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LATE FALL
2006
vol. 1, no. 4

MEET US IN MINNESOTA!

MVAEA's spring conference will offer plenty of practical thinking

by Diana Cohen (Minnesota), MVAEA
Conference Planning Committee chairperson

The coming months will fly by, and soon Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) members will welcome MVAEA to the great state of Minnesota.

MVAEA's annual spring conference will be held in Bloomington, Minn., on April 19-20, 2007—with the MVAEA Leadership Academy on April 18. *Practical Thinking: Addressing the Changing Ecology of Adult Education* will be the conference theme.

The site for this year's conference is the Ramada Inn near the Mall of America. For many years this hotel was the Thunderbird Hotel, and a large Native American totem pole stood at the front of the building. The hotel has now become Ramada Inn, and the totem pole has been relocated—but is still on the site. (To many, however, it will always remain the Thunderbird Hotel!)

Please note that the Ramada Inn is offering an extension of the conference hotel rate (\$80 per night) if you wish to arrive early for the conference or extend your stay into the weekend and enjoy some time in the Twin Cities area.

A call for proposals is available in this issue (see page 13) or online at the MVAEA and MACAE Websites. Concurrent session proposals are due Dec. 15.

Hope to see you in Minnesota!



CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

DATES:
April 18–20, 2007

THEME:
Practical Thinking—The Changing
Ecology of Adult Education

LOCATION:
Ramada Inn, Mall of America
2300 E. American Boulevard
Bloomington, MN 55425
800-311-5192 or 952-854-3111
www.ramadamo.com

CONFERENCE CHAIR:
Diana Cohen
dicohen@frontiernet.net

DETAILS:
www.mvaea.com/conference.html
www.mnmacae.org

Program helps adult educators support their ESL learners

by Betsy Parrish and Kimberly A. Johnson
(Hamline University)

Of all groups of ESL learners, adult immigrants and refugees probably have the greatest number of obstacles to overcome in order to become proficient users of English. Personal factors that affect learning include differing educational experiences, level of first language literacy, and family and job responsibilities, just to name a few.

To be effective, it is paramount that adult ESL instruction be highly customized, learner-centered, and inclusive of all cultural backgrounds, giving learners an optimal setting for acquiring the language skills they need to function within our communities. Content-area instructors in GED, diploma programs, and community college classes also serve large numbers of immigrant and refugee students.

However, ESL learners in those classes can be overwhelmed by demands of class assignments, lectures, and in-class activities. There are many strategies and approaches that can help all teachers make content accessible to students for whom English is not their first language.

Since 1995, Hamline University's Certificate for Teachers of Adult ESL has prepared adult educators (ESL and content area) to meet the needs of all learners through appropriate

instructional practices. Beginning Spring 2007, the certificate program will be accessible throughout the region through online offerings. The eight-credit certificate program includes the following two-credit courses:

- Introduction to the Adult ESL Learner: Developing Reading and Writing Skills
- Introduction to the Adult ESL Learner: Developing Oral Skills
- Course Design for Adult ESL
- Assessment of the Adult ESL Learner

These courses take an experiential, practitioner-oriented approach. All of the faculty have extensive experience in adult education with diverse groups of immigrant and refugee learners. Additional courses leading to an advanced certificate or Master of Arts degree in ESL are also available online as well as on the Hamline University campus.

TO LEARN MORE:

Contact the authors!

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Kimberly A. Johnson
kjohnson60@hamline.edu
phone 651-523-2506

<http://www.eslcafe.com/search/index.html>

Dubbed "Dave's ESL Cafe Web Guide," this collection has an extensive listing of ESL and EFL Websites and is a great resource for adult educators. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.alternativestudentloan.com/continuing-education-loan.php>

A service of the Student Loan Network, this site shares information about the Act Continuing Education Loan program—which, according to

the site—is "specially created for continuing education students and families with financial need." *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.learning-styles-online.com/>

Learning Styles Online provides free information and tools to help you understand and use learning styles effectively. It also provides a free learning styles inventory and summarizes recent research articles on learning styles. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

**ON
THE
WEB**

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

From the President

Using our voice

by Mary Schaefer, MVAEA president



The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association provides a venue for

sharing professional concerns. As president of this organization, it is time that I share my concerns. This association dates back to 1938. This legacy underscores the value of our mission to provide adult education to the citizens of this country. This mission was important in 1938; this mission is critical in 2006. While adult education takes many forms, there is nothing more important and powerful than literacy. Reading is the most basic of skills. Reading provides access to knowledge, employment, and higher education. Parental literacy is critical. The National Family Literacy Institute provides some very meaningful statistics. [See **NUMBERS TO NOTE** at right.]

Family literacy combats poverty by empowering both parents and children with literacy skills. This job is far from done. For the past 12 years, I have worked as coordinator of an Even Start Family Literacy Program. It has been a thrill to see a program grow from infancy to adulthood. With the development of research and best practices we now have tools to teach both adults and young children the foundations to

become literate and attain the skills to be self-sufficient adults. Parent education and interactive parent and child activities help families practice the skills that will break generational poverty and illiteracy.

This year, in our adult learning center, I have observed adult educators continuing to apply the research and revamp practices and strategies to help their students learn. These changes are happening all over our country. Adult educators and family literacy practitioners take their jobs very seriously. This is important work.

MVAEA shares a mission “to advance life long learning for personal and social development.” As professionals, it is our job to advocate for educational opportunities to support literacy for adults and children. Take a look at the services in your state. Family literacy services supported by the federal Even Start dollars are in jeopardy. This program was cut by 56%. Adult education dollars are at risk. At the time when an able and educated workforce has never been more needed, our time and tools are being compromised. Too often we do our work but forget to tell the community, legislators, and society how critical these services are to build a healthy communities and a strong country. With the recent changes in our government, we have a unique opportunity to be heard. As citizens we must use our voice to assure that these critical services continue. This professional concern must become a personal concern for all of us.

NUMBERS TO NOTE

Parental literacy is the single most important indicator of a child's success. The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) has concluded that youngsters whose parents are functionally illiterate are twice as likely to be functionally illiterate themselves.

By age four, children who live in poor families will have heard 32 million fewer words than children living in professional families.

One in five, or 20%, of America's children five years old and younger live in poverty.

Some 30 million adults in the U.S. have extremely limited literacy skills. If one teacher could teach 100 adults to read, we would need 300,000 adult education teachers to meet this need.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

ADDITIONS:

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CORRECTION:

Bonnie Zelenak
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fax: 573-884-5579
e-mail: zelenakb@missouri.edu

[http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/
list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/weblinks/
index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/weblinks/index.html)

This site, maintained by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education, features many links related to adult ed topics. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.adultstudentcenter.com/>
This is an excellent site! Adult Student Center provides a forum for adult students returning to college. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

[http://www.educationatlas.com/
adult-education.html](http://www.educationatlas.com/adult-education.html)

Claiming to be "your map to the world of education," this site really seems to have something for everyone in education—from home schooling to higher education. Whether you're a continuing ed student, a rookie adult education administrator, or a veteran faculty member in search of proven methods and theories, you'll find this to be a worthwhile site with numerous resources. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

*by Sharon
Luhring, MVAEA
membership
services
consultant*

**Welcome to our
newest MVAEA
members!
Please add these
new members
to your MVAEA
membership
directory.
In addition,
please note
the correction
with our sincere
apologies to
Bonnie Zelenak.**

Thank you!

**ON
THE
WEB**

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

DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION FORM

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. This 2006-07 Development Fund Award will be announced at annual MVAEA conference festivities in Bloomington, Minn., on April 18-20, 2007.
2. Each recipient will have up to one year to complete his/her project and will receive up to \$1,500 for expenses—upon submission of an itemized statement at the conclusion of the project.
3. A summary narrative, findings, or conclusions, along with any handouts or created materials, will be submitted to MVAEA's board for review and shall henceforth become the property of MVAEA.
4. An article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley* for publication.
5. The recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the MVAEA annual spring conference in the following year.
6. Recipient must be a 2006-07 member of MVAEA and continue with membership through 2008.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application shall consist of the completed form below as well as a brief description or discussion of the following components:

1. Description of the activity
2. The purpose of the activity
3. How the activity is to be implemented
- 4 & 5. The need for and the impact of the activity on adult education practices
6. The anticipated outcome of the activity
7. A general description of the budget
8. Any innovative aspects of the activity

DEADLINE

Please return completed application form by **March 1, 2007**, to the following address:
Rhonda Jones, 5078 Kensington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108

Title of Project: _____
Location of Project _____
Applicant Name _____
Organization/Institution _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____
E-mail Address _____

Information for Second Applicant (if applicable)

Applicant Name _____
Organization/Institution _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____
E-mail Address _____

Please attach 1-2 sheets in response to the application requirements noted in this newsletter.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To apply for the grant *or* to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Rhonda Jones, MVAEA Development Award chairperson, in the following ways:
 314-367-5000 *phone*
 314-367-3057 *fax*
 Rhonda.Jones@slps.org *e-mail*

**If you're doing something that works,
let others know!**

**If you need assistance with a challenge,
let others help!**

**If you want to voice your thoughts on
an important adult education topic,
let others hear!**

MVAEA Happenings in the Valley is the forum.

Let's work together to make this publication even stronger in the year ahead. Contact your state representative or Shari Kiple (kiplecomm@cableone.net) with story ideas, articles, photos, and anything else of potential interest to MVAEA members. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Midwest university will take students to Uganda

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication Department is sponsoring a trip to Uganda that may interest you and/or someone you know. Called "Building Intercultural Competencies," the tour is designed for farmers, agribusiness people, or others interested in the agricultural sector. It is appropriate for professional development, graduate credit, business exploration, and general enlightenment.

The trip runs from Jan. 4-23, 2007, and will offer an incredible journey to Uganda, which is located on the equator just north of Lake Victoria. With a special focus on people's daily life in the farming community, the trip will be especially interesting to people associated with agriculture.

Students will visit subsistence farmers who are providing for their families, improving their agricultural practices and marketing opportunities, educating their children, and accessing a

limited health care system. Students will also visit with them about how they live a life without modern conveniences we take for granted. Life is a physically intensive effort in Uganda, but you will be impressed with the warmth and gentleness of the people who often eke out an existence on only a small patch of ground.

In Kampala, participants will meet with U.S. Embassy representatives about U.S. relations in Uganda, U.S support agencies such as ACDI/VOCA (Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance), and faculty at Makerere University. There will also be time to explore a local arts and crafts village.

The tour will end with a 10-day safari at several national parks within Uganda. Offering everything from volcanic craters to grassy plains to tropical forest, these parks are among the most biodiverse places in the world.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact Kay
Rockwell via
e-mail at
krockwell1@unl.edu
or call her at
402-484-5431.

MVAEA FOUNDER'S AWARD APPLICATION

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Founder's Award may be made annually to an individual(s) who has/have served MVAEA with such distinction that his/her achievements are widely acknowledged by adult education colleagues throughout the seven state region.

Award Criteria

The MVAEA Founder's Award shall be given selectively for:

1. A record of notable accomplishment in the recipient's field.
2. A record of outstanding service to MVAEA in such capacities as participation in annual conference programs, membership on committees, service on the executive board, editing the MVAEA publications, or holding other elected and/or appointed office. Please remember, these are only examples. All contributions to lifelong learning are important.
3. A record of active and consistent professional support through longstanding membership and regular attendance at annual conferences.

Nomination Information

In order to nominate a person, please submit the information requested below and describe how the candidate meets the above criteria regarding MVAEA and his/her profession. Due to the significance of this award, nominations should be given considerable thought. Up to two 8-1/2 by 11 pages of typed information may be submitted as support material.

Deadline

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, to: Phil Wegman, Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210-1299. Nominations may also be sent electronically to pwegman@jccc.net.

Nominee Information (please print)

Full Name: _____

MVAEA Membership: ___ Past Member ___ Current Member ___ Approx. membership years

State Affiliation(s): _____

Employer(s)—Current and/or Former _____

Narrative: *Please attach up to two pages of supporting information.*

Nominator Information (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

MVAEA MEMO

TO: All MVAEA Members

**FROM: Phil Wegman,
Past President's Committee**

RE: MVAEA Founder's Award

Please submit your nomination for the 2006 Founder's Award using the form at left. This award is the most prestigious award the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association presents to a fellow member.

Your completed nomination form should be sent via mail or e-mail to Phil Wegman by Feb. 9, 2007.

**Direct all forms—along with any questions—to:
Phil Wegman
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS
66210-1299
pwegman@jccc.edu**

Thank you for your assistance.



STATE NEWS

MINNESOTA

www.mnmacae.org

submitted by Diana Cohen and Bella Hanson

MACAE (Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education) held its annual conference at the University of St. Thomas campus in St. Paul on Nov. 9. *Practical Thinking: Addressing the Changing Ecology of Adult Education* was the theme. MACAE is now celebrating its 32nd year!

Although MACAE hosts the MVAEA spring conference in 2007, the MACAE board planned a one-day conference from noon until 8 pm. The conference began with the board members' review of the year, and election of new officers.

The new MACAE president is Leslie Shore, who teaches at the college level in the classroom as well as online. Leslie has developed and conducted classes on the "Art and Practice of Listening." She will serve in a dual-role this year as MACAE and MVAEA presidents!

After the annual board meeting, the conference moved to a discussion of current best practices in adult education. A four-person panel represented ABE, online coursework, a graduate-level business program, and library applications. In the afternoon, six concurrent sessions were held. Concurrent sessions included online learning communities, supporting ESL learners in adult education, educating learners in mid-life and beyond, using focus groups, and teaching across the cultural divide.

The schedule also allowed time for the conference attendees to interact and discuss their best practices. The evening concluded with a fantastic dinner.

Now MACAE will focus on the upcoming

MVAEA conference (see page 1).

On another note, a professional development position has been added to the Minnesota ABE Department. Astrid Liden recently began her work in this area.

KANSAS

www.thekeaa.org

by Sue Choens

Kansas Adult Education Association has five district areas in the state, with each area having a representative who sits on the KAEA Board. Since Kansas hosts only one conference each year, members from each of the five districts meet individually to discuss issues and best practices in their areas, talk about program improvement ideas, bond with other programs, and simply just get acquainted.

Here are highlights from our districts:

- The program directors from District 4 met and shared promotional items they are using for marketing, and they also talked about what was happening in their programs. On Oct. 13, Salina will host a *District 4 Networking Meeting* for all staff and administration.
- Allen County hosted a District 5 meeting and presented a visual procedure for tracking student progress using fish! This colorful process allows you to see at a glance at the outcomes a student has obtained. They also shared information about graduation celebrations, best practices, and networking ideas. Their last meeting was Oct. 20.

Here are some other happenings in Kansas:

- It was a shocking loss for Kansas when Krishna Chawla was struck and killed by a car while she and her husband were out for an early morning walk on Aug. 21. She was a KAEA member for many years, as well as an ESL teacher and leader in the Wichita Area Technical College ABE program. Previously she taught and directed an ESL program with Catholic Charities in Wichita.

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**Visit the MVAEA
Web site –
www.mvaea.com
– to learn more
about what's
happening in
Missouri Valley !**

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- Salina Adult Education Center partnered with the Kansas National Guard to schedule a two-week intensive GED preparation course for soldier retention and eligibility for additional Guard training. Of the eight students who completed the course, six earned their Kansas State High School Diploma.
- Johnson County Community College (JCCC) and the Kansas Army National Guard sponsored a first-ever Reading Comprehension Advancement Training (RCAT) camp. The goal was to increase reading comprehension and math skills, facilitate GED completion, and broaden career paths for participants. Of 17 students who participated, 13 made learning gains, and of 11 participants who took the GED, eight passed. JCCC was chosen as the pilot class site since it is the state's largest ABE program and is a designated GED testing site. Following its pilot program, the Kansas Army National Guard plans camps throughout the state at several times a year, including an evening camp for working individuals.
- *HomeworkKansas* is a new live online tutoring service featuring expert tutors from across the country being offered at 1,300 Kansas Public Libraries for students who are in grades 4-12 or taking introductory college courses. Kansas ABE students can participate in this free service, which is accessible from home at www.homeworkkansan.org with a Kansas library card. Students can connect seven days a week from 4-11 p.m. Spanish tutoring is available five days each week from 4-9 p.m. Tutors are certified teachers, university professors, graduate school students, students at accredited colleges, and expert professionals in their fields who have gone through third party background checks. Help is available in elementary math, Algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, elementary science, earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, social studies, American and world history, political science, English, and more.
- Kansas Board of Regents Adult Education is sponsoring two math initiatives this year to increase ABE teacher's math skills. According

to Kansas ABE Director Dianne Glass, better prepared math teachers in ABE result in high math scores on the GED. The future of this country depends on better math skills as well as reading skills. In Kansas, 70% of recent high school grads end up in developmental education classes on the college campus. GED students are mirroring those statistics. Kansas' adult education programs would encourage a GED student to work toward a GED math score between 550 and 600 so they are adequately prepared for college-level classes.

- Twenty teachers were selected for the Kansas Teachers Investigating Adult Numeracy field test program—an intensive professional development and research program requiring participants to 1. attend three two-day multi-level math instruction trainings and ongoing local monthly meetings, 2. pilot curricular materials in their classrooms (in algebra and data & statistics—which are challenging areas for many GED students), 3. dialogue conceptual areas that need the most attention and improvement in instruction, and 4. share examples and data about learning experiences for both teachers and students. This program is designed to develop trainers for subsequent years. The second initiative will be announced at the KAEA conference in February.
- Kansas Board of Regents Adult Education will enable program directors to earn six graduate credits at no personal cost by attending a Leadership Institute at Kansas State this summer. Directors shared input on the curriculum and its projects at a recent state meeting.

IOWA

www.iowall.org

submitted by Dale Amunson

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning held its annual conference on Oct. 19-20, preceded by the annual pre-conference workshop on Oct 18. Using *The Mosaic of Lifelong Learning* as its theme, the event was held at the Gateway Inn in Ames, Iowa, and was coordinated by Evan Bensley, former MVAEA president.

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WAY TO GO!

This is the first issue in many issues that has featured news from all seven states in the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association. Kudos to your state reps and others who shared highlights, updates, and other information from the Valley!



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More than 50 participants enjoyed the pre-conference presentation by Karen McCaa, who spoke to attendees on the topic of “Keep the Drive Alive...Never Lose Your Passion.”

The conference began on the morning of Oct. 19 with concurrent sessions, followed by a mid-morning keynote address from Patricia McGill. Pat is from Arnolds Park, Iowa, which is near the Okoboji Lakes of Northwest Iowa.

This year’s conference included a track for office professionals, which was only logical since IALL has offered a conference specifically for office professionals every other year for many years. In fact, Evan Bensley first chaired this workshop about approximately 10 years ago. This year’s Conference Planning Committee decided to integrate the office professionals market into the annual conference to offer them an additional opportunity for professional development. The IALL conference also included tracks in adult & workplace literacy, adult learning, health & wellness, and business/industry/professional areas.

IALL’s conference also included an annual meeting and announcement of new officers for the coming year. The membership year for IALL runs from one October to the next — through the annual conference for the following year. Evan Bensley will serve as president for the 2006-07 IALL year.

The conference ended about 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 20 with a capstone address by Jim Jelinske, who works for Northeast Iowa Community College at its Dubuque location. He is a business coordinator for the College, but he also doubles as the Jelly the Clown in his other life as a conference speaker.

IALL’s new board and officers will meet in early December for the organization’s annual board retreat. Also during this time,

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?
Let us know! We’d like to include your news in the next issue of the MVAEA newsletter. Submit your articles or photos to the Happenings in the Valley editor using the information on the facing page of this issue.

next year’s Conference Planning Committee members will meet to begin planning for the organization’s 2007 conference.

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

submitted by Deb Sisco

North Dakota held its **state conference** in Bismarck on Sept. 21-22. The theme this year was *Building Cornerstones of Education*. The cornerstones were representative of the three groups that make up the organization—Adult Basic Education, Even Start, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. A total of 145 educators from throughout North Dakota attended this conference. Senator Rick Wardner from Dickinson, N.D., opened the conference by presenting a keynote address on the ways citizens can work with legislators effectively. He also talked about how to introduce legislation and answered some questions about how we should address legislators. The first day concluded with a session called “Let’s Talk About It,” which allowed attendees to choose two topics to discuss in a roundtable setting. The session concluded with a series of questions posted on the wall for each group to discuss and post their thoughts. This format resulted in new ideas and questions that hopefully will continue the discussion throughout the coming year. The conference included two other general sessions—one addressing what you need to know about the Pandemic, and the other covering Internet safety.

The North Dakota Resource Center has created a **Website**: www.ndresourcecenter.org. This site is still under construction, but work is underway to make it a mode of communication with adult educators in the state.

A new class —*Understanding Differentiated Instruction* — was offered on Nov. 3-4 in Minot, N.D., for educators of adult learners. Since “one-size-fits-all” teaching falls short in meeting the variety of interest, learning styles, and abilities found in today’s classroom, effective teachers have learned to modify their instruction to accommodate this range of

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needs. This course allowed educators to recognize how differentiated instruction can address the differences of the diverse group of students in today's classroom.

Four more ND Adult Learning Centers now have access to **UnitedStreaming**—bringing the total access to nine of the centers. UnitedStreaming is a digital video-based learning resource from Discovery Education. With Discovery Education UnitedStreaming, educators gain on-demand access to 50,000 content-specific segments from 5,000 full-length educational videos. Access to this type of teaching style meets the needs of student's demands for more visual learning in the classroom. Access to the on-demand makes the learning continuous when questions arise or more information is needed. An online class is available for instructors to learn how to access and include these sessions in their lessons.

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

submitted by Michelle Hanson

The Missouri Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) is already hard at work planning another informative, fun-filled conference for June 20-22, 2007. The theme for this conference will be *MAACCE Affair: When the Stars Come Out . . . Celebrating MAACCE Membership*.

At the last conference planning meeting, ideas were flying around the room to make this conference another one to remember. Not only are committee members planning many fun events, but they are also emphasizing quality sessions and great networking opportunities. If you have not already marked your calendars, please do so now! Set aside June 20-22, 2007, to have a great learning experience in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

The MAACCE board met Sept. 22 at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. At that meeting, we learned that the National Center for Community Education closed its doors on June 30, 2006—after helping train community educators throughout the nation for 40 years. Located in Flint, Mich., the national resource

developed regional community education training centers nationwide (including the University of St. Louis) during the 1980s. The National Center for Community Education trained many directors, coordinators, teachers, and staff members during its 40 years.

Our organization celebrated National Community Education Day on Nov. 14 using the theme *Community Education Builds Better Communities*.

Visit the new and improved MAACCE Website at www.maacce.org. Our newly appointed Publicity Committee will strive to keep the information current and relevant.

NEBRASKA

www.acean.org

information submitted by Terry Ramig and edited by Shari Zenor Kiple

Richard Walsh, senior consultant for LERN (Learning Resources Network) presented "Reaching Your Audience: Marketing for Success" at the annual ACEAN conference in Lincoln and North Platte (via NET 3) on April 21. The conference was a big success!

In other news, Diana Watson has passed on the ACEAN presidency to Billie Strand, who is employed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has a varied professional background that includes public television, educational television, interactive television, distance education, and program development.

The ACEAN board of directors as met twice since April and is working to help the organization better fit the needs of its members as a source for networking, programs, and development opportunities.

SOUTH DAKOTA

www.sdall.org

submitted by Kim Olson

I will be the new point of contact for AEL information for South Dakota. I am taking this over from Jeff Mitchell and am the executive director of the Cornerstones Career Learning Center, Inc., in Huron, S.D. To reach me, phone 605-353-7175, fax 605-353-7314, or visit www.cornerstonescareer.com, which is our Website. Thank you!

MVAEA

Happenings in the Valley

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.

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CONSULTANT'S

O *by Sharon Luhring, MVAEA membership services consultant*

R **A**s of the end of October, our MVAEA membership roster totals 180 members. The breakdown per state is:

N	Colorado	1
E	Florida	1
R	Iowa	19
	Kansas	17
	Minnesota	15
	Missouri	14
	North Dakota	76
	Nebraska	16
	Ohio	1
	South Dakota	20

If there are any changes to your contact information, please let me know! You can e-mail me at sluhring@myclearwave.net or call me at 507-243-4347.

Also, if you have any suggestions regarding our service to you please contact us. Thank you for supporting the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association with your membership!

Coming Up

- February 1** Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*
- April 18** MVAEA Leadership Academy
Bloomington, Minn.
- April 19-20** MVAEA Conference
Bloomington, Minn.
- May 1** Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

10. Explore the Minnesota Sculpture Garden
9. Take a tour of downtown St. Paul or explore the sights and sounds of downtown Minneapolis
8. Eat your way throughout the Twin Cities...there are some fantastic restaurants
7. Check out the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
6. Attend a performance at the Guthrie Theater
5. Visit the Walker Art Center
4. Trek the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3. Consider a show at the Minneapolis Children's Theatre—fun for all ages
2. Shop—Mall of America, Nicollet Mall, the IKEA store, and more
1. Attend the MVAEA spring conference on April 18-20, 2007!

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (please check one)

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

*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 form and dues, payable to MVAEA, to Sharon Luhring (please see page 11 for contact information).

MVAEA CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

The Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) invites you to present the 2007 Missouri Valley Adult Education Association spring conference, which is being held on April 18-20, 2007 at the Ramada Inn in Bloomington, Minn. The conference will provide an opportunity for adult educators, practitioners, students, and scholars to learn about each other's work, engage in discussions, and network. The theme for this conference is **"Practical Thinking: Addressing the Changing Ecology of Adult Education."**

"From an adult learning and adult education perspective, we are wise to pay attention to the forces that affect motion in our field plus the relationship between learners, teachers, and the places in which they practice." — Gil Kinnunen

"Adult education is about process—and that means being alert, flexible, adaptable, and responsive to where learners are as they seek to expand what they need to know. While there is energy in that sort of fluidity, it can also seem to be a recipe for chaos." — Vic Klimoski, MACAE member

Your presentation may help bring order to the chaos for other educators. Presentations may focus on theory, empirical research, or experience in the field having to do with the changing nature of teaching adults and the best practices to use in that endeavor.

PRESENTATION LENGTH

Presentations—including a question period—will be a total of 60-75 minutes.

DEADLINE

Presenters should submit their proposals to Lynn Riskedal (lynnchris@comcast.net) by **Dec. 15, 2006**. You will be notified no later than five days after the deadline if your presentation has been chosen for the conference.

POSSIBLE TOPICS

There are many possible themes—both inside and outside the box. A few ideas include:

Quality assessment in distance education	Social impact
Education and globalization	Knowledge and skills in virtual environments
Blended learning	Systems for individuals with special needs
Teaching/learning strategies	Application of instructional design theories
Online vs. offline topics	Educational multimedia
Advanced uses of multimedia and hypermedia	Integrated learning environments
Integration of collaborative tools (discussion groups, chat rooms, videoconferencing)	Internet-suited multimedia technologies (audio and video streaming, etc.)

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

Presenter name(s) and title(s)

Presenter(s) contact information — institution name and address, e-mail address, and relevant telephone number(s)

Title of presentation

An abstract (150 words) that includes the subject of the presentation and explains how it supports the conference theme.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Check our Website—www.mnmacae.org—for more conference information. We'll be adding details on a regular basis!