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Note to readers: If anyone knows how to set up this document so that the table of contents will link directly to the specific pages listed above, kindly edit the document with the mark-ups and forward it to Tom Haskell at haskell@bv.u.edu or haskell@aol.com and we will gladly repost the document.

Thank you Terry Ranig, MVAEA historian, for all of your work in assembling this document.

The state reports will have separate links

DEDICATION

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association is comprised of membership from seven states: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. All of these states have strong state organizations that provide services to their membership and support the efforts of instructors and administrators in accomplishing the mission of adult education. Without these state organizations and their membership support, MVAEA would not exist. To all of you, the 1938-2008 Historical Record is dedicated.

The state organizations are listed here to provide the reader an insight to the magnitude and the membership throughout the region.

- ?? Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL)
- ?? Kansas Adult Education Association (KAEA)
- ?? Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACE)
- ?? Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education (MAACCE)
- ?? Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska (ACEAN)
- ?? North Dakota Adult Basic and Secondary Education Association (NDABSEA)
- ?? South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning (SDALL)

State organizations provide services to their membership in many ways. States publish a newsletter containing current information on their organization and updated professional information. They conduct one or two conferences each year for the professional growth of their members. Many of the states have followed the leadership of MVAEA and instituted a development fund to award meritorious educational projects to members of their organization.

It is the membership which delivers the services to the students. Instructors and administrators often are not full time and volunteer the extra effort to fulfill the mission of educating adults in the seven state region.

This history is dedicated to each state organization and their members.

FORWARD

I became the new Historian for MVAEA in July of 2008 and learned that a new "Historical Record" was due to be published in 2009. I assume the challenge of this position with great reverence. It has been a big task to follow in the footsteps of such notable historians as George Thompson, Jane Sellen, Clint Hammer, Elmer Miller, Joe Milder, and Greg Nolting. These people were leaders and movers in the organization when they were involved. I am privileged to know some of the individuals and have worked with three of them. I truly understand the love, loyalty, and commitment one must make to continue the quality of this record. I only hope I can carry out the high quality and standards set by these former Historians.

I have visited the archives of the organization, which are housed at the University Library, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa in 1998 and again in 2004. I was very impressed at the organization of our information and found massive files of records. As an organization grows older, it becomes increasingly difficult to manage all information.

The history is published every five years; the current issue was printed in 1999. In 2002, the history was placed on the MVAEA website. Now, in 2009, it is time again to update the records. This "Historical Record" is a compilation of information recorded in the past and an update of the past five years. Some information may be missing and I apologize for my inability to gather all names, places, and dates. Careful attention was paid to the spelling of names, but my apology for any misspellings.

Terry Raming, Historian

June, 2009

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1984, Clint Hammer wrote, in the "History": "When a person becomes forty, we assume that the growing pains, the years of finding who he/she is and who he/she will become are past, and that a kind of maturity has been achieved. So with the Missouri Valley Adult Education as it holds its 1984. This is when a time to." Now, fifteen years later, we are mature. We now have a strong foundation fund and look back to see where we came from, what we did, and what significant events occurred home page on the Internet. In that spirit, let us look through those fifty-five years since MVAEA first met in Omaha in 1938.

Everett Hosman called together the first regional Missouri Valley Adult Education Conference at the University of Omaha (now University of Nebraska) Omaha in the fall of 1938. This came in large measure as a result of the rising role of adult education in the 1930's as seen in national adult education advisory councils and the development of public forums through the auspices of the Carnegie Foundation. Two and a half years later in the spring of 1941, after World War II had begun, but before the involvement of the United States, the second conference was held. It was again in Omaha but this time at the Fontanelle Hotel. That March conference was the precursor of the spring conference now held annually by MVAEA. It was co-sponsored by the local Adult Education Council of Omaha, the state Nebraska Council for Adult Education, and the national American Association for Adult Education. Six years elapsed with the upheaval of war and the return to peaceful pursuits before the third conference was held, again in Omaha in the spring of 1947. Note that there has been a spring conference each succeeding year. At that conference in 1947, six of the Missouri Valley states were represented as well as a contingent from Colorado, but there were no participants from North Dakota.

The following year 1948 the conference was held in Des Moines, Iowa. The conference was held cooperatively with the national conference of the American Association for Adult Education. The first officers and board of MVAEA were elected. Let it be noted that Perdue Graves of Kansas was selected to serve as the first president of the organization.

The conference moved to Lawrence, Kansas in 1949, where not only all of the Missouri Valley states participated but also persons from Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, and Arkansas. The next year, 1950, saw the conference back in Nebraska this time in Lincoln and for the first time a follow-up mimeographed report was distributed.

The conference returned to Omaha its place of origin in 1952 and made its way along the Missouri River to Kansas City in 1953 and Sioux City in 1954. With a theme of "Operation Bootstraps" the 1955 conference was again held in Omaha. A grant from AEA/VSA focusing on helping communities learn how to start adult education programs at the grass roots level underwrote the conference. The 1956 conference was once again held along the river in Kansas City; this was the year of the first MVAEA newsletter.

The conference in Kansas City in 1959 toured the new Harry S. Truman Library in Independence and the former President briefly addressed the group. The following year Sioux City, Iowa hosted the conference and the MVAEA Journal came into being. The 1960 Handbook of Adult Education in the United States quoted the Missouri Valley Brochure:

Some members of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association are full time workers in adult education; some of us are concerned with adult education progress as one of our many community projects; still others of us may seem to have only casual or fleeting connections with adult learning activities. Yet we are a highly homogeneous group in our convictions: (1) that our society cannot wait for its problems to be solved by the next generation; (2) that the Good Life continually seeks and finds new, interesting experiences; and (3) that adults can and want to learn. (p. 188)

During the sixties the conference left the middle area for the first time in 1961 to convene in Minneapolis. For the first time Canadian adult educators as well as military personnel participated. The 1965 conference in Lincoln, reflected the influence of federal funding for Adult Basic Education is portrayed by the conference theme "These Too Must Be Educated." ABE and its agenda have been subsequently been a part of MVAEA conferences. The 1966 conference in Sioux Falls initiated the South Dakota Adult Education Association and marked the first conference held in that state.

The twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated in Kansas City in 1969. It was sponsored by Kansas but held at the Muehlebach Hotel in Missouri. The 1970 conference saw us finally meet in North Dakota at Grand Forks, thereby completing the conference sites in all seven Missouri Valley States. At that conference, the office of secretary-treasurer was divided into two positions, probably an indication of the growth of serving the organization. During the conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1974, electronic wizardry was featured in a key address by Paul Delker, Director of Adult Programs U.S. Office of Education, speaking by amplified

telephone from Washington, D. C. Concerns at that conference included funding, recruiting, individualization of instruction, and inter-agency cooperation.

For the first time in 1976, there were no less than 200 in attendance at the conference in Waterloo, Iowa. An Historian was appointed, George Thompson. The part-time student, women as a new market, senior citizens in education, and English as a second language were some workshop topics.

The 1978 conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota saw the appointment of a membership chair to recruit new members more effectively. The first Everett Hosman Founders Award was presented to Elmer Mueller of Minnesota. The "new" GED test, greatly revised and shortened, was a hot conference topic.

At the conference in Manhattan in 1979, George Thompson distributed the MVAEA Historical Record 1938-1978. That Record is visible evidence of the awareness of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association and that it had a history to record, collect, and archive.

The 1980 conference was held in Kansas City. Sam Brightman wrote in *Adult and Continuing Education Today*:

Three adult education groups met in Kansas City in the third week of April and they found everything up to date. Despite some surface similarities, the states of the Missouri Valley have differences. The organizations that participated in the meeting, the Missouri Association for Adult Continuing Education, and the National Advisory Council for Adult Education, took part in lively discussions and some useful exchanges of information.

The National Advisory Council held hearings in Kansas City. Gary Eyre, Executive Director, gave not only the "rousing" keynote address, but at another session explained the impact he perceived of the new Department of Education.

After a return conference visit to North Dakota at Fargo in 1981, the group assembled in Omaha in 1982. The first conference outside of Omaha was in Des Moines and the site was revisited again in 1983. That original Omaha-Des Moines sequence was followed by a conference in Lawrence, Kansas.

Changing from the original schedule, Kansas hosted the fortieth anniversary conference Manhattan, Kansas in April of 1984. The Kansas Adult Education Association hosted this conference led by Jim Lenz and Ted Wischrop. Everyone enjoyed a great banquet and visits to "Aggville".

The 41st Annual Conference of the MVAEA was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on April 25 and 26, 1985. The theme of the conference was "Innovations, Ideas, and Improvements in Education." The MVAEA members found Sioux Falls a dynamic, interesting, and friendly location where prices were quite reasonable. The conference was offered in cooperation with the following: Adult Continuing and Community Education Association of South Dakota, The Community Education Development Center at the University of South Dakota, Statewide Extension Services of the University of South Dakota, Division of Continuing Education, South Dakota State University, SEAVTS East Campus Sioux Falls Public Schools and Phi Delta Kappa University of South Dakota Chapter. There were 225 MVAEA members attending the excellent conference.

Minneapolis, Minnesota was the site of the 42nd Annual MVAEA Conference held on April 23-25, 1986. The theme of the conference was "Adult Education: State of the Art Teaching, Learning, Techniques, Technology, and Training." The Conference Steering Committee secured programs that built insight into both professional and personal value as it related to adult education. The conference was held at the Plaza Hotel with superb restaurants, shops, and close to theaters, shopping areas and a striking skyline and view of the Mississippi River. There were 252 MVAEA members who benefited from an outstanding conference.

April 8-10, 1987 were the dates of the 43rd Annual Conference which was held in Bismarck, North Dakota at the Kirkwood Motor Inn. President-elect G. David Massey, promised good weather and his promise came true. North Dakota was beautiful that spring and everyone enjoyed the outdoor "pitchfork fondue". The theme of the Conference was "Improving the World Starts With Improving Ourselves." Ernie Mancini's keynote address was "Simple Gifts" The 161 members who attended the conference were given gifts of hospitality, specific information that related to Adult Education, and the friendship and good times that is found by members of MVAEA.

The 44th Annual Conference of the MVAEA was held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Omni Hotel on March 23-25, 1988. This joint conference combined the members of the MVAEA and the Missouri AAACCE for a total of 314 in attendance. (Here are those in the MVAEA who can remember that the Omni Hotel was once the Union Station that saw Service Men coming and going during World War II.) Everyone enjoyed the dancing and socializing that took place at this great conference. A highlight of the conference was the awarding of the first MVAEA

Development Fund Award to Ben Bryant. This was also the year that Mary Bruning, Membership Chair, announced the membership in the MVAEA on March 24, 1998 was 435. She left that position to become MVAEA President Elect. The members were to miss the terrific job she performed as Membership Chair.

A first event took place in 1988 when G. David Massey brought about the first MVAEA Officers Retreat, which was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Participants responded to two questions "What is the present purpose of MVAEA?" and "What would you like MVAEA to be five years from now?"

The year 1989 was also eventful. The 45th annual conference held at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center in Omaha, Nebraska with a total of 273 people attending was organized by President Elect Mary Bruning. A very good registration from Kansas, Iowa and North Dakota as well as that from Nebraska was experienced. The entertainment, a Talent Show from each state, is remembered by all who attended.

This was also the first year for the Leadership Academy. Two people from each of the states participated in a two-day learning experience held in late June 1989. A team from IBM provided the training to the leaders from each state and the MVAEA Board. Following this very successful academy, it became an annual event.

The 46th annual conference was held in Sioux City, Iowa at the Hilton Hotel on April 5-6, 1990. Kathy Brock, President Elect was responsible for an outstanding program. Many convention goers remember the program which included special attractions from the Iowa delegation. The Key Note Speaker was Ralph G. Brockett, Associate Professor in the Department of Adult Education at the University of Tennessee. His topic was "Creating a Vision for the New Century." The group also heard a message entitled "Becoming Politically active in the 90's" given by Judy Koloski, Executive Director of AAACE. Over 200 people attended this conference. The first silent auction to raise money for the MVAEA Development Fund was initiated at this conference.

A pin was designed which included the logo in 1990. The pin was provided to all members for the first time at the 47th conference in Overland Park, Kansas in 1991.

April 11, 12, and 13 were the dates of this conference held near Kansas City. Attendance was 434 with Kansas having a large delegation. A contribution of nearly \$5,000.00 was made to the treasury from profits at the conference and over \$6,000 was taken in as membership dues. Over \$1,000 was raised by the silent auction and contributed to the MVAEA Development Fund. Keynote speakers were Harold L. Hodgkinson, Director of Policy in the Institute for Educational Leadership and Walter Anderson, Editor of Parade Magazine and the author of Read with Me.

Many of the people in attendance remember the outstanding entertainment with a dance, fun walk/run, strolling strings and hospitality.

The group moved to Bismarck, North Dakota for the 48th Annual Conference in April of 1992 at the Civic Center. The excellent program, a joint conference with CO ABE, was held at the Kirkwood Radisson and is remembered for its record number of 512 registrations as well as an excellent program. Bob Glock, President Elect, and able assistant Randy Eider planned some great hospitality and educational sessions.

The 49th Annual Conference was held at the Sheraton Park Place in Minneapolis, Minnesota in April of 1993. Delegations from Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota were the largest and a total attendance of over 250 people. President Elect, Bella Hanson organized the program along with her committee from Minnesota. The last keynote session where the group learned to speak "Minnesota." Will long be remembered.

South Dakota hospitality was truly great at the 50th Annual Conference held in Rapid City on April 13, 14, and 15, 1994. Barb Audley headed up a conference planning committee that put together a conference that truly was memorable. The theme was "Rushmore '94 Go for the Gold", with the keynote speaker David W. Stewart, Director of Program Development, The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials, American Council on Education. He spoke on facts, arguments and power that can advance adult education.

Long lasting memories of the bus tours to Deadwood and Mount Rushmore, the scenic drives, gambling, and the fantastic entertainment provided by Native American dancers were made.

Blenda Van Slyck headed up the planning committee of the 51st Annual Conference in 1995. The theme of the conference, held at the beautiful Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri, was "Springtime in Missouri - A Season to Grow." Over 300 members attended this conference.

Ronald Gross was one of the featured speakers. Editor-at-Large of "Adult and Continuing Education Today" and author of over 20 books, his address topic was "Adult Education and the Brain Revolution." Highlights included playing "Peak Performance Poker" and mastering the Six Hats method of Whole Brain Thinking.

Another general session presented by T. Mami Vos provided humor to the conference attendees. She informed the group of the value of being good to yourself, accepting yourself, forgiving yourself, celebrating a sense of community, and joyfulness. Participants enjoyed her fresh, honest, and clean humor.

The dinner cruise on the lake and the special entertainment following the awards banquet in addition to fun dancing, great golfing and fine cuisine were enjoyed.

"It's a Jingle Out There" was the theme of the 52nd Annual Conference held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Regency Best Western Inn on April 10, 11, and 12, 1996. Richard Wright held an informal dialogue on his vision of adult education. James Boyer from Kansas State University shared his perspective on the direction adult education must take in order to cope with the challenge of educational equity. Sister Marie Michetto entertained the group at lunch with "Changes in adult education? I've been so busy trying to manage the changes in my own life that I hadn't noticed."

Burgeoning technology. Slash and burn budget cuts. Rampant growth. The culturally diversified global village right here in the Midwest. These all were part of the excellent conference hosted by Nebraska and planned by Mona Callies and her committee. Highlights included good food and entertainment and a visit to the Old Market.

After months of planning, a few nights of lost sleep, and incredible cooperation, the 53rd Annual Conference became a reality on April 23-25, 1997. One hundred and seventy-five adult educators experienced the theme "Lifelong learning in the Heartland" at the Sioux City Convention Center.

The concurrent sessions offered varied learning opportunities from around the region for the adult practitioners. Sessions fell into seven learning tracks including higher education, community education, personal development, family and health, technology, industrial training, and adult basic education. Such topics as learner centered curriculum, collaborative projects linking community and adult education, managed enrollment, assessment, lifelong learning in a global society, work site training, empowering your staff, bosses are dead, delivering Internet services to students, campus on campus, distance learning, and measuring success of credit program is only a sampling of the 35 sessions delivered. The "Kaleidoscope of Ideas" supplied networking time among educators with similar interests. Activities included participatory as well as entertainment options. Participants visited the Sioux City Art Center, performed in or watched the seven-state talent show, purchased from and provided wares for the Presenter Market place and bid on and donated silent auction items.

Tom Haskell, a member of the planning committee summed up the work of the Conference Planning Committee in a follow up letter to Barb Stephens. "Were we supposed to have a follow-up meeting? Maybe I'm suffering from Conference Planning Committee withdrawal!" It was a great feeling to be done for seven years, however. Now I look forward to hosting hospitality for the 2003 conference.

The 54th Annual Conference was back again to Kansas at the Double Tree Hotel, in Overland Park where the members used 170 rooms. "A Celebration in the Heartland" was the theme of this outstanding conference. Keynote speaker Glenn Van Ekeren told us "Don't wait for the future.. Create it!" Fred Krebs portrayed William Allen White at one of the general sessions. William Allen told the group about his days as a politician and journalist.

Conference memories include the great times in Kansas City, the fun run and the return of the strolling strings at the awards banquet. A profit of \$5,000.00 was experienced at the Kansas conference in 1998.

"Discover the Spirit! Lifelong Learning": this statement became the Mantra for the planning committee and the folks that went to Fargo to attend the 55th annual MVAEA conference. The theme encouraged all participants to rekindle the enthusiasm and excitement that brought each of them into the world of adult education. The conference was held April 21, 22, and 23, 1999, at the Holiday Inn of Fargo. One hundred and fifty members, ten exhibitors, twenty-five concurrent sessions, presenters and two keynote speakers attend the conference. In addition, collaboration with the regional educational equity association brought in fifty outside educators.

Lalonn Steiner of Excell Corporation presented the kickoff keynote talk. Her speech, "Discover the Spirit and Then Take Action" motivated participants to seek revitalization and put it to work changing the lives of the Adult Learners we all work with. Patty Corwin, of North Dakota State University, presented the Friday opening session. Her fast pace speaking style combined with the motivational tone of her message sparked the spirits for all those who attended.

Sessions on technology, management, personal interest, and planning were available to provide opportunities for growth in these and many other traditional adult education topics.

Teddy Roosevelt, the North High Jazz ensemble, and the Strolling Strings added a cultural flare to the conference. When all was said and done, the conference netted a \$5500 dollar profit.

The Radisson Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota was the site of the 2000 conference. "Reflections from the Mississippi Learning to Navigate Change" was the theme of the 56th annual conference held on April 26-28. A very successful pre-conference institute, "Coaching- Helping Others Help Themselves" was conducted by Keith Johansen from Capella University on April 26.

Following a welcome by President Elect Sharon Luhring and the presentation of colors, Dr. Peter Vaill from the University of St. Thomas presented a keynote address "If Leading and Managing Change is All There is, What is Here to Be a Professor of?"

Twenty five concurrent sessions kept with the theme of "managing change." The courtyard and exhibits/book table were enjoyed by the attendees. The silent auction was a great success and hospitality wonderful.

The conference ended with a keynote address from Vivian Jenkins Nelson, International Institute for Interracial Interaction. Her address "Eight Steps to Recovery from Midwestern Nihilism: Acknowledging the 'isms' within us" was extremely thought provoking.

Over 200 participants left this conference with a feeling of having learned a great deal and a challenge to prepare for change.

The 57th Missouri Valley Adult Education Association annual conference "Gateway to Learning" convened at the Sheraton Hotel in Sioux Falls, SD on March 28-30, 2001. Nearly 200 members registered for the conference with less than 20 registered only for the pre-conference. Thirteen vendors were present. The pre-conference training GED 2002 had over one hundred attendees. Topics covered were the GED/Scientific Calculator, Fair Opportunities in Testing, GED/Writing, GED Plus program and Goal Setting for NRS. Presenters were Karen Englehart, Elvin Long, Gene Dickson and Maria Hess. All enjoyed a fun reception by Missouri state attendees. Missouri will host the MVAEA 2002 conference planned for Lake Ozark, Missouri, June 11-13, 2002.

The Junior ROTC Color Guard of Washington High School began the official kickoff and welcome by MVAEA President Elect Claudette Reichert. Dr. Crystal Arlene Kuykendall's presentation on "Bringing out the Best in "Everyone" reflected on the impact all educators have on individuals as "Merchants of Hope." Her own life experiences, insights and educational perspectives were heartwarming and energizing. Forty-eight concurrent sessions had something for everyone. Past Presidents recognized at the noon Luncheon were Dr. John Henschke, Kathy Brock, Barb Stephens, Howard Hovland, Joe Mildreder and Randy Eider. The Herd Award was won by North Dakota, a Holstein cow on a Harley Davidson.

The Washington High School Classic Connections entertained conference attendees at the annual award banquet. Over \$1100 dollars was raised for the Development Fund with the silent auction.

Joan Auchter, executive Director of the General Education Development Testing Service (GEDTS) was the keynote speaker on Friday morning. The morning concluded with a lunch box social and thanks and gifts from retiring MVAEA President, Sharon Luhring. Michelle Hansen shared the Missouri Proclamation. Cash prizes and a Terry Redlin print drawing brought the conference to a close. (All departed with reflections on their 2001 MVAEA conference experiences.)

The annual conference "Islands of Opportunity" convened at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of Ozarks, Missouri on June 11, 12, and 13, 2002. The conference was well attended with five hundred twenty six members registered. This was the first year that the Leadership Academy was held as a pre conference activity. There were forty members in attendance at the Leadership Academy to participate with Gil Kennunen on ways to show appreciation for individual and team performance. Mark Muehnick was the keynote speaker. His presentation dealt with Gen Xers and Generation Y. Following the keynote presentation, Nebraska hosted a reception by the pool and invited everyone to attend the conference in Omaha in April of 2003.

Forty-eight concurrent sessions allowed everyone a wide variety from which to choose. The Past Presidents in attendance at the noon luncheon were Sharon Luhring, John Henchman, Blenda Marquardt, Mona Callies, Randy Eider, Barb Stephens and Joe Mildreder. The Herd Award was given to Kansas for the most members in attendance other than the host state.

Over \$1700 was raised for the Development Fund at the silent auction. Lois Heidert and Paulette Isaac were recipients of \$1500 from the Development Fund. Bob Weng was the Founders Award recipient.

The last morning was highlighted by Claudette Reichert being recognized for her contributions as out-going President. President Greg Nolting introduced the new board. The capstone speaker, a former Miss Tennessee, Lisa Haushauer talked with attendees about better communications. The group left the lake atmosphere with ideas for a better year.

The 2003 MVAEA Annual Conference, "Charting a Course to Success", was held at the Double Tree Hotel in Omaha NE on April 2, 3, and 4. One hundred forty-five attended the event, which opened with an Omaha Boy Scout troop providing the color guard presentation of the flags.

Albert Mensah from Seattle, Washington served as the Keynote Speaker with his presentation of "The Art of Possibility". It began with a darkened room, a short movie presentation, and then Albert entered the room to music from his country of origin, Ghana Africa. Unfortunately his entrance was spoiled by feedback of microphones. After a rush by many of us to terminate the screeching, Albert gracefully recaptured the moment, and led the audience into a captivating presentation.

Twenty-five concurrent sessions were provided with a variety of topics. Many of the presenters were MVAEA members from the seven-state region, sharing their professional expertise with the conference attendees.

The Past Presidents Luncheon was highlighted with seventeen past presidents in attendance. It was exciting to see familiar faces from the near and distance past, and watching them share memories and renew friendships.

The 2003 conference also began a new tradition by attaching the Leadership Academy as a pre-conference activity. Brent Askins of Western Kentucky University served as presenter for "Dealing with Difficult People". Fifty people attend the Academy, increasing past attendance records.

Credit to the Conference's success is due to those who served on the Planning Committee: Michael Turner, Diana Watson, Ron Kluck, Mona Callies, Nancy Holman, Nancy Aden-Fox, Margaret William, Marilyn Cotton, Amber Schroeder, and Terry Remig. Net conference profits to MVAEA were \$10,233.69.

The 2004 MVAEA conference celebrated 66 years of the organization. Members of the association met March 31, April 1 and 2, 2004 at the Sioux City Convention Center. One hundred fourteen adult educators attended the conference from throughout the region. The theme of the conference centered on the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition; "Embark on a Learning Expedition."

The Leadership Academy was organized by Greg Nolting, Past President of MVAEA. Nancy Wiegge presented "Creating Teams That Work Real Magic." The Leadership Academy was well attended with nearly half of all the conference attendees participating in the afternoon workshop.

Kansas hosted the evening reception at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. A bus made to look like an old trolley car transported the MVAEA members from the hotel to the interpretive center located next to the Missouri River. Kansas welcomed everyone with plenty of food, regional gifts, and great entertainment.

The Sioux City Air Guard opened the conference with an inspirational history and presentation of the U.S. flag. Keynote presenter, Mark Johnson, presented a patriotic and motivational opening session to get the conference off to a great start.

The concurrent sessions included four tracks built around ABE, GED, Business & Industry, Distance Learning, Family and Consumer Sciences, and other areas of adult education. Such topics as "Irlen Syndrome", "Training for Low and Immigrants and Refugees", "Maximizing the Impact of Training", and "Feng Shui Your Desktop" were a sampling of the twenty breakout sessions available.

The Past Presidents Luncheon honored twelve former MVAEA Presidents. The evening banquet and awards ceremony was again presented by Tom Haskell; his delightful humor added to the award festivities. Musician Dave Moore provided musical entertainment following the dinner. Evening activities and entertainment followed the awards ceremony.

The conference concluded with a capstone address by Kathy Peterson entitled: "Leaving a Legacy." The conference had been a wonderful success. Many Iowa VAEA members worked diligently to make this a wonderful experience for everyone who attended.

Bright blue skies and warm temperatures welcomed adult educators from the seven states of the Missouri Valley to the Holiday Inn, Fargo, North Dakota for the 2006 Iowa VAEA Conference, "Expanding Horizons". Held April 26-28th, this conference gathered 121 adult education professionals together to hear the provocative messages of Keynote speaker Karen Ray and Capstone presenter, Ann Dolence. From beginning to end, the conference provided a formula for new paradigm of collaboration and tools for realizing our goals.

Karen Ray, of Karen Ray Associates, provided strategies for forming effective collaboration and evaluating existing partnerships. Her realistic and pragmatic approach provided essential skills for team building and evaluating our partnering relationships, whether in the classroom or the administrative structures of our organizations. Ann Dolence, with both humor and substance, cautioned us not to get too comfortable with where we are "at" and provided a challenge to dare to dream new dreams for our personal and professional lives. Each speaker provided ample insight to Expand our Horizons.

Between these inspiring speakers, a wide spectrum of learning opportunities was available with diverse breakout sessions selected to build skills in providing instruction, insight and leadership in the field of adult education. The most often heard comment from participants was "but I want to go to two sessions at this time block". The great state of Iowa captured the HERD Award with twelve members in attendance.

The days were very full. Leadership academy, Minnesota hospitality, Residents Breakfast, Silent Auction, vendors, and special meals and special entertainment filled all the spare moments between those great educational opportunities. It was a fun! Much appreciation goes to all who worked so hard to make it happen and all the wonderful Iowa VAEA members in attendance.

REMINISCENCES

In October of 1983 the Historian wrote to sixteen past presidents of Missouri Valley Adult Education Association asking them to write paragraphs or so about their term in office. Twelve responded. The large number responding surely indicates their continued interest and devotion to MVAEA. After that time, the historians have attempted to continue the practice. What follows are the comments in chronological order, somewhat edited:

1965-66

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association's Annual Conference was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on April 21-22, 1966.

The conference being held in Sioux Falls was instrumental in the formation of the South Dakota Adult Education Association that year. Howard Hovland, the local chairman of the conference said: "We are off to a good start as an association in South Dakota thanks to MVAEA."

Workshops were held on the expected impact of the Economic Opportunity Act, the Higher Education Act, The Vocational Act of 1963, and the Manpower Development Training Act. 1965-66 was an interesting year indeed for the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association!

Chester H. Gausman

Grand Island, Nebraska

1966-67

Try as I may, I cannot relate my thoughts to the year 66-67. Instead, I thought you might appreciate some early episodes, particularly relating to individuals

One of the early men was Everett Hosman of Omaha who had one specialty of instructing church members. We had him come to Ames in my church, First Methodist. His presentation was good. Mary Myers of the Des Moines' public schools and later Drake University was one of the early boosters for Missouri Valley. Len Davies was the first director of Adult Education as such at Iowa State University. Hew Roberts, the colorful Australian from Perth, who worked with me in the forties to try to encourage public schools in Iowa to organize Adult Education classes

I was the first consultant in Adult Education in the State Department of Public Instruction in Iowa. I was called to Iowa State in 1950 as the Specialist in Adult Education assigned to

Cooperative Extension, assignment unheard-of in both Iowa state and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. I was one of the pioneers in teaching off campus for University Credit at ISU. I taught Ed. 536 General Adult Education and 537 Methods in Adult Education. We had no textbooks so we wrote our own Methods in Adult Education by Morgan (now deceased), Holmes and Bundy, not into its fourth printing.

And there were the persistent efforts of the late Bill Stacy, first Ph.D. in Adult Education in America. His efforts were often unappreciated, but his intent was dedication and commitment unsurpassed by anyone.

Glenn E. Holmes

Ames, Iowa

1968-69

Missouri Valley Adult Education has always carried a grassroots approach to adult education. It remains concurrent with the needs of the immediate membership and has been consistently uncompromising towards this effort. I am confident that it is for this reason that the MVAEA is the oldest regional Adult Education Association of the nation. I hope the organization will continue to serve its membership.

It is this approach of service to the experienced as well as to the inexperienced membership, which gave me great satisfaction in my year as its president.

Dr. Stacy did a super job of carrying out the task of gathering information, writing and publishing the special 25th Silver Anniversary publication of MVAEA. This was also, the year the practice of presenting the incoming president an attaché case in which he/she could carry MVAEA business was initiated.

Another outstanding aspect of MVAEA was the association with the people belonging to the organization. There were many dedicated, concerned and hard-working individuals who had strong convictions for the adult education movement. We must never forget it is the services to the membership that makes any association survive and thrive.

As I am now retired from professional service in education, I continue to learn and find myself extremely busy. Greeting to all MVAEA members, the "old timers"

Howard Hovland

Baltic, South Dakota

1971-72

The outstanding officer selected by the Association highlighted 1971-72. I especially remember the great contributions of Gordon Wasinger (Iowa), J. I. Pennington (North Dakota), and Conrad DeJardin (Iowa)- all three of whom became leaders nationally in adult education. The conference was held in St Paul, Minnesota the weather was cold but we had excellent attendance. Each of the sessions was very informative although we did have a problem as to how aspresiding.

Bill Ghan

Adult and Community Education
Jefferson City, Missouri

1972-73

I searched my files to find a highlight or significant event from my years as President and found..

When I was President in 1972-73, MVAEA became an affiliate of the National Association for Adult & Continuing Education, NAPCAE. I was proud to accept the Affiliation Charter at the NAPCAE Annual Conference at the Fellowship Luncheon in Minneapolis on November 19, 1972. (MVAEA was already an affiliate of the Adult Education Association of the USA.) An observation: MVAEA has always been an open organization, with members from all types of agencies and organizations.

It is interesting to note that the two organizations with which MVAEA was affiliated, NAPCAE and AEA, have merged into what is now the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education.

I also recall that Bill Stacy was MVAEA Journal Editor for many years. He relinquished this responsibility in 1972, but retained the job of historian. Glenn Holmes, then professor of Education at Iowa State University wrote a fine "Salute to Bill Stacy" in the pre-conference issue of The Journal of the MVAEA, March 1973. Jim Sheldon, of Des Moines took over as publications editor and saw to the production of that publication. And Jim also produced a fine post-conference journal before his untimely death on June 24, 1983.

Bill Stacy was the first MVAEA member to be awarded an honorary life membership, which I

had the pleasure of presenting to Bill in April of 1973.

Conrad DeJardin

Low Valley Continuing Education
Marshalltown, Iowa

1973-74

The election the year I became President created problems for the organization. The slate presented by the nominating committee was not acceptable to some members present, and a second slate was presented from the floor. That slate was elected and the person from Kansas who expected to become president-elect as well as others of influence from the Kansas membership, were very angry and boycotted the organization for a time. The new Executive Board had to appoint a treasurer because the treasurer who had been elected from Kansas resigned under pressure. It took patience and tact of several succeeding presidencies to bring Kansas back into active support of MVAEA. Clint Hamner was especially helpful in healing the rift. He has been honored with the Founders Award. And this year we meet for our fortieth conference in the state of Kansas where we honored the first President, Perdue Graves. Time heals.

Jane B. Sellen

Western Iowa Tech Community College
Sioux City, Iowa

1974-75

The 1974 Valley Convention in St. Louis will always be a special remembrance to me. I was president-elect/program chairman, and on the evening prior to the opening session, my local committee chairperson became seriously ill. He was taken to a local emergency room and hospitalized for the duration of the convention. "Panicky time" - but we overcame with the help of other Missourians and the "show went on." (That's one annual convention I will always remember!)

Jay Willows

Adult and Vocational Education
Columbia, Missouri

1976-77

An outstanding and memorable event that took place during my term, as president of the MVAEA was the creation of the Founder's Award and the presentation to the first recipient, Elmer Mueller.

Thinking back.. what a dedicated effort on the part of George Thompson, the prime mover, to see that this award was to become the most coveted award of the MVAEA. Little did I realize at the time that I would receive this award five years later.

At the annual MVAEA conference in Kansas City, Kansas, one of the frustrating/funny situations arose when the floral centerpiece was put in the freezer by mistake, and when it was later put on the speakers' table, the flowers thawed out - they looked sick, sick, sick! We used them anyway.

Clint J. F. Hammer

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Kansas City, Kansas

1978-79

The highlight of the 1978 conference in Sioux Falls was the extra support given to MVAEA by South Dakota. For a state not typically known for its support of or involvement this MVAEA, South Dakotans became the majority of the participants to nearly establish some all-time MVAEA conference attendance records.

The 1976, 77, and 78 conferences provided the much needed financial stability for MVAEA.

Robert Schlimgen

Northwest Technical Community College
Norfolk, Nebraska

1979-80

One of the outstanding memories I have as president was meeting adult educators from the seven states represented in Missouri Valley. Without a doubt they are among the friendliest, most dedicated teachers I have had the pleasure of knowing. The 36th conference at Kansas

City, which was also ably planned by Ann Lein Gibson, was a show case for the talent of many of them. In addition, I was fortunate to be the first president of M VAEA to have the President's Plaque hung in our department office for academic year. Thanks to Bob Schlimgen, each president can enjoy this beautiful tangible tribute.

I believe I was the first president to have the unmitigated gall to submit an expense account to the board and urge the board to consider expenses of board members. This was brought on by fiscal belt-tightening by the institution employing adult educators.

Maxine Shaw

Bankato State University

Bankato, Minnesota

1981-82

?? Efforts to support the merger of AEA and NAPA CAE.

?? Professional commitment to adult education from the membership.

?? Rally to head off significant federal cutbacks in adult education.

?? Strengthening of the role of state representatives on the board.

Reuben Guenther

State Board for Vocational Education

Bismarck, North Dakota

1982-83

In our association there has been a commitment among board members that goes beyond expectations. This administrative year was no exception. I remember the dedicated individuals who developed and began carrying out five long-range goals of M VAEA:

1. To maintain the kind of relationship/climate/professional growth that has characterized M VAEA
2. To re-establish the state representatives as the key liaison for the operational dimensional operations of M VAEA

3. To re-examine and re-evaluate the public relations of M VAEA
4. To insure a quality and comprehensive 1983 Annual Conference
5. To maintain and enhance the fiscal integrity of M VAEA

A personal highlight for me was attending the state adult education association conferences in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri where I represented M VAEA and presented two workshops. This action was in helping to meet goal #1 above.

Elmer Miller

Division of Continuing Studies
 University of Nebraska at Lincoln
 Lincoln, Nebraska

1983-84

I will always have fond memories of M VAEA. I believe I was the first membership chairman. I had only been to one M VAEA conference before Rachel Goodwin asked me if I would allow her to place my name on the slate. I'm glad I said yes because it brought me lots of experiences and many wonderful friendships.

Some significant events during my tenure were getting the organization incorporated when I was treasurer; our support of North Dakota's bid for AAACE; and our campaign to keep the M VAEA region intact when AAACE was redefining their regional structure. There were a lot of fun and funny things during my term as president-elect and president. I remember part of the ceiling in the hotel collapsing during a conference presentation, the pent-house suite in the Hotel Savary, the willingness of everyone to work hard to make the conference a success, the large number of Kansas that traveled to Iowa's conference to encourage everyone to go to Kansas the following year, the Nebraska singers (Mary, Carol, Jim, and Elmer) and the Country Western music.

I am enjoying my new job and new home, but I must admit that I miss my M VAEA friends. The University of Scranton is a great place to work and I have an excellent staff. Unlike many private universities, U of S is growing. Enrollment is increasing and we are building new facilities to take care of the growth.

Shirley M. Kolner

University of Scranton
 Scranton, Pennsylvania

1984-85

The things I remember about my presidency seem to blend together with my year as president-elect. The most satisfying thing I remember is the cooperation of everyone. The quality of the Board and members and our Conference Planning Committee was just outstanding. The increase in participation at the Kansas Conference and the increase in membership for MVAEA were very nice to see. The thing I remember, however, is the wonderful work on the part of the total organization, which resulted in these increases.

Jim Lenz

Dodge City Community College
Dodge City, Kansas

1985-86

In 1948, Graham Hutton wrote about our area in Midwestern, saying most of the people in the region physically age and die sooner than those in other parts of the country. It's not true. The data collected on the Midwestern refutes it showing that Midwesterners don't age as rapidly and live longer. This is a sort of thing that happens when someone is selected or appointed to the board, (if you don't age more rapidly) you have some fixed impression and you think you understand the organization. Then you really look at the results at the end only to find that the board, the organization, and the way it works is really something different. It's very, very interesting; it's positive and maybe at times kind of mysterious. I think it happens because of the concern, creative ideas, hard work, and in my experience, the patience and understanding that everyone has for one another. I consider the time I have spent on the MVAEA board as a significant time in which I developed personally and professionally.

Jack Sumner

Vermillion, South Dakota

1986-87

Officers Harlan G. Copland (President), G. David Massey (president-elect) L. T. Smiley (Secretary), John Mowrer (Treasurer) and Mary Bruning (Membership Chair) were installed April 25, 1986 at the 42nd Annual Conference in Minneapolis. Jim Lightbody and Clint Hammer accepted appointments as Publications Editor and Historian respectively.

During 1986-87, The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association attracted more members (1384) than for any of the previous 42 years. Progress was made on establishing the MVAEA Development projects. Westminister, Nebraska was recognized with the Founders Award. North Dakota hosted the 43rd Annual Conference in Bismarck on April 8-10 for 161 members. David Massey and John Larsen (State Representative) provided leadership for the Conference. The Conference netted \$5,647.74 for the MVAEA treasury. Five copies of the new letter ("Happenings in the Valley"), nine copies of "The Adult Perspective," and the 1986 Conference Proceedings were distributed to members.

Haran G. Copeland

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1987-88

My tenure as the President of MVAEA began with a terrific conference in Bismarck. This conference brought many adult educators together. This was the third MVAEA conference held in North Dakota and it drew the largest attendance.

During 1987-88, MVAEA also enjoyed the largest enrollment. Thanks to the membership chair, other officers and state representatives. It was due to strong teamwork that we were able to accomplish this goal.

I also proposed that MVAEA draw closer relationships with the state association's leadership. To work towards that goal, our first planning meeting was held in St. Louis with the state presidents and presidentselect. It was a successful meeting and it was unanimously agreed upon that a working retreat be held to talk about major issues and plan for the future of MVAEA and state associations. The meeting dates were set for June 25 and 26, 1988.

My tenure as President was not without new challenges. The board and many others who were involved at the state level heavily debated the issue of conference profit sharing. After intense negotiations, it was agreed upon that AACCE and MVAEA will hold a joint conference in St. Louis and profits will be shared at 25% for AACCE and 75% for MVAEA. It was further agreed that all who attend would join MVAEA.

G. David Massey

Department of Public Instruction
Bismarck, North Dakota

1988-89

My year as president of M VAEA was launched with the annual conference in the gateway city of St. Louis. Attendance was 314, the largest in the history of the association to that date, with the conference theme "Adult Education: Gateway to the Nineties." We began to take a serious look at the future relationship of the association with the seven member states: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. M VAEA became interested in serving and contributing something important back to the states which are part of the valley.

This concern developed into one highlight of my presidential year, planning and inauguration of the Annual Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Leadership Academy was three-fold: (1) for M VAEA to provide help to the officers/leaders and others in each of the seven states Adult Education Associations in learning how to more effectively lead their state association in accomplishing their work of helping professional adult educator members; (2) to help M VAEA and state association officers/leaders develop a closer working relationship in reaching for mutual goals; and, (3) for M VAEA to more clearly understand how they could serve the educational needs of the seven states.

Each of the states sent at least two people to participate in the first Leadership Academy—a two-day learning experience held in late June of 1989. A team from IBM, as well as officers of M VAEA, helped with the leadership of the academy. It was considered to be a success with suggestions made for improving the subsequent annual Leadership Academy.

Another highlight during my presidential year was that the M VAEA also continued to

experience a strong surge in membership to an all-time high of over 515 members up to that time in our 44-year history.

John A. Henschke
University of Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

1989-90

My entire year as M VAEA president was a highlight. I had the opportunity to work with a Board of Directors that were enthusiastic, hard-working, membership-oriented, goal-directed, futuristic and very genuine people.

Our goal for the year was "Strengthen the Relationships with the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association and the seven states in the Valley." Six strategies were developed to achieve this goal and every M VAEA board member, as well as other M VAEA members, participated in the implementation of this goal in some capacity.

In keeping with the goal, I visited six of the seven states in the valley. My purpose was to let the membership of each of the states in the valley know that M VAEA was interested in their input and involvement. It was also a wonderful opportunity to talk about the many benefits of being an M VAEA member. The visits were well received and I learned a great deal about the seven states in the valley and the states learned a lot about M VAEA. I made many new friends and renewed old acquaintances.

Also during 1989-90 a Future Directions Committee was put into place and a major membership survey was completed. The purpose of the survey was to get input regarding what M VAEA can do for its members and what membership can do for M VAEA. Based on the results of this survey, the M VAEA determined its FIRST long-range plan.

M VAEA is an outstanding professional organization that sincerely cares that its membership grows, enjoys, and learns both professionally and personally. As president of the 1989-90 M VAEA Board, I can proudly say that we were very intense in moving forward with this concept.

M ary Bruning

University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska

1990-91

On April 5th & 6th, 1990, the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association held its 46th Annual Convention in Sioux City, Iowa. Key-note Speakers included Ralph G. Brockett, Associate Professor for the Department of Adult Education from the University of Tennessee who spoke on "Creating a Vision for the New Century." The Association also had the opportunity to hear Judith Kulaks. Judy spoke on "Becoming Politically Active in the 90's" a topic which related

closely to her activity in the role of Executive Director of AAACE. Judy came to our group not only as an expert in the field, but a friend and past associate. Attendance at the 1990 conference was between 200 and 250 individuals.

Although there were many highlights during the year, special attention needs to be given to those projects which occurred for the first time.

At the Sioux City conference the first Annual Silent Auction was initiated for the purpose of increasing funds in the MVAEA Development Fund.

During the year several committees were initiated with an attempt to allow members an opportunity to be more involved. A committee was established to design a lapel pin, which was provided to all members of MVAEA at the 1991 conference in Overland Park, Kansas.

This year the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Board of Directors established a policy providing a reduced conference registration for retired members with the dollars raised from this registration fee be designated to the MVAEA Development Fund.

On June 28 and 29 MVAEA held its third Leadership Academy in Omaha, Nebraska. The agenda included the following major topics:

- ?? Networking among the States by Mary Bruning, Nebraska
- ?? Assessing Your Leadership Style by John Henschke, Missouri
- ?? Goal Setting by Elmer Miller, Nebraska
- ?? Conducting Effective Meetings by Kathy Brock, Iowa

This was followed by Carousel topics included:

- ~~??~~ Fifty Tips for New Settlers by Jim Lightbody, Nebraska
- ~~??~~ Tooting Your Own Horn by Joyce Washburn and Bob Becker, Kansas
- ~~??~~ Watch Your Membership Grow by Nancy Wegge, Missouri
- ~~??~~ Getting to Know Your Members by Alan Hackel and Mary Bruning, Nebraska

Kathy Brock
Iowa

1991-92

My term of office as President of MVAEA began with a fantastic conference held in Overland Park, Kansas on April 11, 12, and 13, 1991. Kansas claimed to have the highest attendance at any conference in the history of the "Valley" with 434 people attending. The conference was also the driving force in setting a record for membership. A contribution of over \$11,000.00 was made to the treasury from profits and membership dues. Over \$1,000.00 was raised by the silent auction and contributed to the foundation fund.

Two outstanding keynote speakers presented at the conference. Harold L. Hodgkinson, Director of Policy in the Institute for Educational Leadership, provided the attendees with an overview of demographics on the seven states. Walter Anderson, Editor of Parade Magazine and the author of Read With Me spoke on the impact of reading on adult education.

The year was an outstanding one in the "Valley's" efforts to serve its members. The leadership of MVAEA established the following eight goals:

1. Continue to enhance the relationship with the member states.
2. Explore the establishment of an Executive Director position.
3. Continue to promote and build upon the MVAEA Foundation Fund.
4. Consider the establishment of an organization of past officers to support the Board.
5. Establish an appointive position of "Public Relations Officer" to inform the public of the accomplishments of the organization.
6. Develop a "marketing plan" with goals and timelines in order to expand membership.
7. Review the constitution and by-laws to assure equal representation from each state, provide that only elected officers be voting members of the Board, and limit the terms of office of the secretary and treasurer.
8. Continue to serve the individual members and states through providing excellent publications and leadership academy.

Most of the goals were accomplished by the end of the year. Goal number two and four were carried over to following years.

I am proud of the accomplishments and growth of MVAEA during my year as President and attribute the success to an extremely dedicated, active and hard working Board.

Joe M. Aldrexler
Colby Community College
Colby, Kansas

1992-93

The officers for 1992-93 year were Robert Glock, President, Bella Hanson, President Elect; Barbara Audley, Secretary; and Bob Becker, Treasurer. Appointed officers were Jim Lightbody, Publications; Elmer Miller, Historian; and Carolyn Apland, Development Fund.

The year was highlighted by largely two things: an outstanding Annual Conference that was held in Minneapolis and the work of the Board and seven committees that were formed to address seven major goals. One of the goals was to determine whether an Executive Director would/could be employed on a part-time basis for the Association and the possible funding sources for budgeting purposes.

The most exciting part of serving the Association was certainly the opportunity to work with the tremendously outstanding group of people on the Board and throughout the seven-state area. It was overwhelming and heartwarming to experience the warm, outpouring of volunteer work from the members of MVAEA and their support and strong concern for the mission of adult education throughout the region. One becomes very aware of the strength of MVAEA while working with the membership.

Bob Glock

Fargo Schools
Fargo, North Dakota

1993-94

A few months after Bill Clinton was sworn in as the 42nd President, I became president of MVAEA, with probably more fear and trepidation than even he had at his inauguration. The "Year of the Woman" had just ended, and I was mindful that I was one of a select group of women over the past fifty years to lead MVAEA. I want to serve well both my gender and organization.

Too, because it was the 50th Annual Conference, I wanted my presidency to be a memorable one— one of vision that would set the direction of MVAEA for the next fifty years. The Board came to my assistance and recommended three agenda items: 1) forums to inform members about important adult education issues in the Valley; 2) movement toward hiring an executive director for the association, and 3) commission of a fifty-year history.

It has been an exciting and productive year working with quality Board members as we have, together, reached our goals

Bella Hanson

Minnesota

1997-98

The M VAEA Board generally meets quarterly; however, the Board broke tradition and met over the T elnet system on August 28, 1997. We experience a two-way audio telecommunications conversation interstate. This was a cost savings for officers and state representatives- no mileage, meal costs, overnight accommodation, or time on the road.

President-Elect Phil Wegman and I decided to attend the seven state conferences as ambassadors for M VAEA. Phil visited South Dakota, Missouri, and Kansas. I traveled to North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa.

Ben Bryant continued as the M VAEA Field Consultant. He prepared a membership directory, which was disseminated in an edition of "Happenings in the Valley."

The Board met in Ames, Iowa in October of 1997. Parks Library located on the Iowa State University campus houses the M VAEA archives. The Board visited the library and was pleased to know the M VAEA history is alive through well-organized documents. M VAEA members have shared with the library.

The M VAEA website was designed by Diane Becker of Norfolk, Nebraska. The site includes membership information, state association contacts, Board members, pictures of the president and president-elect, mission and logo. The project was funded with development Fund interest money.

The fifty-fourth annual conference was hosted by Kansas. "Celebration in the Heartland" was held in Overland Park. Phil Wegman and Susan McCabe led the conference planning committee.

As president of M VAEA, I had the opportunity to meet many adult educators throughout the seven states. These new friendships will be long remembered. I had a special Board representing the diversity among adult and continuing educators.

The Board was dedicated, knowledgeable, candid, and fun. As the immortal Frank Sinatra always sang, "It was a very good year!"

Barbara Stephens

lowa

1998-99

My tenure as president was launched with a great conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas on April 1, 2 and 3, 1998. Our officers for the year included Phil Wegman, President; Barbara Stephens, Past President; Pauline Christensen, Secretary; Greg Nolting, Treasurer; Jim Lightbody, Publications; Joe Mildrexler, Historian; and LeAnna Aljets, Development Fund.

Our goals for the year included:

- 1) Increase membership in the organization through focused recruitment and retention activities
- 2) Assist the Field Consultant in his efforts to recruit and retain members
- 3) Refine the MVAEA Web page as a vehicle to promote our organization.

In an effort to recruit new members and retain existing members the team consisting of the president, president-elect, and past-president attend state adult education association conferences in the Valley to strengthen relationships and promote MVAEA. We also instituted the practice of systematic contacts with previous members who had not renewed their membership to invite them to rejoin.

During my year as president, we also investigated more effective data management and mailing systems in order to help us maintain our focus on recruitment and retention. Finally, we focused on refining and further developing the MVAEA Web page that was launched the previous year. I believe all of our goals were realized.

The entire year was a highlight for me. It was truly a privilege to serve as president and work with such an outstanding organization. The team of officers and state representatives were tremendously dedicated and positive force in moving our organization forward and attaining our goals.

Phil Wegman

Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, Kansas

1999-2000

Discover the Spirit! Of lifelong learning... This is precisely what happened as I entered my year as president of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association. The board consisted of Randy Eider, President; Phil Wegman, Past President, Kathy Petz, Secretary, Greg Nolting, Treasurer, Jim Lightbody, Publication Editor; Joe Mildrexler Historian; LeAnna Aljets Development Fund Chair; and Ben Bryant, Field Services Consultant. It also include the following dedicated and hard working state representatives Dale Amunson, Iowa; Susan McCabe, Kansas; Maxine Rossman, Minnesota; Michelle Darnell, Missouri; Wayne Erickson, Nebraska; Mary Schaefer, North Dakota; and Trudee Schur-Marsch, South Dakota.

Our goals for the year were:

1. Increase membership
2. Retain existing and past members
3. Expand member services through the website, development fund activities and others
4. Update the role of the publications

As President I personally authored and signed a letter inviting all non-renewing members to consider being a part of the adult education team ushering the Missouri Valley Association into the new century.

We instituted plans to include the MVAEA history and a variety of additional sources of adult education information, including links to other adult education sites on our home page. A new professional development travel grant was instituted to expand member services.

Updating publications became a major portion of board activities. Shortly following the conclusion of the annual conference, Jim Lightbody conveyed his intention to retire as publications director following the conclusion of the 2000 annual conference in Minnesota. Transitioning an eighteen year publications veteran was both a daunting and emotional task. A committee was formed, a new publication editor was identified and brought aboard, the look of the newsletter was revised and an agreement with a Minnesota printing firm was reached. While much was accomplished it was agreed the "publications" is to be a continuing work in progress.

Serving as President of the association is honestly a very personally rewarding experience. I can say without question that I had the privilege of serving with an excellent team of hard working

dedicated adult education professionals. It was exciting to turn over guidance of this association to the next group of enthusiastic board members.

Randy Eider
Fargo North Dakota

2000-2001

As I contemplate what to say from my year as president of your association, my first thought is to say "Thank you" for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president. I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding Board of Directors. The Board that represents the organization consists of exceptional adult educators from our seven states who have volunteered their energy and time to continue to evolve our association. I hope you join me in thanking the Board members for their willingness to share their expertise, insights, and vision.. they are a great group of people and I am thankful for the opportunity to work side by side with them for our association.

One of the major changes this past year was the new letter. We now publish one new letter instead of two. This change allows more resources, including time, to be devoted to "Happening in the valley". Sarah Kiple, our new editor, welcomed any comments or suggestions as she began her second year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Phil Wegman, a past president who chaired

The committee to review the constitution and By-Laws of the MVAEA. Thank you, Phil, for staying involved with the association and working on this project!

The Board has also been working on establishing a list serve so we can email members with notices, news, etc. Thanks to Beverly Davis and Butler County Community College in Kansas. It looks like the list serve will be up and running in the very near future!

This has been a year of changes for many of us.. whether it was a new position, family crisis or loss of a loved one. As I think about my own changes and those of my family, friends and colleagues, I find myself pausing to reflect on the important aspects of life and trying to make a more conscious effort to minimize the unimportant aspects.. a vital life long learning approach!

I also find myself thinking about a saying I heard at a retreat a few years ago: Thank you for a

restful night, thank you for the morning light, thank you for the day ahead, thank you for my life?

Sharon Luhring

Minnesota

2001-2002

It has been an honor to represent South Dakota and serve as M VAEA P resident during the past year. It has been a most rewarding experience both personally and professionally and I would encourage, recommend and support anyone who wishes to experience the fine organization of M VAEA. That was exactly my story when colleagues from South Dakota were relentless in their pursuit and refusal of anything less than yes for an answer in this endeavor. The entire success of my term as P resident is due to the wonderfully individuals I had the privilege of working with as board members. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those board members who were indispensable to me during my term as M VAEA P resident. Their expertise, talent, cooperation and time expended were assets to any business at hand.

Sharon Luhring, immediate past M VAEA P resident accepted and fulfilled the transition of M membership and Field Consultant most thoroughly. I appreciate her fine work. She is an asset to the organization. The dedication of Ben Bryant past contribution and service to this organization is commendable.

More member information is made readily available on the website. Both the M VAEA procedures manual and the conference planning manual were revised this past year. It was determined the planning manual for the yearly conference be a working document and the hosting state use suggested guidelines with their own particular circumstances. A new acquisition will be M VAEA traveling boards that are light and user friendly.

T H A N K S F O R T H E M E M O R I E S

This has been a year of challenge, growth, fun and good memories serving M VAEA:

M	Many individuals committed to service of the organization
V	Visions for excellence in life long learning
A	Appreciation for all educators with commitment
E	Expectations of growth
A	Action with a purpose of cooperation

Friends are jewels in your crown of life. M VAEA has given me special friends in special places. How wonderful to connect with great individuals despite the time and distance. A bond quickly rekindled with the next meeting.

Claudette Reichert

South Dakota

2002-2003

The year seemed to fly by with a board that consisted of Greg Nolting, President; Terry Ramig, President Elect; Claudette Reichert Past President; Barb Eisenmenger, Secretary; Tom Haskell, Treasurer; Shari Kiple, Newsletter Editor; Joe Mildrexler, Historian; LeAnna Aljets, Development Fund Chair; and Sharon Luhring, Member Services Consultant. It also consisted of the following state representatives Dale Amunson, Iowa; Beverly Davis, Kansas; Maxine Rossman, Minnesota; Leslang, Missouri; Mona Callie, Nebraska; LeAnn Aljets, North Dakota; and Lana Reich, South Dakota. I have never worked with a group that was harder working or more dedicated.

Usually the organization is trying to increase membership; however, the challenge for this board was how to best serve the 612 members. Once we dealt with this uniqueness we started trying to come up with ideas to retain members.

There are always financial challenges for organizations, but the challenges that we faced were unique. In addition to each state having financial challenges, the organization had virtually no interest income and long-term investments were not very profitable. As a result of some of our expenses increasing we voted to increase dues to \$40.

I will never forget the thrill of working with such an outstanding group. We had a lot of good laughs together and worked together as a team. There will always be challenges for the organization to deal with but because of the resiliency of the organization and the dedication of the board, it will be able to meet the challenges of the future.

Greg Nolting

Missouri

2003-2004

Looking back over my tenure as M VAEA President, we faced challenges with determination and resolve. Because of limited dollars, The Board stepped out into the world of technology and boldly placed the "Happenings in the Valley" online, eliminating the past tradition of mailing issues to its membership. Our colleagues' professional development budgets have seen decreases in recent years, forcing most to limit participation in conferences and associations. The Association is greatly appreciative to its members who have chosen to find M VAEA a great resource tool for their professional growth.

Lastly, I want to recognize the Board who served with me in my term as M VAEA President: Greg Nolting, Mona Callies, Sharon Luhring, Les Lang, Michelle Hanson, Barb Eisenmenger, Tom Haskell, Dale Amunson, Evan Bensley, Bev Davis, Diana Cohen, Lana Reich, Deb Sisco, and Shari Kiple. We had great times and have established lasting friendships. God bless you all!

Terry Ranig
Nebraska

2004 - 2005

Iowa rolled out the red carpet for the M VAEA Conference in Sioux City as the nation celebrated the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Much like the famous expedition that traversed this region 200 years ago, the 2004 M VAEA Conference introduced adult educators to our diverse "geography" in adult education. The theme for the annual conference was "Embark on a Learning Expedition." The conference committee from Iowa included a broad mix of various adult educators including 4-year institutions, community colleges, and the Iowa Department of Education. The conference dates were March 31 - April 2, 2004 at the Sioux City Convention Center. The Iowa Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL) decided not to combine the state conference with the regional (M VAEA) conference due to contractual commitments to another facility.

The M VAEA Board for 2004-2005 consisted of Evan Bensley, President; Terry Ranig, Past President; Kathy Petz, President Elect; Phil Wegman, Treasurer; Barb Eisenmenger, Secretary; Joe Mildrexler, Historian; Shari Kiple, Newsletter Editor; Michelle Hanson, Development Fund Chair; and Sharon Luhring, Membership Consultant. The State Representatives included Dale Amunson, Iowa; Beverly Davis, Kansas; Mona Callies, Nebraska; Lana Reich, South Dakota; Deb Sisco, North Dakota; Diane Cohen, Minnesota; and Michelle Hanson, Missouri.

The M VAEA Board tackled several items during my term. Some of the many agenda items covered in 2004-2005 included the purchase of M VAEA Display Board for each state. This would allow the representatives to display the M VAEA booth at their local state conference without having to mail the display board from state to state. New M VAEA Membership brochures were ordered after they were revised. M VAEA notepads were also ordered to be handed out the conference in 2005. The *Happenings in the Valley* newsletter continued with its second year of being mailed electronically to the membership. The Board experimented with a Consent Agenda for the meetings following suggestions by the Kansas and North Dakota representatives who were already using it for their state association meetings. It had been five years since the M VAEA History had been revised and Joe Milder tackled the project with zeal!

We were unsuccessful in conducting a brainstorming session during 2004-2005. The idea behind a brainstorming session would have been to explore new ways to increase membership while clearly defining M VAEA's role in adult education. Diane Cohen suggested the brainstorming session, but due to deteriorating weather conditions, we had to cancel it during our January Board meeting.

I am proud of the substantial ground this Board covered during my year as President. I am especially proud of the hard work and dedication the conference committee performed to make the lowa M VAEA Conference a success. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board as your President.

Evan Bensley

lowa

2005-2007

Challenging, stimulating and gratifying... the years as president elect and president of M VAEA were all of these, both for me personally and M VAEA as an organization. I became president-elect of the organization in Kansas City, Kansas in March, 2005. I remember the apprehension of stepping into the shoes of the many successful past leaders of this organization. This feeling was further magnified by the sudden and unexpected resignation of the M VAEA president in the fall of 2005. According to bylaws, I assumed the role of president as well as carrying forward the president-elect responsibilities. As a president I faced challenges, so did M VAEA as an organization. However, no productive change comes without challenge. With the experience and support of a strong M VAEA Board, the challenges stimulated effective changes. The board at the time of this transition included: Mary Schaefer, President and President-Elect, Evan Bensley, Past President, Karen Ulaniski, Secretary, Phil Wegman, Treasurer, Dale Amunson, Publications Liaison, Greg Nolting, Historian, Rhonda Jones, Development Fund. State

representatives included Dale Amunson, Iowa, Beverly Davis, Kansas, Bella Hanson, Minnesota, Michelle Hanson, Missouri, Deb Sisco, North Dakota and Lori Kwasienski, South Dakota. Past president Terry Ranig of Nebraska also contributed her time to help facilitate the transition. The excellent contributions of Sharon Luhring, Membership Services Consultant and Sarah Kiple, Newsletter editor were also much appreciated.

To be effective, organizations must evolve with the times and adapt. The MVAEA Board recognized this need. As an organization, we faced the need to change organizational by-laws to allow continuity in leadership on the MVAEA Board in the positions of secretary and treasurer. The MVAEA Board initiated a proposed by-law change to change the length of term of both these positions from one year to two year terms with the possibility of re-nomination for an additional two years. Also proposed was the change the number of times the executive board would be required to meet and allow the possibility of electronic meeting when necessary. These changes were adopted by the MVAEA membership in the general business meeting in April 2006. These changes support the continuity of the organization and enhance the opportunities for participation in the MVAEA Board by busy professionals doing the work in our field. Also during my term as president, the MVAEA Board reviewed and revised the conference planning manual into a workable document for the future as well as updated the MVAEA Procedures manual.

At the close of my two year term as president, MVAEA as an organization remained strong. Successful conferences provided continued MVAEA membership. The MVAEA Board has provided management to preserve a solid financial base. I so value the opportunity to have worked with two dedicated MVAEA Boards. The support and commitment of these individuals to both this organization and to the field of adult education is inspiring. I also appreciate our members throughout the seven states who work each day to support our learners and better adult education. Thank you for the privilege to serve as the president of Missouri Valley Adult Education Association 2005-2007.

Mary Schaefer
North Dakota

2007-2008

Leslie Shore
Minnesota

2008-2009

As I prepare to perform my final responsibilities as M VAEA President at the annual Conference, I pause to reflect on everything that has brought me to this point.

In the fall of 2006, I said "yes" and agreed to plan the 2008 M VAEA Conference in Iowa. That led to accepting the position of President-Elect at the Minnesota Conference in 2007. Even before officially being elected, the planning process was in full swing. I had the privilege of working with a fantastic group of Iowaans to plan a conference in the summer of 2008. The Mid America Center in Council Bluffs was the home of the 2008 M VAEA Conference. At the conclusion of the conference the gavel was passed and I assumed the duties of M VAEA President.

When I first agreed to take on this responsibility, someone told me how great the people would be to work with. What they didn't tell me was just how great this experience would be. I have had the opportunity to work with a wonderful Board of Directors. The knowledge and support this group has shared with me has been unbelievable. I've always heard 'time flies when you are having fun'. Well, this life journey must have been a "blast" because these past months have absolutely flown by. There have been some challenges along the way, such as budget cuts, reduction in funding, and state associations having difficulties, but each challenge was viewed as an opportunity for growth and was dealt with professionally by a dynamic and energetic Board. My sincere thanks go out to the Board for their expertise, energy, knowledge and vision as they have made my tenure as President an exceptional experience.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the membership of M VAEA for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as President of your organization. This experience has surely been very rewarding, both professionally and personally. I have gained new friends and colleagues that will be with me far beyond my years in adult education. Thank You!

Steve Allison

Iowa

A HISTORY OF ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS AND PROGRAMS IN THE SEVEN STATES

Introduction

In the first part of this Historical Record the record of achievements of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association was chronicled. The purpose of this second section of the Historical Record is to chronicle activities of the seven state adult education associations and adult education programs in those seven states the past fifty years. The story of adult education in the seven states over the past fifty years includes seven decades, starting with the decade of the 1930s and concluding with the decade of the 2000s.

The history of adult education in the seven states and of the MVAEA, of course, did not start exactly at one point in time; for history is a continuum. Long before the decade of the 1930s adult education was practiced in the seven states, starting probably with the Prairie Indians who first occupied the area comprising the seven states of the MVAEA. Certainly, there were adult education associations and programs in the region before the 1930s and before the creation of the MVAEA. For example, as early as 1881 the University of Minnesota General Extension Division offered an evening class for credit in engineering drawing; in 1878 Iowa established a Danish Folk School; in 1887 Nebraska established a Danish Folk School; in 1888 Minnesota established a Danish Folk School; in 1895 the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Public Schools offered reading and writing classes for foreign born adults and in 1918 Mason City (Iowa) Junior College was organized as a division of the local secondary school district.

This section of the Historical Record, in commemoration of MVAEA's Fiftieth Annual Conference, held at Rapid City, South Dakota, and is not intended to be a complete history of adult education activities in the Region. Rather it is intended to delineate some state association histories and some state programs and activities that have occurred the past fifty years. These histories have not existed in a vacuum apart from other human events. In recognition of this phenomenon, this section of the Historical Record will weave in other historical events occurring in the Nation and the world as they have related to adult education in the seven states.

The Decade of the 1930s: The Ascend Period

The Decade of the 30s was a seminal decade for adult education in the nation as well as in the seven states of the MVAEA. It was a decade when the seven states became a national force with tremendous influence and vitality in many different arenas in the nation. In 1928, the first president ever to be elected from one of the seven states was elected. In 1928 Herbert Hoover, born in West Branch, Iowa, became our 31st president. The national economy at the beginning of the decade was at the zenith of prosperity and near the end at the nadir, collapsing into the Great Depression and the world on the brink of World War II.

In part, support for the emergence of adult education in the region came from the founding of the American Association for Adult Education (AAAE) in 1926, the publication of Edward Lindeman's *The Meaning of Adult Education* the same year and the publication in 1928 of Thorndike's *Adult Learning*, which showed the capacity of people to continue to learn into and throughout adulthood. Ten years later B. F. Skinner, adult educator and psychology at the University of Minnesota where he remained until 1945.

Other publications included the first *Handbook of Adult Education in the United States* (1934) published by AAAE and the second *Handbook of Adult Education in the United States* published in 1936. A third publication of note was the *Adult Education Journal*, published by AAAE from the beginning of the decade through 1939.

As adult education developed during the decade as a profession, so did university programs develop to prepare adult educators. The 1936 AAAE *Handbook of Adult Education in the United States* listed forty-nine universities which offered courses in adult education. Teachers College, Columbia University, already had developed a degree sequence. Colleges and universities in the Region which had courses to train leaders and teachers of adults included the following:

- a) Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Department of Home Economics Education
- b) University of Minnesota, College of Education, Extension Division
- c) Northeast Missouri State Teachers College

Colleges and universities listed as having university and college extension programs included the following:

- a) Iowa State College, Engineering Extension Service
- b) State University of Iowa, University Extension Division
- c) University of Kansas, Division of University Extension
- d) University of Minnesota, General Extension Division
- e) University of Missouri, Division of University Extension

- f) University of Nebraska Division of University Extension
- g) University of North Dakota Division of University Extension
- h) University of South Dakota Division of University Extension

Following the birth of AAAE in 1926, nascent adult education associations began to blossom in the Region. One of the first state associations was the Minnesota Council for Adult Education (MCAE), which was organized in 1930, following the disbanding of the Minnesota State Americanization Council (MSAC). Seven years later in Missouri, the Adult Education Council of Greater St. Louis was organized. This was the first metropolitan adult education association in the United States. It existed until 1987. One year after the founding of this council in St. Louis, Everett Hosman called together the first regional Missouri Valley Adult Education Conference at the University of Omaha (now the University of Nebraska Omaha).

Concomitant with burgeoning adult education associations were adult education programs in the seven states. One such program was the development of Americanization classes for the foreign born. These classes, operated largely by the public schools, were the result of large numbers of immigrants coming into America before and after the First World War. The influx of foreign born into the U.S. was so great that Congress passed laws in 1921 and 1924 designed to keep out persons with little education and training and from central and eastern European countries, Asia and Africa. Both Minnesota and South Dakota had Americanization classes prior to and during the decade of the 1930s.

The programs serving most adults during this decade were programs operated by the Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service (established in 1914 by the Smith-Lever Act and operated under an agreement between the state land-grant college or university in each of the seven states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture) during the Great Depression, between 1933 and 1939, was asked by both state and federal agencies to manage rural relief programs and farm programs aimed at correcting national and international social and economic problems. Management of crop and livestock production control programs in the states for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration became a major activity of Cooperative Extension Service during this period. Other agencies receiving assistance from the Cooperative Extension Service were the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration. At this time the Cooperative Extension Service was the largest single adult education program in the United States.

Colleges and universities operated continuing education divisions separate and apart from the Agriculture Department's Cooperative Extension programs. These were largely self-supporting programs paid for by adult student tuition. Extension divisions were operated by eight universities and colleges in the Region (Iowa State College, State University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of North Dakota, and the University of South Dakota). It was during this period that the General Extension Division at the University of Minnesota opened its Center for Continuation Study and

its program of Continuation Medical Education. The Center for Continuation Study was the first University residential conference center in the United States.

At the junior college level, the first national organizational meeting of junior colleges was held in July 1920 in St. Louis. It was a very brief meeting due to sweltering mid-summer heat. The group agreed to form what is now known as the American Association of Community Colleges. They later met in Chicago to establish the format of their organization. A few years later, Kansas, which established its first community college (Garden City Community College) in 1919, added four colleges during the 1930s bringing its total to fourteen. In 1938 the fourteen junior (community) colleges had an enrollment of 3,531, placing Kansas sixth nationally in junior (community) college enrollment.

Literacy education through the public schools was funded by the federal government through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, headed by Harry L. Hopkins, who pioneered such programs in New York State with state money in 1932. In the Region, the State of Iowa Works Progress Administration, in 1935 reported 33 literacy centers operating; State of Kansas Works Progress Administration, 15 centers; State of Minnesota, Department of Education, no center but 28 teachers; State of Missouri, Department of Education, no report (although another report indicated an enrollment of 19,836 enrolled in literacy education); State of Nebraska, Department of Public Instruction, 10 centers; State of North Dakota, Department of Public Instruction, 12 centers; and State of South Dakota Works Progress Administration, 1 center.

Religious adult continuing education also came into prominence in the Region. One example of this was the Fairbault Summer School of Christian Education. This school was established by several Protestant denominations in 1937. It was a laboratory school in Fairbault, Minnesota established as an alternative to sending teachers to summer school religious training in Ohio. This program continued for 30 years and ended in 1967.

Two foundations played an important part in the early development of adult education in the Region. These were the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which provided financial support for AAAE and the first MVAEA Conference, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, which in 1939 adopted a policy change which allowed it to fund adult education projects and programs.

While the Decade of the 1930s saw a great early expansion of adult education in several areas, the end of the decade heralded a sharp curtailment of programs and association activities in the seven states. Considering the times, this was to be expected. As the end of the decade neared, the Nation was in the dark depths of the Great Depression and well over 11 million Americans were unemployed; Hitler had annexed Austria, taken possession of the Sudetenland and the remainder of Czechoslovakia, and had attacked Poland; Britain and France had declared war on Germany; Italy had occupied Ethiopia and Albania; Russia had invaded Finland; Japan was fighting in China, and Franco had won the Spanish Civil War. The world was on the brink of World War II; and Dwight D. Eisenhower of Abilene, Kansas, was soon to become Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe.

The Decade of the 1940s The Period of Hibernation and Incubation

The Second World War brought many adult education activities to a halt and served to initiate others. For example, the MVAEA did not hold its Annual Conference in 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, and 1946; and the Minnesota Council for Adult Education (MCAE), organized in 1930, became inactive for five years following 1946. The slogan for the Cooperative Extension Service became "Food for Defense" during the period of World War II. Congress established the Engineering Science and Management War Training Program, which brought money and adult learners onto many college and university campuses in the Region.

Near the end of World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt died, and Harry S. Truman became the 33rd President of the United States. President Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri, in 1884. He was the second man from the MVAEA region to become president of the United States.

As World War II came to a close, adult activity picked up. Adult education began to awaken from its period of hibernation and new projects and programs began to evolve. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation became especially active, giving a total of \$13,000,000 to adult education programs and projects between 1945 and 1958. One project funded with Kellogg Foundation funds was the University of Nebraska residential conference center. Two new state associations were formed during this decade: The Iowa Association for Adult Education (IAAE) and The Kansas Adult Education Association (KAEA).

In 1942 a new way of certifying high school completion was developed. It was the General Educational Development (GED) Test developed for the military services. Both Iowa and Minnesota started GED testing programs that year. In 1945 the Carnegie Corporation funded a grant to establish the Commission on Accreditation of Service Experiences (CASE) as a continuing civilian agency and clearinghouse to cooperate with educational agencies which evaluated military training and experience of service personnel and veterans.

At the close of the War, the Congress of the United States continued the federal involvement in adult education with the passage of watershed legislation. In 1944 Congress passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, the first of several "GI Bills of Rights." It brought thousands of returning veterans onto college and university campuses. The following year, Congress passed the Bankhead-Flanagan Act, which provided additional funds for Cooperative Extension Service. It also passed the George Barden Act, which provided funds for Adult Vocational Education.

Indian adult education funded with federal dollars came into some prominence during this decade. Federal involvement in Indian adult education started in the 1930s with the closing of some boarding schools for Indian children. Between 1930 and 1948 the Indian Service closed over one-half of its boarding schools and increased its day schools from 131 to over 200. These day schools became community schools. Textbooks were published in the Sioux and Navaho languages and taught to adults as well as children. The remaining boarding schools were also used for adult education. The Ogjala Boarding School in South Dakota developed an active

adult education program. On the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, weaving became a new career for some adults.

Almost immediately with the end of World War II, the Cold War started. In 1948, signifying the continuation of the Cold War, the Department of Defense located the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) at the Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska. The location of this base near Omaha provided impetus for expansion of adult education activities in the state and heralded a continuing Cold War impact on adult education in the Region into the next decade.

The Decade of the 1950s: The Sleeping Giant Awakens

The decade of the 50s was an exciting and turbulent one in the world and in adult education. The Cold War heated up with the Korean War, which started in 1950 and ended in 1953. In 1954 the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that public schools segregated according to race are inherently unequal and therefore unconstitutional. Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin conducted a witch hunt for communists in the U. S. State Department. Dwight D. Eisenhower of Abilene, Kansas became the 34th President of the United States, the third person from the Region to become president. Alaska and Hawaii were granted statehood. The Soviet space probe Luna 2 became the first man-made object to reach the moon as it crashed onto the lunar surface. Nikita Khrushchev made his first visit to the United States, China forced the Dalai Lama to flee Tibet, and the forces of Fidel Castro entered Havana on January 2, 1959.

In adult education, in late May 1955, ten faculty members who taught university courses in adult education along with five other persons interested in adult education met in Allerton Park to discuss the nature of adult education as an academic discipline. According to Houle (1991, p. xiv), one of the attendees, they were emboldened with the knowledge that "Adult education had been a powerful instrument in bringing the United States through and out of the Great Depression. It was the means by which many millions of civilians had been trained to win a world wide war." Subsequent meetings of this group the remainder of the decade were funded by a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. From these meetings evolved the Commission of Professors of Adult Education.

A book known as the "black book" (Jensen and Hallenbeck, 1964) was to be published by this group in the next decade. The publication of the "black book" (*Adult Education: Outlines of an Emerging Field of University Study*) was preceded by *Adult Education in a Free Society*, written in 1958 by Robert J. Blakely, adult educator from Iowa.

A new adult education association was formed. The Adult Education Association of the U. S. A. (AEA, USA) was formed in 1951 through a merger of the American Association for Adult Education and the National Education Association's Department of Immigrant Education.

Important developments in GED testing occurred during the fifties. The tests moved from one primarily serving military personnel and veterans to a program that served civilians who had not completed high school. Helping to promote this transition was placement in 1953 of responsibility for the program in state departments of education. By 1959 the number of civilians taking the GED tests exceeded the number of military personnel examinees for the first time.

In the Region in 1958, the Minnesota Council for Adult Education (MCAE) ended and became the Minnesota Adult Education Association (MAEA). The following year, in Nebraska efforts were initiated by individuals from Chadron State College and the Scottsbluff Public Schools to organize a state conference on adult education. These efforts reached fruition when the first conference for those involved in adult education was held in Scottsbluff on Saturday, October 17, 1959. The individuals primarily responsible for calling this conference were John Dalton from the Extension Division of Chadron State College and Emory Austin who was the Director of the Adult Program of the Scottsbluff Public Schools and the agencies these two men represented were listed as the official sponsors of the conference. The outcome of this conference was the formation of a new state association the following year. The Region was honored by AEA, USA when it elected Elbert Burr of Missouri its president in 1957.

Several new programs, largely due to new funding sources, were started. One of these was the establishment of the Nation's first commercial educational television station, WOL-TV, by the Iowa State University of Science and Technology. Washington University of St. Louis organized a "Conference on Science and Human Responsibility," which was telecast over educational channels to an estimated 50,000 people. Except for Kansas, public school adult education legislation was in effect in all MAEA member states in 1957.

A major impetus to new programs in the Region was the Congress of the United States and the federal government. In 1952 the Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act was passed to help Korean War veterans. In 1953 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) was established and headed by a secretary who held Cabinet rank. In 1955 within HEW, the U.S. Office of Education established an Adult Education Section. The next year the Library Services Act was passed, the George Barden Act was amended, and Civil Defense programs conducted by state departments of education were funded. In 1958 Congress passed the Government Employees Training Act and the National Defense Education Act, which was designed to promote science, mathematics, and foreign language instruction. The next year the National Defense Education Act was amended to provide through Title II funds for Area Vocational Education and Technician Training.

In 1956 the Congress passed Public Law 959, which authorized vocational training for adult Indians aged 18 through 35, residing on or near reservations. In the same year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs initiated a pilot program in adult literacy on five reservations. Two of the pilot programs were established at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation in North Dakota and

at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. These programs continued into the following decade, when new legislation provided increased funding.

Foundations also contributed to the growth of education during this decade. In 1951 the Ford Foundation established the Fund for Adult Education and the Carnegie and Kellogg foundations continued their support. In Minnesota and Iowa NAPSAE, with foundation grants, funded positions of State Director of Adult Education in the state departments of education of each state. Howard Hovland, who was later to become an NVAEA Founder's Award recipient, accepted the position of Coordinator of Adult Education in the Sioux Falls Public Schools. The Council of National Organizations (CNO) started an institute to discuss the training needs of national organizations, and the National Training Laboratories started an annual training laboratory for staff members of voluntary organizations. In Minnesota, Mils Swanson started the Midwest Training Laboratory, which provided volunteer training over the years for hundreds of volunteers in the region.

While several adult education programs received extensive new moneys from the federal government and foundations, university-level extension and continuing education programs in the region did not fare so well during this decade. They continued to have to be largely self-supporting, often contributing, in fact, to their university's overhead. Minnesota had a very active General Extension Division program during this decade. In 1950 the Division opened its World Affairs Center. Five years later, in 1956, the Division offered courses for credit in radio broadcasting; and three years later, in 1959, it adopted the Minnesota Plan for the Continuing Education of Women.

At the end of the decade, two long-standing university associations, the National University Extension Association and the Association of University Evening Colleges, had strong memberships. Nationally, there were 173 colleges and universities hosting evening college and university extension programs. The next decade was to experience continued expansion of adult education.

The Decade of the 1960s Birth of Associations and Decade of Assassinations

While many advances in adult education occurred in the region during the decade of the 60s, they were overshadowed by the deaths of three men: John F. Kennedy in 1963; the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. While these deaths were tragic and heart-rending to most citizens, the nation recovered and became a better nation because of them. The Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Adult Education Act of 1966. The nation became more embroiled in the Vietnam War, and some college campuses appeared to be war zones. The Cold War continued. Titan and Minuteman missiles became operational in South Dakota.

Several new adult education associations were organized during the sixties. Continuing efforts started the previous decade, the newly organized Adult Education Association of Nebraska held its first state conference at the Gene Eppley Conference Center at the University of Omaha on October 8, 1960. In 1965 Howard Hovland and Dr. Marthal Eypoldt met to organize the South Dakota Adult Education Association. The following year, a constitution was adopted and the first state conference held. During the same year, South Dakota's sister state, North Dakota, formed its adult education association, the North Dakota Adult Education Association. Minnesota which already had the Minnesota Adult Education Association, saw the creation of a new group in 1966, the Minnesota Association for Public School Adult Education (MIAPSAE). The Iowa Association for Public School Adult Education (IAPSAE) was formed in 1961 by a group of Iowa adult education directors meeting in Des Moines. This association became an affiliate of the National Association for Public School Adult Education (NAPSAE). Later, the name was changed to the Iowa Association for Public Continuing and Adult Education (IAPCAE). On May, 10, 1962, the Iowa Association for Adult Education (IAAE) changed its name to the Iowa Adult Education Association (IAEA).

Public school adult education flourished during the 60s. One of the major beneficiaries of President Johnson's War on Poverty was adult literacy education, known as Adult Basic Education (ABE). ABE started with Title III of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and continued with the Adult Education Act of 1966. ABE brought into state education associations many teachers and administrators involved in literacy education. It also helped to spawn new adult education associations in the states. Except for Iowa, which used the Community College System to administer the programs, the public schools in the Region provided the teachers for ABE classes. The Act provided money for both instruction and administration. Missouri, using these funds, appointed its first state director of adult basic education, Bill Ghan. Kansas started its ABE program in 1966. In Minnesota in 1969, the Legislature provided funding to public schools for adult basic continuing education and evening school programs to supplement its federal ABE allocation.

Junior/community colleges saw continued expansion during this decade. The first junior colleges were started in the early 1900s. The Missouri Legislature passed the Junior College Act of 1961, which allowed local contiguous school districts to establish junior colleges. Establishment of a locally controlled community or junior college required three local votes, one to create the college district, one to establish a board of trustees and one to provide funding from the tax base. Local control of these institutions made Missouri community colleges unique in this respect. In 1963, the Minnesota Legislature enacted legislation creating a state system of junior colleges which came into existence in 1964. In Iowa junior colleges first started in 1918, existed until the 1960s when area colleges were formed. Area colleges were first organized in 1966. An act permitting the organization of area colleges was approved by the Legislature in 1965. At that time there were a total of 35 public junior colleges. The act permitted area colleges to organize as either area community colleges or area vocational schools. Junior colleges began to reorganize as area community colleges and only one junior college in Iowa remained at the end of the decade. In Kansas, following the enactment of the

Community College Act of 1965, five community colleges were added, bringing the total number to nineteen and heralding the beginning of a huge increase in enrollment for the system. The Nebraska state legislature provided funding for junior colleges during the decade.

There was much activity in the university system across the region. A dramatic paradigm shift occurred in cooperative and university extension programs. In 1960, President Elmer Ellis of the University of Missouri and Director C. Bruce Radford of cooperative extension at the University of Missouri-Columbia led the effort to combine University Extension and Continuing Education at the University of Missouri. At that time, University Extension had federal, state and local funds to support its programs. Continuing Education was largely supported from state funds and fees charged learners. By combining these two programs and working with County Extension, the University was able to address a broad range of issues and problems and to extend the programs to people throughout the state.

In Extension at the University of Minnesota, the Olte Center for Continuing Education was built and a plethora of new continuing education in the professions programs (such as continuing legal education) was started. Other changes included a merger of the University of Kansas City (Missouri) and the University of Missouri to form the University of Missouri Kansas City Campus. The University of Missouri, Columbia established a degree program in Adult Education. The University of Missouri designed and implemented a model for merger of General and Cooperative Extension. Kansas State University became the first institution of higher learning in Kansas to offer a degree in Adult and Continuing Education. In 1968 Kansas State University began to offer a program of study in Adult Basic Education leading to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. And in Iowa Robert J. Blakely, dean of extension at Iowa State University, wrote *Knowledge Is the Power to Control Power*.

The Congress enacted other legislation affecting adult education during the decade. In 1963 it enacted the Higher Education Facilities Act to aid college and university construction. The next year, it enacted the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title I of which provided funding for community service/continuing education programs for University Extensions Divisions. A year later, it enacted the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 to aid post-Korean War veterans, including Vietnam War veterans.

Foundations continued to provide support for adult education. The *Minnesota Plan for the Continuing Education of Women* was funded for three years by the Carnegie Corporation at the University of Minnesota. The plan was written by Elizabeth L. Cless and Virginia L. Sanders.

In religious adult education, the Fairbault Summer School of Christian Education, established in 1937, over the years moved to Hamline University and then to Macalester College, was disbanded in 1967. The first Director of Adult Education for a Catholic diocese in Minnesota was hired (Loretta Girzaitis). This perhaps was a sign of the times for adult education in the states looked to a new decade, continued expansion of adult education into new fields was anticipated. Unforeseen were fiscal problems to be encountered during the 1970s.

The Decade of the 1970s: Bicentennial and Continued Turbulence

Following the assassinations of the 1960s, one would have expected that the country would settle into a more peaceful era as it prepared for its 200th birthday, but this was not to be. Fears about communism were still strong, and the Cold War continued to be fueled by the Vietnam War. Richard Nixon visited Russia and China, brought shooting to an end in the Vietnam War, and then self-destructed over Watergate.

Higher education seemed to be about to self-destruct also. In 1971 the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education issued a report on the fiscal crisis in higher education. The report, entitled *The New Depression of Higher Education*, found that 540 out of 2,300 institutions of higher education were in financial difficulty and another 1,000 were heading for financial difficulty. The next year the Commission urged colleges and universities to increase production, trim budgets, and have a moratorium on most new Ph.D. programs as a way to save money. College and university adult education programs were hit hard by these recommendations, especially in the areas of staff and program expansion.

The same year that the Carnegie report was issued, Missouri University, St. Louis Missouri University, Kansas City, and Lincoln University began to offer degree programs in Adult Education. One bit of relief was given higher education by Congress with the passage in 1972 of an aid to education bill which provided \$19.5 billion dollars, some of which was dedicated to entitlement programs for needy students at colleges and universities. Congress and President Carter, near the end of the decade, also created the Department of Education, making it a Cabinet level agency.

During the decade, the Nebraska adult education association tried to add "community education" to its name and failed. In Iowa in 1970, the Iowa Association for Public School Adult Education (IAPSAE) became the Iowa Association for Public Continuing and Adult Education (IAPCAE). The public school association in Minnesota changed its name also to conform with a name change in the national association.

Two new promising adult education areas emerged during the decade. One was the creation of new programs of community education in the Region, and another was the development of non-traditional programs. The impetus for community education came largely from the Mott Foundation and state efforts. In Minnesota at the College of St. Thomas and in Missouri at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, regional community education centers were established with funds provided by the C. S. Mott Foundation. The University of Missouri-St. Louis had responsibility for a three-state area: Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Everett Mancow Ashired to administer this program. In 1972 the College of St. Thomas began to offer an advanced degree in community education.

Community education spawned the birth of two new associations during the Seventies in Minnesota: the Minnesota Community Education Association (MCEA) and in Missouri, the

Missouri Community Education Association (MCEA). Impetus for the new group in Minnesota was provided by the Legislature, which authorized funds to local school districts for the establishment of community education programs. The Legislature further authorized the creation of a new Department of Community Education, which replaced the existing adult education department.

There were many examples of non-traditional higher education programs in Minnesota. A non-traditional program is defined as an alternative degree program for adults which includes awarding credit for learning from life experience and work and self-directed/ independent study learning experiences. Examples of non-traditional programs were the Metropolitan State University, an upper division university for adults in the State University System; and the University Without Walls at the University of Minnesota.

Graduate programs in adult education were found at most of the universities in the Region. In 1974 the Graduate Program in Adult Education was started at the University of Minnesota and placed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the College of Education.

Elderhostel programs were started at seventeen Minnesota college and university campuses. Legislation entitling Senior Citizens to attend courses in state-supported higher education institutions without tuition or activity fees was enacted by the Minnesota Legislature. Numerous community education programs operating in school districts in Missouri offered programs to senior citizens. In one school district senior citizens could take high school courses where there was space available in classes. Other programs worked cooperatively with their community centers to provide services to seniors. Another district operated a senior citizen center in a school that provided meals and programs geared toward their senior population. Many programs offered senior citizen components in their community education course offerings. There were a large number of volunteer programs that utilized senior citizens and had many intergenerational activities. Such programs received technical assistance from the State.

Cooperative Extension Service, wrote Edgar J. Boone in 1970, "is the world's largest publicly supported, informal adult education and development organization." Cooperative Extension continued to grow in the decade. The Rural Development Act was enacted by Congress, providing funding for Extension rural development work in order to "develop and demonstrate activities which are effective in solving rural development problems at the local level." The federal government also required an Affirmative Action plan for each County Extension Service. In 1977 the Food and Agriculture Act passed by Congress mandated an internal evaluation of the Cooperative Extension Service to be reported to Congress in March of 1978. In 1979, the Earle Brown Center for Continuing Education, located on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, was dedicated. This center is operated jointly by Continuing Education Extension and Cooperative Extension at the University.

In the volunteer arena, the Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc., a statewide volunteer literacy organization using Laubach, was established. Jean Hammink was the first paid executive director of this non-profit organization.

Many other activities of note occurred in the Region during the decade. The Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education (MACE)– MVAEA's Minnesota affiliate organization– was organized from an merger of MAEA, MAPCAE, and a third group. Portending the decade of the eighties, in 1979 the Adult Continuing Education Association of Nebraska (ACEAN) affiliated with AEA, USA; MAPCAE, MVAEA, and the NCEA. It also eliminated gender references in its constitution and changed "Education" in its purpose to "Lifelong Learning." And Robert J. Blakely of Iowa wrote three books, two about technology and one about the learning society: *The People's Instrument: A Philosophy for Public Television*, *Fostering the Growing Need to Learn*, and *To Serve the Public Interest: Educational Broadcasting in the U.S.*

The Decade of the 1980s Retrenchment and Technology

As the Nation entered the decade of the 1980s, two themes were foremost on the minds of the citizenry: inflation and the national debt. Records from Nebraska best illustrate the response of adult educators in the Region to these years: "From the 1980 conference theme of 'Growth in an Era of Limits' to the New Federalism, which Randy Brats addressed in a 1982 *Communicator* (the state association newsletter), to George Bush's 'thousand points of light' of the late 1980s, the Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska and its members were asked to depend less on others and more on our association and ourselves." In Kansas, one of the national leaders in ABE, Mr. W. W. Lee, State Director of Adult Education, was lost to the field.

Themes in ACEAN's *Communicator* and its state conferences reflected the times: job hunting, professionalization, and future directions. The state association in South Dakota changed its name twice during the decade: in 1981 it became the Adult, Continuing, and Community Education Association of South Dakota (ACCEASD); and in 1989, the name was changed to South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning. In Kansas, conference themes for the decade included teaching English as a second language, learners with special needs, computer technology, volunteerism, the information society, literacy and the workforce, and futurism.

Several major events on the national scene occurred during the decade. One was the enactment by Congress of a \$48.4 billion funding of the Higher Education Act. Another was a combined AEA/MPSAE annual conference hosted by the Missouri Association for Adult Continuing Education (MAACE) in St. Louis in 1980. This conference was a prelude to the merger, partly in response to the stringent times of the Adult Education Association of the U.S.A. (AEA, USA) and the National Association of Public School Adult Educators (NAPSAE) into the American Association for Adult Continuing Education (AAACE) in 1982.

Many significant events occurred at the state level. In Missouri in 1983 M AACE, organized in 1974 from an merger of two state associations merged with the Missouri Community Education Association to form the Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education (M AACCE).

Lowell Jane Sellen, supervisor of adult education at Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City, along with Hal Beger of Rutgers University and John Hartwig of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction, did extensive research in ABE, GED and ESL. They documented student perceptions and non-responder perceptions. Their follow-up studies of GED graduates was disseminated nationally, established a database and benchmarks and became a model for follow-up GED studies. The follow-up was of graduates in 1980, 1985, and 1988. The fifteen Iowa community colleges participated in the study.

Adult Basic Education programs in Minnesota prospered despite diminished federal funding because the State Legislature provided additional funding for both ABE and community education. In 1980 the College of St. Thomas with an ABE 309 Grant established the Minnesota Interaction Influence Network (M IIN), to provide staff development for ABE teachers. Karen Ray was the first coordinator of M IIN. A cadre of trained teachers known as "training facilitators" provided the basic staff development delivery system. Five years later, M IIN was renamed the Literacy Training Network (LTN) and provided an annual "summer intensive" workshop in August. Deb Simmons became the second person to lead LTN, replacing Karen Ray in the mid 80's.

In 1985 in Missouri the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funded the position of director of Community Education. That same year, Missouri was represented on the original steering committee for the development of the Midwest Research-to-Practice Conference. The conference was held in Missouri in 1989, the year in which its membership was expanded to twelve states including all the states of the M VAEA. In 1988, the University for Man, with a grant from the Association for Community-Based Education, Washington, D. C., hosted the Kansas Literacy Conference. This conference was the prelude to the establishment of the Kansas Alliance for Literacy in the following decade.

Technology became a major tool for improved delivery of instruction during the 1980s. The Gannet Foundation sponsored the development of technology in adult literacy, including teacher training. The St. Paul Foundation and five other foundations contributed \$1.3 million to create the Technology for Literacy Center (TLC) in St. Paul. The Telecommunications Development Center (TDC) was established through a \$1.9 million W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant in 1985 within the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at the University of Minnesota to encourage the use of existing and emerging technologies in education, especially outreach education.

Technology as an instructional tool took root in Missouri in the early 1960s when amplified telephones, telewriters and remote blackboards were introduced. They have since been

replaced with satellite receiving, uplinking, and downlinking facilities. In 1986 interactive video was introduced in the state. A four-campus University of Missouri network was established to deliver degree and other credit programs in this medium.

The Decade of the 1990s Looking to Year 2000

The State Historian in Nebraska wrote, "The association approached the 1990s with anxiety, enthusiasm and the knowledge that the membership was the best resource for the end of the Twentieth Century." This sentiment was felt by many other state associations as they continued the 1980s reality of less federal support and more self-support.

Howard Hovland echoed the concept of self-sufficiency when he in 1993 challenged the South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning, Inc. to organize a Development Fund similar to that of MVAEA. Mr. Hovland promised to match the money in the South Dakota fund and promised to make this match at the 50th Annual Conference of the MVAEA to be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1994.

In Kansas self-sufficiency took the form of volunteerism. The Kansas Alliance for Literacy (KAL) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1990. In January of the following year, KAL held a literacy retreat cosponsored by Wichita Sedgewick County Partnership for Growth. The retreat was held at the offices of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. The next year, KAL received a grant of \$17,000 from the Kansas Department of Education to hire an Executive Secretary and was appointed by the Kansas State Library to make recommendations for funding volunteer literacy programs totaling \$280,000.00. In 1993-94, KAL received a \$16,000.00 grant from the Kansas State Library to support an Executive Secretary.

On July 15, 1991, President Bush signed the National Literacy Act. The Act provided for:

1. Establishment of a definition of literacy
2. Provision of support for new or expanded state literacy centers
3. Creation of a National Institute for Literacy
4. Provision of more resources for staff training
5. Increased expectation for program effectiveness

Two years later, in 1993, the Educational Testing Service published the results of the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS). Subjects in the study numbered 26,000. From extrapolations the results showed some 90 million adults having literacy skills at the two lowest levels of literacy.

In higher education in 1991, the Commission of Professors of Adult Education had about 300 members and in the colleges and universities in North America there were 66 doctoral programs and 124 masters programs with majors in adult education, continuing education, or extension education.

In 1992 the American Council on Education celebrated 50 years of GED Testing Services. At the end of 1991 more than 16,000,000 adults had taken the test and more than 12,000 had successfully completed it and received the high school equivalency diploma.

In 1993 at the University of Minnesota, the graduate program in Adult Education, previously in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and College of Education was relocated from the Minneapolis campus to the St. Paul Campus University of Minnesota. In the same year, Harlan G. Copeland, Professor of Adult Education wrote and published a historical record of the Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education, 1975-1992.

As adult education programs in the Region entered the 1990s, looking to the year 2000, technology and its many applications for adult learning has become a dominant theme. It is expected that technology as an instructional tool will become as commonplace in adult education as textbooks, pens and pencils are today. One example of this increased reliance on technology is a project at St. Catherine College in St. Paul. The College was one of seven colleges which received a two-year grant of \$150,000.00 in 1991 from the Annenberg Corporation for Public Broadcasting Project to provide improved access to higher education using a variety of technologies. At St. Catherine new instructional delivery systems were developed which are now delivering undergraduate instruction using computers and electronic mail and computer conferencing among faculty and students. The Minnesota State Association published a monograph entitled *Use of Technology in Adult Literacy* funded with MVAEA's Developmental Fund.

Missouri has pioneered the use of technology to deliver a nursing program that leads to either a Master's or Doctor of Nursing degree. In local Missouri communities several distance learning networks have been established where a combination of Instructional Television Fixed Systems (ITFS), cable television and terrestrial microwave have been employed to distribute educational resources. University of Missouri, Rolla helped to found National Technological University (NTU). NTU uses engineering colleges across the nation to pool resources and offer graduate degrees through satellite video.

In the later portion of this decade the emphasis was on distance learning. Colleges and Universities began and increased emphasis in reaching the adult learner through interactive television within regions, state and multi-state areas. Teleconferencing was used to deliver seminars and workshops. Desktop conferencing came into extensive use for short programs and meetings. In 1998, the first MVAEA Board meeting was held via telephone and desktop conferencing.

Kansas was one of the first states to connect with a distant state for programming. A Dental Hygiene program was delivered from Wassa Wisconsin to Colby Community College in western Kansas.

People began asking for adult education that was convenient for them. Convenience became the key word in designing delivery of adult education programs. Courses, short term training, continuing education programs and full degree programs were placed on the Internet by colleges and universities throughout the world. The purpose of using the Internet was to make learning more accessible to the adults.

One of the challenges facing all adult educators is the coming of the new millennium. Y2K became the catch phrase. All adult educators were preparing technology for and preparing for technology in anticipation of a century that would bring faster communications, a vast amount of knowledge to be transmitted, processed and learned.

These are just a few of the innovative things being done throughout the seven states as the VAEA and its affiliate associations and adult education programs in those states move with hope and vision inexorably toward the 21st Century.

The Decade of the 2000s: A Decade of Turmoil

Terrorism and turmoil best describe the early years of the 2000s. The events of September 11, 2001 caused much concern about security of the nation. A war with Iraq added to the impact on the economy. Stocks fell to an unusual low. Money became scarce from both federal and state sources.

Despite the challenges, adult education programs moved ahead. With unemployment rates up and retraining needs increasing, especially in technology, adult education had even a greater role to play in society.

Technology is still a key in the delivery of adult education programs. At the time of this writing, in 2004, many adult education programs are investigating use of internet protocol to send and receive audio and visual signals.