

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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President's Message – Nancy Lambott

Summer Board and 2009-10 Organizational Goals

As Kelsee closes her term as President, I will begin mine by introducing myself. I am Nancy Lambott, from Colorado. I have coordinated adult ESL and adult literacy programs for Jefferson County Schools since 1996 and served as CAEPA President in 2004 -05, MPAEA board 05-08. I would like to begin my term by welcoming new

and continuing members of MPAEA and new board members, Luisa Hernandez, Arizona; Cathy Sandoval, Colorado; Sharon Springer and Amber McClure, New Mexico; Mickey Douglas, Wyoming. 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, Arizona; Jolene Goerend, Colorado; Danielle Collins and Robert Croker, Idaho; Brad Deeds and Sharyn Yanoshak, Nevada; Suzette Fox and Jake Gustin, Montana; Nate Sutherland and Kaye White, Utah and Mike Williams, Wyoming. We are excited to be part of the planning process for the 2010 MPAEA conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 21-24 and the summer board meeting the took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 8-10, 2009.

In 2009, MPAEA is going paperless. On our website www.mpaea.org we are working to provide you with up-to-date information regarding legislation that affects adult and

continuing education. Please visit the website often. Quarterly newsletters will be posted beginning with our September edition. Updates for conference and continuing education

In this Issue:

President's Message.....	1
Students Writing	2
News from the Mountains:	
Arizona	3
Nevada	3
Colorado	4
Idaho	4
Wyoming	5
MPAEA Governing Board.....	6
Article Categories for <i>The Journal</i>	6
Deadline for Articles.....	6
State Board Members	7

scholarship and the new teacher innovation scholarship application 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. We hope you had a great summer and were able to relax, refresh and rejuvenate!



Students Writing and Getting Published

Kristen McKenna

As a teacher, I seek out meaningful, socially relevant publications to use in my ABE classes. How much more meaningful a magazine is when it includes pieces by other adult learners – spoken from the heart and rooted in lived experience. And even more meaningful than that: sometimes the pieces are written by my own students!

The Change Agent, a national magazine published by the New England Literacy Resource Center at World Education, includes writing by adult learners. Twice a year, *The Change Agent* sends out a “Call for Articles,” inviting students to submit their essays, poems, illustrations, and reflections.

I always take advantage of the “Call for Articles” because it acts as a writing prompt and it leads to a real-world process: submitting a piece of writing to be evaluated and possibly accepted for publication. Preparing to write a piece for *The Change Agent* is a group activity that

fosters community-building among our students. When one of our own student’s articles is published, all the students seem to take pride in their fellow students’ accomplishment

Knowing someone who got published or knowing that many of your peers in adult education are being published provides a great gateway to more reading and exploring. Students might initially be attracted to the magazine because they recognize the writers, but then they hold on to the magazine and browse through the other stories. They enjoy being able to hold something in their hands that is fully accessible, engaging, and relevant to their everyday lives.

Many students in our program receive a copy of *The Change Agent* as if it were a textbook. (Except that it is a lot cheaper – only about a dollar per copy when you buy in bulk.) The articles are written at a variety of levels so teachers can make adjustments to their lessons to suit the right audience. A new and value-added feature is the online lessons that accompany and extend the articles. These “Extras,” along with the current issue and all the back issues of *The Change Agent* can be found at www.nelrc.org/changeagent. To order, call 617-482-9485 or visit the web site. The current issue of *The Change Agent* focuses on the economic crisis. The forthcoming issue (find the “Call for Articles” on the web site) is called “Coming Home from War”; it addresses the issues and challenges facing veterans.

Kristen McKenna is an ABE teacher at Bristol Community College in Attleboro, MA. This article was originally published in the Boston Herald and is reprinted here by permission of the author.

News from Arizona



Contributed by Lily Beth Brazones

2009 AALL Awards Conference

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) Awards Conference is going to be held on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Rio Salado College at Orangewood Learning Center in Phoenix, Arizona. This is a great opportunity to recognize outstanding adult educators and their contribution to lifelong learning. The highlight of the conference is the Awards Luncheon where all nominees will be recognized. This year's theme is Adult Basic Education: The \$mart \$olution for AALL. It will focus on various resources in ABE to meet the challenges presented by the current economic conditions.

Adult Literacy Week Contest 2010

The Arizona Literacy Week Celebration is scheduled for February 14-20, 2010. As part of the celebration, a contest is held for adult learners throughout Arizona to showcase their talents, from writing personal essays to original music, from creating detailed drawings to miniature cities, and digital storytelling. This year's contest will share the same overall theme as last year's – "I'm In Love With Learning. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix. Winning entries will also be displayed at the Treasure Walk in the 2010 MPAEA Conference in Scottsdale. (Source: AALL Newsletter).

AALL Announces New Slate of Officers

AALL has a brand-new slate of Executive Board Members. The newly elected officers are: Lily Beth Brazones, President, Marina Sires,

President-Elect, Ann Beck, Secretary, Kate Tsepilova, Treasurer, Laurie Kierstead-Joseph, Past President. New members of the board this year are: Eva Jones, Mike Kletter, Mary Peterson.



News from Nevada

Submitted by Sharyn Yanoshak

Students enlist in GED Boot Camps

Thirty-two students recently completed Western Nevada College's first "Boot Camp," preparing to take the GED® Tests. They worked four hours a day, four days a week for four weeks in May and June and eighteen "recruits" passed the GED exam in June! The others, all non-native English speakers, plan to re-take the Tests at a later date.

The schedule for the second Boot Camp was changed slightly, to 3.5 hours a day, four hours a day for five weeks. Twenty-seven people began on July 20th; there were no drop-outs.

Publicity is mainly through word-of-mouth, and students are enlisting in record numbers. A third Boot Camp begins October 6th. Contact Program Director Teri Zutter, tzutter@wnc.edu, 775/445-4451 for more information on this unique program.

Professional Learning Communities

Based on successful pilots in several programs in 2008-09, Nevada's AEFLA-funded programs are pursuing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), where teachers work together to address specific learning needs at their program or site. Individual groups have focused on topics such as Content Standards implementation, reading strategies, and technology. In addition, a group of GED instructors from throughout the

state met solely online.

Participant reaction to the PLCs has been overwhelmingly positive. People appreciate the opportunity to have more say in their professional development, recognize the benefits of meeting regularly with colleagues, and find the process effective for improving their teaching. As one program coordinator said, "I learned things from staff I'd never have learned without the PLC — and changed our goal setting process in ways I never would have thought of on my o

News from Colorado

Submitted by Jolene Goerend



The CAEPA Rendezvous Conference was held in Breckenridge, CO on August 6th and 7th. The photo above includes panel discussion members: *Tips & Strategies for Surviving In This Challenging Economy*. *Front Row (L-R)* Cathy Sandoval, CAEPA President; Jeanne Bistranin, Adolph Coors Foundation; Glenda Sinks, CAEPA Past-President; Pam Smith, Colorado Department of Education. *Back Row (L-R)* Jolene Goerend, CAEPA President-Elect; Rich Male, Richard Male & Associates; Cindy Willard, Johnson Foundation; Adrienne Mansanares, Denver Foundation; Dick Monfort, Monfort Family Foundation.

The following photos include CAEPA Students of the Year - Crisandrale Darby-O'Callaghan and Colt Bentley and conference attendees.



News from Idaho

Looking Backward- Living Forward: Embracing Change in Lifelong Learning

Submitted by Dr. Karen Wilson-Scott

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) is moving into a virtual world – and we invite you to join us! You



have a unique perspective on adult education. Here's your chance to explore an e-conference experience. The 2009 ILLA e-Conference, October 15 and 16th, will feature the internationally acclaimed adult educator and author, Dr. Rosemary Caffarella, of Cornell University. Recognized for her body of work in adult education, Caffarella was the 2009 winner of the prestigious Malcolm Knowles Award. Caffarella's work is about honoring cultural roots while embracing change. She says, "My teaching focus mirrors closely my work in outreach and research. More specifically areas I teach include learning in adulthood; 'Non-Western' ways of learning and knowing; planning programs for adult learners in national and international settings; and development in international settings."

In making this move to a virtual forum, ILLA is venturing to retain the roots and values we have nurtured, while continuing to enjoy and grow our Idaho Lifelong Learning Association in a changing world. This is community we value and our time to move forward together.

Therefore, ILLA has chosen to make this first e-conference compellingly attractive through offering low fees, high accessibility, and professional development credit. We want all to attend and give voice to shaping our path forward. Professional Development Credit available

Individuals:

\$50 for full conference
\$30 for a day,
\$20 for the keynote

Students:

\$30 for full conference
\$20 for a day
\$15 for the keynote

The ILLA e-Conference 2009 will offer 6 concurrent sessions with two 60-minute presentations each session. The e-Conference will be hosted on the Elluminate software platform, sponsored by Idaho State University. For more information or to register for the ILLA e-Conference, go to the ILLA website at: <http://www.idlla.org/>, or contact ILLA President, Karen Wilson Scott: scotkare@isu.edu.

Join us in looking forward with renewed vision for ILLA.



News from Wyoming

Adult Learning for

Self-Sufficiency

Submitted by Doug Mickey

In the Workforce & Community Education Department at Central Wyoming College, Riverton, Wyoming, we are focused on

enhancing the quality of life for individuals who have been underemployed/unemployed or unsuccessful in the traditional academic environment. For more than a decade, CWC has been providing an assortment of adult learning programs specifically designed to increase employment opportunities and self-sufficiency for students and their families. With grant support, our Employment Training for Self Sufficiency program (ETSS) assisted more than 350 underemployed/unemployed parents with customer service training and life skills programs in the areas of: construction trades, information technology, bookkeeping, certified nursing assistant and dental assisting. In addition, we have been partnering with business and industry to customize short-term training by providing courses in CDL, line locator and occupational safety. We keep a pulse on our local job market by scanning want ads and state employment reports to determine emerging employment needs in the community.

What sets us apart from traditional academic programs is our innovative wrap around approach. We supply our students with the education they need, we follow them through to their employment opportunities, and we ensure that their family needs are met. We pride ourselves on our innovation and flexibility and are constantly striving to find new ways to help our students succeed in today's job market.

"The point of education in a democracy is to discover as many ways of seeing as possible, not to rest secure in the perspective we find easiest and most comfortable or the perspective of those currently in power." - James Berlin

MPAEA Governing Board

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Nancy Lambott

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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 November 10 for the December newsletter! In general, articles should be 300 – 350 words. Send them to Peggy Nelson at peggy.nelson@my.eitc.edu

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



Meet Your Board Members**Arizona:**

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*MPAEA is seeking a new editor for the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Lambott for more information:
nlambott@jeffcok12.co.us*