

# MVAEA

## Happenings in the Valley

### EMBARK ON A LEARNING EXPEDITION

## Iowa is the place to be in 2004!

*Evan Bensley, MVAEA president-elect*

The Iowa MVAEA Conference Committee has been aggressively working on the MVAEA conference which will take place March 31-April 2, 2004. The conference will be held at the Sioux City Convention Center. For those that have been members of MVAEA for a while, this is the same location as the Iowa conference in 1997.

**Embark on a Learning Expedition** is the theme of the 2004 conference in commemoration of the anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The conference will cover the beginnings of adult education from the early inceptions to the present. We will also take a peek into the future and surmise where it may be heading.

In addition to a retrospect of adult education, we will examine the history of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association. This conference will mark the 66<sup>th</sup> year of the Association's existence. Watch for conference materials that use the fabled highway, Route 66, as an illustrated guide through the history of the organization.

This year's evening banquet and entertainment will be unique—a definite break from the traditional banquets of the past. We are sure

you'll have a great time, but we don't want to spoil the surprise yet! I will guarantee you'll enjoy your evening. All we ask is that you bring along your sense of humor and a smile.

We have made contact with our keynote and capstone speakers. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag until we have the speakers confirmed, so I will provide more information in the next newsletter.

Conference registration fees have not yet been determined at this time pending total speaker and conference costs. The annual MVAEA dues have increased to \$35, however; this cost will be reflected in the tuition. Rest assured, we will do everything on our part to ensure a great deal of value for your professional development dollar!

Once again the MVAEA Leadership Academy will be held in conjunction with the conference. The one-day workshop will be held on March 31. To book your hotel room in advance, call the Plaza Hotel in Sioux City at 800-593-0555. We have reserved the block of rooms for \$69 per night. The hotel is adjacent to the Sioux City

Convention Center and many local attractions.

**Prepare yourself for a wonderful and entertaining experience in Iowa as we embark on a learning expedition!**

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**EARLY FALL  
2003**

**Volume 4, No. 3**



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# STATE NEWS

## KANSAS

by Bev Davis

Kansas adult educators gathered in Manhattan, Kan., for Summer Institute XIV, *Learning across the Lifespan: Professional Development for Early Childhood, Adult Education, and Family Literacy Educators*. This year we were joined by Early Head Start, Head Start, and Even Start educators. We enjoyed quality professional development opportunities to expand our knowledge base and increase our skills.

The keynote speakers, workshops, sessions, and resource materials were provided us with the latest research, policy, and best practices to help children and adults reach educational goals.

Some specific topics covered were: *How Technology and Workplace Essential Skills Can Teach Pre-GED Learners Over Distance and in the Classroom, Model Training—Teaching Reading, CHIP: Munching Your Way Through Literacy for Infants and Toddlers, ESL Literacy: Promising Practices from the Field, Money Smart, and PowerPoint 101*. For a more detailed description of events (and maybe ideas for keynoters, presenters, workshops, and/or professional development activities in your state), visit [www.dce.ksu.edu/summerinstitute/](http://www.dce.ksu.edu/summerinstitute/).

As usual, the social event of the week was Thursday night's banquet and endless opportunities for all participants to enjoy being on a game show. Dave Lewis, founder of All Star DJ, entertained us with a new twist this year. It was fun, and we had the opportunity to win prizes with our knowledge of trivia. To find out more about having

### JUST A REMINDER...

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**It is time to consider submitting a proposal for the Development Fund award! For additional information on what kinds of proposals are considered, how funding is allocated, and more, contact Michelle Hanson at [mhanson@marshallschools.com](mailto:mhanson@marshallschools.com).**

Dave at one of your special events, check out [www.gameshowroadshow.com](http://www.gameshowroadshow.com).

The Kansas Adult Education Board met at Summer Institute and is currently working on establishing a statewide Legislative Day in October. We are going to encourage adult education programs throughout Kansas to invite state legislators to visit their centers in order to promote the learning opportunities we provide.

## MISSOURI

submitted by Les Lang

Missouri's fall MAACCE board meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 19, at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks, MO. The Conference Planning Committee will meet the previous day—Sept. 18—in the afternoon to continue with conference planning for 2004. The conference location will change this year, as a new contract has been finalized with Tan-Tar-A Resort. Tan-Tar-A is a larger resort, and MAACCE is looking forward to working with this outstanding facility. The conference will still be held in June.

## IOWA

by Scott Schneider, IALL's president-elect and 2003 conference chair

As summer begins to fade in the horizon and fall calendars begin to fill with obligations, please be sure to set aside three days in October to refill your own lifelong learning cup. The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning will host its annual conference on Oct. 15-17 at Gateway Center in Ames. We believe this will be a premier adult educator conference of the year. Join us as IALL welcomes Bill Draves and Julie Coates from Learning Resource Network (LERN) to the state of Iowa. LERN is recognized as a national leader in adult education market-  
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ing and trending. We are confident that you'll walk away from this conference with ideas you can implement immediately and concepts that will help your programs grow. Mark the dates today and watch for visit [www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org) for conference updates. See you in October!

## SOUTH DAKOTA

*submitted by Lana Reich*

Here in South Dakota we can't believe the summer is nearly gone!

We ended the summer with our Summer Institute in Pierre on Aug. 12-14. AEL instructors and directors from all programs joined together to receive training/information in NRS, performance, results based instruction,

ESL, and many other topics. Program staff will now network with other staff from across the state to share what is working in their programs.

In other news, the technology task force completed the list of skills for five levels of computer literacy to be implemented into AEL programs this fall. The ESL task force has developed an instructor's start up kit and manual for ESL teachers. It includes competencies to be taught to the varying levels, plus many other teaching tips.

Our upcoming SDALL fall conference will be held in Deadwood on Oct. 16-17. We're looking forward to having a great time in Deadwood, and we'll also be going for a drive to see all the beautiful fall colors.

## MVAEA

*Happenings in the Valley* is published five times each year by the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association to provide news, information, and assistance to those interested in continuing education and lifelong learning.

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## ON THE WEB

**resources you can put to work right now**

[www.manythings.org/](http://www.manythings.org/) MVAEA members can thank Jim Lightbody for finding this noncommercial Web site designed for people studying English as a Second Language (ESL) or English as a Foreign Language (EFL). It features quizzes, word games, word

puzzles, proverbs, slang expressions, anagrams, a random-sentence generator, and other study materials. And while its primary focus is for ESL and EFL, native English speakers may also find the site interesting.

<http://a4esl.org/>

Jim Lightbody also found this great resource for MVAEA members. A project of The Internet TESL Journal, this site highlights contributions by many ESL teachers and includes more than 1,000 quizzes and exercises, as well as puzzles that can help your students learn and study English as a Second Language.

## COMING IN 2004 MVAEA membership dues will increase

*by Sharon Luhring, membership services consultant*

After many years of membership dues remaining at the same fee, the MVAEA Board has found it necessary to increase the 2004 MVAEA membership dues. Here is your opportunity to consider lifetime MVAEA membership as an option!

For this year, lifetime membership dues will remain at \$300. Individual dues will increase from \$30 to \$35, however, and student and retiree dues will increase from \$10 to \$15.

MVAEA membership remains a bargain! We hope you will encourage a colleague to join your regional association and realize the networking advantages!



The 2004 MVAEA conference will mark the 66<sup>th</sup> year of the Association's existence. Watch for conference materials that use the fabled highway, Route 66, as an illustrated guide through MVAEA history.

## MVAEA member offers a brief personal adult education history

by Michael Turner, MVAEA member and president of ACEAN

About 15 years ago I posed a question to myself that would shape the rest of my life. I was sitting in my college classroom pondering the readings of my organizational behavior course when in a moment of daydreaming I wondered to myself, why am I doing so well in school?

**Like most nontraditional students I had gone back to college wondering if I could actually do the work and complete my degree.** But over the course of time and courses I discovered that I could indeed accomplish my goals. It required discipline and study but that was the case for all students. Yet I couldn't help but notice that the adult students in my classes, myself included, seemed to excel. It was this experience that led to my question that spring day.

Being self-directed (a term I came to know much better later on) I started my own quest for the answer. This quest led me to a professor of adult education who would become my mentor in the years that followed. John Dirx spent nearly an hour with me the first time I walked into his office and in that brief span of time I received a concise presentation of the principles of adult learning. Not only had he helped answer my question, but more importantly he suggested I undertake graduate study (he was also a pretty good marketing rep for the department). Long story short, that is exactly what I did. Working with John over the course of the next few years, I completed a master's degree in adult and continuing education.

**Since then I've come to recognize that few, if any, adult educators originally set out to be so.** We seem to arrive in adult education, meandering in from a variety of settings and backgrounds but somehow drawn to the field. Having been a nontraditional student myself, when I talk to someone considering returning to school I know of where I speak. I've been where they are and I know the fears, but more importantly, the possibilities.

It was during my graduate studies that I was not so gently encouraged to join MVAEA and ACEAN, my state association, by John. It was expected that all the students in the program would not only join—but participate—in the annual conferences as often as possible. I joined ACEAN right away and MVAEA a few years later when I actually became a practicing professional (*practicing* being the operative word).

Flash forward to 2003 and here I am leading my state

organization and actively engaged with MVAEA. I feel proud and privileged to be the president of ACEAN and a contributing member of MVAEA because over the course of the last decade I have learned much from the members of these dedicated groups. I have made lifelong friends and widened my circle of valued colleagues in the process. Over these past 10 years I've tried to remain involved and through my work on the ACEAN board and recently on the 2003 MVAEA Conference Planning Committee.

I feel I've contributed to continued growth and development of both organizations. That remains my charge now in my new leadership role. I am fortunate to have surrounded myself with an outstanding board, one that possesses great experience and unbridled motivation to do good work for our state association. I am also fortunate to have a highly valued and trusted colleague, a close friend, and former ACEAN board member, leading MVAEA this year. I came to these organizations to learn more about adult education and to become a better practitioner. I think I've managed to accomplish both of those goals. **The greatest payoff of all has been the rich relationships that I have established.** I can't offer a better reason to become involved, can you?

*Michael K. Turner, M.A., is the managing director of graduate & extended programs at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He may be reached by phone at 402-465-2331 or via e-mail at [mkt@NebrWesleyan.edu](mailto:mkt@NebrWesleyan.edu).*

### Coming Soon

#### Deadlines for upcoming issues of MVAEA's *Happenings in the Valley* newsletter

October 8                  December 5                  February 5

#### MVAEA Board Meetings

October 30-31 in Sioux City, Iowa  
February 12-13, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa

#### MVAEA Leadership Academy

March 31, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa

#### MVAEA Annual Conference

March 31-April 2, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa