

### Presidents' Message: Thanks and Welcome



*Nancy Lambott & Kelsee Miller*

Kelsee would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Las Vegas Conference Planning Committee members one more time. "I am truly amazed at the energy and dedication of these hardworking professionals. This conference was unique because the Nevada Adult Educators held their first meeting just two years ago with a "Baby Shower" at the 2007 Coeur d'Alene Conference. We all should learn from their huge accomplishment and enthusiasm for our organization!"

On a sadder note, Kelsee would like to thank those MPAEA Board members whose terms recently concluded. "Myna Frestedt (AZ) was a wonderful leader during her presidency and is highly dedicated to this organization. Shannon Newman (AZ) helped the Board not only as the Scholarship Committee chairperson, but as a sophisticated voice to the discussions. Personally, I am sad to see Rom Bushnell of Wyoming finish his term of service. Rom brought humor to our discussions as well as his plaid shirts and was a wonderful mentor to me! As volunteer Board members, it can be difficult to share ideas and duties across our great span of eight states. These four Board members will be sorely missed. Please know how much your time and effort meant to all of us!"

As Kelsee closes her term as President, I will begin mine by introducing myself. I am from Colorado. I have taught ESL/ABE/GED and coordinated adult ESL and adult literacy programs for Jefferson County Schools, the largest school district in our state, since 1985. I served as Colorado Adult Education Professional Association (CAEPA) President in 2004 -05, MPAEA board 05-08. Welcomed also are new and continuing members of MPAEA and newly

elected board members, *Luisa Hernandez, AZ; Cathy Sandoval, CO; Sharon Springer and Amber McClure, NM; Mickey Douglas, WY.* I would also like to welcome President Elect, *Donna Bakke* of Montana and continuing executive board members *Lou Workman, Secretary; Detlef Johl, Treasurer; and Kelsee Miller, Immediate Past president.* Continuing terms on the board are *Lily Beth Brazones, AZ; Jolene Goerend, CO; Danielle Collins and Robert Croker, ID; Brad Deeds and Sharyn Yanoshak, NV; Suzette Fox and Jake Gustin, MT; Nate Sutherland and Kaye White; UT; Mike Williams, WY.*

#### In this Issue:

President's Message	1
MPAEA Award Winners	2
Prisons and Literacy	2
From the Mountains	
Nevada	3
Wyoming	4
Colorado	4
MPAEA <i>Journal of Adult Education</i>	5
Scholarship Winner	5
State Board Members	6
MPAEA Governing Board	7
Membership Application	7

I am excited to be working with the Arizona committee in the planning process for the **2010 MPAEA conference in Scottsdale, Arizona**, April 21-24, 2010 and preparing for the upcoming summer board meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 8-10.

In 2009 MPAEA is going paperless. On our website, [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org), we are working to provide you with up-to-date information regarding legislation that affects adult and continuing education, access to archived materials. In September we will begin posting the MPAEA newsletter quarterly. Please visit the website often. Updates for conference and continuing education scholarship opportunities and teacher innovation scholarships will be posted as they become available. The board is working to provide leadership and advocacy for the Mountain Plains region. Please contact me or your state board member with any questions, concerns or suggestions for the organization. Join us in our efforts to provide exceptional professional development opportunities for adult educators by joining committees and making plans to attend the 2010 conference. Have a great summer; relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

## MPAEA Award and Scholarship Winners for 2009

The following individuals won awards or scholarships at the spring conference. Congratulations to all the worthy recipients!

**Award of Merit** – *Patricia Thorpe*

**Lay Leader of the Year** – *Chancellor James E. Rogers*

**Educator of the Year Award** – Nevada – *Shirley Pollock*, Southern Nevada – *Steven A. Horsford*  
Northern Nevada – *Bonnie Parnell*

**Learner of the Year** – *Vicente Gaona*, Nevada

**Larry Wickham Memorial Scholarship** – *Kelsee Miller*

## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

**Arizona** - *Laurie Keirstead-Joseph*

**Colorado** – *Karen Bowen*

**Idaho** - *Marion Lansford*

**Nevada** - *Robert T. Henry*

**Montana** – *Suzette Fox*

**New Mexico** – *Dianne Marquez*

**Utah**– *John Anjewierden*

**Wyoming** – *Lisa Mixer*

## INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

*Cathy Sandoval*, Colorado

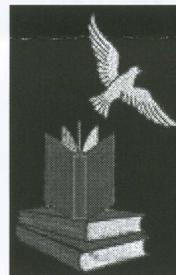
*Lee Ann Gallagher*, Nevada

*Kristi Frush*, Colorado

*Amber Trujillo*, New Mexico

## Prisons and Literacy

*Submitted by Lee Ann Gallagher, recipient of the MPAEA Individual Professional Development Scholarship*



I have been a teacher for 24 years; therefore, I have attended my share of conferences. However, this is my second year of teaching in an adult correctional facility. My teaching experience is varied—I have taught in grade levels 6-12, English, writing, publications, special education, and I served as a staff trainer for two years. However, prior to this current job, the closest I had come to a prison was when I passed the *Pick up no hitchhikers* sign on the freeway. Now I currently oversee 15 ESL tutors, 2 inmate assistants, and approximately 205 students, including correspondence students who are currently “locked down”—unable to leave their unit.

As you can imagine, I was eager to attend this conference where I hoped to learn about interacting with the adult learner. This conference did not disappoint. From the moment one of the keynote speakers, Carolyn Goodman said, *Education is the only way to create opportunity. . . to end hatred and*

*problems in the world... and to substantiate hope for the future . . .* I knew I was in the right place.

The sessions I attended were good reminders of the most effective teaching strategy - engage the students. I learned some new and inventive ways to accomplish this. I especially enjoyed Mark Dumas' *Hints, Tips, and Tricks to Improve Adult Learning*. His method of teaching, and engaging all students in vocabulary learning is one that I will use.

The first session I attended was entitled *Hanging on by Thread* (perhaps indicative of my frame of mind at the time?) It was a great one to start with! Noreen Tabb-Martin's tips are



Cheryl Keenan:OVAE

*basic, and I found them to be useful when I taught special education. Since many of my current students would probably qualify for special education, these are pertinent tips: "break matter into little pieces, don't overwhelm them, teach every shortcut I know, relate the learning to life, don't put the student on the spot, show and use extra samples, maintain a friendly classroom atmosphere, be prepared, and use the textbook wisely."*

In our school, we have open enrollment, so I have students coming and going and working at different levels at the same time. Which is why I have already incorporated a strategy I learned in Donna Price's session, *A Toolbox of Strategies*. I will use her strategy of having students assigned to jobs in the classroom. This includes a materials manager and a trainer. This will provide practice using language, while teaching transferable work skills.

Finally, when Punam Mathur stated that she wanted to address *the pure and complete recognition of what you (teachers) do*, it reminded me of why I teach. It is to help my students—regardless of their dysfunctional

families, their learning disabilities, their entitlement issues, and yes, even their handcuffs—get from point A to point B in their learning under my tutelage, so they can find point C long after I'm gone.

## From the Mountains



### Nevada News

*Submitted by Sharyn Yanoshak*

The Nevada Adult Educators (NAE) organization's first major venture, hosting the MPAEA conference in March, was a huge success! Net proceeds were split between the two organizations — a bit more than \$21,000 to each.

At its March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, NAE members expressed interest in becoming more active in advocating for adult education; 24 people signed up to help. John Childress, ABE instructor at Western Nevada College in Carson City, agreed to head this effort. John has already arranged a meeting for his ESL class with Nevada's legislators and the ESL class has also been featured in a local newspaper. He and NAE Secretary Brad Deeds have been disseminating information, resources, and ideas to the field regarding advocacy efforts. Brad also serves on the MPAEA Board.

Alan Pierce, teacher and program coordinator at the Lovelock Correctional Center, has joined the NAE Board, providing representation from the Corrections community and the "rurals" as well.

Nevada's AEFLA-funded Programs have adopted Professional Development Standards; they are posted at [www.literacynet.org/nevada](http://www.literacynet.org/nevada). The Standards are based on the programs' Quality Indicators and informed by the work of the Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers ([www.aalpd.org/](http://www.aalpd.org/)).

Colorado used the \$500 MPAEA State Professional Development Grant to help defray the costs of training 13 Nevadans from five ABE

programs to become certified screeners for Irlen Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome. The training was held April 11-12 in Reno. Susan Hughes, Certified Trainer and Diagnostician, came to Reno to do the two-day April training.

The trainer's fee and travel is estimated to come in over \$2,000 and materials were \$175/participant. We did not charge participants for this training, so MPAEA's professional development funds were instrumental in allowing us to provide it. *We very much appreciate the funds and the timeliness (of scholarship chair and treasurer) in processing. Thank you!*



### **Wyoming News: Reflections from MPAEA**

#### **Conference 2009**

*Submitted by Kristi Frush, University of Wyoming*

As an attendee and presenter at four of the last five conferences, I have come to know what to expect from MPAEA. The conferences are in great locations with wonderful accommodations, offer fun-filled or informative excursions, promise engaging presenters and key note speakers and are full of smiling faces. There are even prizes to win! Whether you come with colleagues, your spouse, your entire family, or alone everyone is welcome. MPAEA 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada was no different!

Each year the host state takes an all-encompassing role and it was clear that the Nevada educators and administrators were passionate about this undertaking. Maybe one of the reasons MPAEA conferences are so good is because each year the bar is raised for the next state to match or exceed! This venue was second to none and allowed conference participants' time to enjoy work and play simultaneously.

One of the most enjoyable sessions with the Keynote Address by Punam Mathur. Punam's energy permeated the room as she told stories

of her own childhood, of her gift of color, and her diverse family. She brought her authentic self to the podium. Often, we will hear speakers discuss all that they have accomplished and while compelling, it is really hard to find the meaning for ourselves in such presentations. Punam began right away with what she hadn't accomplished. Her success was woven into her stories which caused listeners to reflect on their own memories and question and reframe their thinking with the use of genuine emotion.

Each year I put my toe in the water and test the amount that I become involved, as many of you may do. Yet with each conference I am pulled in more and more, not because of a forceful volunteer effort, but because it is clear that MPAEA conferences and membership is made of caring, lifelong learning individuals that put forth the effort each day throughout the year to help to shape the lives of others. MPAEA 2009 was a time to connect with people both professionally and personally and to renew the passion for serving others in the coming year. Hope to see you all again in Scottsdale 2010!



### **Colorado News**

*Submitted by Cathy Sandoval, Executive Director Right to Read*

*Adult Education Center*

On February 10, 2009 the Colorado Adult Education Professional Association (CAEPA) organized its 2nd Annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol. Our goal was to educate our elected officials about adult and family literacy and to advocate for funding and support for the important work we do.

With the guidance of lobbyist Nate Gorman, the day began at 8:30 a.m. when we met to strategize about the coming day. In attendance were adult educators from across the state, a business leader and three program students. We each received information about our local representative and senator, as well as important talking points to mention to each. We then went to the House Chambers, where

at the invitation of Representative Andy Kerr, we were invited onto the floor. Once seated, Representative Kerr mentioned us by name to the entire assembly. It was an exciting moment!

As we watched proceedings, various representatives came to us and introduced themselves, each looking for the adult educator from his or her district. It was a great opportunity to make a lasting impression on policy makers, who by and large are unaware of our work and mission.

Senate proceedings recessed early, so we then went our separate ways in search of our respective senator's office, where we could introduce ourselves in a more intimate setting. Because each of our legislators knew in advance of our visit, they were prepared to greet us and ask any questions.

Over lunch, we were able to meet with a few individual policy-makers and/or their staff, and students gave powerful testimony regarding the essential nature of our work, not only to their lives but to Colorado in general. One student later remarked, "Yesterday, I was in my country where the police tries to kills (sic) me and today, I am meeting senators. What a great country this is. It was a historic day for my people."

CAEPA is a volunteer board comprised of 17 program directors, teachers and staff. Our mission is to provide leadership to the field of adult education and family literacy by offering opportunities for professional development, advocacy and resource sharing to improve the quality of life for every Coloradan. See [www.caepa.org](http://www.caepa.org) for more information.

## Journal of Adult Education: Article Categories

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 editor, *Gary Conti* / 405-744-9192 / [gconti@earthlink.net](mailto:gconti@earthlink.net), or your state's MPAEA board members.

## Scholarship Winner on MPAEA Conference

*Submitted by Cathy Sandoval, CAEPA president-elect*

I had the great pleasure of attending the 2009 MPAEA annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. As the recipient of an Individual Professional Development Scholarship, I was especially grateful to the MPAEA Board of Directors for enabling me to attend this terrific conference.

As the recipient of this generous award, I felt it was my duty to participate as much as possible, which turned out to be a huge benefit to me, my professional organization, and my home organization. At the pre-conference MPAEA board meeting, I met the other dedicated Board members who made me feel welcome and

appreciated. I knew right away this is a group I would really enjoy working with!

Over the next two days, I attended several outstanding sessions. Art Ellison's session on the politics of education was hugely beneficial to me as president-elect of CAEPA (Colorado's professional association) and as the executive director of an adult literacy nonprofit. Back in Colorado, we have already begun to implement several of his ideas and are attempting to copy his simple but effective approach to advocacy for adult literacy. It's an exciting time in Colorado, and we are all so grateful for the opportunity to learn directly from Mr. Ellison.

Kathy St. John from NIFL presented two outstanding sessions, one on reading instruction for adults and the other on writing. Both were extremely well done, filled with fun and engaging activities that are grounded in solid research and easily implemented. I have already shared several of her writing exercises with my staff, which can be adapted for ABE, GED and English-language students. I believe her methods will make a huge difference in how we teach writing, in particular.

It would not be a complete picture of my experience with this conference without mentioning the keynote addresses. Punam Mathur was inspirational, engaging and entertaining. Thanks so much for bringing her! The Colorado delegation was impressed with the quality of the speakers, and we are working to bring similar caliber speakers to our state-wide conference in Breckenridge, Colorado in August of 2009.

In fact, several aspects of this conference will be adopted in Colorado. For example, the prizes available at the various drawings, interspersed through the conference, were a great way to add an element of fun while encouraging membership to attend events...and not skip out! The amount of money raised through these endeavors, along with the bid baskets and other items, is an encouraging sign to us that such details are worthwhile and we

plan to expand these activities at our conference.

Finally, it is apparent that together, as an eight-state region, our voice is bigger and more powerful, and that events such as this provide us a precious opportunity to unite our message as we work to improve funding and support for the important work we all do.

Thanks again to the scholarship committee and to the board for providing this opportunity. It was time and resources very well spent!

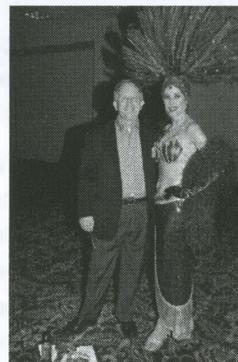
Old friends reconnecting: Patricia Thorpe (Award of Merit 2009) and Lou Workman (MPAEA secretary)



Nevada members enjoying the evening reception



Member posing with Las Vegas Show Girl



## Meet Your State Board Members!

**Arizona:** Lily Beth Brazones, 480-377-4406, [lilybeth.brazones@mail.riosalado.edu](mailto:lilybeth.brazones@mail.riosalado.edu) and Luisa Hernandez, 520-206-6504, [lhernandez@pima.edu](mailto:lhernandez@pima.edu)

**Colorado:** Jolene Goerend, 303-292-0770, [jolenegoerend@yahoo.com](mailto:jolenegoerend@yahoo.com) and Cathy Sandoval, 970-352-7323 or 970-352-323-7323, [righttoread@comcast.net](mailto:righttoread@comcast.net)

**Idaho:** Robert Croker, Ed.D. 208-282-2884, [crokrobe@isu.edu](mailto:crokrobe@isu.edu), and Danielle Collins, 208-520-4679, [Danielle.collins@inl.gov](mailto:Danielle.collins@inl.gov)

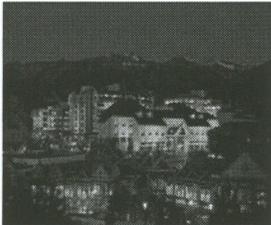
**Nevada:** Brad Deeds, 775-829-9052, [bdeeds@tmcc.edu](mailto:bdeeds@tmcc.edu) and Sharyn Yanoshak, MBA, 702-253-6280 [saylv@cox.net](mailto:saylv@cox.net)

**New Mexico:** Amber McClure, 505-315-5985, [gedteacheram@gmail.com](mailto:gedteacheram@gmail.com) and Sharon Springer, 505-661-4866, [sharon@nmaea.org](mailto:sharon@nmaea.org)

**Montana:** Suzette Fox, 406-247-3714, [foxs@billings.k12.mt.us](mailto:foxs@billings.k12.mt.us) and Jake Gustin, 406-324-2118, [jgustin@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:jgustin@helena.k12.mt.us)

**Utah:** Nate Southerland, 801-581-4194, [nate@uen.org](mailto:nate@uen.org) and Kaye White, Ed.D. 801-957-3282, [kaye.white@slcc.edu](mailto:kaye.white@slcc.edu)

**Wyoming:** Mike Williams, M.S., 307-789-5742, [mwilliams@uintaeducation.org](mailto:mwilliams@uintaeducation.org) and Mickey Douglas, 307-332-3394, [mdouglas@cw.edu](mailto:mdouglas@cw.edu)



### Reminder – 2009 CAEPA Conference

*Adult Education: Partnering for a Better America*, August 6-7 – Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, CO. For more information, [www.caepa.org](http://www.caepa.org). To book rooms at the resort, call 1-800-525-2353 or go to [www.beaverrun.com](http://www.beaverrun.com).

## MPAEA Governing Board

### President

Nancy Lambott, M.A.  
303-982-7484  
[nlambott@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:nlambott@jeffco.k12.co.us)

### Secretary

Lou Workman  
(435) 770-4931  
[LouWorkman@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:LouWorkman@aggiemail.usu.edu)

### Past-President

Kelsee Miller  
307-268-2895  
[kmiller@caspercollege.edu](mailto:kmiller@caspercollege.edu)

### Treasurer

Detlef W. Johl  
406-324-2118  
[djohl@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:djohl@helena.k12.mt.us)

### President-Elect

Donna Bakke, M.A.  
406-529-0484  
[dmbakke@bresnan.net](mailto:dmbakke@bresnan.net)

### MPAEA Membership Application

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](mailto:djohl@helena.k12.mt.us)

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

- Individual
  - Individuals \$40
  - Students \$20
- Institutional
  - Libraries \$100
  - Colleges & Universities \$100
  - State Education Agencies \$100
  - Public Schools, Corporate \$100
  - Other (includes International) \$100

### Membership Information

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Department or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (*dues are tax deductible*)

MPAEA Newsletters 2009 062430058

MPAEA Newsletter  
Eastern Idaho Technical College  
1600 S. 25<sup>th</sup> E.  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Permit # 985

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*MIXED AADC 836 358

Blair Kiddicoat  
Rio Salado College  
Current Resident  
3209 W. Park Ln  
Idaho Falls, ID 83406-3430

Barcode