President's Message – *Myna Frestedt, Arizona*

With the sizzling summer nearly over and with many changes and local events taking place in our various states, I'd like to introduce some positive thoughts and details for Mountain Plains members. There are interesting opportunities on the horizon to consider, and news regarding growth and change in our organization.

First, an update on the MPAEA annual conference: as many already know, our conference will have the theme "Endless Possibilities," and will be held in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, a city strongly connected to education with several interesting sights for us to explore. The UAAACCE board and general members have been actively planning for this conference for a long time. The event promises to be one of the best ever.

During our summer board meeting held in Salt Lake in July, Scott Greenwell, Luella Jones, and Nate Southerland (Utah's replacement board member for Luella) led a most interesting discussion on the range and nature of the conference. We all worked together to make the sessions and conference highlights pertinent and exciting.

Several interesting developments will take place at this conference. One strand will provide resources for corrections professionals and another will provide one or two day sessions that involve systemic and sustainable training modules culminating in certification. MPAEA is looking into the guidelines used by the National Staff Development Council (NSDC). Gary Conti, our new *Journal of Adult Education* editor, will lead a session for graduate students pursuing careers in adult education, and Bob Croker will be collaborating with members to produce a first ever MPAEA training CD.

Mark your calendars and consider submitting a presentation proposal. The dates of the conference will be April 23-28, 2008. Details for submitting a proposal are on the mpaea.org website. If you have questions about the conference, email me at *myna.frestedt@riomail.maricopa.edu* or Scott Greenwell at *sgreenwell@dsdmail.net*.

Watch for some very exciting changes in the MPAEA website, newsletter, and journal. We anticipate having a members only access to the website soon. The newsletter and journal will have an electronic format option to save postage - an incredible
cost to the association. With these changes, there will be more direct contact with members all year long. Those who prefer to receive publications in hard copy will still be able to do so. But for those who use the electronic format, their contribution to printing and postage savings will be phenomenal. If you haven't already done so please submit your email address to your state representatives or to me. In order to join MPAEA, contact Detlef Johl, association treasurer, via the website or at his email djohl@helena.k12.mt.us.

I wish to thank the board for its hard work at the summer board meeting. We face many challenges that are common to associations like ours. One board member has resigned and we await a replacement. Other replacements are scheduled as well as the rotation occurs. We will hold the Executive Winter Board meeting in New Mexico to look ahead for the 2009 conference. Mountain Plains is a strong, purposeful, and rejuvenating association. As Garrison Keillor says, "Keep in touch and do good work."

Membership Questionnaire on Delivery Method for MPAEA’s Journal of Adult Education

Submitted by Gary Conti

The Journal of Adult Education has a long history and tradition. Like many professional journals, it has been printed in a paper format and mailed to subscribers through the postal system. However, recent developments in technology are transforming how we communicate as a society. These present both challenges and opportunities for the Journal. One of these is to convert to an electronic format.

To begin addressing this issue, membership were surveyed through an emailed questionnaire. Results clearly show that there is not strong support for continuing to produce the Journal in its paper format. Three-fourths of the members either favored an electronic version of the Journal or do not have any strong preference for how it is delivered. Nearly half of the respondents preferred a move to an electronic format. Moreover, this support is spread across gender, age, length of MPAEA membership, and amount of teaching experience.

As a result of membership responses, the Board will be examining issues concerned with converting the Journal of Adult Education to an electronic format to determine if such a change should be made. If you have strong feelings about this possible conversion that have not been captured in the survey results, be sure to voice them either to your state representative, a Board member, or the Journal editor, Gary Conti - gcconti@earthlink.net

A detailed analysis of the questionnaire, its methods, member demographics, and results is available through Gary Conti, Journal editor.

Do What You Love and the Motivation will Follow

If you enjoyed last year’s keynote speaker, Michael Kroth, you can sign up for his free e-newsletter at www.krothenterprises.com.

Dr. Kroth is an author and a featured speaker at conferences around the country. His e-newsletters provide information about how people and organizations can develop and sustain highly motivating, passionate work.

Dr. Kroth is an Assistant Professor at the University of Idaho in Adult and Organizational Learning and was a hit at the 2006 annual conference. He would be an excellent speaker at your state or regional conference.

The above headline came from Michael Kroth’s latest book, The Manager as Motivator, which describes how any leader – even the most non-charismatic – can create healthy, highly motivating work environments.

If you are interested in having Michael speak at your conference, email him at michael@michaelkroth.com.
Poetry Corner

The Man in the Moon
He used to frighten me in the nights of childhood,
the wide adult face, enormous, stern, aloft.
I could not imagine such loneliness, such coldness.

But tonight as I drive home over these hilly roads
I see him sinking behind strands of winter trees
and rising again to show his familiar face.

And when he comes into full view over open fields
He looks like a young man who has fallen in love
with the dark earth,

A pale bachelor, well-groomed and full of
melancholy,
His round mouth open
As if he had just broken into song.

Billy Collins, from: *Sailing Alone Around the Room* (2001)

Billy Collins served as the 11th Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003.

Note from the Editor

Peggy Nelson

It is with great interest and a fair share of
trepidation that I assume the editorship of the
MPAEA Newsletter. Kathy Vickerman, long-time editor, has stepped down to more fully enjoy her retirement. Best wishes Kathy!
Kathy’s work was notable for its consistency (always published on time) and her commitment to articles relevant to adult education. I hope to follow in her footsteps.

In the coming year, you may notice some changes in the look and feel of the newsletter. I confess to a lack of desktop publishing skills, which will hopefully improve in future editions. However, I bring to this task an enduring belief that as educators, our interests are varied, and we are often interested in ideas outside our ‘comfort zone.’ I’d like the *MPAEA Newsletter* to reflect this diversity of interests and experiences.

The newsletter will continue highlight news from member states, but will also welcome short book reviews (300 words or less), poetry (your own, published poets, or students’), and photographs. I would love to add a “Letters to the Editor” section, so feel free to express your opinions and observations. Please send any and all contributions by email attachment to pnelson@eitc.edu by November 16th for inclusion in the next newsletter.

News from New Mexico

Submitted by Dianne Marquez

New Mexico has joined Project IDEAL to introduce New Mexico ABE students to distance education. Individuals from the state office will be attending the IDEAL conference in early August. New Mexico is hoping to have a Distance Education Policy in place for the 2008 spring semester.

The Teacher Support Team (TST) will be hosting a Teacher’s Retreat. It is planned for the 28th and 29th of September at the Manzano Retreat near Mountainair, and it is slated to include mock classrooms, a general session geared towards some universal aspect of teaching in New Mexico Adult Ed, as well as work towards solidifying the teachers as a body participating in TST agenda items such as curriculum development and teaching in multi-level classrooms.

NM Higher Education Department has a new Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Reed Dassenbrock who took the reigns beginning July 1st. Also, new to NMHED is Dr. William Flores, Deputy Secretary for Planning, Academic Affairs & Research. ABE is looking forward to working with Dr. Dassenbrock and Dr. Flores on many issues in the state.

News from Wyoming:

Students Helping

Students

Submitted by Kelsee Miller

Eastern Wyoming ABE student Cory Munson was struggling to pass the math portion of the
General Educational Development test. After several attempts and frustration, he was placed with a college work-study math tutor. That math tutor was EWC student Josh Davis.

Cory and Josh worked together for several weeks before Cory took the math portion one more time. When the test results came in, they revealed that Cory had indeed passed.

"I am so proud of both of them," exclaimed Diane McQueen, Assistant Director of the Adult Learning Center. "I can't wait to see both of them walk across the stage at graduation."

"This is also really rewarding for Josh to see that someone was successful because of what he taught them," added McQueen.

This spring is the first time that GED students have worked with the EWC student tutors. "We want this partnership to thrive for lifelong learning... Josh and Cory will never forget one another," stated McQueen.

News from Nevada
Submitted by Sharyn Yanoshak

Community colleges “graduate”:
Reflecting the addition of four-year degree programs, Community College of Southern Nevada and Western Nevada Community College recently changed their names to College of Southern Nevada and Western Nevada College.

Innovative resource pinpoints areas of need:
“PinPoint” maps for Washoe County and the Clark County School District have been posted at http://www.literacynet.org/nevada/pinpoint.pdf. The maps graphically depict neighborhoods in high need of ABE services by showing the density of limited English proficiency (LEP) and free and reduced lunch (FRL) students. ABE/ESL program sites have been overlaid on the maps, providing a tool for programs to determine which neighborhoods are being adequately served. Also posted are Excel spreadsheets showing similar information for less populated areas throughout the state.

All the Standards are up! Content Standards for Adult Secondary Education join those for citizenship classes and for ABE and ESL/EL Civics programs at www.literacynet.org/nevada/standards/index.htm, completing the development process. Implementation throughout the state is now underway, under the direction of Claudia Bianca-DeBay, CASAS manager and trainer/resource specialist, cdebay@tmcc.edu.

News from Idaho
Submitted by Robert Croker

Idaho is again looking forward to our annual Idaho Lifelong Learners Association conference in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho in October. We will no doubt discuss the great MPAEA conference Idaho had the opportunity to host in Coeur d’Alene and encourage members to attend the conference in Salt Lake City next April.

Our State institutions of higher learning continue to grow, which equates to growth in Adult Learners. Idaho State University recently had a ribbon cutting for its new Rendezvous Complex. At 255,000 square feet, it is the largest classroom facility in the state. Terming it a “wonderful moment of ISU history” Idaho State University President Arthur C. Vailas, Ph.D., welcomed officials and members of the university and Pocatello community to the grand opening ceremony Aug. 30. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the structure’s atrium area, and tours of the new $43.5 million building followed.

This state-of-the-art facility features more than 50 multipurpose classrooms, a 120-station computer laboratory, 80 three- and four-bedroom apartment suites housing 301 students, a food court, a convenience store, a “Spirit Shop” selling ISU apparel, an art gallery and more. The building also houses the Faculty Senate Offices and has a three-room suite for conferences.

While Rendezvous’ various rooms, large and small, get most of the public’s attention, the five-story atrium may be the building’s
showpiece. Windows span the entire width of the east end and half the length of the west end so many plants can receive sunlight.

Classrooms are all equipped with computerized "smart podiums" used to display information on drop-down projection screens. Classes from all disciplines will be taught at the center. Two of the classrooms are fully equipped computer classrooms with a computer at each desk. The building also features a 250-seat lecture hall with a domed planetarium. This multi-story room will function only as a lecture hall until a donor for an approximately $2 million planetarium projection system can be found.

When adding this to the already successful Steven Performing Arts Center, with its 1,200 seat concert hall and two theater venues, Idaho State University is becoming a great place to get an education and participate in some world class cultural events.

This fall marks the opening of a new Health Education Building on EITC’s campus. In a joint agreement between EITC and ISU, both colleges will hold classes in this state-of-the-art facility. The building was designed to function as a triage center in case of emergencies. It has a fully-functional operating room, examining rooms, a dental lab, and even a cadaver lab. The two-story building has variety of classrooms and labs, all with smart technology to support ISU’s Registered Nursing program and EITC’s new two-year RN program and programs in practical nursing, dental assisting, medical assisting, and surgical technology. It is a great addition to a growing campus.

News from Colorado:
Professional Development Opportunities Grow

Submitted by Nancy Lambott

Colorado has enhanced its professional development opportunities for adult education and family literacy instructors and directors throughout the state. Beginning last fall directors were introduced to the online Professional Development (PD) Self-Assessment. Three hundred teachers completed the online assessment during the month of September. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFLA) staff compiled the data and produced a report of teachers’ PD needs for each program receiving AEFLA grant funds. Program directors worked with teachers to develop professional development plans. Through a statewide advisory group CDE has developed a PD point system that is used for all professional development activities that teachers and directors participate in throughout the year. The PD point system was piloted this year and is leveled according to the number of hours per week that teachers work. Teachers share points completed with their directors. This presently is a voluntary process for programs; however, this year all professional development activities included a certificate that identified the total number of PD points and the connection to the PD Self-Assessment descriptors. Download a copy of the self-assessment at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/PDSelfAssessIndex.htm

point system can be found at
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/download/pdf/PointSystemPDV8.pdf

To ensure that adult educators are qualified by the state to teach ESL, ABE, and ASE/GED classes in Colorado Adult Education and Family Literacy programs, the Literacy Instruction Authorization (LIA), was developed. To earn this state-issued adult education teaching credential, teachers may choose to complete four community college courses, submit a portfolio or a combination of coursework and portfolio. Renewal is required every five years. This year every program receiving AEFLA funding was required to have 50% of their 20 hour/week teaching staff complete the LIA. If a program does not have a 20 hour teacher, one LIA is required per program. For more information go to
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/LIAIndex.htm

To provide Colorado adult educators and directors with PD opportunities, each year Colorado Adult Education Professional Association (CAEPA) and CDE staff have worked together to create a state conference. The 2007 conference was attended by over 350 teachers and directors. This year’s February
conference provided up to 20 PD points for two full days of attendance. In addition, in conjunction with the Literacy Coalition of Jefferson County and CDE, a free two-day mini conference was held in March of 2007 at Aurora Community College. Over 150 adult education teachers attended and were awarded 8 points for one full day of attendance. To learn more about CAEPA visit www.caeapa.org

Other PD opportunities included study circles, regional training and face-to-face and web-based LIA classes. Over the last 3 years the Professional Development Advisory Group (PDAG) has developed an online list of resources that are linked to the 110 skills and knowledge descriptors of the Professional Development Self Assessment. The resources are organized in four strands: Self-study, Collaboration with Colleagues, Workshops/Trainings/Conferences and Courses for credit. The Professional Development Resource Bank can be viewed at http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/PDResourceBankIndex.htm

Through the collaborative efforts of professional organizations, coalitions, AEFLA programs and the Office of Adult Education Staff, Colorado PD continues to meet the needs of the teachers, directors and key staff of AEFLA grant recipients and adult education providers across the state.

News from Montana: Training Opportunities in Fall 2007

Submitted by Suzette Fox

The Office of Public Instruction will co-host training for Adult Education entitled "Character Education" on October 18 & 19 in Billings. This training features several Native American speakers discussing cultural history and other factors that affect learning.

The afternoon will end with breakout sessions to discuss classroom strategies for schools with high levels of poverty. Friday's adult education sessions will provide instruction and practice with motivational interviewing, a strategy to help people with change. Dr. Christine Fiore, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Montana, will lead and facilitate Friday's sessions, assisting adult educators with building relationships with students that will foster student persistence. The Montana Association for Adult and Community Education (MAACE) will hold a business meeting and annual awards presentation in conjunction with the Character Education Training in Billings.

MAACE will also host a full slate of training sectionals at the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers Conference held in Belgrade October 18 & 19. The MAACE sectionals at the MEA-MFT conference include: Retirement Planning, Impact of Meth on Learning, Infotrac and Auto Database For All, Electric Cars & Global Warming, An Adult ESL Model, Development of the Criminal Child, GED Mythbusters, The Mathematics of Oil and Beyond, etc. Stop by the MAACE hospitality room in Belgrade and thank Kathie Daviau and Rose Steine for designing and implementing our MAACE presence at MEA-MFT.

News from Utah: "Endless Possibilities," 2008 Conference

Submitted by Scott L. Greenwell, MPAEA Conference Chair 2008

The Utah Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education (UAACCE) will be hosting the MPAEA conference in Salt Lake City April 23-26, 2008. The theme is "Endless Possibilities." The planning committee hopes to see in excess of 400 adult educators at the conference in 2008. The conference will include a full slate of quality breakout sessions for anyone working in the field of adult education--all levels, all areas.

Conference planners have already attracted a lineup of well-known and exciting keynote speakers and presenters for the annual event. The featured speaker at the opening general session will be Dr. Troy R. Justesen, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. Joining
Secretary Justesen as keynote speakers during the conference will be Robyn A. Rennick, President, National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs; Dr. Brenda J. Burrell, Minority Graduation Specialist, Utah State Office of Education; and Dr. Sandy Petersen, President of Petersen and Associates Consulting Firm and Assistant Superintendent, Davis School District. Pre-conference sessions will also be offered on How to Teach Adult Learners, Technology-Delivered Instruction, and Grant Writing.

In addition to the above, conference attendees will be invited to a special reception and Star Show at the state-of-the-art Clark Planetarium at the Gateway Center in downtown Salt Lake. The conference itself will be held at the newly remodeled Radisson Hotel, situated in the heart of Salt Lake and within easy access to shopping, fine dining, and TRAX, Salt Lake’s light rail system. The conference offers easy access to and from Salt Lake International Airport, most meals, plenty of opportunities to see the sights in and around Utah’s Wasatch Front, and affordable parking and hotel accommodations. So, mark your calendars, invite your friends and colleagues, and join us for some of the best, most up-to-date professional development opportunities available anywhere in adult education. Membership in MPAEA and UAAACE will be gifted as part of your full conference registration.

State Conferences

ILLA Conference in Sun Valley – Experience: The World of Learning

Submitted by Marion Lansford

There is only one original. Since 1936, Sun Valley, Idaho holds the distinction. It evolved out of a desire to bring the flavor of a European ski resorts to the United States. Sun Valley also sports the reputation of the invention of the ski lift. Sun Valley’s other distinction is that it is the place for the annual Idaho Lifelong Learning Association conference. Every year members gather in Sun Valley’s mountain atmosphere, amid falling leaves on crisp days.

This year’s conference will be October 21 through 23 at the Sun Valley Lodge and the Sun Valley Inn. The cost is $225 per person. Conference rates are available through September 21.

Keynote speakers this year are Cindy Borden and Penny Richardson, two educators and authors of Leaving Luna, who will relate an incredible story of their bike journey through Europe.

Conference costs can be paid through Paypal. Room reservations for the Inn and Lodge are $115 per room per night, for both the singles and doubles, plus 10% tax.

Tina Therp and Bonnie Fields are the conference coordinators and Bonnie will be taking the room reservations and conference registrations through idlla@p4peid.org, www.idlla.org and 208-785-0059. Other questions can be answered by calling ILLA president Terry Busch, Community Development Specialist, Partners for Prosperity (208) 251-6997. Visit the website at http://www.idaho-lifelong-learners.org for additional conference information.

Colorado’s Rendezvous

Colorado’s state conference will be held March 13-14 in Lakewood, Colorado. Anyone seeking information can log onto the website, www.caepa.org or contact Sharon Yanowitch at saylva@cox.net.

Wyoming’s Lifelong Learning Association

The Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association (WLLA) annual conference will be held in Cheyenne On October 9 & 10. Our keynote speaker is State Auditor, Rita Meyer.

2008 MPAEA CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY

To find out more about the conference or to submit a presentation proposal online, log on to:
www.uaacce.org
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**Five Reasons to Join Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA):**

- Membership in MPAEA provides wonderful opportunities for professional development, lifelong learning, and networking with other professional adult educators throughout the region.

- MPAEA is one of the oldest regional adult education organizations in the United States. For nearly 60 years, this association has been a driving force in support of adult education.

- MPAEA provides legislative and financial support to member states through their affiliate organizations.

- With membership you receive automatic subscriptions to both the MPAEA Newsletter, published quarterly, and the Journal of Adult Education, a juried publication distributed nationwide.

- Scholarships! As a member, you are eligible for two $1,000 scholarships, one to assist with graduate work in the field of adult education and one for innovative projects.

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**MPAEA Membership Application**

**Membership Information**

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Make checks payable to
Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

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

Detlef Johl
815 Front Street 44200
Helena, MT 59601
djohl@helena.k12.mt.us

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

- Individual  $30
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- Institutional Libraries  $100
- Colleges & Universities  $100
- State Education Agencies  $100
- Public Schools, Corporate  $100
- Other (includes International)  $100

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