



# MPAEA Newsletter

ELECTRONIC VOLUME, VOLUME 69, ISSUE 2, SEPTEMBER, 2010

## President's Message



Donna Bakke  
President 2010-2011

### What's Happening with MPAEA?

**Enthusied! Excited! Proud!** These are the terms I would use to describe how I felt after meeting with your board representatives this summer. With the great success of the Arizona hosted conference to boost our morale and budget, we plunged into our yearly planning. The discussions were lively and it was difficult to complete our agenda before the meeting was adjourned.

Despite our economy and travel restrictions, the MPAEA conference hosted by the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning was very successful from a professional and financial point of view. The conference coordinators, Lily Beth Brazones, Miriam Kroeger and Myna Frestedt, did an excellent job and the MPAEA board thanks you for all of your hard work and dedication. With proceeds from 349 registrants and organizational membership dues, AALL and MPAEA will split approximately \$29,000. With the feedback we received from our members and conference attendees, the Board will continue our efforts to provide excellent professional development opportunities for our members.

Your board representatives worked diligently to plan for next year's conference and the impact of co-conferencing with COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education) and CCAE (California Council for Adult Education). The scholarship and membership committees have developed new guidelines that

will help bring more members to the COABE conference and slightly change the membership fee structure. Please read the newsletter articles by your board members to learn more about those changes.

One of the issues your board faced this year was a state organization to host the 2011 conference. NMAEA, the New Mexico adult education organization, decided they were not prepared to host a large conference and no other state organization was prepared to jump in and host the conference next year. The idea of joining the COABE group for one year appeared to be the best solution for providing a venue for our regional members to meet and have access to a conference offering professional development opportunities. Through the partnership agreement, COABE and CCAE, will provide us with space to hold membership meetings, board meetings and host an awards luncheon at the San Francisco conference. This partnership has a big benefit, through your membership in MPAEA you will also be a member of COABE.

This is an exciting opportunity for MPAEA – involvement as a partner in a national conference with an excellent professional organization! I encourage you to renew your membership, recruit new members, and get involved. Elections are coming and this is a great time to serve as a board member. Contact your state representative or any of the Executive Board for more information or check out our website – [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org).

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## Partnership in Wyoming produces produce. By Mickey Douglas

A partnership between Central Wyoming College, the University of Wyoming and the Popo Agie Conservation District allowed for the construction of a facility where produce will be grown year round at the CWC Sinks Canyon Center.

UW supplied \$1,600 of materials in trade for specific data that the Sinks Canyon staff will provide over the next five years, explained SCC Director Ken Colovich. The data includes the durability of the High Tunnel Hoops House under various weather conditions, soil and air temperature, yield of the crops, and information on the plant species grown in the structure.

The conservation district organized a workshop for 11 people to work on the construction, and CWC's seasonal employees and full-time staff also participated on the build, Colovich said. The conservation district plans to conduct a workshop at the Sinks Canyon Center on building the hoop houses next spring, which will include sessions on extending the growing season using the structures.

The fresh produce that will be grown in the hoop house will be supplied to local schools, to the caterers for the National Outdoor Leadership School, and will be sold at farmers' markets.

## Happy birthday Sea Lions!



## Too Much Cake?

## Personal message from Margaret Bowles, Montana Adult Education Director. From Donna Bakke

Montana Adult Education and Literacy teachers and program directors will be coming to Helena on October 5-6, 2010, to begin work on a statewide Data Quality Initiative. Larry Condelli and Mary Ann Corley from the American Institutes for Research will be leading the teams in a variety of data analysis activities, which will provide the necessary background for each team to develop their own action plan for program improvement. After the conference participating programs will remain connected through conference calls and regional meetings to discuss successes and challenges with their data analysis and improvement plans. Ongoing dialogue will assist programs with sustainability and promote rich discussions on best practice.

According to the National Commission on Teaching (June 2010), effective learning teams raise achievement. The Montana Data Quality Initiative will set the stage for this to happen.

Thanks,

Margaret

Margaret Bowles  
Adult Literacy and Basic Education Specialist  
Office of Public Instruction  
Box 202501  
Helena MT 59620-2501  
(406) 444-4443

*Believing that every person has purpose, value and potential, Montana Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) provides free instruction to adults and out-of-school youth to improve their basic skills, attain the GED, transition to postsecondary education and/or improve employment status.*



## GED at Laramie County Community College. From Kelly Willmarth

NEWS RELEASE June 4, 2010

Graduates overcome a wide range of obstacles to earn GED credentials

CHEYENNE — A total of 301 amazing individuals have started a new chapter in their lives by earning their GED® credentials through Laramie County Community College from May 1, 2009, through May 15, 2010. Those 301 graduates ranged in age from 16 to 57 and included a family of three all earning their GEDs at the same time. Eighty-two graduates marched across the Civic Center stage on Saturday, May 15.

United States Representative Cynthia Lummis was the keynote speaker. In addition, the graduates heard from several of their peers. Each GED graduate has a unique story; many have overcome tremendous obstacles in order to achieve this success.

The GED credential is a first step for many individuals who transition into higher education or the workplace. LCCC has a variety of programs for adults who are seeking additional training or education.

GED instruction is provided by the Adult Career and Education System in Cheyenne and the Teaching and Learning Center in Laramie at LCCC's Albany County Campus. Both centers provide day and evening classes in Adult Basic Education, GED studies, Adult Secondary Education, Literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages and Career Skills. These classes are noncredit and operate on an open-entry, open-exit basis for residents 16 years old or older. The classes are available in fall, spring and summer, and most courses are free.

For more information, please contact LCCC's Adult Career and Education System at 307-637-2450.

## GED-to-College Transitions project gets \$50,000 boost from generous donors. Also from Kelly Willmarth

CHEYENNE — American National Bank and the Sturm Family Foundation know the value of a good education, and they're helping non-traditional students achieve their educational goals.

With a generous donation of \$25,000, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the state, the donors have provided a \$50,000 scholarship for Laramie County Community College's ACES GED-to-College Transitions program. Another \$25,000 goes directly to the program itself, which will offer ACES immediate access to the funds needed to build the GED-to-College Transitions initiative.

"American National Bank and the Sturm Family Foundation are proud to partner with Laramie County Community College to help students complete their GED and transition them into college," says Cheyenne Market President of American National Bank Tom Bass. "We are committed to contributing to the success of our community by assisting these students as they fulfill their educational aspirations."

ACES is the college's Adult Career and Education System, which serves students who have not yet obtained a high school diploma or GED®, or General Educational Development, certificate.

"A dedicated transitions program has been a dream of mine for some time," says ACES Program Manager Kelly Willmarth. "With the help of American National Bank and the Sturm Family Foundation, this dream is about to become a reality. This support will have a positive impact on our community."



## MPAEA Scholarship Information. From Tracy Moore

### Scholarship Opportunities

MPAEA encourages its members to increase their knowledge and skills by providing a variety of scholarship opportunities. A total of \$12,000 dollars will be awarded to help teachers attend conferences, pursue higher educational opportunities or purchase classroom supplies. If you are interested in applying for any of our scholarships, applications are available online at <http://www.mpaea.org/scholarships.htm>.

#### Larry B. Wickham Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) offers up to \$1000 annually to a graduate student enrolled in a graduate degree program in adult education or closely related field or in a college or university located in one of the eight Mountain Plains member states.

The primary intent of this scholarship is for tuition, books and school-related expenses. The MPAEA Scholarship Committee will select a Memorial Scholarship winner plus two alternates, all of whom will be notified one month after the application deadline. The recipient of the Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies will be announced at the MPAEA Annual Conference.

#### **To be eligible, a member must meet the following criteria:**

1. Be enrolled in a graduate degree program in an MPAEA member state (student does not have to be a permanent member of that region);
2. Be pursuing a graduate degree in adult education or closely related field;
3. Be a member of MPAEA for the past calendar year.

Applications must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### I left my Heart in San Francisco

Many MPAEA members may be singing this popular Tony Bennett song after they discover that they can apply for scholarships to attend next year's annual conference co-sponsored by Mountain Plains Adult Education Association and COABE.

COABE, the premier national adult education association organized to advance national and international adult education literacy opportunities is holding their 2011 National Conference in San Francisco April 16-21, 2011.

All MPAEA automatically receive a \$75.00 discount and MPAEA will award 24 members a scholarship that pays the full registration fee.

#### **To be eligible, a member must meet the following criteria:**

1. Be working in an MPAEA member state
2. Be a member of MPAEA or submit a membership application along with this scholarship application.
3. Applications must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Teacher Innovation Scholarship

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association offers up to \$250 annually for creative ways to reach students. The intent of this flexible scholarship is to supplement direct instruction to students.

#### **To be eligible, a member must meet the following criteria:**

1. Be working in an MPAEA member state
2. Be a member of MPAEA or submit a membership application along with this scholarship application.
3. Applications must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Nevada news of transitions. By Brad Deeds

### Nevada Transitions to College Initiative

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) in Reno, Nevada has launched a comprehensive “Transitions to College Initiative.” The ABE program offers community ESL classes, GED preparation classes, literacy tutoring, citizenship preparation and, for the past five years, ESL college transition classes. To build upon this, TMCC ABE has recently hired a full-time Transitions Liaison!

TMCC’s college transition course was first offered in spring of 2005. Since then, more than 200 students have successfully made to the jump from non-credit community ESL classes to for-credit coursework. Students who took the early transition courses are now graduating with associate’s degrees, and one of the first students through the program graduated last May with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Just as exciting, a recent community ESL student who took the transition course is now studying for her master’s degree at UNR!

Students who have taken the college transition course often report that the helping hand of their instructors, administrators, and their classmates made a clear difference in their persistence. Many students over the years have asked for a stable, full-time advisor to keep in touch with and turn to in case of questions or doubts, or when they need support. The TMCC ABE administration listened to these student requests and took the opportunity to hire someone to help these students full-time.

The Transitions Liaison has a lengthy wish-list and plan for the year. One priority is to establish an official club for students who have made the transition to for-credit courses. Being an official college club will give campus-wide recognition to the Transitions to College Initiative, and heighten awareness amongst students and staff about this important subpopulation. Among other advantages, the college also provides institutional and financial support to official clubs. The financial assistance will help provide the basis of a college transition scholarship.

For more information please contact: [tcsepelyi@tmcc.edu](mailto:tcsepelyi@tmcc.edu).

## NEW Colorado Adult Ed Director. From Jolene Goerend

We are pleased to introduce Margaret Kirkpatrick, the new Director for Adult Education and Family Literacy for the State of Colorado.

Ms. Kirkpatrick has over 30 years of experience in adult education, beginning as a six hour-a-week ESL teacher and then moving through the administrative ranks, as a Program Coordinator; Vice Principal; Principal of Merced Adult School, a small rural area in Central California; and then as Principal of Berkeley Adult, a large urban area. After she retired as principal in June 2009, she worked for one year as Project Director for University of California Extension at Berkeley with the Adult Education and Career Technical Education credential programs. In addition to her work in adult schools, she also served as the Director of the Staff Development Institute, the California professional development leadership project; participated in the project development of CASAS and became a national trainer; served as Visitor and Chair of state accreditation teams for adult schools, vocational schools and correctional adult schools; was the lead consultant for the External Diploma Program; and was the lead consultant for the CIM, the Continuous Improvement Measure.

All of this experience goes to emphasize her love for all things adult education and her belief in the goal of adult education programs - that is, the offering of services that enable adult students to achieve their personal goals and enrich their lives. We are excited to begin working with Ms. Kirkpatrick to continue to provide high-quality programs to our adults in Colorado!



## Idaho Conference Information. From Karen Wilson Scott

### Idaho Lifelong Learning Association Fall Conference

The Idaho Lifelong learning Association invites adult educators to join them September 16-18<sup>th</sup> in McCall for a Chautauqua! There will be invited Gem State speakers and 12 Expert Workshops! We will explore the roots of adult education, enjoy a naturalistic setting, learn hands-on activities, and participate in the Share Fair.

The Chautauqua will be held in and around McCall and be centered at the University of Idaho, McCall Field Campus located on the shores of Payette Lake about 1.5 miles north of McCall, Idaho. The field campus is approximately 110 miles northwest of Boise and 171 miles southeast of Lewiston. The entire program cost is only \$85 per person, which includes lodging Friday, four meals, conference, and ILLA membership!!!! Valley County residents and visitors are invited to attend all or part of the Chautauqua, especially sessions that are open to the community. A Chautauqua conference offers new skills, knowledge, philosophy, ideas, humor, & sharing!

Organizers have planned five excellent pre-conference workshops on Adult Basic Education, Practical [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education](#), Natural Soaps & Salves, Safety & Snowplow Driving, and How to Canoe or Kayak the Wild & Scenic Upper North Fork of the Payette River.

On Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> the Idaho Humanities Council presents medieval studies expert, and former Lewis-Clark State English professor William Johnson, who will share 'what Thoreau said' and discuss the relevancy of poetry in our lives. In addition McCall resident Darcy Williamson, a practicing herbalist, instructor, and author from Idaho will lead a discussion on locating, identifying, preparing and using herbs that grow in the Rocky Mountains during the share fair. Other local and Gem state speakers will enhance the day with hikes, workshops, food, song, and art right into the night. Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> will continue with expert workshops, a presentation from the Center for Community Building to End Poverty, a poster session and great idea sharing.

Last year in 2009, ILLA offered a high-tech e-conference, which was highly successful in sustaining the organization. This year, ILLA returns to the roots of adult education in the US with a Chautauqua designed to serve all five constituencies with pre-conference and conference events. Our 2010 ILLA Chautauqua is a blend of the recreation laboratory movement born in the early thirties at Walden Woods, Michigan and an older model for education the "Chautauqua" from New York. A Chautauqua draws adults to a "new" program each year that supports culture, education and leadership in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. This year ILLA offers 20 + hours of learning on a vacation level, a more serious skill level, and a professional (academic) level. Participants will share skills, technology, group process, and stimulating reflective change - augmented by music humor, the arts, sociology, and the pursuit of knowledge in a natural resource setting. Juried Professional and Graduate Student presentations were selected Expert workshops and poster sessions.

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Chautauqua is for everyone interested in lifelong learning and includes, but is not limited to those involved with adult literacy, higher education, industry training, community education, continuing education, training & development, scouts, church, parks & recreation, senior center, adult volunteer, cooperative extension, student, K-12 educator/administrator, community development professionals.

## Idaho conference continued

More information on registration and presenter information can be found at: <http://idlla.wordpress.com/> A passion for nature, philosophy, music, and culture were markers of the first Chautauqua. Be part of one in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and share the *spirit of learning* in McCall, Idaho!

### **For more information or to register on-line or mail to:**

**Jolene Welker, ILLA Secretary/Registrar, Idaho State University, 921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stop 8081, Pocatello, ID 83209 | Phone 208-282-3906 | Fax 208-282-4496 | e-mail: [Jolene Welker <welkjole@isu.edu>](mailto:Jolene.Welker@isu.edu) **Join us!****

Mark your calendar for the 2010 CAEPA Rendezvous Conference October 22 and 23 at the Denver Tech Center Marriott! Sessions topics range from training ESL volunteers; numeracy; SPL 6 bridge classes; developing critical reading skills; preparing ESL learners for work; model partnerships with workforce; educating young adults in the adult education classroom and much, much more! Come celebrate the Power of Adult Learning!

Featured speakers include authors Helen Thorpe - Denver's First Lady - (Just Like Us) and Laura Resau (The Indigo Notebook, Star in the Forest), Federico Salas-Isnardi and Margaret Kirkpatrick, Colorado State Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy.

Register for Rendezvous 2010 at [www.caeпа.org](http://www.caeпа.org)! FULL Conference Registration is \$195. ONE DAY Conference Registration is \$115. Reserve your room at the Denver Marriott Tech Center today! The room rate of \$109 is good two days before and two days after the conference!

### **State conference schedules:**

Arizona, October 22, Tempe  
 Colorado, October 22-23, Denver  
 Idaho, September 16-18, McCall  
 Montana, October 22-23, Helena (MEA)  
 Nevada, TBD  
 New Mexico, TBD  
 Utah, TBD  
 Wyoming, October 6-7, Riverton

MPAEA Conference, April 17-20, 2011, San Francisco, CA, with COABE and CCAE.

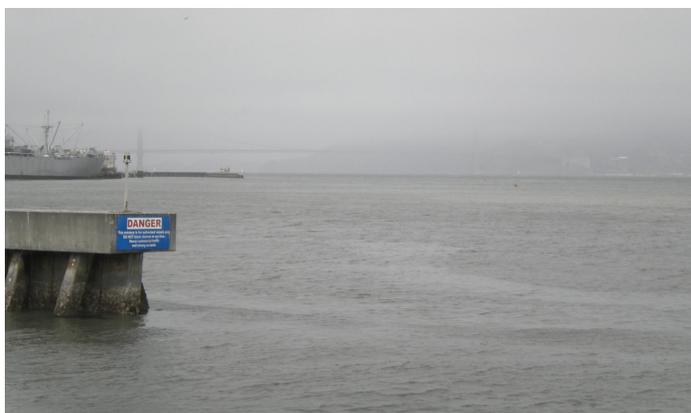
Did anyone get time to see the sites?  
 How about Chinatown? Or...

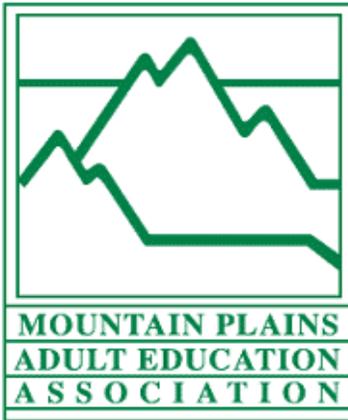


Or "The Crookedest" Street?"



The Golden Gate Bridge? This is the most we saw of the famous structure. Too much fog to see the entire





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Or, as Rosie the Riveter said, "We Can Do IT!" Our fun on the Wharf, but you can do it TOO! Just Join MPAEA and register for the COABE/CCAE conference!

Alcatraz Island! Plan to make the tour, it's worth it!



*Dedicated to Lifelong Learning*

*1942-2009*

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What about the World famous Cable Cars? Who could miss those?



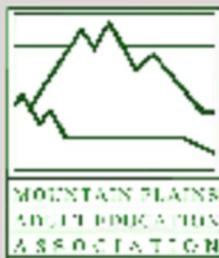
...and for the ladies... you know where this shot was taken....don't you????



# National Conference 2011

California Council for Adult Education | CCAE  
 Commission on Adult Basic Education | COABE

California Council for Adult Education & Commission on Adult Basic Education welcomes:

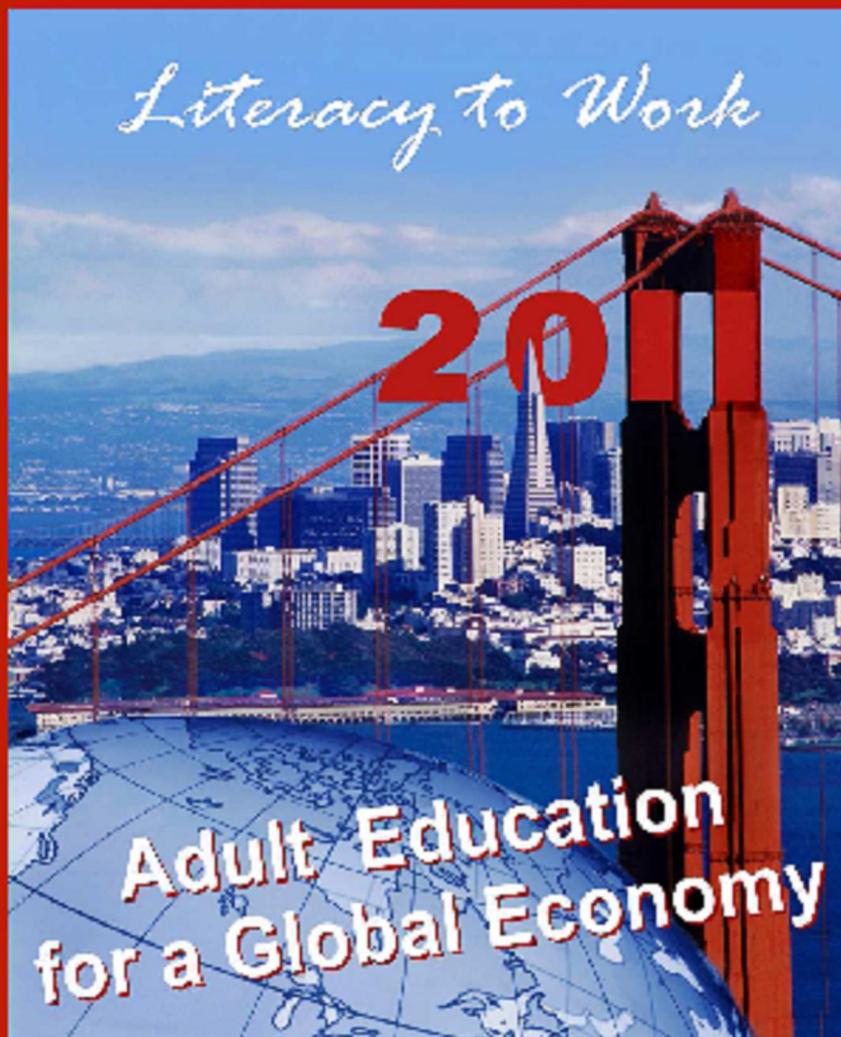


Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA)

Mountain Plains Adult Education supports the COABE/CCAЕ National Conference

**April 17–21, 2011**

Come explore new professional development opportunities in everyone's favorite *City by the Bay*



National Conference  
 San Francisco  
 California



For complete information please visit the website at [www.ccaecoabe2011.com](http://www.ccaecoabe2011.com)