LOU’S LAUNCH
Lou Workman, President

Congratulations to Julee Henson and her team from Nevada who really pulled together to create another educational and informative conference at Boomtown in Verdi, Nevada. From preliminary reports, all attendees enjoyed the sessions and network opportunities with colleagues from the 8 state region and beyond. There were many first-timers attending who expressed a desire to attend the next conference in Bozeman, Montana, April 20-May 1, 2004. In the meantime, the Board of Directors has much to do to continue to serve the needs of the members. We’re now planning our next Board meeting July 17-18 in Bozeman where committee work begins and plans are made.

Appreciation is extended to Past-president Yvonne Hauwiller for her leadership this past year. It is always hard to follow a hard working, dedicated leader. This organization has been fortunate to have had many.

In this time of decreased dollars for education, and reorganization within our adult and continuing education units, there is always a story out there that reminds us why we’re here and hopefully re-energizes us to keep trying. All of us have stories to tell. I recently read of a 102 year-old woman who was first introduced to the internet and went online at age 99 through a program for seniors. On her 102nd birthday, she received many email cards and letters and even a sonogram of her granddaughter’s baby. A provider came to the assisted-living center and responded to the need of the residents there. These opportunities are all around and many of us are responding.

My hope for the coming year is that you all have love and laughter in your life. (And it’s healthier than complaining!) While we’re out there trying to improve the lives of others, remember to take care of yourself and keep smiling. I want to see you all in Bozeman in 2004. Enjoy the coming summer.

Best wishes,
Lou

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WOW!!!
MPAEA CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Once again the conference committee should receive kudos for a splendid conference. The sessions were interesting, the keynoter was excellent, the food was not only good but more than plentiful. There were many opportunities to renew friendships and make new friends. All and all—a big thanks to Julee Henson and the Nevada committee members. JOB WELL DONE!

Mary Bacon
sports her new cowboy
hat at the conference

Keynoter Mary Montle Bacon talked about visioning and purposing and the core values which she suggested define our purpose, unify systems, and lead the way people think and believe. She quoted Seneca, 64AD, “If you don’t know what port you’ve selected, no wind is favorable.” She continued that education is the answer, only if ignorance is the problem.

Ms. Bacon (with a smile on her face) told us we needed and attitude adjustment—that as educators we need to consider not only race and ethnicity but also the culture of oppression, the culture of poverty and the powerlessness caused by both. She said she was going to make the audience a little uncomfortable as a challenge to build better programs because when you come to comfort the disturbed, you often disturb the comfortable.

MPAEA WEBSITE
www.mpaea.org

Access the MPAEA listserv
mpaea-l@cebrigham.usu.edu
Mary went on to explain the difference between oppression and the culture of oppression. According to her the culture of oppression is worn on the outside.

Ms. Bacon went on to say that people are the product of their journey. The "oops" is who we are in shaping our journey. Self-definition is where to start to get out of oppression. The challenges of people working with diversity or the culturally different are those whose way of being is different from that which the system rewards.

The culture of poverty is a learned activity that once learned is hard to change. But, according to Mary, being poor can be forgotten if a person has achieved financial security.

Ms. Bacon said she believes that educators want to touch the lives of people. She listed four categories of educators: on the job retirees, routine and resist scrutiny types, continuous reflection people and those energized by critical scrutiny. Thus, the need for a change in attitude for some.

We were asked to work toward making the education experience meaningful and not the same stuff that sent the student away from education the first time. We were told to ask questions from their perspective, not ours. We were asked to understand their journey to get to know who they are. The system should focus on student strengths instead of deficits. We should educate for empowerment and survival skills in an alien environment.

Ms. Bacon asked us to remember and pass on to students that "if you stumble, don’t fall, but when you fall, fall on your face because even when you fall on your face you are moving forward.

Submitted by Marge Slotten and Kathy Vickerman

**MPAEA Honors NAEHS Inductees**

As all of you who attended last year’s MPSEA conference in Phoenix will remember, MPSEA initiated a National Adult Education Honor Society (HAEHS) Project a year ago. Arizona, as the conference host state, was proud to showcase three of its NAEHS inductees at the MPSEA conference Awards ceremony. Last week in Verdi, Nevada MPSEA moved the project forward by recognizing NAEHS inductees from two states, Arizona and Colorado. It was great to see another state participate and hopefully each successive year will see additional states join the project.

Congratulations to Dolores Magana, Manny Monge, and Celina Parker from Arizona, and Angela Abeyta, Hiedi Lewis, and David White from Colorado who were the honored inductees. Although they could not be there in person, they were recognized in absentia through the reading of short bios to the audience. All the inductees received enthusiastic applause in response. MPSEA congratulates them on their achievements and has prepared nice certificates that will be mailed to each of them.

The NAEHS celebration will take place again at next year’s conference in Montana where that state will have an opportunity to present their three NAEHS inductees to receive in person appreciation of their efforts from the audience. Other states’ inductees will again be recognized via their bios.

If your program has an NAEHS charter be ready in the spring when your state association will again ask programs for nominations of your most deserving inductees. If your program is not yet involved in NAEHS, talk to your MPSEA directors or me about how you can get started. It is a special way to celebrate the success of some of your special students.

Submitted by Blair Liddicoat

Patricia Thorpe and Maureen Peterson catch up on news from Colorado and Montana
And The Winners Are...

The results of this spring’s MPAEA Board election were announced at the recent Nevada conference at the Boomtown Hotel Resort and Casino. For those of you who could not attend please join us in congratulating the following individuals who began three-year terms as junior directors from their state:

- Arizona: Myna Frestedt
- Colorado: Kathy Holmes
- Nevada: Terri Zutter
- New Mexico: Dianne Marquez
- Wyoming: Michael Woolcott

And a special congratulations to Pat Thorpe, who accepted the will of the people in becoming the new president-elect.

MPAEA wishes to extend gratitude and thanks to the outgoing senior directors:

- Arizona: Miriam Kroeger
- Colorado: Pat Thorpe
- Nevada: Vicki Newell (not pictured)
- New Mexico: Diana Lopez
- Wyoming: Rom Bushnell

And on a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board the last six years, but I look forward to others stepping forward to provide association leadership. I also invite and encourage you to seriously consider running for a seat on the Board. While there is hard work to do there are many rewards as well.

Submitted by Blair Liddicoat

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell’em ‘Certainly, I can!’ and get busy and find out how to do it.

Theodore Roosevelt
News from Montana

Recently, MPAEA conference participants were delighted to “Cowboy Up” for three days at Verdi, Nevada. The Montana entourage returned home with lots of good planning ideas for Conference 2004. Gloria Gregg, Conference Chairperson, Norene Peterson, MAACE President, and about a dozen other Montanans were in Boomtown promoting the Voyage of Discovery—The Journey of Adult Learning which will be held in Bozeman, Montana, April 29-May 1, 2004. All of us in Montana are excited to be part of hosting the 2004 MPAEA conference. So, as Lewis and Clark did with the Corps of Discovery, you too should pack up, head off to Montana, and discover the Big Sky Country.

Presentation ceremony, Lucy was described as relentless, dedicated, with boundless energy and ability. We know that she has created innovative educational programs and a “corps of well-trained literacy tutors.” Most recently she has crafted a program for inmates at the county jail. Unfortunately, Lucy was not able to make it to Boomtown to be honored at the banquet along with the other state award recipients. She found out the night before that her confirmation number on a flight to Reno did not translate into an air ticket. Typical of Lucy, she didn’t feel that she should purchase the alternative, very expensive air ticket because she didn’t want to use scholarship money in that way. We were all disappointed that she missed the honors banquet.

But, Lucy did come to Bozeman to do a Literacy and Language Tutor Workshop at the ABE Center on May 1-2, so Yvonne Hauwiller (now past-president of MPAEA) presented the award to her at that time. In an attempt to make Lucy experience a little bit of Boomtown, Yvonne wore her cowboy hat at the award presentation. Thus, Lucy experienced a tad of “Cowboy Up” even though she didn’t get to Nevada to do so.

MAACE is again offering the annual summer institute June 8-12 at Montana State University. This year’s four-day workshop will include Learning Strategies for Teaching Television Generational Learners, Strategies for Dealing with Difficult Learners, Teaching the Low-level Reader, and Teaching Social Studies to Adult Learners.

Participants in the Summer Institute may receive two graduate credits or 28 CE Units. It is the only professional development activity that offers opportunities for adult educators to acquire specific coursework related to the teaching in the Adult Basic Education classroom. If anyone wants more information contact Kristin Bay at kristinbay@centurytel.net.

Submitted by Yvonne Hauwiller
News from Colorado

An Award of Excellence for the 2003 MPAEA Conference was awarded to Colorado’s Sharon Padilla-Stone. A native of Walsenburg, Sharon has been active in adult and family education in Colorado since 1975 when she taught in Denver. She has been a volunteer tutor and affiliated with Right to Read. She began work with the Colorado Springs program in 1977. She accepted the position of director of Adult and Family Education of School District 11 in 1978. At that time, the program had two sites and served about 200 students per year. Under her leadership the program has grown to 11 sites serving more than 1200 students each year. Her staff views her as a visionary leader and team builder who sets high standards for excellence. She has been an activist in local and state issues to provide the best educational programming possible for adult learners.

Because of responsibilities at home, Sharon was unable to attend the MPAEA Conference in April. She made the following statement after receiving the award: “I consider this award a recognition of the years of service I have given to the field of adult education. It is rare, I think, to work in a job that gives one so much satisfaction. For 28 years, I have been privileged to be involved with colleagues that care as much as I do about adult students and their families. I have had moments when I questioned the respective systems that I work for, but I have never doubted the goal and outcomes of Adult Education. I believe in the human spirit’s ability to change, I believe that education is a key factor in the change model and I believe that each person deserves the right to lead a life where basic needs are met. It is these beliefs that have kept me in this position all of these years and it is these same beliefs that have driven my vision to continue to create a better education program for students and families.”

Submitted by Kathy Holmes

Scholarships Awarded at MPAEA Conference, 2003

Each year MPAEA offers a scholarship of up to $1000 for a student who is studying adult education or a related field. This year the MPAEA Scholarship for Graduate Studies was awarded to Linda Darling Pete from Montana.

Also, each year MPAEA offers a scholarship of up to $1000 for innovative programs. This year the Scholarship for Innovation was awarded to Michael Clark. ???

Additionally, MPAEA offers each year a Professional Development Scholarship of up to $500 to one person from each state. This year the recipients were: Colorado—Marcie Hanson Idaho—Jon Hagstrom Montana—Nancy Kessler and Dixie Stark New Mexico—Anita Raynor Wyoming—Pam Clark

If there is not an application from all eight states, the scholarship committee may choose to award this scholarship to more than one person from a state.

News from Idaho

Those of us in Idaho are just starting to come out of our winter dens to find a few hearty flowers blooming and our “ever-so-wise” legislators still in sessions as of May 1st. A sobering way to start the spring season.

Kudos to the Nevada folks for putting on a great conference this year! We are proud to re-announce (for those not in attendance), that Dr. Mark McCaslin of the University of Idaho’s Idaho Falls Center received the Award of Excellence for our state. Dr. McCaslin has been instrumental in expanding the Idaho Falls doctoral program into the fastest growing program on all four of U of I’s campuses, and is a valued colleague, mentor, and professor to many of us throughout Idaho.

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association, of which Dr. McCaslin serves as President, is deep in the planning phase of the annual conference, held in Sun Valley each October. Dr. Karen Wilson-Scott along with Alice Allen and Michelle McCaslin are the conference chairpersons this year and are doing a tremendous job of lining up fascinating speakers and events. The theme of this year’s conference is “Nourishing the Soul.”

We are all looking forward to the next MPAEA Conference to be held in beautiful Bozeman, Montana, and hope to see more of our friends and colleagues from Idaho in attendance!

Submitted by Peggy Nelson

Too often, the opportunity knocks, but by the time you push back the chain, push back the bolt, unhook the two locks and shut off the burglar alarm, it’s too late.

Rita Coolidge
News from New Mexico

The New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) and the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) will be teaming up this year for a joint annual conference. The conference will be held in Las Cruces on October 9-11, 2003. NMAEA Board members will be meeting in Las Cruces in June to finalize the details. Information on the conference site and hotel accommodations will be forthcoming. We look forward to a successful conference with adult education and literacy together in 2003.

Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Becomes the Governing Body for Adult Basic Education Programs in New Mexico

Recently, New Mexico’s newly elected Governor, Bill Richardson, signed legislation that reassigned the state’s Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs to the CHE that has oversight over the state’s 4-year and 2-year colleges. Through much negotiations, the majority of ABE programs throughout the state requested a move from the State Department of Education (SDE) to the commission.

Along with other issues, the consensus was that since the majority of ABE programs are situated on college campuses, ABE would benefit from higher education administration. The transition will take place immediately.

Submitted by Dianne Marquez and Anita Raynor

Fun Phrases

A CHANCE N

WHEATHER

Rob Johnson from Winnemucca, Nevada talks with vender
Theresa Harpole from McGraw Hill/Contemporary
MPAEA AWARDS

It is an honor to be selected to receive special recognition from an organization of committed adult educators representing Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. MPAAEA each year awards one person from each state for their commitment and dedication to adult education. The Award of Excellence recipients this year are:

Arizona—Karen Liersch
Colorado—Sharon Padilla-Stone
Idaho—Mark McCaslin
Montana—Lucy Smith
Nevada—Julee Henson
New Mexico—Marilyn Jackson
Utah—Andy Shinkle
Wyoming—Michael Day

Each year Mountain Plains Adult Education Association honors individuals who have made strong contributions to adult education in their states. This year Nevada, the conference host state, honored Bruce Craig as Educator of the Year and Ron Dodd as Lay Leader of the Year. Also available but not awarded this year are the Student of the Year and Legislator of the Year awards.

The highest honor that MPAAEA gives at the conference is the Award of Merit. This person may come from any of the eight states that are a part of MPAAEA and made a significant difference in furthering adult education during this year or through several years. This year’s recipient of the Award of Merit was Kathy Vickerman, Idaho.

Ms. Vickerman has been a member of MPAAEA for over 15 years. She has served as a Board member and as secretary of the Association. Ms. Vickerman is currently the editor of the MPAAEA Newsletter.
The following article was the President’s message in the Idaho Lifelong Learning Newsletter written by Mark McCaslin.

The Unlimited Idea of Freedom

We need to find the great teacher within us—the one that inspires wonder, creativity, and the spirit of lifelong learning. In the classic tale of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan discovers the art of wonder, the creativity and the spirit of a life of learning. Jonathan, a teacher more by default than design, discovered the one ultimate principle of education—"an unlimited idea of freedom." As his students soon learned, he was not special, only first. Soon they too were teachers in their own right. As Fletcher Gull reflected, "No limits, Jonathan? Well, then, the time's not distant when I'm going to appear out of thin air on your beach, and show you a thing or two about flying." Fletcher had come to know the principle of *primum inter pares*, first among equals. He was not only the teacher, he also had more to learn, more to experience. "And though he tried to look properly severe for his students, Fletcher Seagull suddenly saw them all as they really were, just for a moment, and he more than liked he loved what he saw. "No limits, Jonathan?" he thought, and he smiled. His race to learn had begun."

The unlimited idea of freedom naturally reconstitutes the relationship between teaching and learning. It fosters a critical element that all great teachers honor—we all have something to teach and something to learn. This is the true beauty of lifelong learning—that as we greet those who have come to us to learn, we ask ourselves, "Am I also ready to learn?" The generation of the optimal state of teaching and learning occurs naturally at the intersection of potentials—those potentials of the learner and those of the teacher. Awareness and reflection lead to sensitivity for the human potentials before us, leading towards perhaps the greatest skill required by the lifelong learner—the ability to learn from and about the very ecologies of the learner. In truth, education does not rest beyond that point, but within it. This inspires the cultivation of wisdom "whereas knowledge is something we have, wisdom is something we become" (Walsh and Vaughn, p. 51, 1993). Wisdom begins with wonder—to become wise is to embrace the spirit of lifelong learning.

Questions to ponder......

If Con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?

Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?

If work is so terrific, how come they have to pay you to do it?

Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of the song?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

If most car accidents occur within five miles of home, why doesn’t everyone just move 10 miles away?

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?

Why is abbreviation such a long word?

Since light travels faster than sound, is that why some people appear bright until you hear them speak?

If it’s zero degrees outside today and it’s supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?

Is Disney World a people trap operated by a mouse?

Can you imagine a world with no hypothetical situations?

An Internet publication

---

"I START EVERY SONG BY COUNTING 1-2-3-4 BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF MATH. MATH DEPRESSES ME AND THAT HELPS ME SING THE BLUES."
DYNAMIC PROGRAM IN THE REGION

TMCC unveils unique ESL Curriculum

Nevada's Adult Basic Education leadership team at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) in Reno has developed a cutting-edge, competency-based English as a Second Language curriculum, specifically designed to address every CASAS adult competency for ESL learners.

"The curriculum is unique because it includes not only textbook sources, but also real-life interactive activities and material references," said Curriculum Coordinator Claudia Bianca-DeBay. "Clear guidelines and assessment tools are provided, along with student evaluations of each lesson."

According to Paul Marsala, ABE director and state leadership coordinator at TMCC, instead of 'teaching to the test,' this curriculum allows teachers to address all of the adult competencies essential for success on the job, at home, with children's teachers, etc. This curriculum has been needed in Nevada for a long, long time. Making this curriculum available to educators throughout the state now puts into their hands the tools essential for success all the way around.

The curriculum is available for four levels: high advanced, low advanced, high intermediate, and low intermediate. (The development of high beginning and low beginning curricula is expected to begin in July of this year.) You may access it through Nevada's literacy website, www.literacynet.org/Nevada (click on "Teacher/Tutor" under "Literacy Resources" on the left).

For more information, contact the Nevada State Literacy Resource Center, (800) 445-9673 or by email at sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us.

Taken from the Nevada Connections

President’s Budget Request

The president's 2004 budget request to Congress was a mixed bag for education. The Administration has been vigilant in pointing out that President Bush has called for a larger increase in 2004 over 2003 levels for education than for any other department or agency not related to homeland security or the military but this does little for continuing education, adult or part-time students.

Under the president's plan, $300 million would be eliminated from vocational and adult education. Existing programs for vocational and adult education would be rolled into two block grants for states totaling $1.58 billion. A total of 45 programs would be eliminated entirely, for a saving of over $1.5 billion. But the overall discretionary budget of the Department of Education would rise by 5.6 percent, to $53.1 billion.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

The 108th Congress was charged with reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA). HEA governs more than $60 billion in student aid administered by the federal government each year.

One proposal was the creation of an institutional grant program that would be linked to institutional retention and completion rates. This a potential wedge issue between public and private institutions. Public institutions serve a greater number of adult, part-time and low-income students...all of whom are less likely to complete a bachelor's degree in four years. Private institutions, enrolling proportionally fewer adult, part-time and low-income students, have a much better track record on retention and completion.

BOOK REPORT

Guide to Effectiveness & Efficiency in Higher Education for Adults

Get clear and stay clear on what to learn and how... advises a new book on higher education for adults. It offers eight key learning principles that characterize strategies to help adults learn best, i.e., with the greatest impact and with the least cost/effort expended.

Effectiveness and Efficiency in higher Education for Adults: A Guide to Fostering Learning was written by Morris Keaton, Barry Sheekly, and Joan Krejci Griggs. Each of the eight principles stated by the authors is shown to have a solid basis in research, and each is bolstered by engaging stories that illustrate the point and by a long list of specific tactics the authors recommend to achieve the principle in practice. Dozens of references following each chapter form the author's basis for further inquiry and substantiation for their insights.

As reviewer Thomas Angelo of the University of Akron notes "This readable and well-researched new volume aims to convince academic readers that it is possible both to contain or lower costs and improve student learning quality."

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
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

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)

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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

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.
Upcoming Events


October 9-11, 2003  New Mexico Adult Education Association & New Mexico Coalition for Literacy Conference, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

October 12-14, 2003  Outreach Scholarship Conference 2003, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact Greg Wise at greg.wise@uwex.edu

November 19-22, 2003  The American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, *It's a great time in Detroit*, Detroit, Michigan. Contact Merry Malfroid at malfroid@triton.net