Pat’s Perspective
Patricia Thorpe, President

The 63rd annual Mountain Plains Adult Education Association beckons you to Jackson Hole. Last week my beginning graduate students defined a professional educator as a person who stays connected to the profession and is aware of the current trends in education. Indeed this is exactly what MPAEA conference does and why one makes time to attend the annual conference. This year there will be a rare opportunity to hear and speak with Cheryl L Keenan, Director of the US Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy. She is known as an innovative thinker who is interested in promoting lifelong learning and improving federal support for adult learners.

Bill Draves is bound to shape your perspective on long range planning and innovation while Julie Coates will share practical ideas for marketing your programs. Three days will be filled with a cross section of colleagues from all levels of adult education sharing their research, current publications and best practices in education. But it is not just nice to be part of the organization, it is urgent that you become involved in the profession, NOW!

President Bush’s proposed budget was released last week and it shows a 65% cut in adult education funding. Each state receives the same initial allotment and then a second allotment based on the size of the target population. This means that state cuts could range from 50-70% of current funding. In addition zero funding is proposed for the Even Start Program.

Nancy Lopez, COABE policy consultant, reports that the Coalition of Adult Basic Education, the National Coalition for Literacy, and the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education are working to implement action to contact Congress to urge this cut not be made. Local action is critical since all Representatives and Senators in Washington need to know what the true impact will be on their communities. It is essential that you quantify how many persons in your community receive services, obtain certificates or diplomas and as a result are eligible for better paying jobs. They need to hear from you! This is not about saving your job, but about community members who will continue in the trap of illiteracy for themselves and their children, the trap of low paying jobs, and will continue to drain other social services because of not being able to move up to self sufficiency. It is for them that you need to write.

The National Council of State Directors of Adult Education has established a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) campaign. Patricia Bennett and Art Ellison are co-chairs of the effort. The goal is 750 letters from each congressional district. Based on the goal, each person should write three letters, one to their Congressperson and one to each of their two US Senators. (The letters can be identical in content with a change in the addresses). It is important that this be a personal letter and not a form filled in by people. Both Directors and Instructors are vital to this effort. Even more powerful would be students composing a simple letter that includes their accomplishment and what will be better about their future as a result of attending your program.

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MPAE A 2005 Conference: Main Presenter
By Mike Clark

CHERYL L. KEENAN, director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Division of Adult Education and Literacy, Keenan oversees the office which funds almost $600 million in state and local grant programs to enable adults to become literate and complete high school so they can succeed as workers, parents, and citizens.

“She is a nationally recognized expert in the field of adult education and is a key member of the decision-making team for our office,” said Carol D’Amico, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education.

“Cheryl develops strategies for improving education opportunities for millions of low-literacy adults,” D’Amico added. “She is an innovative thinker interested in promoting lifelong learning and improving federal support and initiatives for adult learners.”

In Pennsylvania, she established the first state family literacy program in 1998-99, which tripled in size during a four-year period. She also established the first statewide summer reading program requiring partnerships between family literacy programs and public libraries that grew to include all counties in Pennsylvania during a two-year period.

Since 1996, she has chaired the National Programs Committee of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium. The group helps influence the quality and usefulness of federal investments in adult education and works to improve coordination among federal agencies sponsoring research and development in adult education.

Keenan holds a bachelor of science degree from Bloomsburg University and a master of education from Shippensburg University.

WILLIAM A. DRAVES, CAE, is an internationally recognized teacher, author and consultant and President of LERN.

He is one of the most quoted experts on lifelong learning and online learning by the nation’s media, having been interviewed by The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, NBC Nightly News, and Wired.com.

Bill holds a master’s degree in adult education from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He has authored six books, and does speaking throughout the world. Maureen Geddes, vice president of the Ontario Speakers Association calls Bill “a world-class speaker” and Phil Housel of Kerrville, Texas says, “I’d trample my grandma to hear Draves speak.” More information is at www.WilliamDraves.com.

If you have address change from a move or a change of jobs, please notify the newsletter editor to insure that you will continue to receive the MPAEA newsletter and the MPAEA Journal of Adult Education.

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IMPAAE NAEHS Project
By Blair Liddicoat

This will be the fourth year for the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAAE) National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) Project. Those programs that have participated during the last three years know what this is. For others, let me summarize as we really do hope to have more of the MPAAE 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. In this case it is our adult education programs’ students who are being honored. In order to participate in the MPAAE 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.

After starting your NAEHS chapter you then have to select your program’s inductees according to the criteria that you have set up, and 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 MPAAE NAEHS Project. The catch is you must submit your program’s candidates’ contact information and the basis for their induction to your state association by March 5th. This deadline gives MPAAE enough time to then carry out its project; namely incorporating the recognition of these students into the annual MPAAE 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 MPAAE Conference recognition, and then passing that information on to the MPAAE Awards Committee so they can then take care of letters of congratulations and/or invitation, certificates, etc. The state associations’ deadline for sharing this with MPAAE is March 16th and they should be sure to include contact information and a 150-word biography for each inductee. That information should be sent to the MPAAE Awards Committee Chair, Kathy Holmes at holmes.k@ppwfc.org.

As a reminder, this year’s MPAAE Conference is being held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming from April 14th to 16th. For current information on the conference, go to www.mpaae.org. The conferences are always nice and the addition of the NAEHS Project adds a special touch.

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 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 Jackson Hole and jointly applauding the efforts of NAEHS inductees from programs throughout the MPAAE region.

Pat’s Perspective
Continued From Page 1

Because many areas are recommended for cuts in funding, members of Congress will be hearing from many facets, it is important that Adult Educators move ahead quickly and show immediate advocacy for their students. The goal of 750 letters in each district would result in over 39,000 letters.

Advocacy begins when you urge a vote on a piece of legislation. It is permissible for non-profit professionals to advocate outside of the normal business hours on personal equipment. In this newsletter you will find a list of the State Directors of Education; contact them and see how you can help!

Bring a copy of the letter you send and be willing to share with others at the MPAAE conference. Spring time in Jackson Hole is special and it will be a perfect place to retreat and enjoy the peaceful setting while networking and reenergizing to be ready to continue the important work in adult education.

MPAAE 2005 Conference:
Continued From Page 2

JULIE COATES is Vice President for Information Services for the Learning Resources Network, where she is editor of Course Trends magazine and does consulting. Julie was born and raised in Black Mountain, North Carolina. She attended Cornell University, North Carolina State University, and pursued graduate study in public administration and adult education at Kansas State University, from which she earned her Masters Degree.

She was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, being a target of the Ku Klux Klan and participating in sit-ins and other civil rights activities in Greensboro, NC.

In Manhattan, Kansas, she ran one of the nation’s premiere lifelong learning programs. She also was a community organizer, initiating the statewide folk life program for Kansas, a day care center, avocational programs for adults with disabilities, and community-wide volunteer clearinghouse.

Julie is a well-known authority and speaker on demographics and brochure design, having done keynotes and seminars in Russia, Germany, Australia, Mexico, Canada and throughout the U.S. She also teaches online courses as part of a graduate program with the University of South Dakota. Her newest book is Generational Learning Styles. William and Julie are the authors of “Nine Shift” a Peck into Americas Future.
CONFERENCE MONITO

CEU & UNIVERSITY CREDIT

ACCOMMODATIONS

CONFERENCE TOPICS

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

March 2005
NEWS FROM ARIZONA
By Myna Frestedt

A panel discussion regarding the funding issues for next year’s adult education programs in Arizona was held on February 4, 2005. The roundtable presentation was a key part of the AALL mini-conference held in Benson, AZ, co-sponsored by Cochise Community College. Speakers included the following: Maureen Hoyt, AALL Advocacy Committee Chair; Manny Alvarez, Jennifer Burns, Marion McClure, state representatives from the area and neighboring districts; Paul Newman, Cochise County Supervisor, Trudy Berry, Cochise County School Superintendent; Dr. Karen Nicodemus, President of Cochise Community College; and Wilda Theobald, state Department of Education Adult Education division. Key topics were legislative processes and finance committee dynamics. A question and answer session revealed the need for all of us in adult education to remain informed and involved in advocacy via appropriate channels.

Also, as a part of the Benson AALL mini-conference Denise Agnew, Diane Freund, and Frank James, three well-established local authors, presented how they came to success and the way they view connections between reading and writing. The presentations were well received by attendees, 170 in number, which is a good turnout for a mini-conference.

AALL began sponsoring mini-conferences to revive and redirect itself as an association that provides professional development activities for adult educators throughout the state. Mini-conferences are held 4-5 times per year alternating between urban and rural locations. The next AALL mini-conference will be held in Flagstaff on May 21, 2005 and will focus on fulfilling program dreams through partnerships.

Sheryl Hart of the Arizona Department of Education, Division of Adult Education is currently its Manager of Information and Educational Technology. As a representative of that unit and as a part of its Educational Technology Task Force (ETTF), she makes presentations on how to meet the state’s new Technology Standards. Her presentations cover access issues and how-to’s, including some “Zero Access Recommendations.” Piggybacking on a presentation made by teacher, Lisa McCandlish, Sheryl informs teachers on how to meet the standards, regardless of the teaching environment.

NEWS FROM NEW MEXICO

The Adult Basic Education Programs throughout NM were featured at the NM Legislature on February 10, 2005. The theme for this year was: “ABE Turning the Pages in People’s Lives” which featured a well designed life-like “book” with all ABE sites in NM displayed on its cover. In addition, photos from ABE centers of adult students were part of the “pages of people’s lives.”

The wonderful artistic work was created by the president-elect for NM Adult Education for Association (NMAEA), Donovan Shushlachlee.

A news conference was held at 11:30am and it featured two students who were declared Students of the Year for English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED. Their speeches were so very powerful and profound to say the least!

NEWS FROM IDAHO
By Peggy Nelson

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) has elected new officers. Dr. Marty Yopp, current President of ILLA, announced Robert Croker, Ed.D., as President-Elect of ILLA. Dr. Croker is Chair of the Department of Human Resource Training and Development at Idaho State University. He will serve a three-year term which will include serving as president-elect, president, and past-president.

Robert Potter was elected to represent the Industry Education and Training membership classification. A managing consultant for EJU Consulting in Boise, Potter is also a consultant to the Idaho State Board of Education. He will serve a two-year term.

Representing higher education on the ILLA board will be Karen Wilson Scott, Ph.D. who is an assistant professor for the University of Idaho. Dr. Scott will also serve a two-year term.

We Idaho MPAEA’ers are polishing up our spurs for a rollicking time at the conference in Jackson Hole!

NEWS FROM MONTANA
By Nancy Kessler

MAACE Fall Conference a Great Success

Despite the flurries of early winter weather, nearly 80 members of the Montana Association for Adult and Community Education (MAACE) descended on the Red Lion Hotel in Butte, during late October for the “Colors of Learning: Red, White and Blues of Education” fall conference. Participants commented that this was one of MAACE’s most enjoyable conferences, because everyone learned something practical to take back to their programs, and they had fun learning it!

State Director Becky Bird informed the membership in her State of Adult Education address that, on average, $355 is spent annually per ABLE student in our state. To get more funding, we need to lobby the Legislature, and the opportunity arose immediately with a candidates’ forum that included local, state and national candidates, including the two lieutenant governor candidates and one for U.S. Congress. All the office seekers were supportive of our efforts, but admitted they didn’t know much about our programs or needs.

Continued On the Following Page
NEWS FROM MONTANA (CONTINUED)

“We found that many, if not all, of our legislators need to learn what adult education has accomplished and how our services impact the economy of Montana,” said MAACE President Donna Bakke.

Between breakout sessions and round table discussions, members were treated to a terrific historical overview of Butte, and two tremendous keynote speakers. Dan McMannis offered an in-depth session on Stress & Learning - Understanding the Mind/Body Connection within the context of adult education. Michelle Deck presented a lively workshop on Learning Strategies for Television Generation Learners. Highlights included structuring content for maximum retention and a demonstration on a whole-brain organizer. Among Deck’s gems were such facts as we speak about 400 words per minute while we think at about 1,000 words per minute. Is it any wonder we sometimes lose our students’ attention?

Conference attendees worked hard, but had plenty of time to relax and network at a marvelous reception at the Butte Chamber of Commerce, complete with “A Taste of Butte” and a polka band. Conference Committee member Paula Arneson did an amazing job coordinating the event.

Finally, MAACE members said a fond farewell to the tireless but retiring Board Member Kathy Jackson and our fearless former leader, Norene Peterson, who survived as President for the past three years. (Both are retiring only from the MAACE Board, not from Adult Education. “After three years,” said Peterson, “it’s time to give up the gavel.”)

Many MPAEA members will remember Norene for the many “noses” she donned during her emceeing duties at last spring’s conference in Bozeman. “As far as memorable moments go,” said current President Bakke, “I will never forget the look on Norene’s face when the MAACE board donned various “noses” to tell her thank you for the incredible work she has done for our organization over the last three years.”

Now that elections are over, MAACE members are gearing up for lobbying the Montana Legislature this winter, meeting with elected officials and suggesting bill drafts and budget fixes. By spring, we hope to have more state support and more program success to give our students even better opportunities for their futures.

NEWS FROM NEVADA

By Teri Zutter

The 2000 census indicated that Nevada was the fastest growing state in the Nation. The population had increased a whopping 66% from the 1990 count to the 2000 count. And immigrants comprised 47% of the new persons residing in Nevada. Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the nation and Clark County is currently the 17th largest county in the country adding more than 200,000 residents in three years from April of 2000 to July of 2003. That’s more than 5100 persons per month!

Concurrently and conversely, Nevada is home to some of the most rural and frontier territory in the nation. Native American reservations, small agricultural communities and pockets of die hard mining towns are scattered across its 110,567 thousand square miles.

This dichotomy presents policy makers with difficult choices and complicated challenges. How can the state meet the educational needs of the rapidly growing population in the big cities while maintaining quality educational services in the tiny mining and farming towns?

Thankfully, the State Department of Education is managed by a group of brilliant leaders who are facing the difficulties presented by these unique demographics. And Nevada’s quality adult educators will continue to do their best work, whether they are writing cowboy poetry outside of Elko, or teaching a student how to read a bus schedule in downtown Las Vegas.

Nevada’s State Adult Education Organization is floundering. In an effort to determine a direction for the organization, a survey was mailed to 1440 adult education practitioners across the state. Less than 1% of the persons surveyed responded.

The majority of the educators responding rated the organization as “important” in terms of legislative advocacy, professional development conferences and providing a network of colleagues in the field. Additionally, most respondents were willing to spend $20 or more per year in dues and give between 4 and 8 hours of time per year toward the organization.

Where will the organization go from here? The organization is facing the challenge of garnering strong leadership, a fresh vision and some loud voices to revitalize its framework. The Board Members appreciate the steadfast support that MPAEA and Pat Thorpe offer. Anyone with experience in rejuvenating a struggling adult education organization is encouraged to call Teri Zutter at 775-445-4453. Any advice will be welcomed.
NEWS FROM UTAH

UAACCE & Technology Come Together

By Dennis Sampson

The UAACCE Technology Subcommittee (TC) has made some major progress this year. The TC placed an emphasis on improving electronic communication with the membership, including updating the website, mailing out the newsletter in PDF format to members with email accounts, and sponsoring many excellent technology sessions at the annual conference. Please check out the UAACCE newly redesigned website at www.uaacce.org. If you are not registered on the UAACCE e-mailing list, please register at http://lists. ucn.org/mailman/ listinfo/uaacce.

As we move into 2005, the TC has set a goal of enabling online registration and payment options for the annual conference and workshops on the UAACCE website.

Murray After School Program Receives Earmark Funding

By Rock Boyer, Murray City School District

It is with great pleasure to announce that Murray City School District under the Murray Community Learning Centers (CLC) After School programs, has received an award of Federal Earmark money of $200,000. This falls under the Labor Health and Human Services Education Appropriations Bill, through Congressman Jim Matheson. This award will help us sustain our highly needed after school programs whose federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant will run out on May 31, 2005. We are very excited to keep these highly effective and quality programs going on a more permanent basis for all Murray school children and their families. We want to recognize and say a very special “Thank You” to Congressman Jim Matheson for this award. He has always been a great supporter and advocate of education and especially after school programs. We greatly appreciate this award and want him to know that it means so much to this community.

Community Education Forum: Upcoming Meetings

Do you want to impact decisions, share ideas, and enhance your organization’s performance? Join your colleagues at the Community Education Forum. The group meets monthly from 10 AM-12 noon at the Salt Lake City School District offices on 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City. For more information, contact Carol Achziger at 435-755-2370 x239.

April 1.............. Room 114 (May be rescheduled)

May 6.............. Room 115

June 3.............. Room 114 (Joint meeting with AUA)

A 21st CCLC Think Tank was held giving us a new direction for after school programs. We will soon be announcing the final results and sharing them with those who participated and with both state and federal legislators.

Continuing Education Forum

Cynthia Grua, Office of the Commissioner, USHE

When the Continuing Education Deans met in December 2004, the Continuing Education Forum was a lively topic of conversation. There was a positive outcome of the discussion: deans committed to add names to five different Communities of Practice within the forum and identified several Continuing Education managers at different institutions to act as chairpersons to build support for these groups. The first five communities of practice include: Technology Delivered Instruction, Student Services, Workforce Development/Non credit, Summer and Evening School Conferences, and Marketing. Additional communities will develop as needed.

During 2005, as the Continuing Education Deans meet seven times, the members of the five communities of practice will be invited to participate in one of the seven meetings to share trends and seek support for their specific operation within Continuing Education.
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(April 2005)
A kitten's first word is a purr.
It's a language that everyone can understand.
Upcoming Events:

University of Continuing Education Association (UCEA),
March 30 – April 2, 2005, Boston, MA
www.ucea.edu

Non-Credit Continuing Education National Conference,
April 3 – 6, 2005, Myrtle Beach, SC
http://www.ed.sc.edu/ncc/