



MPAEA NEWS

JUNE 12, 2017

Letter from the President

Dear MPAEA Members,

A warm Memorial Day welcome to all of our MPAEA members. My name is Tom Gravel, I was born and raised in Fargo, ND. I am married to Barbara and have three children: Olivia (20), Jackson (18), and Caroline (12). We currently live in West Fargo, ND. As the new president of MPAEA, I wanted to use this first newsletter to share some thoughts about a few goals that will allow us to continue to improve our organization and to expand the value of membership in MPAEA.

Our first goal is a systems upgrade by researching and selecting an association membership software program that will allow us to be more efficient and have a more comprehensive and robust online presence. In addition, this software will allow individuals to find resources to MPAEA, pay for memberships and conferences, topic blogs, list serves, online surveys, etc. This should be completed at our July board meeting in Las Vegas.

Our second goal is to survey members as to how MPAEA can serve them. What is the value of a MPAEA membership and what can we do to increase that value? Once we have a current awareness of member wants and needs, we can move toward the creation of a new strategic plan.

Our third goal is updating the organization by creating efficiency in these areas: Board meetings and purpose, Committees and purpose, Supporting states and members, and MPAEA/state conferences – how to make it easier. We are a volunteer organization and we must respect the time of each board member and member. If what we are doing does not serve our organization or members, we must ask why we are doing it. I will be sharing some suggestions to reorganize our board and committees in hopes to provide more efficiency and enhance their purpose.

Every organization is only as strong as the members it serves. We are here for you and as such, we must HEAR from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to make your program, your state, and MPAEA stronger, please share that with us. Share with your state board member or myself. I am excited about the potential of an association management software that we will be rolling out this fall. This should have an immediate positive impact on MPAEA.

Another note is that MPAEA will not be having a conference next year. COABE will be hosting with the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning. As such, the board decided not to compete with COABE in our region but encourage our members to attend the conference in Phoenix. MPAEA plans to have a hospitality room for our members, hold our pre- and post-conference board meetings, our state bid baskets silent auction, and our award's program. More information later.

I wish each of you a relaxing summer to recharge and relax!

MPAEA President
Thomas Gavel



Thomas Gavel Presents Award

Learner of the Year 2017:

Fiorella Almeyda

Great Keynote Speakers

I would like to commend the MPAEA Board of Directors and all who were responsible for putting together the sessions, especially the keynote ceremonies. I believe that if you can capture the attention of your audience first thing in the morning, the interest will mount throughout the entire conference.

Kim Giles was excellent in presenting the principles of behavior that everyone battles. Understanding and knowing certain behaviors can help give purpose to every experience we have and make us better educators.

In our field of dealing with so many folks who have experienced drawbacks, it is important to be sensitive to the failures and losses of the adults we deal with on a daily basis in the classroom. Somewhere in understanding what causes people's fear and bad behavior is the core of their value and uniqueness.

The second excellent presenter was Brad Wilcox who was the keynote speaker at the Thursday morning breakfast. He brought humor and fun to the conference. His level of energy was contagious and his manner in interacting with the audience was refreshing and very inviting. A very important point he made was: learn to laugh at yourself, and don't take yourself too seriously. What I took away from this was: learning does not require beating yourself up when you fail, but laughing at it can make things more tolerable.

A session which is of notable mention was Redesigning Service Delivery Innovation. This was a double-session and had very useful information in this age of WIOA partnerships and the connection with workforce development. They discussed the 6-P'S of alignment and redesign and a career pathway model, with building an infrastructure that supports integrated learning. The presenters (Laura Weisel and Jeff Fantine) were very experienced and knowledgeable in this area.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Rael-Lindsay
Director – Center for Adult Learning
Trinidad State College-Valley Campus
Alamosa, CO





Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference

Under the shadows of the gorgeous Wasatch Mountains in Salt Lake City, Utah, the MPAEA Conference started with an Opening Reception on Tuesday, April 11th. The official Opening Ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 12th and marked two days of intense and fun learning.

The first session I attended had the most profound effect in my role as program director for College Bridge Pathways, an adult education program that aims to transition students to college and career. The session was led by Jeff Fantine and Laura Wiesel. They presented the concept of Align and Redesign in order to help programs align with the outcomes and requirements of WIOA.

The process focuses on the analysis of what programs need to do in order to raise outcomes and to create career pathways. It examines program processes from marketing, to orientation, to instructor buy in, to other areas that need to align in order to create a system that supports student success.

Another area of focus was a gap analysis of the organization. The gap analysis identifies areas of need that requires attention so that a program can run in a more efficient manner. Concepts learned from this session have given me the tools to affect improvements in order to streamline processes in my own program. With the challenges presented by full WIOA implementation, the Align and Redesign concept is a valuable tool in creating meaningful programmatic changes. It has demonstrated effectiveness in raising program outcomes as supported by data on educational gains over a period of three years.

One of the strategies used during the presentation was a simple but very effective exercise. Participants were divided into smaller groups and were asked to discuss what they now know and what they don't know in terms of concepts presented. This was an excellent, yet simple and quick way to survey what the participants learned and what questions they still have if they would like to implement changes.

Another session that has contributed to my professional development was the keynote session presented by Brad Wilcox on the importance of humor in our personal and professional lives. Brad presented the lighter side of life and how we can harness humor to minimize stress, and breakdown walls in our daily lives. Not only was the session very informative, Brad's presentation was downright funny. It was a great way to start the second day of the conference. I still remember the letter to God written by schoolchildren. It illustrates where one can look to find the lighter side of life. Reading those letters was a great source of humor. Brad's anecdote about the hard airplane landing and how the pilot turned a grim circumstance to something funny can have parallels in our own lives. There is always a silver lining to a dark cloud.

These two presentations balance the serious and the lighter side of our professional lives. The concepts learned are certainly easily transportable back to my program and overall, this is the main goal of attending a conference – to bring something back that helps our program. The MPAEA conference did an excellent job in helping me meet my conference attendance goals.

As I leave Salt Lake City and the shadows of the Wasatch, the lessons and concepts learned from the conference will certainly stay with me as I resume my professional role.

Submitted by Lily Beth Brazones - Arizona





Recognizing Our Stars!



State Awards of Excellence



Idaho: Amelia Valasek



Montana: Katya Marandino-Irish

Arizona: Blair Liddicoat



Colorado: George O'Clair



State Awards of Excellence (Cont.)



New Mexico: Judy Hofer



Utah: Marty Kelly



Wyoming: Jessica Townsend Smith



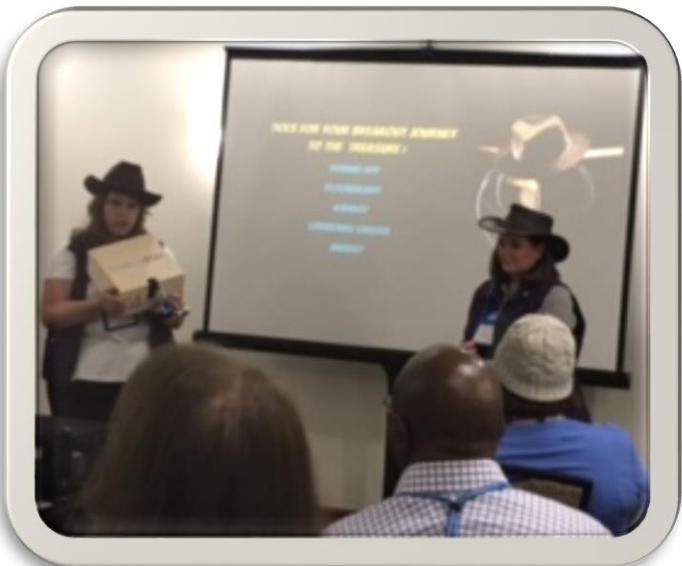
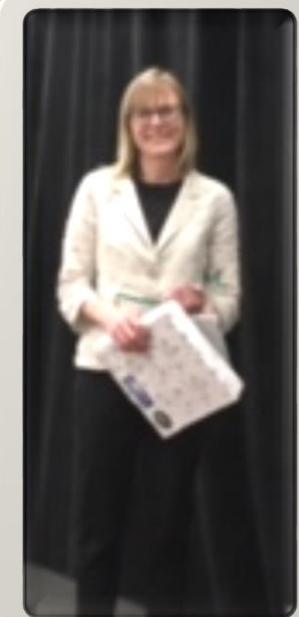
Nevada: Dawn Adams



MPAEA Journal Submissions

The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education is published twice a year. Each issue includes research articles, application articles, and a book review intended to help inform your practice in adult education and to provide new ideas that you might apply. We accept manuscripts year round. If you have a unique technique that works for you or have other resources you would like to share with your colleagues, please consider submitting to the Journal. Feel free to contact Karen Kaminski, the editor, if you have questions. She is happy to give you feedback and help you build your article. Looking forward to hearing from you!

*You can reach her by email: karen.kaminski@colostate.edu
To learn more, please visit:
<https://www.mpaea.org/?page=publications>*





AALL

'Empowering Learners for Life'

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

**Welcome to Phoenix in March 2018
Come Expand Your Horizons and
Soar to New Heights!**

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) is pleased to share that the 2018 COABE conference will take place in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference dates are set for March 25th – March 28th at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in modern Downtown Phoenix. This conference is sure to produce the high quality professional learning that we have come to expect from COABE strand partners.

Arizona is proud to present local strands to highlight Arizona initiatives and best practices from our state including a student strand. March is a beautiful time to visit the desert! The city of Phoenix is situated in a valley of mountain ranges that makes a scenic backdrop for the city during our flower season.

Some key attractions will be the Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix Downtown Museums such as the Phoenix Science Center and the Heard Museum, and don't forget spring training for the Cactus League. The Grand Canyon and Sedona will be other attractions to draw visitors before or after the conference.

Watch for the COABE call for proposals to circulate in the fall of 2018 to submit best practices from the mountain plains states. And don't forget that AALL members receive dual membership to COABE and are eligible for conference member rates.



**Lay Leader of the Year 2017
Shannon Stangis, LiteracyPro Systems, Inc.**

Who will YOU Nominate for 2018?



Educator of the Year 2017

**Zina Larsen,
Alpine Adult Education**



Legislator of the Year 2017

**Wayne L. Niederhauser
Utah State Senate, District 9**



Award of Appreciation 2017

**Glenda Sinks
Past MPAEA President**

Award of Merit 2017
Kim Bartel
Department of Workforce Solutions - Utah

Future State Conferences

NEW MEXICO – September 28-29 in Albuquerque, NM

NORTH DAKOTA – September 17-29 in Bismarck, ND

UTAH – UAACCE October 12 & 13, 2017 in Midway, UT

Community Ed Pre-Conference October 12

Professional Development Conference October 13

WYOMING – Week of August 7 in Cheyenne, WY



COABE Conference 2018

SAVE THE DATE!



**EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS
AND SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS**

*March 25-28, 2018 at the Sheraton
Phoenix Downtown Hotel*

COABE
Coalition on Adult Basic Education

