

Iowa's state association supports MVAEA Leadership Academy

In This Issue

- Development Fund Update page 2
- President's Message page 3
- State News pages 4-5
- Consultant's Corner page 6
- Coming Up... page 6

by Dale Amunson (Iowa)

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning voted to support the MVAEA Leadership Academy, which will be held April 7-8, 2011, in South Sioux City, Neb. In addition, IALL will also provide support for at least four IALL members to attend the activity.

In discussion held prior to the vote, there were conversations about how to develop leadership for IALL and encourage members who are not now actively involved on the board to get some training. Additionally, there was discussion about how this could encourage other IALL members to become more involved with MVAEA. It was also noted that the motel rates at the Marina Inn were just \$64 (plus tax), making it a bargain for such a high quality professional development activity.

As conversations proceeded, it was

noted that those on the IALL board had been on and off the board for many years. At the same time, it was apparent that newer IALL members were absent. To encourage more of IALL's newer members to become involved—and also to serve as an incentive to run for a IALL board position or to become a committee chair—officers felt that through a tuition grant for the MVAEA Leadership Academy might entice some to consider running for a position. To that end, IALL Past President Martin Reimer will soon seek IALL board candidates—as the election will be held prior to the

joint IALL/ABE Institute this coming summer. Travel grants to the MVAEA Leadership Academy may encourage people to run for IALL offices and also get more involved in MVAEA.

The actions of the IALL board have shown a commitment to support MVAEA
continued on page 2

CAMP LEAD
MVAEA Leadership Academy
who should attend:
YOU & YOUR COLLEAGUES!
when:
APRIL 7-8, 2011
where:
MARINA INN
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
(affordable room reservations for \$64/night!)



Quoted...

In matters of style, swim with the current;
In matters of principle, stand like a rock.

~Thomas Jefferson

When nothing is sure, everything is possible.

~Margaret Drabble

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.

~Peter F. Drucker

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

~John F. Kennedy

Never mistake knowledge for wisdom.
One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life.

~Sandra Carey

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.

The last is to say thank you.

~Max DePree

IALL sees benefits of Leadership Academy

continued from page 3

on a continuing basis. For instance, it was also noted that many current IALL board members had attended MVAEA leadership activities in previous years. Those who had attended also voiced their praise for the quality of the experience they had enjoyed by participating in the workshops.

Beyond that, a side benefit to this is the opportunity to meet people from other states and share ideas about programs, funding, and collaborative efforts with other continuing education programs.

The IALL board is to be commended for taking this action and for encouraging people to become more active—not only in IALL, but also in MVAEA. It is our hope that other state organizations will see this action as a great opportunity for their current (or potential) members to see and enjoy the benefits of a professional organization.

Here's another interesting thing to note...

The MVAEA Leadership Academy is not limited to other continuing education associations. It is open to any and all interested in current topics.

Be sure to watch the MVAEA website (www.mvaea.com) for further information about the MVAEA Leadership Academy—including registration, hotel accommodations, and more. Hope to see YOU in April!

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.

~John Quincy Adams

DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri)

Congratulations to Sue Choens and Jennifer Bensky, who have been selected as the recipients of the 2010 MVAEA Development Fund Award! The team will complete its project at Butler Community College Adult Education in El Dorado, Kan. Working together, they will report to the MVAEA membership with a newsletter article in a 2011 issue of *Happenings in the Valley*.

From the President

A brief reflection

by Joseph Thornton (Kansas), MVAEA
president

One of this nation's greatest philosopher-writer's once wrote on the condition of man by saying that most men are slaves to their work and become resigned to the condition. He concluded that "the mass of men live lives of quiet desperation" and "go to their graves with the song still in them."

These reflections have always resonated with me as I pondered "Walden" and how I see the world we live in today—but moreover how I apply these sentiments to people I encounter every day.

Individuals living their lives, chasing their dreams, and attaining their goals in their early years tend to have these aspirations dashed as their real lives unfold. Satisfaction is fleeting, and disappointment in the human condition becomes inevitable.

Eventually, as Thoreau stated, a "confirmed desperation" settles in. It is our perception and how we choose to handle this condition that is what truly defines an individual and

determines a successful pathway.

There is always a profound fulfillment that lies in the company of educators whereby they draw inspiration from the fact that they impact lives and instill the "possibilities" that are within any students' grasp. If we accept that the mere pleasure of a relationship between educators and students remains at the core of a mutual exchange of knowledge and learning what can be, then the deeper fulfillment has been instilled and Thoreau's "quiet desperation" is dispelled.

The rewards that come from helping students find their pathway, with their qualities of innocence and potential not yet realized, transcends the hopes of the generations to come. This condition is what hallmarks an educator's realization and fulfillment. An educator's code of ethic should represent that "success is all about finding something that you believe in, and that you believe you can make a difference in, that's beyond yourself."

There is no better outcome for the human condition that Thoreau described.

ON THE WEB

resources
you can
put to work
right now

kids.niehs.nih.gov/rd1.htm

Share some laughs with these fun riddles—whether you have kids in your life or you're just a kid at heart!

healthchecksystems.com/ffood.htm

Make informed decisions with a resource that lists calories for various fast food eateries.

cdlponline.org

Use this free site to build your (or your students') reading and life skills!

singleparentcenter.net

Consider this site for students who are single parents, as it offers helpful tips on timely topics.

Did you know
we're on
the Web?

www.mvaea.org



STATE NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm

by Rose Kreitinger

North Dakota's fall conference was held in Bismarck on Sept. 23-24. It was well attended by members of North Dakota Association of Lifelong Learners (NDALL). Cindy Dykema, who works at the Youth Correctional Center in Mandan, N.D., was named Educator of the Year and was honored at the awards luncheon.

Other highlights of the conference included concurrent sessions, a tour of the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College, and a visit from the "Attitude Doctor" (Terry Fleck).

NDALL's board has filled all vacant positions. New officers include the following:
Vice President—Terry Bohan, Grand Forks
Treasurer—John Lynch, Jamestown
Membership Chair—Nola Storm, Fargo

These new members will help bring a better balance from across the state. We will continue our search for an MVAEA president-elect from North Dakota.

IOWA

www.iowall.org

by Dale Amunson

The fall organizational meeting of the IALL board was held Oct. 26 in Marshalltown, Iowa. The meeting was led by Peggy Thie, our newly elected IALL president from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. Peggy was conference chair for the joint conference held in Des Moines this past July.

Sponsored by IALL and the ABE Institute, the joint conference was attended by approximately 100 attendees. This combined conference added another dimension to professional development for both organiza-

tions, as it allowed better utilization of resources and better attendance overall. An overall summary of feedback from the conference was discussed at the board meeting. In general, there were many excellent comments regarding facilities, sessions, future topics, and new ideas. The new board discussed conference remarks and planned upcoming activities.

The 2011 IALL/ABE Institute joint conference will be held at Iowa Valley Community College and the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center adjacent to campus. The Conference Planning Committee is being jointly chaired by Julie Thomas (IALL president-elect) and Janet Leifield, who represents the ABE Institute. *Blazing New Trails for Tomorrow's Learning Challenges* is the theme for the conference, which will be held July 13-15.

At its annual meeting, the board also presented a constitutional addendum containing articles of dissolution to IALL's Constitution and By-laws. This was done after the IALL board realized there was no verbiage in place to allow for dissolution of the organization (in the unlikely event that should happen). This addendum was approved by members and becomes part of the IALL Constitution.

KANSAS

www.thekeaa.org

by Sue Choens

Adult educators receive training in learning differences

In August, program directors and instructors attended the National Institute for Literacy Learning to Achieve's five-day training program designed to help adult education and vocational training practitioners and other human service providers understand learning disabilities (LD) in adults and learn how to actively support adults with LD in educational and workplace settings. The training prepared participants to share what they learned with colleagues who did not attend. The purpose of the training was: 1) To encourage and support

continued on next page

NEBRASKA

submitted by Anne

Ausdemore

**Even though
 www.acean.org
 is no longer a
 valid website,
 you may contact
 Anne (or other
 MVAEA members
 from Nebraska
 through Anne) at
 anne@northeast.
 edu.**

continued from previous page

adult education programs' efforts to affect change in the delivery of services to adults with learning disabilities, and 2) To provide tools for local adult education staff to improve services to adults with learning disabilities.

In November these participants and other program directors attended a state-wide planning meeting to determine how all Kansas adult educators will receive the training. Objectives of this training were to...

- *Be knowledgeable about the most recent rigorous research as it relates to adults with LD, including the basics as well as latest advances in neuroscience*
- *Have strengthened training skills through practice with Learning to Achieve materials*
- *Know the definitions of LD*
- *Understand the concept of self-determination and how it can help adults with LD*
- *Know the LD-related legal, confidentiality, and self-disclosure issues*
- *Be able to identify testing and instructional accommodations for adults with LD*
- *Understand the testing and accommodation considerations for English language learners*
- *Be able to discuss tutoring issues and instructional approaches for individuals with LD*
- *Be able to describe considerations and strategies on how to teach basic reading and writing to individuals with LD*
- *Understand the instructional approaches specific to assisting adults with LD in learning academic content*
- *Be able to identify issues adults with LD may face in the workforce*

The portion of Learning to Achieve that addresses reading instruction uses the same foundational reading research used in STAR so a consistent message is delivered.

Adult ed seeks Title I & II partnerships

Partnerships continue to develop between adult education and local area workforce alliances. The partnerships are extremely varied from one workforce area to another. Some areas are extremely supportive of adult education (to the point of providing funding through written

MOU's); others have limited connections.

Most Workforce Career Centers are offering free ACT WorkKeys assessments to adult education students so they can earn a Kansas WorkReady! Certificate. This certificate is becoming more widely known by employers; some require current employees to obtain one or interviewees to have one before an interview.

Future of a 2011 KAEA conference

KAEA has analyzed the results of the 2010 joint conference and is exploring ways to offer professional development opportunities in the future without the expense of a large conference.

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

by Rhonda Jones

MAACCE held its first conference and board meeting in Columbia, Mo., on Sept. 17. The 2011 conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A in Lake of the Ozarks in June. Board members solicited ideas, suggestions, committee chairs, and volunteers for the following:

- 1) Conference theme ideas and
- 2) Conference committee assignments—including audio visual, awards, conference prizes, decorations, entertainment, evaluations, exhibitors, food, LDI, past presidents' luncheon, photography, pre-conference, presentations, publications and promotions, registration, silent auction and door prizes, and speakers.

In addition, the MAACCE board reported last year's conference was a tremendous success.

Missouri Adult Education & Literacy

The Missouri Fall Directors' Conference was held Sept. 22-24 in Columbia, Mo. Agenda items included updated directors' guide; GED test information; GED online; work keys; and certification/professional development. Ron Jewel, supervisor of adult education and literacy, congratulated Missouri directors for a job well done throughout 2009-10. State progression increased and federal targets were met.

MINNESOTA

www.mnmacae.org

MVAEA

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

Editor

Shari Kiple

Contributors

Dale Amunson

Sue Choens

Tom Haskell

Rhonda Jones

Rose Kreitinger

Deb Sisco

Joe Thornton

Submit articles or story ideas to:

Shari Kiple

ph: 712-276-5176

kiplecomm@

cablone.net

For address change or info on MVAEA:

Deb Sisco

1304 S. Main St.

Minot, ND 58701

Phone: 701-838-2487

[mvaeamembership@](mailto:mvaeamembership@minot.k12.nd.us)

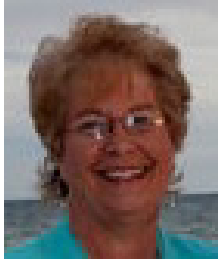
minot.k12.nd.us

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING MVAEA!**

CONSULTANT'S

**O
R
N
E
R**

Join the group...then take the lead!



by Deb Sisco (North Dakota), membership services consultant

Wikipedia says that leadership has been described as the “process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task.”

All organizations have leaders and others who do not feel they are leadership material. Years ago I approached a person to take over a position in an elementary school as a leader of the scouting program. Her answer to me was that she could never stand in front of all those people and speak. This bothered me because she would have been a perfect person for that position. Through the years, I have met many people who would be very good leaders, but either they don't feel they are qualified or they are actually scared of the responsibility.

I am excited about the direction the MVAEA board is headed. In lieu of a spring conference, the board is planning a Leadership Academy. This is a very important training that could make a difference in the future leaders of our state organizations. I want to challenge all members to identify people they think could make good leaders in Adult Education, Community Education and Continuing Education—and then urge them to attend this event. Next the challenge is for organizations to support the region and fund attendance to this Leadership Academy. Let's make MVAEA a leader in promoting leadership.

Membership numbers are down slightly and many have not yet renewed their membership. If you have not sent your annual membership fee in yet, please do so now. We currently have a total of 143 members—including 59 “lifetime members.” Of course Kansas leads our state memberships because that's where the conference was held in 2010. Please support the organization by submitting or renewing your membership. Membership dues are only \$35 per year. To get started, click on the “membership” link at www.mvaea.com for the membership form and address. Join the group—and then take the lead at MVAEA's Leadership Academy this spring!

Coming Up

PLEASE NOTE: These are ALL NEW dates!

Deadlines for “Happenings in the Valley”

December 16, 2010

February 16, 2011

Email articles or photos to the editor:

kiplecomm@

cablene.net

MVAEA Leadership Academy

April 7-8, 2011

South Sioux City, Nebraska

Watch for additional information online and in the next issue!

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (please check one)

Individual (\$35) Life (\$300) Student (\$15) Retiree (\$15) Institutional* (\$120)

New Renewal

*For institutional membership, please attach a list of up to four persons who will be part of the membership.

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Organization Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please submit this form and dues (payable to MVAEA) to Deb Sisco (see page 5 for address info).