Schools received their training from Dr. Payne.

The highlight of the conference was the AALL Awards. These annual awards recognize those individuals or groups who have contributed to lifelong learning in a number of ways. AALL recognizes a *Rookie of the Year*, an individual who has one to three years of active service in the field of adult education and who has displayed leadership, professional excellence and made contributions to the field of lifelong learning. The recipient this year was Heidi Silver-Pacuilla. The *Lifelong Learning Advocate Award* in honor of Francis E. Blake is presented to an association member who has positively impacted or added value to the concept of learning as a lifelong process. This year's recipient was Joan Warfield. The *AALL Award of Excellence* in honor of Gary Tang recog-

nizes an individual or group which has assisted a program or the Arizona Department of Education in areas such as administration, ideology, instruction, legislation, public leadership, innovative services or initiating cooperative interagency activity. This year Lynn Reed received this award. The *Lifetime Achievement Award* is presented in honor of Gary Eyre and recognizes an individual who has made far-reaching contributions to the field at a local, state, national or international level. This award was instituted and given to Gary Eyre in 1997. Recipients to date of the Lifetime Achievement Award have been James Jelinek, Greg Hart, and Susanna Mincks. This year the award was given to Marie Olsen.

Arizona adult education instructors are involved in a series of institutes sponsored by the Arizona Department of Education and addressing the new GED 2002 examination. Almost 300 teachers met in August for the first training which occurred over a four-day period. Participants were given "homework" assignments to submit lesson plans relative to the concepts and content of the new test. They will meet again in January for two days of follow-up training.

Of course, Arizona is gearing up for the 2002 MPAEA Conference. Downtown Phoenix expects to offer an exciting venue. We are hoping that the Diamondbacks will be the Major League Baseball Champions and will have some games scheduled during conference time. The Titanic Exhibit will be at the Arizona Science Museum, and who knows, the Phoenix Suns may be in the playoffs! All of these activities are within walking distance of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, our conference site. We are receiving some excellent presentation proposals and look forward to having a wide range of workshops addressing adult,

continuing and community education. Look for conference registration material in your mailboxes after the first of the year. We hope to see many of you here in Phoenix, one of the fastest growing cities in the country; expect warm days and cool nights.

Submitted by Miriam Kroeger

---

## News from Colorado

Bill Furney was recently selected to replace retired Ray Peterson as a consultant in the Center for At Risk Education at the Colorado Department of Education. Bill will focus on the EL/Civics program development across the state of Colorado as well as completing GED 2002 training in Colorado

Bill was formerly the Program Coordinator with the Literacy Coalition of Jefferson County in the Denver area and was instrumental in developing a collaborative effort in Jefferson County. Bill has also served as Chair of the Colorado Association.

## CAEPA Hosts Fall Learning Disabilities Conference

The Colorado Adult Education Professional Association (CAEPA) held a mini-conference on learning disabilities recently at the Community College of Denver. Topics discussed were:

- ✓ Overview: Learning Disabilities in Adults
- ✓ Diagnosis of LD
- ✓ Ada compliance issues
- ✓ Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes
- ✓ Computer Training for People with Disabilities

Submitted by Cathy Calderwood

## News from Montana

"Committed and caring adult educators, whether in a GED classroom, conversing with ESL students, tutoring an inmate, helping families read together or providing leadership, are *change agents* for the hopeful adults that come to our ABE Centers. However, we can't expect to do it alone, rather it takes collaboration with the school, social services, businesses, and the community working with the student to enable him/her to learn the skills needed for a lifetime," said Yvonne Hauwiller, President of MAACE and President-elect of MPAEA.

Montana Association for Adults and Community Education (MAACE) members enjoyed a terrific fall conference in wonderful Whitefish. During the whole conference participants demonstrated their commitment to their profession by attending a variety of sectionals. The pre-conference workshop provided GED 2002 instructor training, an overview of Powerpath (a learning disabilities assessment tool), and information about PBS Workplace Essential Skills.

Judith Alamprese, Principal Associate of Abt Associates, Inc., presented the keynote address, *State of the Nation in Adult Basic Education*. Judith discussed whether or not adult edu-

cation is a system. She recognized that collectively adult educators have a wealth of experience, but in order to see the big picture of adult education, they need to collect critical data. Judith informed conference attendees about national studies investigating the types of teaching practices that are related to students' learning gains.

Following the keynote, MAACE members shared their expertise with one another. Sectionals on project-based learning, family literacy, LINC/S, MT SIMS - Montana's student information system, GED 2002 in Montana, and Community Education provided a plethora of ideas. (One of the most popular sessions on memory and aging would have had even better attendance if participants had only remembered where and when it was!)

The evening was filled with collaboration as MAACE members provided a fun-filled experience for MPAEA President Blair Liddicoat. Fortunately, most of those involved had *not* attended the session on aging, so they reminisced about old times, toasted youth, and finally made it *home* by 9:30pm. Thanks, Blair, for helping to make our MAACE conference memorable! Montana will welcome you back anytime! Yee-haw!

Submitted by Norene Peterson



Montana welcomes President of MPAEA

## News from Idaho

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association and its partner chapter of the American Society for Training and Development held their joint annual conference in beautiful Sun Valley October 1-4. Keynoted by Felipe Ortega, surrounded with excellent sessions, collegiality, and location, just under 100 attendees joined in learning, celebration, and relationship. Felipe, known by many MPAEA'ers from last spring's conference in Albuquerque, again delighted the group with his stories, wisdom, and self-teaching the Apache Approach to Learning.

The scholarship fund was enhanced via the old fashioned raffle game, with prizes awarded ranging from art and clothing to potatoes, and potatoes, and more potatoes.

In other Idaho news, like many states the economy is faltering. Governor Dirk Kempthorne has ordered a 2% holdback on funding and more looms. Colleges and universities in the state are working to diminish the effects on needed services to adult learners at all levels.

A significant change in the face of Idaho higher education this year is the change of Ricks College in Rexburg, from its historical two-year structure to university status, now BYU Idaho. It will seem strange in this state not talking about "Ricks." We welcome BYU-Idaho as a new and continuing partner in its role in adult education.

Idaho adult educators are reminded to consider nominations for MPAEA awards. Nominations are accepted for Award of Merit, Lay Leader of the Year, and the Award of Excellence. The criteria and forms are available from Board Members Carol Hughes (hughesc@byui.edu), and Michael Tomlin (mtomlin@uidaho.edu).

The snow is flying high, so come to Idaho for great skiing and then we will see you all in Phoenix!

Submitted by Michael Tomlin

04/15/01

**MPAEA**  
**Mountain Plains Adult Education Association**  
**Professional Development Scholarship**

Each year, the Mountain Plains Education Association (MPAEA) offers professional development scholarships of up to \$500 to one recipient per MPAEA member state. This scholarship may be used to attend conferences or to engage in other staff development activities during the year, which runs from the beginning of the MPAEA Annual Conference through the MPAEA Annual Conference of the following year. In most cases, recipients use the scholarship to defray expenses for the MPAEA Annual Conference; however, other functions related to lifelong learning may be considered.

The MPAEA Professional Development Committee will select winners from the scholarship plus one alternate (should the first grantee be unable to fulfill the terms of the scholarship). Recipients and alternate will be notified one month after the application deadline.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible, the applicant must be a current member of MPAEA or submit a membership application along with the scholarship application.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT**

1. Call your state MPAEA Board member for a copy of the application, or download it from the internet address: [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)
2. Complete the application with all applicable and required information and documentation.
3. Respond to each of the four parts of the application. These will be weighted equally.
4. Complete a two-page report on the activity, and submit the report and the receipts for all expenses to be reimbursed to the MPAEA Scholarship Committee Chair within two weeks following the event. (Specific instructions will be contained in the award announcement letter.)
5. Submit an application that **MUST BE POSTMARKED** NO LATER THAN **JANUARY 31**.
6. Return the application to:

Rom Bushnell, Chair  
MPAEA Scholarship Committee  
Northwest College  
231 West Sixth Street  
Powell, WY 82435

7. Address questions about the application process to Rom Bushnell (email: [bushnelr@nwc.cc.wy.us](mailto:bushnelr@nwc.cc.wy.us)) or Margaret Girkins (email: [mgirkins@fvcc.cc.mt.us](mailto:mgirkins@fvcc.cc.mt.us)) or Judy Turner (307-746-3603).

**MPAEA**  
**Mountain Plains Adult Education Association**  
**Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies**

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) offers up to \$1000 annually to a graduate student enrolled in a graduate degree program in adult education or closely related field or in a college or university located in one of the eight Mountain Plains member states.

The primary intent of this scholarship is for tuition, books and school-related expenses. The MPAEA Scholarship Committee will select a Memorial Scholarship winner plus two alternates, all of whom will be notified one month after the application deadline. The recipient of the Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies will be announced at the MPAEA Annual Conference. This scholarship is valid for the following academic year.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Be enrolled in a graduate program in an MPAEA member state (student does not have to be a permanent member of that region)
2. Be pursuing a graduate degree in adult education or closely related field
3. Be a graduate student who has not previously received this scholarship
4. Be a member of MPAEA or submit a membership application along with this scholarship application.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT**

1. Review the criteria for eligibility before applying for the scholarship
2. Contact your state MPAEA Board member for a copy of the application or download it from the MPAEA website: [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)
3. Complete the application, with all applicable and required information and documentation.
4. Submit the application that **MUST BE POSTMARKED** NO LATER THAN **JANUARY 31**
5. Return the original application plus 3 photocopies of the completed application to:

Rom Bushnell, Chair  
MPAEA Scholarship Committee  
Northwest College  
231 West Sixth Street  
Powell, WY 82435

6. Address questions to Rom Bushnell (email: [bushnelr@nwc.cc.wy.us](mailto:bushnelr@nwc.cc.wy.us)) or Margaret Girkins (email: [mgirkins@fvcc.cc.mt.us](mailto:mgirkins@fvcc.cc.mt.us)) or Judy Turner (307-746-3603)

## Federal Appeals Court Ruling

A federal appeals court panel in Atlanta ruled in August that an affirmative action policy at the University of Georgia was unconstitutional and called on the university and other colleges to expand their thinking about what it means to be diverse.

The panel suggested that diversity cannot be defined by race alone but needs to take into account students' talents, life experiences and other factors that can apply to white students as well as nonwhite ones.

For many institutions, that rationale, if upheld by the United States Supreme Court, would require major adjustments in how they admit students.

The universities have argued that they need to emphasize diversity to redress the long period when blacks and other minority students were virtually excluded from many college classrooms and to enhance the educational experiences of minority and nonminority students alike.

But the federal court in Georgia said firmly that diversity could not be confined to race. This ruling by the three-judge panel was perhaps the strongest endorsement by a federal court for a wider definition of diversity on campuses.

If the case reaches the Supreme Court and the decision is upheld, the judges' rationale could prove debilitating to many public universities, which process most applications by compressing students' SAT scores and grade point averages into numerical formulas that often account for race.

It was argued that "ethnic diversity" was "only one element in a range of factors" a university properly may consider in attaining the goal of a heterogeneous student body.

## The Oyster

There once was an oyster  
Whose story I tell,  
Who found that some sand  
Had got into his shell.

It was only a grain,  
but it gave him great pain.  
For oysters have feelings  
Although they're so plain.

Now, did he berate  
the harsh working of fate  
That had brought him  
To such a deplorable state?

Did he curse at the government,  
Cry for election,  
And claim that the sea should  
Have given him protection?

"No," he said to himself  
As he lay on a shell,  
Since I cannot remove it,  
I shall try to improve it.

Now the years have rolled around,  
As the years always do,  
And he came to his ultimate  
Destiny - stew.

And the small grain of sand  
That had bothered him so  
Was a beautiful pearl  
All richly aglow.

Now the tale has a moral,  
for isn't it grand  
What an oyster can do  
With a morsel of sand?

What couldn't we do  
If we'd only begin  
With some of the things  
That get under our skin.

Anonymous

## Strong People

**Strong people are made by  
opposition, like kites that go  
up against the wind.**

Frank Harris

## Tips to Help CE Students Manage Stress

Pursuing continuing education can be a life-altering, rewarding experience. But going to school while working and attending to family responsibilities can be tough on the student and family. Students need to understand that when they go back to school, some things will have to be given up—whether its volunteer activities, extra church activities, children's functions. Students need to look for ways to reallocate tasks at home. Other family members must work together to help get things done.

Students need to identify time to be used for studying and become disciplined enough to keep that time only for studying. Other tips for CE students include:

1. Register early.
2. Order your books and start reading as soon as you get your syllabus.
3. Set aside a block of time to work on school, and then don't let anything interrupt your study time.
4. Reward yourself for accomplishments.
5. Try to maintain applicability between school and work.
6. Develop ideas for major projects early.
7. When ideas strike, jot them down.
8. Don't ignore pleasurable pursuits.

Additionally, students need to use the usual stress management techniques: laugh often, eat right, and get enough sleep. With regard to exercise—make sure it is something you really enjoy doing.

Perhaps most important of all, don't take things too seriously.

From Infocus



## News from Utah

UAACCE President Cindy Kroeger welcomed over 250 participants to the thirteenth annual UAACCE Conference, *a Virtual World of Learning*, held in Park City on October 22-23. Susan Anderson introduced a video which helped us all to reflect on the recent events in New York and Washington, D.C. Jerome Peterson performed *God Bless the USA*, followed by the flag ceremony presented by Utah Department of Corrections personnel.

The keynoter was Dan Clark, a noted author and speaker who addressed the subject of *Education in a Changing World*. He said that the "message is still in the box" and asked what is the difference between great and lousy? He continued that to celebrate one another's successes we must: set higher expectations; recognize the power of a dream; give every person the right to dream a mighty dream; believe that all Americans have the right to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, and send the message that it all begins with education. Teaching is the profession that makes all other professions possible. Clark concluded by telling a story of Bobsy, a youngster suffering from terminal leukemia who wanted to be a fireman so the Fire Chief declared him Chief for the Day. On his last night, fire department members came to the hospital, climbed up their ladders through his third story window to bid him farewell. **Clark summarized that passion, creativity and imagination are what makes the difference between great and lousy.**

At Monday's lunch, Jill Waters from the National Center for Community Education talked about 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLC). She stated there were seven successful grantees this year in Utah. The legislature was in the process of ap-

proving one billion dollars for next year's programs. She suggested there are many different ways to present community education to the public and that most schools are community sponsored and funded so it is logical to make the school the center of the community. Some schools already provide family resource centers within the school. It is up to the community to make sure the legislature knows what is happening in the school systems. CLC must keep pushing the agenda in community education.

Attendees of the Monday evening banquet and award ceremony were entertained by *Quick Wits*, a local improvisation company. Proceeds from Scholarship Bingo go toward the UAACCE Scholarship Fund.

On Tuesday, Senator David Steele moderated a forum panel covering the *Vision of Utah Education*. Panel members included: Representative Marda Dillree, Senator Paula Julander, Commissioner of Higher Education CeCe Foxley, and Utah State School Board Representative Greg Haws. Panel members were then open to suggestions and/or questions from participants regarding adult, community and continuing education in Utah.

Thanks to conference chairperson and president-elect Susan Anderson and her committee for putting together an outstanding conference. There were more attendees than ever before and lots of vendors so participants had ample opportunity to converse about current trends in adult education.

From the 20 bid baskets, nearly a \$1000 was raised for the scholarship fund.

We are all looking forward to the next conference.

Submitted by Roger Porter

Cont. from pg 1

will be able to do this, but the important thing is we need each state to have some programs participate in the project, and they need to get started real soon. For those of you who feel you cannot do this now, keep in mind that you can always start a charter next year. Programs will hold their local NAEHS inductions each year for those students they select. For ideas on how to do this, you can call Mr. Lloyd Weaver at (859) 781-8824 or email him at [weavernaehs@aol.com](mailto:weavernaehs@aol.com). Additionally, the ABE program I help direct has held NAEHS inductions since 1995 and I would be happy to answer questions. I can be found easily at (480)517-8108 or [blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu](mailto:blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu). After holding their own induction, NAEHS charters in each state will submit their "best" inductees to their state association who will then determine which few of them from that state will be acknowledged at the yearly MPAEA Conference awards ceremony. Travel expenses will prevent them from actually attending the conference so they will be honored in some type of virtual fashion. However, the host conference state, starting with Arizona in the spring, will have a few of their "best" inductees attend the MPAEA conference awards ceremony to physically represent the MPAEA inductees from all the states.

Mr. Weaver wants to mail NAEHS brochures to all program directors in the MPAEA region to give you a better understanding of how the NAEHS works, but you can learn more about it right away by visiting the website at [www.naehs.org](http://www.naehs.org).

In conclusion, let me respond to some of you who might be wondering why MPAEA is doing this. After all, MPAEA already honors one Learner of the Year at each conference, and each state likely does the same thing. However, we all know that there are many more deserving students in the MPAEA area. This MPAEA NAEHS project was born from a desire to pay

Continued pg 11

## Expanding The concept Of Literacy

### What is the New Vision of Literacy?

Language is the most important element of our humanity, and yet, it is only one of a number of symbol systems which humans use to express and share meaning. Changes in communication technologies over the past 100 years have created a cultural environment which has extended and reshaped the role of language and the written word. Language must be appreciated as it exists in relationship to other forms of symbolic expression—including images, sound, music and electronic forms of communication. Scholars and educators are coming to recognize that literacy is not simply a matter of acquiring decontextualized decoding, comprehension and production skills, but that literacy must be connected to the culture and contexts in which reading and writing are used (Coo Gumperz, 1986).

Consider this new definition of literacy, adopted by educators who identify themselves with the “media literacy” movement (Firestone, 1992):

Literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate and communicate messages in a variety of forms.

Embedded in this definition is both a process for learning and an expansion of the concept of “text” to include messages of all sorts. This view of literacy posits the student as actively engaged in the process of analyzing and creating messages and as a result, this definition reflects some basic principles of school reform which generally include:

- ◆ inquiry based education
- ◆ student centered learning
- ◆ problem solving in cooperative teams

- ◆ alternative to standardized testing
- ◆ integrated curriculum

#### Basic Processes of Literacy

1. Access skills include those skills related to the locating, organizing and retention of information. The skills of access also refer to the ability to use the tools of technology, including video technology and computers, as well as using parts of a book to find information.

2. The ability to analyze messages connects to those interpretive comprehension skills

#### Processes include:

Access,  
Analyze,  
Evaluate,  
Communicate

which include the ability to make use of categories, concepts or ideas. It also includes a recognition of the historical, political, economic or aesthetic contexts in which messages are created and consumed.

3. The ability to evaluate messages concerns those judgements about the relevance and value of the meaning of messages for the reader, including making use of prior knowledge to interpret a work. Analysis skills depend upon the ability to grasp and make effective use of conceptual knowledge which is outside the student’s own perspective.

4. The ability to communicate messages is at the heart of the traditional meaning of literacy, and the skills of writing and speaking have been highly valued by educators. General skills include the ability to understand the audience to whom one is communicating; the effective use of symbols to convey meaning; the ability to organize a sequence of ideas, and the ability to capture and hold the attention and interest of the message receiver.

Taken from a paper by Dr. Renee Hobbs  
Babson College, Wellesley, MA

### Laughter- the best medicine

*Tech Support:* What does the screen say now?

*Person:* It says, “Hit Any Key When Ready...”

*Tech Support:* OK...Are you ready?

*Person:* I guess so, but where is the ‘Any’ key? I have Esc.Ctrl, and Del, but I don’t see the ‘Any’ key.

*Tech Support:* Please shut down your computer, unplug all cables, place it back in the box, and send it to me.

*Person:* Oh, is it that serious?

*Tech Support:* Yes, you really shouldn’t be using a computer at all.

Submitted by Steve H.

### Lessons from the Cyberspace Classroom

#### Realities of Online Teaching

Looking for help to hone your skills as an online instructor and/or become a more effective online learner. A comprehensive reference written by Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt is filled with examples from actual online courses and insights from teachers and students. This book covers the entire online teaching process, offering tips and suggestions for dealing with such issues as evaluating effective courseware, working with online classroom dynamics, addressing needs of the online student, making the transition to online teaching, and promoting the development of the learning community. It raises questions and issues that online faculty are concerned with and shows readers where the research and national discussion is on these important issues.

ISBN: 0-787-95519-1 February 2001

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

Helen Keller

Cont. from pg 8

tribute to the accomplishments of more of these students. Each year at my program's NAEHS induction we acknowledge the achievements of some students who would not otherwise get recognition. It is a wonderful thing.

Finally, I am aware that this vision will not be realized without your help. Unless some of you read this and take action now this project may fade away, along with all the potential future MPAEA NAEHS inductees. Let's not allow this to happen. Let me know how I can help you.



"The best thing about books? You don't have to rewind them."

### 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, [hammond@po.mcc.cc.mt.us](mailto:hammond@po.mcc.cc.mt.us).

## MPAEA Membership Application

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

Lou Workman, Treasurer  
 Southern Utah University  
 334 South 400 East, #10  
 Cedar City, UT 84720

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

*All membership dues are tax deductible*

### Membership Information

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Department or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

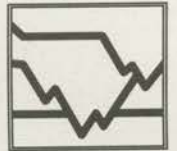
Residence Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mountain Plains  
Adult Education  
Association



MPAEA Newsletter  
Idaho State University  
Campus Box 8015  
Pocatello, ID 83209

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT 42  
Pocatello, ID 83209

## Upcoming Events

March 3-5, 2002 National Conference on Family Literacy, Albuquerque, NM. Contact at [www.famlit.org](http://www.famlit.org)

April 17-20, 2002 University Continuing Education Association, Toronto, Canada.

May 1-4, 2002 Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ. Contact at [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org).