

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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President's Message – Nancy Lambott



First semester is coming to a close and I know everyone has been very busy providing classes to an increasing number of adult learners. The recession has affected so many across our mountain plains states and beyond. We have all experienced the stress that goes with long hours of work, preparation and planning programs and classes, so now it's time to think about how you can treat yourself to a few days of professional development at the MPAEA 2010 conference in Tempe, Arizona ; April 21-24, 2010. Relax at the beautiful Fiesta Resort and

Conference Center and enjoy outstanding opportunities to network with your fellow adult educators from the mountain plain states. Attend professional development workshops to enhance your instructional skills and learn strategies to use in your classroom. For more information

www.mpaea2010.org

Even though Arizona and the MPAEA board are busy preparing for the 2010 conference as of summer board we did not have a host for the 2011 conference. I am happy to report to you that I received some exciting news from New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) confirming that they will host the 2011 conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. So not only can you plan to attend MPAEA2010, you also can add MPAEA2011 to your conference planning list.

There are a lot of legislative discussions at the state and federal levels regarding changes to Even Start funding, reauthorization of WIA Title II and funding of higher education. We all owe to our students to stay in touch with our state legislators and ask them for their support of adult education and family literacy. At www.mpaea.org under legislation, you will find contact information for each state.

All members of MPAEA recently received Volume 38 Number 1 2009 Journal of Adult Education. The journal editor's invite you to

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send submissions to the journal and we always welcome articles for the newsletter as of January, please send your articles to president elect dmbakke@bresnan.com. We are sorry to say that Peggy Nelson is resigning as Newsletter editor. Thank you Peggy for the work you have done over the last 2 years. We are seeking a newsletter editor. For more information, contact me at nlambott@jeffco.k12.co.us or call 303-982-7484.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season with family and friends.



NAEHS, Here We Come!

Submitted by *Blair Liddicoat*

In 2002 MPAEA began its National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) Project. The idea was to increase MPAEA's involvement in recognizing the efforts and achievements of outstanding adult basic education program students. Since the NAEHS already existed, MPAEA decided to use it as its venue for achieving this goal. The idea seemed simple enough and a process was set up to facilitate its implementation. First, Adult Basic Education Programs in the eight MPAEA states would start an NAEHS charter. Next, they would induct their students into the NAEHS. Third, programs would submit their two most deserving inductees to their state association. Then, the state associations would select their states' three inductees and send their information to MPAEA. Finally, the inductees would be recognized at the MPAEA Conference Awards Ceremony.

This has successfully taken place every year since 2002 although there has not been as much participation as we would have hoped

for. Some states have never had an NAEHS inductee honored by MPAEA. Since the desire is for all eight states to eventually participate in this project, but that is not currently happening, the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning has decided to have Rio Salado College hold its NAEHS Induction at the April MPAEA Conference in Arizona. We are hopeful enough of you will attend the induction, see for yourselves what a wonderful event this is, and decide to take that step to start your own program's NAEHS charter.

Of course, those programs that start a charter after the Arizona conference will have to wait until the 2011 MPAEA Conference for a chance to have your inductees recognized by MPAEA. But for those programs that already have a charter, read the following important deadlines so that your inductees will qualify to be considered for MPAEA recognition at the Arizona conference.

1. State associations must receive nominations of NAEHS inductees from local programs by March 8, 2010 in order for them to be eligible for possible recognition at the Arizona 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 program 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 24, 2010. E-mail them as Word attachments to Brad Deeds at bdeeds@tmcc.edu. Include the nominee's mailing address.

This will be the ninth year of the MPAEA NAEHS Project. We need everyone's participation to help this project grow so that we can achieve our ultimate goal of having all eight MPAEA states involved every year.

Come on everyone, jump on board. It is not hard to do and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of some of those wonderful adult students that all of you have.

Strategies for Teaching English Pronunciation

The CAELA Network recently released a new brief, *Teaching*

Pronunciation to Adult English Language Learners, which provides information about evidence-based strategies for teaching pronunciation. The document reviews features of English that can have an impact on teaching and learning English pronunciation, such as:

- contrasts between the sound systems of a language spoken and a language being learned;
- the importance of accent, stress, intonation, and rhythm in the comprehensibility of the speech of Non-native speakers;
- the effect of motivation and exposure in the development of native-like pronunciation; and
- Intelligibility of speech among speakers of different English varieties.

The brief also describes ways to teach pronunciation more effectively. Visit www.cal.org/caelanetwork; enter "Teaching Pronunciation" in the search box.



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MPAEA Journal: Searchable!

As Bob Dylan pointed out, *The Times They Are A-Changin'* This is especially true for the world of publications. For a variety of reasons, the process of electronic production-and-dissemination is the major force driving the creation of publications today. The *Journal of Adult Education* is embracing this change in two ways. Over a year ago, the MPAEA Board supported the liaison with ProQuest to include our journal in its worldwide, electronic dissemination network. Recently, MPAEA was contacted by another electronic database provider, EBSCO, and asked to join their system.

EBSCO is the leading service provider of a variety of electronic journals, full-text and secondary databases, and related services for all types of libraries and research organizations. In order to offer credible information quickly, many public libraries, universities, and other research facilities subscribe to the quality databases offered by EBSCO. As a company, EBSCO has been in existence for over 60 years, has dealing with more than 81,000 publishers globally, and has the highest possible Dun & Bradstreet financial strength rating. Because of its premium content, EBSCO services are not available freely to the public. Access to the system must be through a library, university, school, or other institution subscribing to its services.

Because of its experience with becoming a member of the ProQuest system, the MPAEA Board was prepared for immediate action when EBSCO invited us to include the *Journal of Adult Education* in its database. As a result, the Executive Committee was able to quickly

discuss the merits of becoming an invited member of the distinguished EBSCO system, to vote on it, and to then execute the contract after a unanimous vote. Consequently, the material from our journal will soon have greater worldwide availability in the EBSCO system.

So—what are the benefits of this to you as a member of MPAEA? While you will still receive your hard copy of the *Journal of Adult Education*, this greater worldwide distribution means that the ideas that are important to you and included in your professional association’s journal will have a broader audience of practitioners and researchers. Dissemination of our ideas is an important way for us to expand our professional community and professional identity. This broader dissemination also makes it more appealing for authors to submit their best work to our journal. Thus, the importance of our historically rich professional association is enhanced by our ability to shape ideas about adult and continuing education beyond the boundaries of the Mountain Plains geographic area and by us becoming more of a global player related to our professional beliefs. Oh yes, as our treasurer, Detlef Johl, points out, we receive royalties from ProQuest and EBSCO every time a user accesses our journal articles.

This is only one of two ways that the electronic world is affecting our journal. Be sure to check the next issue of the Newsletter to learn about the second way that the journal is benefitting from electronic production. This change will provide a direct, tangible product to you as a part of your MPAEA membership.



News from Nevada

Submitted by *Sharyn Yanoshak*

At this time of the year, we

are especially appreciative of the “unintended benefits” of MPAEA membership. Conferences provide much useful content, and also opportunities to connect with innumerable experienced, creative, and generous educators. Contacts made through MPAEA have been so helpful to our work!

Thanks to Colorado’s path finding, hard work, and guidance, we are beginning implementation of an online *Professional Development Self-Assessment for Nevada’s AEFLA-funded Adult Basic Education Teachers*. The system allows teachers to prioritize and plan their professional development and will provide meaningful data that will help our programs and the state direct funding to best meet their needs.

News from Colorado



Submitted by *Pam Smith*, Colorado State Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy

The week of October 18, 2009 marked National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week following a resolution authored by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) to pay tribute to adult education and family literacy programs, for their impact on the education of the nation’s adult learners and their families.

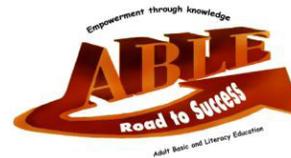
“Colorado has recognized that building an educated workforce requires broader scrutiny of our educational process,” said Pamela M. Smith, State Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy for the Colorado Department of Education. “Because intergenerational literacy skills transfer, improving the education of parents can change the inevitable cascading

pathway toward non-literacy for their children. Family literacy programs do break this cycle of illiteracy.”

To celebrate the week, Adult Education and Family Literacy programs, along with Even Start programs, participated in a statewide Read-A-Thon. 2,300 adults and children read for a total of 6,990 hours.

- Eighteen programs reported their reading activities. Congratulations to:
Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program
- Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Center Campus and Aspen Campus
- Delta County School District 50, Even Start Program
- Education and Life Training Center
- Focus Points Family Resource Center
- Front Range Community College, Center for Adult Learning, Loveland and Fort Collins
- Harrison Adult and Family Education
- Littleton Public Schools/Bemis Public Library
- La Llave Family Resource Center, Alamosa and Center
- Metro State College Family Literacy Program
- Montrose School District RE-1J
- McLain Community High School
- Phillips County Family Education Services Program
- Pine River Community Learning Center
- South Central BOCES
- Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
- Summer Scholars

- TSJC-Valley Campus, Alamosa
- A full report on the Colorado Read-A-Thon was submitted to Congressman Jared Polis. A thank you was included from all Colorado Adult Education programs.



News from Montana

Submitted by *Shelley Jo Isaak*, MAACE

Board Member, ABE Instructor
MAACE partnered with the Montana Office of Public Instruction for the September, 2009, “*Building the Power: Tying It All Together for a More Powerful System*” Adult Basic and Literacy Education Conference in Helena.

It proved to be a stimulating and information-packed few days, with Keynote addresses and guided workshop sessions from nationally-known Adult Education advocate Art Ellison. The conference also addressed several other overarching and impactful issues for adult education in Montana, including an unveiling of the newly team-drafted statewide educational standards document, a new logo for Montana ABLE, expansion of distance education offerings across the state, and an innovative collaborative agency project called “PEP” Talk that focuses on more effective transitions for our students.

There are many exciting changes “on the front” right now in our fair state, and it is challenge and a privilege to be a part of the dynamic field of Montana Adult Education!

“Learn as if you will live forever; live as if you will die tomorrow” - Gandhi

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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. See article on page four. 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 February 9 for the March newsletter! In general, articles should be 300 – 350 words. Send them to Peggy Nelson at peggy.nelson@my.eitc.edu



Happy Holidays!

Meet Your Board Members



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*MPAEA is seeking a new editor for the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Lambott for more information:
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