

# NEWSLETTER

## Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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### President's Message – Kelsee Miller



Happy September! I don't know about you, but it seemed this summer went way too fast! For those of you who had time off this summer, I hope it was enjoyable and you are refreshed to be back at work. Your MPAEA Board met for their summer meeting at the Tuscany Resort in beautiful Las Vegas. Even though it was extremely hot when we were there, it is sure to be beautiful in early March for our annual conference. Your planning committee is working on exciting events for you at next year's conference. Not only will you have professional development opportunities that will provide systemic and sustainable training, there will be plenty of entertainment on hand as well as networking. I will be hosting a session in hopes of

meeting Board Members from our eight regional state affiliates and dialoguing about the many issues that we all face in our daily work worlds.

Please mark your calendars for the conference at the Tuscany Resort in Las Vegas on Sunday, March 1 through Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

The Call for Presenters is posted on our website at [www.mpaea2009.org](http://www.mpaea2009.org) with a deadline of September 30, so don't delay!

Fun things to do in Las Vegas as I have personally done on my few visits there: Shark Reef Aquarium at the Mandalay Bay; Lion's Den at MGM Grand; the roller coaster and Irish pub at New York, New York; the "zoo" at the Mirage; visit the Conservatory and watch the fountains at the Bellagio; walk through the newer casinos – Wynn and Palazzo. There is lots of shopping at Planet Hollywood, Caesar's Palace, the Venetian, Fashion Show Mall, and from what I've heard, at the outlet mall on the south end of the strip. I have not had the opportunity to see the light show downtown on Fremont Street and hope to do that soon. The Tuscany Resort is within walking distance to Las Vegas Boulevard and there will be time built into the conference calendar for sight-seeing.

This year's Board made great progress with wonderful decisions at our Summer Board meeting. I personally am excited to be working with such a high caliber of individuals who bring various perspectives to our discussions.

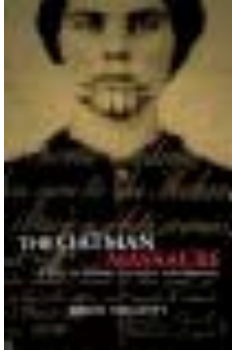
We would like to encourage all members to converse with your state representatives. You can find out contact information for your state representatives as well as meeting minutes on our website at [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org). I look forward to meeting you in Las Vegas!

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## Book Review

*Submitted by Myna Frestedt*



The Oatman Massacre. A Tale of Desert Captivity and Survival by Brian McGinty, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman (oupres.com), 2004.

In 247 pages Brian McGinty details and analyzes the story of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Olive Oatman and

her experiences in Indian captivity and subsequent return to non-Indian life. He first briefly recounts the massacre of her family. The event took place on Mexican land, but the location is now in Arizona near the town of Maricopa.

In six short paragraphs he reports the facts of February 18, 1851. Killed were Roys and Mary Ann Oatman, four children, and an unborn child due to be born within days. Three offspring escaped death that day: Lorenzo, 14 years old, was left for dead. Olive, age 13 and Mary Ann, age 8 were captured. Later the attackers, perhaps Yavapai, traded the girls to the Mohave. The girls were treated better by the river tribe than by their attackers. However, Mary Ann died during famine. Later Olive was traded back to the whites, but not without complications.

McGinty's book analyzes the historical records in multiple locations from several perspectives. The story is one that intrigued citizens of the time, especially after Olive Oatman's return. Her story is a captive account personified by Olive herself. She gave lectures across the nation and promoted a book that bears her name and that of her brother but was penned by a Royal Stratton, a Methodist minister. Olive became well-known all the more by her Mohave facial tattoos. To audiences, she seemed an enigma. She married a successful broker and lived in Texas. He protected her privacy and was devoted to her, attempting to burn every copy of the book he could.

McGinty discusses details previous treatments of the story slight or do not mention: details such as the tattoos and their tradition, the way Olive was returned to whites, the Mormon beliefs of

the Oatmans, and the complexities of those affiliations and beliefs. McGinty also tries to pin down the tribe of the attackers. Earlier they were reported as Tonto Apache but were unlikely to have been so for many reasons. The text flows nicely and is documented. There are maps and pictures to provide bearings. It's an interesting read, especially in its details about the West in the 1800s.

### Correction:

In the last issue, the Award of Excellence recipient for Nevada was incorrectly identified. The actual winner was *Donna Burgener* – Congratulations Donna!

## Let's Go NAEHS

*Submitted by 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 Las Vegas this year and because the conference will be held earlier than normal there are important changes to the deadlines that you must be aware of. They have been moved up; consequently you will have to act faster this year in order to have your NAEHS inductees qualify to be considered for MPAEA recognition. Please plan accordingly.



1. State associations must receive nominations of NAEHS inductees from local programs by January 26, 2009 in order for them to be eligible for possible recognition at the Nevada Conference next 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 February 9, 2009. E-mail them as Word attachments to Brad Deeds at [bdeeds@tmcc.edu](mailto:bdeeds@tmcc.edu). Include the nominee's mailing address.

This will be the eighth 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 Nevada so we especially hope to see Nevada 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*

### GED holders rewarded



Nevada hosted the annual GED Administrators' Conference in Sparks July 14-17.

Approximately 200 people from the U.S. and Canada attended.

The program included a keynote address by Cheryl Keenan from the U. S. Department of Education, a panel of presenters discussing various methodologies and data surrounding transition programs, and a variety of workshops. However, the highlight of the conference was definitely the Awards Banquet, where eight successful GED holders each received a \$2,500 scholarship to further their postsecondary work.



*Georganna Reynolds, April Perkins, Eli Soto, Italia Babcock. Front Row: Brandi Mondragon, Barbara Callahan. GED Scholarship Recipients: From left, back row: Alysse Silverthorne, Alicia Larsen,*

NAE (the Nevada Adult Educators organization) donated the ladies' corsages and a boutonniere for Eli.

## State leadership and MPAEA grant funds work together to provide Irlen training

Nevada provides state leadership funding for individualized training through a "mini-grant" competitive process. A local program director received funding to attend the Irlen Scotopic Sensitivity training in CA, then returned to do a half-day pre-assessment training in Nevada. Participants wanted more, and so we brought Irlen Diagnostician Susan Hughes to Reno to do the full two-day training.

So far, eleven Nevadans have completed the follow-up work and become certified Irlen screeners. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive! From one program coordinator: "The training was very informative and helped us understand and realize that for some people a simple colored overlay can dramatically improve their reading fluency and comprehension. We are now

testing all new students entering the program as part of our intake process." From a teacher: "I was amazed at the impact the colored overlays had on this student's reading ability and comfort level."

The Irlen training was unplanned and unbudgeted. Much thanks to MPAEA's State Association Professional Development Grant, which helped make it possible to train practitioners — and help students — from throughout the state!

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*Editor's note: The MPAEA's State Association Professional Development Grants (\$500 per year based on available funding) are available to each member state for the purpose of encouraging and supporting professional development activities designed to benefit the members of the state association.*

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## News from Arizona: Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) Activities

*Submitted by Lily Beth Brazones, MPAEA Representative from Arizona and President-Elect for AALL*

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) Board of Directors met for its annual

board retreat on August 9 and 10, 2008. The retreat was held amidst the cool pines of Flagstaff, AZ. AALL's president, Laurie Kierstead-Joseph presided over the retreat which was attended by sixteen members of the board. The agenda included the welcoming of new board members and discussions on relational meetings, advocacy, and visioning.

Plans for the Awards Conference were discussed and approved on principle. The Awards Conference for AALL will be held on Friday, October 24, 2008 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Please save the date on your calendars. The Awards Conference venue is the Rio Salado College Lifelong Learning Center in Surprise, AZ. The exact address is 12535 Smokey Drive, Surprise, AZ, 85374. Presenters for the conference are needed. The conference also celebrates the successes of adult education practitioners so we encourage you to submit nominations for awards. For more information regarding the awards criteria, please visit AALL's website ([az-aall.org](http://az-aall.org)). For information about presenting at the conference and other issues, please call Lily Beth Brazones at (480) 377-4406.

## News from Idaho

*Submitted by Marion  
Lansford and Danielle Collins*



Maupin, Oregon is located among easy rolling hills in the northeast part of the state about two hours west of Portland. The landscape is soft browns and golds, a bit drab, and not a place that one would choose for a trip without knowing what lies ahead.

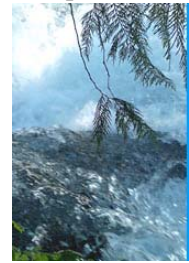
Six of us from Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls, Idaho traveled to Maupin to learn to whitewater raft; however, this was not the primary reason for the trip. The journey began sixteen months earlier when the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities requested EITC to create learning outcomes and assess them at the course, program, and college level as part of the commission's recommendations to meet curriculum standards.

Dr. Ruth Stiehl, professor emeritus at Oregon State University and co-author of the *Outcomes Primer, Restructuring the College Curriculum,*

*The Mapping Primer, Tools for restructuring the College Curriculum, and The Assessment Primer Creating a Flow of Learning Evidence,* was invited to campus last spring to help the College begin this campus wide initiative.

In her books, Dr. Stiehl uses a river metaphor as a framework around which a learning organization can view the students' journeys. She employs 41 terms which describe river conditions and draws a comparison between the river's path and a student's journey through a college system. As a raft runs the river from the "put-in" to the "take-out," so is a student's journey, filled with expected and unexpected challenges

Dr. Stiehl is retired from teaching, but she is a guide for the technical and community college system and has written her books intending to assist these colleges with curriculum development and revision related to program outcomes and the subsequent assessment. Satisfying accreditation requirements is necessary for outcomes assessment, but Dr. Stiehl advocates promoting student learning and achievement above all. Eastern Idaho Technical College intends to implement the learning outcomes framework college-wide and has given itself two years for completion.



### State Conference this Fall

In other news, the *Idaho Lifeong Learning Association (ILLA)* will be meeting in Boise, ID this fall. The conference will be held October 16– 18 in the Grove Hotel. The conference theme is *Remembering the Future: Tradition and Innovation in a Changing World* For more information, check out the website at <http://www.idlla.org/>

### MPAEA 2009: Call for Presenters - due September 30

Here's your chance to headline in the entertainment capital of the world! The Call for Presenters





for MPAEA's 2009 Conference (March 1-4) is posted at <http://www.mpaea2009.org>.

The Conference Committee seeks a comprehensive and diverse slate of presentations representing all areas of adult education, including ABE/literacy, ESL, GED, Corrections, family literacy, and community, continuing, and higher education. Presenters from throughout the nation are welcome!

Conference Chair is Teri Zutter, [tzutter@wnc.edu](mailto:tzutter@wnc.edu), 775/445-4451. Note the conference is earlier than usual, so submit your application to present to Program Chair Kathy Biagi, [kbiagi@nevadaculture.org](mailto:kbiagi@nevadaculture.org), 775/684-3341, by September 30!

## Governing Board

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## 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.



### Deadline for Articles

Please plan to submit articles or other items no later than November 10<sup>th</sup> for the December newsletter!

## Meet your State Board Members

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