

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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Newsletter, March, 2008

President's Message – Myna Frestedt, Arizona



Spring in Arizona is short. Sometimes it's here just a few days. In like spirit, my letter is intended to be brief and to point to *Endless Possibilities*.

In beautiful Salt Lake City, UAACCE has many interesting activities planned for us. Our time together will offer generous opportunities to meet or reconnect with colleagues, offering us the best in regional networking. Together MPAEA members are often able to discover new ways to solve local problems and provide better educational services.

For me, the 2008 MPAEA Conference will be a full circle event. One of my earliest MPAEA experiences occurred eight years ago in Salt Lake City. Attending that conference has had a very positive impact on my work. It was my first view of the widespread professionalism in our association, so I'm very happy to be going there again.

The UAACCE committee has produced an interesting program containing diverse activities, important keynotes, and excellent sessions.

There will be sessions for ESL teachers, partnership-builders, technology users, administrators, and corrections instructors (we also have lots of "breakout" puns for the last group). There are many topic choices for attendees. To register, visit uaace.org or fill out and mail the enclosed insert.

A special feature of the conference will be honoring adult students who have been inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS). Those members from states that do not yet have NAEHS charters can get involved by going to <http://www.naehs.org/> and finding out how to start a charter. It's easy to do and reaps many benefits to programs. NAEHS inductees advertise what we do as adult educators within our communities. They bring other adult learners to our doors, and they become "stars" in their own communities.

I hope everyone has a beautiful spring, and I look forward to seeing you all from April 23 – 26 in Salt Lake City.

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'Pair-o-Docs' from Wyoming Retire

by Peggy Nelson

Drs Michael and Pamela Clark will be retiring from their full-time positions at the end of this academic year. Both Mike and Pam received their PhDs in 2001 from University of Wyoming



in adult education, writing outstanding dual dissertations on the role of newspapers in two utopian communities.

Dr. Pam Clark began her career in adult and community education in Idaho in 1975, but has also taught English and reading in high school, middle school, and at the community college level. In 2005, Dr. Clark was honored by the Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association as the Outstanding Adult Educator of the year.

Dr. Michael Clark has worked in education for the last 27 years, first as a high school teacher and then as a college teacher and administrator. A long-time member of MPAEA, Mike chaired the memorable Jackson Hole conference in 2004 and received the prestigious "Award of Excellence" at the Coeur D'Alene conference in 2007. He has also received the MPAEA Distinguished Service Award.

Both Mike and Pam will continue to teach on a part time basis as they pursue other interests, which include touring the wine country, working on a number of research/writing projects, and spending time with their granddaughter. We can also look forward to seeing them at future MPAEA conferences!

Let's Go NAEHS – Blair Liddicoat



Every year MPAEA recognizes National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) inductees from its member states at the conference awards ceremony.

This will take place in Salt Lake City this year. Please be aware of several very important

deadlines that are quickly approaching for this important activity.

1. State associations must receive nominations of NAEHS inductees from local programs by March 8th in order for them to be eligible for possible recognition at the Utah Conference this spring. Each local program may submit up to two inductees to their state association. Remember that nominees must be from the current program year and they must have already been inducted into the NAEHS by their local chapter by the deadline.

2. State associations must give the names and a 150-word biography of their three state inductees to the MPAEA Awards Committee Chair by March 26th. E-mail them as Word attachments to Brad Deeds at bdeeds@tmcc.edu. Include the nominee's mailing address.

This will be the seventh year of the MPAEA NAEHS Project and every year we try to expand state and program participation in this project. Our goal is to have all eight MPAEA states involved every year. This year the conference is in Utah so we especially hope to see Utah programs participate which will allow us to meet their outstanding NAEHS inductees at the conference.

Come on everyone. It is not hard to do and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of some of your "special" students.



News from Nevada

Submitted by Sharyn Yanoshak

Nevada Adult Educators organization moves forward

Key adult educators from throughout the state have been working on the formation of the Nevada Adult Educators (NAE) organization. The Advisory Board is headed by Bob Henry; Brad Deeds is serving as Secretary, and Linda Bogle as Treasurer. Other Board members include Kathy Biagi, Max Buffi, Kathleen Jameson, Jackie Kearns, Sam King, Cynthia Pierrott, Mary Ramirez, Sharyn Yanoshak, and Teri Zutter. The group has developed a mission statement and is in the process of solidifying bylaws in preparation for soliciting membership.

Nevada Adult Educators has agreed to host the 2009 MPAEA Conference in Las Vegas.

Professional development is focused, free, and in full swing

Full-day workshops geared to specific topics are offered to all adult educators throughout the state. Many are also participating in study circles, which meet for two-three times over several months, to discuss current research and its application to practice. Topics include teaching effective reading strategies to ESL students and “the courage to teach,” based on Parker Palmer’s work. Links to the calendar and to the Professional Development Catalog detailing the offerings can be found at www.literacynet.org/nevada/sdocs/nvabepd.pdf.

Nevada is also bringing Susan Hughes, Certified Trainer and Diagnostician for the Irlen Institute, to Reno to train AEFLA-funded teachers in screening for Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome.

New options for PD credit

Educators may now use independent study and workshop development/presentation as professional development activities toward renewal of their ABE Certificates of Performance. Other allowable activities include sanctioned workshops, conferences, facilitated online courses, and other applicable coursework. Nevada’s ABE Certificate of Performance is the nation’s only outcome-based program for recognizing ABE/ESL instructors and tutors. Details at www.literacynet.org/nvabecp/index.html.

Endless Possibilities – MPAEA Conference 2007 - Did you know . . .

Friday night’s Award Banquet entertainment will feature “Lark and Spur.” This group has performed in the streets of Paris, Munich, and other European cities. The group consists of two acoustic guitars, mandolin, bass, saxophone/flute and three voices. You won’t want to miss this magical evening!



News from Wyoming

Submitted by Diane White

Uinta BOCES #1 Education Center in Evanston, Wyoming offers Adult

Education services and English Second Language services. This fall we have increased our hours and added an Adult Literacy class on Wednesday evenings for reading and writing skills. Our English Second Language class is growing steadily with a significant increase in attendees over last year. We have expanded this program to include a family literacy program on Thursday evenings. We are also marking our second year offering Adult Education services to the Uinta County Jail. Thus far, we have had 20 students complete their GED at the jail and over 60 students have attended classes in Adult Basic Education and Computer Literacy. A recent addition to the Jail program has been a transition-to-education program, with students being counseled and assisted with a transition into post secondary or vocational programs upon their release. The Adult Education department works with the Gear Up program and with the Honorable Michael Greer, Uinta Circuit Court Judge, to coordinate these programs. The Adult Education department is operated through grants from the Wyoming Community College Commission and matching funds through the Uinta B.O.C.E.S. #1 Education Center.

Science is organized knowledge.

Wisdom is organized life.

--- Emmanuel Kant

News from New Mexico



Submitted by Dianne Marquez

New Mexico ABE Professionals were invited to participate in an Advocacy Awareness training sponsored by the New Mexico Adult Education Association. Ms. Bonnie Greathouse facilitated the interactive training which provided knowledge and skills needed to approach and inform state legislators of the outstanding activities ABE is doing within their legislative district.

A proclamation was read on the Senate and House floors stating that February 1st was “Adult Education and Literacy Day” at the State Capitol. Many ABE supporters were present to

speak with legislators and answer questions about ABE services in New Mexico. All legislators received the ABE state annual report and an informational brochure from the New Mexico Higher Education Department/ABE office. Informational booths were set up in the rotunda and a press conference completed the day's activities.



News from Idaho

Submitted by Dr. Robert Croker

This year the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) has elected to change conference venue and move to Boise. Although Sun Valley has been a location that members have enjoyed attending for many years, it has been difficult at times to attend because of transportation. The isolation of Sun Valley is partially responsible for its attraction as a world class resort. However, for busy professionals with ever restrictive budgets, this has presented an attendance problem. So, it's off to Boise in 2008. The conference will be held at the Grove Hotel located in downtown Boise.

Access, many and varied accommodations, as well as the numerous shopping opportunities has always made Boise a great place for a conference. The Grove Hotel has 36,000 square feet of meeting space with 20 breakout rooms and full-catering service. Although we leave the serenity and beauty of a world class venue in Sun Valley, we welcome the opportunity to travel to our State's capital.

One thing for sure, ILLA will continue to provide its members with quality presentations on timely subjects. Our current board under the direction of our president, Janna Graham, will have a great October conference planned, of that you can be sure.

News from Arizona: A Renaissance in Adult Education

Submitted by Lily Beth Brazones

Adult Education Services (AES) held its tri-annual state conference at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Phoenix December 11-14. Nearly



500 people from six states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah) participated. Attendees included adult

educators and administrators, GED chief examiners and examiners, educators from the Arizona Office of the Supreme Court, public library personnel, and adult literacy practitioners.

As the theme, "A Renaissance in Adult Education" indicated, the 2007 AAS Conference focused on extraordinary advancements made within the State's adult education system during the past several years and highlighted both ongoing and upcoming initiatives.

As part of the celebration, educational programs across the state designed Renaissance-themed banners to represent their individual programs. It was quite a highlight to the state conference as the creative banners showcased each program's points of pride and creativity.

The conference brought together an amazing panel of experts and presenters including *Dr. Michael G. Moore* - Professor of Adult Education, Pennsylvania State University; *Dr. Lennox L. McLendon* - Executive Director of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium; *Ms. Martha Bozman* - American Council on Education, GED Testing Service; *Mr. Robert Wedgeworth* - Retired President, ProLiteracy Worldwide; and *Dr. Michael E. Tomlin* - Associate Dean, Central Wyoming College.

Arizona Adult Literacy Week, February 17-23, 2008-02-21

This week marks an important occasion as Arizona celebrates Arizona Adult Literacy week. This is the fourth year that Arizona Adult Education has collaborated with the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) to highlight the literacy needs of our communities.

Conference 2008 - Endless Possibilities Did you know . . .

In response to requests from corrections educators around the region, the conference will feature six breakout sessions on Friday, April 25, focusing on the needs and interests of corrections educators!

Adult educational programs across the MPAEA state are provided with posters, bookmarks, and flyers to further highlight the importance of this week. Our governor, Janet Napolitano, also issues a proclamation marking this week as Adult Literacy Week.

Professional Development Leadership Academy – submitted by Shannon Newman

One project several adult education programs in Arizona are participating in is the Professional Development Leadership Academy (www.azed.gov/pdla.) As a part of the AZ Adult Education Professional Development (PD) Task force, select faculty at Northland Pioneer College participated in this training. Through eight days of training and a four day summer institute each year, in addition to team-time back at our program, we learned National Staff Development Council standards, characteristics and models of quality professional development, data driven decision making, assessing program culture, embedded PD, fundamentals of change, evaluating PD, and continuous program improvement. As a result, this spring we are implementing Learning Communities and Individual Coaching as embedded PD for all faculty and staff. This program covers 15 plus class sites spread over 21,000 square miles serving three distinct Native American Tribes and two of the poorest counties in the nation. Even though we are in year two, it feels like we are just getting started, but we are motivated to improve our professional learning with the ultimate result of improving student learning. Research indicates systemic change takes three to five years. We will be evaluating, asking, and hopefully answering the question, “Does it work?”

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be – Kurt Vonnegut



News from Utah

“We’re different. YOU’RE WELCOME.” Join us for Endless Possibilities and one of the finest MPAEA conferences ever! Take time to review the “Conference-at-a-Glance” insert in this newsletter, and if you haven’t yet registered, please do so now using either phone, fax, email, or snail mail (see enclosed insert). There will be over 60 breakout sessions covering seven strands:

- Adult education
- Adult ESL and civics education
- Community Education/21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Corrections Education
- Personal Development
- Continuing Education/Lifelong Learning
- Adult Students with Disabilities.

Don’t forget to join the MPAEA and UAAACCE boards for a reception and show at the new Clark Planetarium on Thursday, April 24. The Planetarium features a museum, library, and science store as well as presentations of astronomy, multi-vision screens, and laser shows. Consider *the ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!*

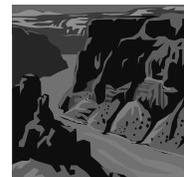
The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

News from Montana

Submitted by Noreen Peterson

In June 2007 Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) provided an inservice training, *Reading is the Bridge*, for Montana ABLE educators. On the first day, Dr. John Kruidenier presented the most current research on reading instruction to the



participants. The following day various Montana educators presented reading strategies that they use in their classroom. One of the highlights of the event was the Gallery Walk where programs showcased materials they use within their classrooms.

In order to provide sustainability for this training, OPI provided funding for MT LINCS to create Montana's first virtual "staff lounge." Each month has a reading focus based upon the most current NIFL research. Several resources are provided, and Montana educators are encouraged to participate by submitting questions and answers that are then posted on the website. Come to MPAEA to see what Montana LINCS is doing to provide another "LINC" in professional development!

MPAEA Governing Board

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2008 MPAEA Conference

Did you know . . . The Conference Hotel, the Radison, is newly remodeled and within easy walking or light rail transportation to Temple Square, City Center, Gallivan Plaza, Energy Solutions Arena (home to the Utah Jazz!) University of Utah and much more!

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. Gary Conti
Oklahoma State University
206 Willard Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-9192

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.

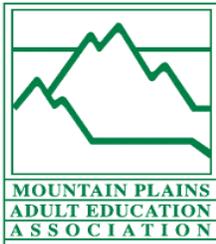
For submission guidelines, contact the Journal editors, your state's MPAEA board members, or send inquiry to your newsletter editor.



June's Post-Conference Newsletter

Peggy Nelson, Newsletter Editor

Please help us celebrate and honor the completion of another successful conference by submitting your own impressions, ahhas, photos and other interesting tidbits for inclusion in June's newsletter. It is always interesting to get a newcomer's point of view on conference highlights, so if anyone would like to volunteer, please contact me at pnelson@eitc.edu. Submissions are due by May 15th in order to ensure publication by June 1st.



MPAEA 2008

President-Elect Ballot

This ballot is for President-elect only. For states electing a new Board representative, you will receive a separate ballot in the mail. We are trying this process for the first time this year to cut down on postage.

Persons nominated are shown below. Members may indicate a write-in candidate's name in the space provided. Ballots are due **MARCH 13**.

Mail to: Dr. Lou Workman
1436 East 200 South
Hyde Park, UT 84318
Or email: lou.workman@aggiemail.usu.edu

Teri Zutter, Past President

President-elect:

_____ Nancy Lambott, Colorado

_____ (Write-in)

Meet your State Board Members

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