

# NEWSLETTER

## Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 3

Newsletter, December, 2003



### LOU'S LAUNCH

Lou Workman, President

By the time you receive this, Halloween and Thanksgiving will be past and we will be looking forward to Christmas. What a busy time of the year! But, hasn't it been a glorious fall?

Fall is also when most of us celebrate our state conferences. Montana, as our host for the spring MPAEA Conference, did not have a fall conference, and Colorado has their conference in April. Even though the Executive Committee wasn't able to visit all the states this year, I've heard some wonderful stories about the conferences from Board members.

Speaking of Montana, remember to write down the dates for the MPAEA Conference in Bozeman, April 29-May 1.

This was the first time I was able to attend the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association Conference in Sun Valley as it has always occurred the same weekend as the Utah Association of Adult, Community and Continuing Education Conference. What an introduction to ILLA! The weather in Sun Valley was in the 70s and the presenters were superb. I met some wonderful people from across the state and a few I hadn't met from Idaho State University. I discovered that some work needs to be done to bring in more continuing education people. We were going to have a round table, but I was the only one in that category. But, the attendance was great from all the other categories of lifelong learning and I was impressed with all the higher education faculty attending as this is a category that's not always well represented in the Utah association. I went to see the Hemingway Memorial that Yvonne talked about last year in the newsletter.

Thanks to Past-president Yvonne Hauwiller and President-elect Pat Thorpe for representing MPAEA at some of the conferences, as well as all the other board members for their support of our associations. These conferences highlight some marvelous members doing outstanding work out there. I'm looking forward to all the state reports again in this newsletter.

Keep up the good work, and take care of yourself during the holidays.

Best wishes,

Lou

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## Journal of Adult Education

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## 2004 MPAEA Conference Update

*Voyage of Discovery—The Journey of Adult Learning* has been selected as the theme for the 62nd MPAEA Conference to be held April 29-May 1 of 2004 in Bozeman, Montana at the Best Western GranTree Inn. Located in the beautiful Gallatin Valley which is surrounded by several mountain ranges, Bozeman is located 90 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. One of Montana's fastest growing communities, Bozeman is home to Montana State University, the state's land grant institution. Horizon, Delta, United and Northwest Airlines all fly into Bozeman.

Two outstanding keynote speakers have been selected for the 2004 conference. Lennox McLendon, Executive Director of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, Inc., will be the opening keynoter on Thursday, April 29th. He will speak about complying with the regulations of the Workforce Investment Act and program improvement. McLendon has served on the National Coalition for Literacy and is a faculty member with the adult education graduate program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The second keynote speaker will be Kim Ratz from Minnesota. Known as the speaker who sings, Ratz will talk and sing about "How to Thrive in a Radically Changing World." His presentation will be part of the luncheon on Friday of the conference. Kim has over 20 years experience in adult and community education and worked for eight years in the Adult and Community Education section of the Alaska State Department of Education. He is noted for the original songs that he incorporates in his presentations which are intended to help people create more harmony in their own life and in relationships with others.

The format for the MPAEA 2004 Conference will also include several three hour workshops plus a series of 90 minute sessions. The three hour sessions are intended to provide participants with opportunities to learn more about topics pertinent to all adult and community educators. The topics for these sessions will include: multiple intelligences, coaching differences in workers and learners from different genera-

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## MPAEA WEBSITE

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

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

## DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN THE REGION

### Creative Solution Addresses Program Challenges in Wyoming

A young mother practices conversation with her classmates while her son colors pictures at the next table. She wishes she could attend more classes, but cannot leave her other children. An eastern European student tells of her arrival to the U.S. aboard an airplane and her surprise of being detained in the immigration office. When asked about her work, she looks down and tells the group she is a dishwasher. A Mexican woman shares her story of working in the strawberry fields of California after coming to the States. These stories emerged during a session in the morning drop-in center at the Teton Literacy Program and speak to its success in providing a comfortable, supportive space for English Language Learners.

By offering a morning drop-in center, the Teton Literacy Program is able to reach an additional group of students who would otherwise miss out on the opportunity to study English or who would have to wait for services. Students who cannot attend evening ESL classes; students who are waiting to be matched with a tutor for one-on-one instructions; or students who inquire about classes after the enrollment period has closed can now receive instruction. With our program filled to capacity from 3:00 to 8:00pm with children and adults with tutors and adults in classes, the drop-in center opened up an alternative time that fit space and staffing concerns.

Originally, the program hired an intern who staffed the drop-in center during July and August; at times she only had one student. From this, the center has grown in only four months to ten students who attend on a regular basis. Volunteer tutors now staff the center which runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

Tutors volunteering for the drop-in center have been successful teaching multi-leveled students because of the way the students support each other in the learning process and because they have similar survival-based needs. Tutors use basic personal story texts to practice reading, writing, speaking and listening. However, it is the personalization of the material that leads to the greatest rewards for the participants. Witnessing the drop-in center students speak and write about intimate details of their lives indicates to us that we have found an effective way to overcome the challenges of money, time, staffing, and space and still meet student needs. There's not a story that we want to miss!

Submitted by Michael Woolcott

### MPAEA NAEHS Project

This will be the third year for the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) Project. Those programs that have participated during the last two years know what this is. For others, let me summarize as we really do hope to have more of the MPAEA states take part in this project this year.

The NAEHS is an organization, much like the National Honor Society for high school students, which recognizes those outstanding students who satisfy selection criteria. Instead, NAEHS honors adult education students. In order to participate in the MPAEA NAEHS Project you must first start an NAEHS chapter. This is very easy to do. You can find information on this at <[www.naehs.org](http://www.naehs.org)>.

After starting your NAEHS chapter you then have to select your program's inductees according to the criteria that you have set up, and

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tions, and using WebCT as a tool for distance education. In addition, Lennox McLendon will do a three hour session on research to practice.

Another highlight of the conference will be the Thursday evening reception to be held at the Museum of the Rockies. The Museum of the Rockies is the largest natural history museum in the region with 94,000 square feet under one roof. It has the only Digistar planetarium in the Northern Rockies and is nationally and internationally known for its work in paleontology.

The Montana Association for Adult and Community Education, planners the 2004 conference, invite all Mountain Plains members to join them for a great conference. Besides an outstanding opportunity to participate in a quality professional development program, you will have a great time!

Submitted by Gloria Gregg



So I say: Don't hold back. Don't be shy. Step forward in every way you can to plan boldly, speak clearly, to offer the leadership which the world needs.

Lady Bird Johnson

Cont. from pg. 3

hold an induction. This also is not that difficult, and the associated costs are negligible. If you have done all this your program is then eligible to nominate up to two of your program's inductees to your state association for consideration for the MPAEA NAEHS Project. **The catch is you must submit your program's candidates to your state association by March 6th.** This deadline gives MPAEA enough time to then carry out its project; namely incorporating the recognition of these students into the annual MPAEA Conference Awards Ceremony.

The state associations help out by accepting nominations from their state adult education programs, selecting up to three inductees from their state for MPAEA conference recognition, and then passing that information on to the MPAEA Awards Committee so they can take care of letters of congratulations and/or invitation, certificates, etc. **The state association's deadline for sharing this with MPAEA is March 17th.** MPAEA's conferences are always nice and the addition of the NAEHS Project adds a special touch. For current information about the conference go to <[www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)>.

If any adult education programs are not currently participating locally in the NAEHS and would like to, but have questions and think it is too hard and time consuming, I invite you to contact me at 480-517-8108 or [blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu](mailto:blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu) and I will help convince you that it is neither hard nor time consuming. ☺ You can also get much information from the NAEHS web site.

**So come on programs!** Jump on board this project and honor the achievements of some of your "special" students. I look forward to seeing you in Bozeman and jointly applauding the efforts of not only Arizona's NAEHS inductees, but also those of the other MPAEA states.

Submitted by Blair Liddicoat

## News from Colorado

### On Creating a Common Vision

by Mary Adams

(Editor's Note: This is a long article so it will run over two issues. It's too good to edit part of it out.)

Can you think back to the time when you decided to go to college? How did you finally decide which school to attend? What attracted you to the course of study you pursued? Which events in your life led you to where you are right now? Surely many of these decisions were guided by some sort of personal vision—a projected picture of yourself, of who you wanted to become, and the kind of life you wanted to lead, or what you'd hoped to contribute to the betterment of the world. What is this sense of vision? How do we form these images of ourselves? How are they nurtured and drawn forth? What threatens to suffocate them?

You might be asking yourself what all this has to do with adult education in the state of Colorado? It has everything to do with education and with educational funding.

The vision of the current federal administration with regard to public education is perhaps best described in the 2,094-page document *No Child Left Behind*. With respect to Family Literacy and Adult Education, the recurring theme is to lead families to self-sufficiency. Few would argue that self-sufficiency isn't a good thing. As a society, we need families to be strong and free from dependence upon the state. Our institutions and businesses need skilled workers in order to function well and profit. But, we must ask ourselves if self-sufficiency is enough of a vision. Isn't the value of education something more

As a society,  
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than self-sufficiency? Doesn't it enrich our lives in countless ways? Doesn't education provide the history, access, ability and confidence to choose innovation, find new solutions to old problems, and re-create our lives? Doesn't the very design of our democratic republic require that its citizens be more than self-sufficient?

Let's imagine for a moment that we agree on a broader vision, using familiar words that are indelibly etched in our collective memories: "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." With this vision at the forefront of our thinking, making education our top priority becomes abundantly clear. When we have articulated a common vision, when we hold it before us at all times, when we affirm it by printing it on every public document, all other decisions of state fall naturally from it. Decisions become easier, not harder. Whenever a new idea is presented, the first question asked becomes, "Does this support or detract from our common vision?" Our tasks become less complicated when we are guided by vision, and eventually, lasting and real changes are made in the collective consciousness. When people begin to ask themselves if their actions or proposals are in keeping with the common vision, the vision then becomes the norm—hence a newly constructed reality.

Our vision must be clear, articulated, and in front of us at all times, even if it means writing it on an index card and hanging it from our rearview mirror. We need to talk to everyone about it—our spouses, our neighbors, our coworkers, our kids, and especially our policymakers. We must feed our inquisitiveness. We must continue to care. We have to investigate, learn and persuade others to see the beauty and worthiness of our visions. We must dare to hold our ground, defend it and advocate for it. Passion and resolve don't only consume energy; they also create it.

Continued next issue.

Submitted by Marcie Hanson

## Shift Your Focus

There's an old story of a young lady who was taken to dinner one evening by William Gladstone and then the following evening by Benjamin Disraeli, both eminent British statesmen in the late nineteenth century. "When I left the dining room after sitting next to Mr. Gladstone, I thought he was the cleverest man in England," she said. "But after sitting next to Mr. Disraeli, I thought I was the cleverest woman in England."

Disraeli obviously had a knack for making the other person the center of his universe, if only for the evening. If you practice attentiveness to others, you'll find it does wonders for both of you. They'll enjoy it; so will you. And together you'll accomplish much more.

So make a conscious effort to think of others' wants and needs before your own. Start training your mind not to focus automatically on what separates you from the other person. Rather, figure out what unites you, and how you can build upon that base. Soon much empathy will become a habit. A very good habit.

*Merry Christmas*

**If you have an address change from a move or a change of jobs, please notify the newsletter editor to insure that you will continue to receive the newsletter and the MPAEA Journal of Adult Education. Send any changes to Kathy Vickerman at [vickkath@isu.edu](mailto:vickkath@isu.edu) or phone, 208 232-4537.**

## News from Montana

### *Student Success Revisited-Come Celebrate in Montana*

Come to the Mountain Plains Adult Education Conference in Bozeman April 29-May 1, 2004 and help celebrate an outstanding student success story. If you were one of the lucky ones that attended the MPAEA Conference in Montana in 1996, you have already met this student. Billy Jameson was honored as the MPAEA Adult Learner of the Year in 1996, and he gave a welcome to the entire conference from the adult students in Montana. He received a standing ovation.

Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) Bitterroot was founded in the fall of 1987 and began to provide direct services in January, 1988. Billy Jameson was one of the first literacy students matched with a volunteer tutor. His long-term goal was to pass the exam to become certified to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). First, he had to learn to read. Then he had to pass the GED (high school equivalency exam) before he would even qualify to take the EMT exam. Then he had to take rigorous courses to prepare for the exam. He passed the exam in the spring of 2003!

Billy was at the beginning literacy level when he enrolled in our program. He was working full-time and raising a family. From the very beginning, Billy was willing to help the program as well as study to meet his goals. In 1993, a story he had written was published in a book called Spending Time Together. At that point, Billy also started to speak out in our community about adult literacy. Soon, he was on the front page of the local paper talking about learning to read as an adult. He talked to every tutor training for a decade, telling the volunteers his story and helping them to understand what it was like to learn to read as an adult. (He used props like newspapers written in German to help make his point.)

Beginning in January 1995, Billy was elected to the Board of Directors for LVA Bitterroot. In his seven years of board service, Billy served as a board member, vice-president, and president of the board. Also, in 1995, Billy was selected to attend a special institute for developing student leaders at the LVA national conference. He was then elected to serve on LVA's National Student Advisory Board. His national board service included a comprehensive survey to compile best practices for adult student support groups.

In 1997, the whole community celebrated when Billy passed the tests of the GED and moved on to the EMT classes. He was on the front page of the local paper again. Each time he talked to the press, additional students called to ask for help. Billy now volunteers to help with the EMT classes. He said recently, "It's kind of nice to be the teacher for a change after always being the student!"

Billy's journey of adult learning has been nothing short of remarkable. How many people have the perseverance to work for 15 years to reach an important goal? How many people set goals in the first place that focus on helping the community? Billy did all of the hard work of learning to read and to pass the GED and the EMT so that he could continue to volunteer with the ambulance in the rural town where he lives. He also serves as a volunteer firefighter. The journey did lead to a better job, and eventually to the brand-new pickup truck he had always wanted. But the motivation behind the journey was selfless, and was rooted in his desire to contribute in special ways to the community that he calls home.

Submitted by Dixie Stark

To reach a destination  
is a plan like a road.  
It shortens the distance,  
it makes rough spots smooth,  
it invites travel, and it leads  
safely beyond the horizon.  
MPAEA scrapbook

## Policy & Legislation

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) acts as a policy information pipeline between the literacy field and federal and state lawmakers. Through briefings, one-on-one meetings and other activities, NIFL staff serve as a resource to lawmakers responsible for determining policy and funding issues related to adult education and literacy. Staff also help all lawmakers and their staffs become generally more knowledgeable about literacy issues.

NIFL also aims to keep the literacy field informed of federal legislative developments through regular publications called Policy Updates. Produced periodically throughout the year, the Policy Updates provide interesting and timely information about federal initiatives that may affect the literacy field. All interested persons are welcome to join the mailing list to receive the Policy Updates. Policy Updates are also posted to the website on the day they are produced.

In addition to the federal Policy Updates, NIFL offers periodic analyses of literacy policy and implementation issues affecting the states. Currently State Policy Updates on topics such as English literacy and civics education, professional development for adult educators, state-level family literacy legislation, improvements in services to adults with disabilities, and distance learning are available. NIFL also maintains a directory of State Policy Resources that include available Internet links to each state's Adult Education Office, State Plan for Adult Education, State Literacy Resource Center, Governor, and Legislature.

For more information go to [http://novel.nifl.gov/nifl/policy\\_legislation](http://novel.nifl.gov/nifl/policy_legislation).

## News from Idaho

The month of October found many of us lifelong learners congregated in beautiful Sun Valley attending the 11th Annual Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) Conference. This year's theme was *Nourishing Your Soul*. President Mark McCaslin (University of Idaho) and Conference Chairs, Karen Wilson-Scott and Alice Allen (University of Idaho) did a wonderful job of planning and organizing the conference.

The keynote speakers were Mary Carouba and Susan Hagen, who gave us the story behind their recently published book, *Women at Ground Zero*. Their inspirational presentation set the tone for the rest of the conference, which started with a "holistic health fair" and featured a "serenity room" where attendees could go for some quiet, reflective time. Despite this emphasis, presentations reflected a variety of research and best practices. Funded by a spectacular raffle, two \$500 scholarships were awarded, one to Linda Bates and one to Janis Draper.

ILLA's new president is Kathy Lancaster, an adult basic education instructor at Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls. In addition to Kathy, two new directors were elected to the Board—Valarie Akers representing Family Literacy and Chris Heyer representing Industry Training and Education.

### Other News:

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Tomlin, Sr. Board Member from Idaho and Associate Professor at University of Idaho-Boise Center! Dr. Tomlin was recently appointed by Governor Kempthorne to serve on the Idaho Humanities Council. In his new capacity as a council member, Dr. Tomlin was invited to a private reception for award-winning author, John Updike, who was the featured speaker at a Humanities Council dinner in Boise.

John Updike is the prolific author of countless novels, books of poetry, and literary criticism.

Idaho is hunkering down for a long, cold winter, but we are all warmed by the thought of spring's MPAEA Conference in beautiful Bozeman, Montana!

Submitted by Peggy Nelson

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## To BE or Not To BE

Having the right attitude is crucial to diffusing a situation and demonstrating your commitment—even if you can't actually solve the problem.

**BE attentive.** Listen carefully. Allow the person to tell the story to a sympathetic and caring ear. Don't argue, even if you think the person is wrong. The opportunity to blow off steam gives the individual time to calm down.

**BE empathetic.** Once you have calmed the individual by listening, you can disarm him or her by showing sympathy and empathy.

**BE natural.** Try to avoid mechanical or phony responses. Try to convey a consistent message of sincerity and interest.

**BE energetic.** It is hard to keep energy levels high all day, but people need your help at 4:45pm, too. Think of each problem as a new challenge that you should be eager to tackle.

**BE an agent for change.** Try to think of yourself and the other person as partners in problem solving. Be specific about the actions you will take and then carry them out promptly, before other work distracts you. Follow up when possible, and let the individual know that you appreciate the opportunity to set things straight.

From Internet

## News from New Mexico

Recently in Las Cruces the New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) held its 36th Annual Adult Education Conference in conjunction with the 16th New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) annual conference to form the 1st Annual NMCL and NMAEA Joint Conference. Our guest from MPAEA was Past-president Yvonne Hauwiller. We were very excited to have her grace us with her presence.

The conference was extremely beneficial and well organized with many presenters. The theme, *Adult Education at the Crossroads: Community Voices and Social Change*, met the needs of all conference participants. There were approximately 350 participants in attendance. Our now Past-president Susana Navarrette planned well in all aspects of the conference, and everyone present gave her many accolades to that affect. Everyone was also quite excited to welcome Tina Shiplet as the new president.

One of the highlights of the combined conference was the Awards and Scholarship presentation. The following recipients received awards.

### NMCL Awards

**Student of the Year:** Susan Grigg—Carlsbad Literacy Program

**Exceptional Literacy Program:** Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe

**Volunteer Tutor of the Year:** Linda Stoffan—ReadWest-Rio Rancho

**Board Member of the Year:** Roxana Saenz—Deming Literacy Program

**Trainer of the Year:** Geraldine B. Wilkes—Artesia Literacy Council

**Presidential Service Award (2002-2004):** Ellen Harbough—NMCL

**Partnership Award:** NM Commission on Higher Education

**Distinguished Service Award:** First Lady Mrs. Barbara Richardson

**NMAEA Scholarships (\$200.00)** Five regions have a winner and runner-up.

NE—Marta Flores and Belen Nino

SE—Jimmy Blythe and Leticia San Vicente

NW—Elroy Lee and Lucy James

Central—Bertha Baca

SW—Victoria Garcia and Sirra Urrutia

### Other Awards were:

**NM Student of the year:** Victoria Garcia—NMSU-Alamogordo

**Teacher of the Year:** Tina Shiplet—UNM-Valencia Campus

**Employee of the Year:** Irene Aguirre—NMSU-Dona Ana Branch Community College

**Phil Felix Award of Merit:** Rep. Dr. Terry Marquardt—Representative of District 53-Dona Ana and Otero County.

Submitted by Anita Raynor

"It has been my experience that those who are truly great are the most simple people at heart, the most considerate and understanding, with a decided aversion of talking about themselves."

Grace Coolidge

## News From Nevada

Nevada's literacy Website, [www.literacynet.org/nevada](http://www.literacynet.org/nevada), is affiliated with the national LINCSystem. Part of the National Institute for Literacy, LINCSystem (Literacy Information and Communications System) has expanded during the past eight years and now includes a host of adult education tools:

- ☞ Find resources: Click on the "LINCSearch" button in the upper left corner to search for literacy resources, information, and curricula across the LINCSystem Network and major national and international adult basic education and literacy sites.
- ☞ Search within a topic: Click the "Collections" oval near the top of the page to access LINCSystem's special Collections. There are eleven Collections, each built around a specific content area or topic, such as ESL, science and numeracy, workforce education, etc.
- ☞ Discuss an issue: Click the "Discussions" oval near the top of the page to communicate with people around the world about a specific topic.
- ☞ Discover what's hot: Click the "Hot Sites" oval to access resources LINCSystem has found to be especially noteworthy.
- ☞ Look locally: The buttons along the left, under "Features," "Literacy Resources," and "Quick Reference" will lead you to items created by or specific to Nevadans.

Submitted through the Nevada Connections - Sharyn Yanoshak, editor.

*Happy New Year*

**Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference  
April 29-May 1  
Tentative Schedule of Events**

**Thursday, April 29th**

7:30 am – 3:00 pm  
8:30 am – 10:00 am  
10:15 am – 11:45 am  
Noon – 1:30 pm  
1:45 am – 3:15 pm  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

On-site Registration  
Opening Session with Keynote  
Round One of Concurrent Sessions  
Luncheon  
Round Two of Concurrent Sessions  
Round Three of Concurrent Sessions  
Reception

**Friday, April 30th**

7:30 am – Noon  
8:30 am – 10:00 am  
10:15 am – 11:45 am  
Noon – 1:30 pm  
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

On-site Registration  
Round Four of Concurrent Sessions  
Round Five of Concurrent Sessions  
Luncheon with Keynote  
Round Six of Concurrent Sessions  
Round Seven of Concurrent Sessions  
Banquet with Entertainment

**Saturday, May 1st**

8:30 am – 10:00 am  
10:15 am – Noon

Round Eight of Concurrent Sessions  
Closing Brunch

Watch your mail in  
late January, 2004  
for Registration  
Details

### What is the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

Beginning in the early 1940s, adult educators from the mountain plains area held a conference in Denver, Colorado. Two major assumptions made leaders and agencies willing to commit themselves to the great task of organizing and conducting these conferences.

First, there was a conviction among these pioneer workers that the adult education movement was tremendously important—that the concept of lifelong learning was necessary to undergird the American way of life. Second, there was a realization that adult education is a complex field and that a vast array of organizations and agencies are involved in it. This situation made communication desirable between these active groups so that greater cooperation might result in a better overall program for every one (Jayne, 1953).

As adult educators from the original four state region (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) met together year after year, they gradually became convinced that there were

real opportunities for cooperative action in areas other than the planning and conducting of an annual conference. So, as a result of the chain of events which extended over a period of years beginning in the mid-1940s, the MPAEA was formed at the business meeting of the **Eighth Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference** held in Denver, Colorado, in March, 1953.

Adult education is a complex field—communication and cooperation are desirable.

A constitution was drafted and adopted in 1954 solidifying the new organization. The members further cemented their cohesiveness by the development of the Mountain-Plains Project, a proposal that was expected to encompass 120 communities throughout the original four states. Adult educators from surrounding states recognized that MPAEA offered many benefits to the field so those original four states were

joined by members from Arizona, Nevada and Idaho in 1960. In 1988, educators from the state of Montana also chose affiliation with the organization.

That first MP Project set the tone for the organization and over the last 62 years the accomplishments have been many. MPAEA now monitors federal and state legislation regarding adult education funding, publishes four newsletters and two juried journals each year, hosts an annual professional development conference, offers an individual scholarship to qualified students, offers a scholarship for creative and innovative programming to deserving organizations or institutions and bestows many incentive awards among the members.

The enthusiasm and pioneering spirit expressed by the adult educators who chartered MPAEA are still evident today. From the first president in 1953, Clarence Jayne, Wyoming, to the current president, Lou Workman, Idaho, MPAEA has shown a solid commitment to adult education in the region.

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Some statistics about the current status of MPAEA follow.

Membership by state:

Arizona—45 members, 6 emeritus members

Colorado—13 members, 6 emeritus members

Idaho—24 members, 3 emeritus members

Montana—29 members, 1 emeritus member

Nevada—64 members, 6 emeritus members

New Mexico—14 members, 4 emeritus members

Utah—14 members, 6 emeritus members

Wyoming—20 members, 13 emeritus members

There are 14 library memberships—6 of these are international and there are 12 out of region individual memberships.

All states have representation for institutional/corporate membership (there are 24). Only four states are represented with library memberships. Two states now have state organization memberships. There is only 1 student registrant for the whole organization. There are 45 emeritus members.

For more history of MPAEA, visit the website [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org). You can also find three publications on ERIC—Mountain Plains Adult Education Association's Role in the History of Adult Education, The Voice of Our History, and The Last Five Years of the Millennium.

Since the development of the website, members have access to the minutes of the board meetings, board member information, the history, and current changes in the organization's administration.

## VLU Registrations

Verizon Literacy University ([www.vluonline.org](http://www.vluonline.org)) is a free national online training program for adult literacy and family literacy practitioners and prospective volunteers. The project was designed by ProLiteracy Worldwide and The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and is funded by Verizon Communications.

Visitors to the VLU site can learn about adult and family literacy, find out about the many volunteer opportunities in the literacy field, and take online courses in literacy and related topics. They may also follow the "Volunteer Now" link to locate the nearest adult or family literacy program.

Course offerings include: Orientation to Volunteering in Literacy, Volunteers in Parent Education, Family Literacy, and Writing Without Fear. These courses are self-paced; instructor-led courses are planned for the future.

Most participants will be able to complete a course in 30 to 60 minutes or less. The courses are designed to supplement and enhance the training of volunteers; they are not intended to replace initial tutor training currently provided by local programs.

From Nevada Connections

## About ERIC

The ERIC system (<http://www.eric.ed.gov>) consists of 16 subject-specific Clearinghouses, several adjunct Clearinghouses, and various support components. Each Clearinghouse identifies, acquires, selects, and processes documents and journal literature for the ERIC database, which is the largest, most comprehensive education database in the world. In addition, Clearinghouses produce major publications and a variety of user products, including *ERIC Digests*, which are two-page discussions of a topic based on the literature in the database.

Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people—your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way.

Barbara Bush

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[www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



How old were you when you stopped believing in yourself?

## Hone Your Sense of Humor

While being wheeled into the operating room after being shot by a would-be assassin, the ever-persuasive President Ronald Reagan got a chuckle when he wisecracked, "I hope the doctor is a Republican." We may not all be so cool in a crisis, but we can all profit by not taking ourselves too seriously.

Humor is an infinitely variable commodity, on the part of both the sender and the receiver. Witness the range of comics from, say, The Three Stooges to Mort Sahl or audiences as disparate as Shriners and anthropologists.

Some suggestions for improving your sense of humor: First, find out what your strong suit is, humor-wise. Ask a friend who'll be honest with you. Second, research your audience. Find out who they are, what's made them laugh previously and third, work on your timing. Try out your best lines on your family, friends, and associates. Fourth, if humor hasn't previously been in your repertoire, proceed slowly. It's better to use humor sparingly than to be remembered as a buffoon or insensitive.

Fifth, sprinkle your humor throughout your talk, not just at the beginning or end. Sixth, make it relevant to the subject, not just a funny line you paste onto your speech for laughs. And last, remember that some of the best stories are those you tell on yourself. A little mild self-deprecation can go a long way toward making your audience feel at ease with you.

Such conversational first aid not only makes the other person or group more persuadable, it helps you both keep your perspective. Humor not only can be an icebreaker, but if the going is tough, to those in the trenches it can also be an affirmation of dignity, a declaration of your collective faith in the ultimate triumph.

From profnet.org

## Resistance

When there is talk about this negative versatility trait, the image of a mule comes to mind. Mules are not very versatile animals. They may be good for somethings, but they're not good at adapting their behavior to fit the circumstances. The mule has come to symbolize stubborn resistance. It seems they can't help it. Any suggestion that doesn't meet with their approval is strongly resisted. Do you find yourself resisting most suggestions that come from others?

Letting go of resistance as an automatic response to other people's suggestions or viewpoints doesn't mean you automatically agree with everyone. No one expects you to do that. What makes resistance such an unattractive and nonversatile trait is that it's a kneejerk, unthinking reaction. The mule reaction. You can still say "no" or disagree. But you do it by acknowledging that the other person's thought or feeling can exist along side yours.

Then you can proceed to discuss the two viewpoints and you might decide to use a phrase like: "What you may not have considered is..." That's not kneejerk resistance, it's a considered difference of opinion. Having the ability to think "both/and" gives you great versatility in your relations with others. And remember, things don't always come to us in the ways we expect them to.

One of the most constructive and challenging activities our human minds are capable of is reconciling two seemingly opposite ideas. Rather than seeing things as either this or that, great minds are often capable of figuring out both/and. Someone once thought: I want a dessert that's both hot and cold, and the hot fudge sundae was born. Or maybe it was baked Alaska.

## Why do leaves change color?

### The nature of leaves

Leaves are basically food making machines. They are able—by way of photosynthesis—to turn water, carbon dioxide and sunlight into a nutritious substance called glucose, which in turn provides sustenance for plants and trees. The leaves use a green pigment, chlorophyll, to aid in the photosynthesis.

But as the days shorten and leaves absorb less light, trees prepare for autumn by stopping the food-making process. Consequently, the production of chlorophyll drops off, turning some leaves orange and yellow in the fall.

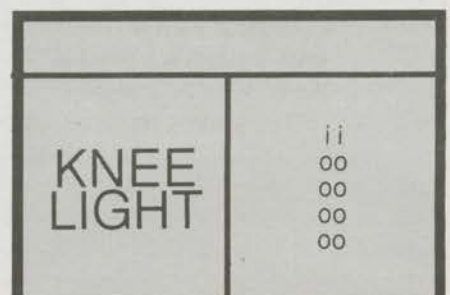
Colors, like yellow and orange, are in leaves all summer, but the powerful green chlorophyll overwhelms them.

### Leaf Facts

The production of red pigments indicate that the leaves still have food trapped inside; brown pigments are produced by the waste material left in leaves.

During the summer, leaves make more glucose than the plant needs for energy and growth. The excess is turned into starch and stored until needed.

Some plants, including many garden flowers, are called "annuals." This means they complete their life cycle in one growing season. They die in winter, but their seeds remain, ready to sprout again in the spring.



## MPAEA 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). The Editors of the *MPAEA Journal of Adult Education* encourage the submission of clearly written research articles, technique manuscripts, and book reviews which have the potential of stimulating thought, discussion, and inquiry.

The criteria for evaluating each manuscript will be based upon:

- (a) potential contribution to the improvement and/or understanding of practice,
- (b) clarity of purpose,
- (c) logical relationship to conceptual base,
- (d) writing style,
- (e) general scholarship,
- (f) strength of conclusions,
- (g) implications for practice,
- (h) adherence to submission guidelines.

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

Dr. Andy Shinkle and Dr. Pam Dupin-Bryant  
Editors, MPAEA Journal of Adult Education  
Utah State University-Brigham City  
265 West 1100 South  
Brigham City, UT 84302

## Article Categories for the Journal

*MPAEA Journal of Adult Education* accepts submissions in the following categories:

**Research Articles.** Discuss concepts, theory, and research findings of particular interest and significance to adult education professionals. Maximum length: 3500 words including abstract, figures, and references.

**Technique Articles.** Describe examples of innovative practice and procedures in relationship to recognized principles of adult education research and practice. Maximum length: 1000 words including abstract, figures, and references.

**Book Reviews.** Describe the content of a book, evaluate the book's success in accomplishing the intended purpose, and give a recommendation based on the book's relevance and benefits to adult education professionals. Maximum length: 1000 words. Do not include an abstract.

**Letters to the Editors.** Readers are invited to submit letters, rebuttals, and comments related to published articles or ideas reflected in the *MPAEA Journal of Adult Education*. Letters should be no longer than one typewritten page.

For submission Guidelines contact the editors, your state's MPAEA board member or send inquiry to [vickkath@isu.edu](mailto:vickkath@isu.edu).

## MPAEA Membership Application

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

Sandra Grant, Treasurer  
Utah State Office of Education  
PO Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

### Individual

Individuals	\$30
Libraries	\$30
Students	\$20

### Institutional

Colleges & Universities	\$55
State Education Agencies	\$55
Public Schools, Corporate	\$55
Other (includes International)	\$55

*All membership dues are tax deductible*

### Membership Information

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

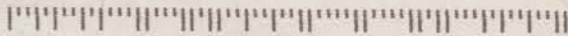
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**Make checks payable to:**

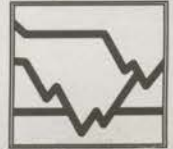
**Mountain Plains Adult Education Association**



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### Upcoming Events

- April 14-16, 2004 University Continuing Education Association, *The New Majority*, San Antonio, Texas. Contact through [www.ucea.edu](http://www.ucea.edu)
- April 22-23, 2004 Colorado Adult Education and Professionals Association, Colorado Department of Education, and Center for At-Risk Education Joint Conference, *Giving Voice to Our Profession, Valuing Those We Serve*, Broomfield, Colorado. Contact Bill Furney at [furney\\_b@cde.state.co.us](mailto:furney_b@cde.state.co.us).
- April 29-May 1, 2004 Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference, *Voyage of Discovery-The Journey of Adult Learning*, Bozeman, Montana. Contact Donna Bakke at [dbakke@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:dbakke@mcps.k12.mt.us).

