

### A letter from a fellow MVAEA member... What's in store for MVAEA?

#### In This Issue

MVAEA Membership  
Application / Renewal  
page 3

One member's  
perspective:  
Quality training at a  
state conference  
pages 4-5

Language instruction  
via mobile device  
page 5

Development Fund  
Information &  
Application Form  
pages 6-7

State News  
pages 8-9

Consultant's Corner  
page 10

Coming Up...  
page 10



**FALL 2011**  
vol. 7, no. 2

#### *Dear MVAEA Members:*

What does the future hold for the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association? What services should the association be providing for its members? How do we promote the visibility of the organization? How do we sustain our budget needs for now and the future of the association? Just where will we go in the future is the question. The MVAEA board of directors has been discussing these and many other questions lately.

Similar to other groups and organizations nationwide, Missouri Valley Adult Education Association has seen a decline in membership participation over the past several years to the point that there is great concern about the future of the association. Coupled with the increasing use of technology to educate and inform the population, educational delivery has seen many very notable and impressive changes. This is not to say that those changes are not good and a great benefit to learners world wide, but these changes have also taken a toll on traditional learning and learning styles. We go to our computers or palm pilots or whatever gadget we might have to access information in an instant.

There has also been a change in the philosophy of our institutions regarding the benefits of belonging to professional associations and organizations. Some professional educators and administrators regard membership in such groups as unnecessary and

*To be honest,  
this is not  
just a board  
issue or  
a board  
decision.  
We need to  
hear from  
everyone.*

possibly frivolous to the mission of the educational institution and /or their professions. These memberships are also an expense that does not or should not be incurred in times of economic distress if it is coming from the institutional budget. Younger educators may look upon these memberships as an expense that they should not incur for whatever reason.

As I mentioned, the MVAEA board has been discussing where or what we should be doing for the sustainability of MVAEA. In April 2011, we held a Leadership Academy in South Sioux City, Nebraska. There were 20 people in attendance at the one and one-half day event. The presenter, Elmer Miller, touched on

*continued on page 2*

## A letter from a fellow MVAEA member... What's in store for MVAEA? PAGE 2

**JOIN US FOR  
THE NEXT  
MVAEA  
BOARD  
MEETING!**

**DATE:  
TBA**

**TIME:  
TBA**

**PLACE:  
TBA**

many issues regarding belonging to organizations as well as overall topics such as social styles and working together. It was a very beneficial experience for all. Based on participant comments, it was valuable to them for their positions and in their social lives.

### *What can or should MVAEA do next?*

At this time, the MVAEA board is exploring many options—including putting activities on the road and taking the professional development to its members and future members. One or two may travel far more inexpensively as presenters, than many going to a central location in the seven-state region. It was discussed that maybe a MVAEA identity could be promoted via sponsoring “road shows” with staff development activities. Each state representative would then be responsible for coordinating this “road show” for the benefit of the state members of that respective state.

There is still the question of how we could or should handle an annual association meeting. In addition, there are also many issues that must be discussed for the continued viability of MVAEA and for the sake of future conferences in the seven-state region.

### *What are your thoughts?*

As current, lifetime, or even prospective members of MVAEA, what do you believe the direction of MVAEA should be? **Ultimately, this is not just a board issue or a board decision.** Many of you have dedicated a great part of your lives to education for the young and old and to the health and viability of MVAEA—so, what do you think? What might your ideas be about the future of MVAEA? Do we allow the **oldest regional association dedicated to lifelong learning in the United States to go away?** Or do we pump new ideas and a new focus into it starting right **now?**

We, as board members, are very willing to listen and discuss those issues that are for the good of the cause. If you have comments or questions that you would like to share with me or any of the board members, please email me at [daleaa@butler-bremer.com](mailto:daleaa@butler-bremer.com) or go online at [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com) for a list of board members and state representatives.

*Thank you for your time & opinions.*

Dale Amunson, longtime MVAEA member



### **GUESS WHAT?**

**MVAEA membership dues are going down!  
Mail in the application form on the next page  
and your annual membership is just \$10!**

# Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Member Updating Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose the area that best describes your job/position:

*Adult Education*

*Community Education*

*Community College*

*Technology*

*Higher Education*

*State Director*

*Other* \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in serving on MVAEA's Board (officer or state representative)? \_\_Yes \_\_No

Are you interested in contributing articles to *Happenings in the Valley* newsletter? \_\_Yes \_\_No

**Please return this completed form, along with your \$10 membership dues, to:**

MVAEA

ATTN: Deb Sisco, Membership Services

1304 S. Main St

Minot, ND 58701

## ONE MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE...

# Can you find quality training at a state conference? Absolutely, YES!

by Sue Choens, Kansas MVAEA representative

If you have not attended a state conference this year, you have been missing a great opportunity. For some reason, we frequently believe we can only get quality training and the most current information at a national conference. That is not true!

On Sept. 22-23, I attended the 2011 NDALL Fall Conference in Mandan, N.D. A colleague from another Kansas Adult Education program and I decided we would carpool! We managed to fill the very long hours traveling from the middle of Kansas across Nebraska and South Dakota to the middle of North Dakota with productive S.W.O.T. talk about our program services. Of course, on the return trip we shared what we had learned while at the conference.

On the first morning, Jean Stephens from LINC presented on the topic of "Instructional Math Strategies." During her hands-on session, we learned how to turn a gelato shop's data into a bar graph, and we then used that graph to make a pie chart. The only thing that could have improved the session would have been samples of the variety of gelatos to try! However, we did get the recipe and many great handouts to use!

After a very good lunch, we attended "Understanding Generational Differences" presented by Pam Sagness from the Department of Human Services. I have heard this topic presented many times before, but the interactive small-group presentation style really drove the critical points home. Again, I returned home with some very good handouts to share with my staff and colleagues in Kansas.

A panel discussion on what "Career and Post Secondary Readiness" means for adult learning centers, alternative high school students, and staff wrapped up the day. In this session, one strategy I learned was that adult education centers should be sharing the GED norming

information with CTE instructors. They must know and understand what the GED scores mean and appreciate that only 6 out of 10 graduating seniors can pass the GED test battery. Then there is common ground to discuss why they would want to scholarship GED completers or why they would want to recruit them for their classes. In addition, I brought home a nice, glossy little magazine entitled *North Dakota Career Resource Network Career Outlook*, which can be found on Facebook. The publication covers self-assessment, occupational research, education and training, financing and education, and employment. I thought to myself: This is a tool Kansas should have!

That evening, we were warmly welcomed to the NDALL-hosted membership social and annual meeting. We also visited with North Dakotans about how their adult education programs and state association differs from those in Kansas. And we learned two legislative representatives were being recognized for their dedication to improving access to adult education. Every state should have such strong support from its legislators!

In other awards, Deb Sisco, MVAEA board member, was recognized for her service as NDALL president (2009-11). Latisha Sims received the Educator of the Year award, and Valerie Fischer, state director of Adult Education and Literacy received the Adult Education Outstanding Leadership/Service award. The Exemplary Student of the Year award went to Stacy Winkler. As Stacy spoke, she reminded us that she—like many other students—is the reason so many of us chose to work in this field.

And how was the food??? The awards dinner was yummy! In fact, the food during the entire conference was very good and many of the breaks offered enticing fall apple cuisine.

*continued on page 5*



Jean's real life lesson began with a workplace video from [www.thefutureschannel.com](http://www.thefutureschannel.com); check it out!

This session yielded the *North Dakota Career Resource Network Career Outlook*, which can be found on Facebook.



## CONSIDER THIS: Language instruction via mobile device

by Marian Thacher, online blogger

[T here is] a lot of interesting discussion going on now about mobile learning. What's the difference between c-learning, e-learning, and m-learning? One quote I read from John Eyles [<http://www.johneyles.info/>] described classroom learning as a well-balanced meal, e-learning or online learning as a sumptuous buffet, and m-learning via cell phone or other mobile device as a power snack. There are a lot of times when you could really use a power snack!

My interest was piqued by a presentation at the CATESOL Conference by Voxy [<http://voxy.com/u/>], a start-up delivering language instruction to Spanish speakers using shortened news stories. You can choose from three different story sets—headline news, pop culture, or sports. You download the iPhone app (Droid app coming soon), and then select the headline of the story you want to read (headlines in Spanish), read the story, select vocabulary to see definitions and add to your list to study later, and answer some comprehension questions. There isn't much

instruction here, and there doesn't seem to be any organization in terms of grammar, language functions, or vocabulary. The exciting thing is their experimentation with mobile space.

There are several features [in the works]. One is location-based content. For example, when you walk by a bank, and banking phrases in English become available if you click on the icon of the bank. It's the same for a restaurant or movie theater. This could be a fun homework assignment for students with iPhones.

Another component was item recognition through the camera. The presenter (and CEO), Paul Gollash, took a picture of my shoe. The app identified it as "black leather shoe." How did it do that??? This could be such a useful language app! And although the company wants the app to be used as an instructional tool, not a utility, its ability to identify items in another language instantly is not only intriguing...it's incredible.

Posted April 14, 2011

<http://marianthacher.blogspot.com/>



## 2012 UPCOMING STATE CONFERENCES

### IOWA

July 13–15  
Honey Creek  
Resort near  
Centerville, Iowa

### MINNESOTA

To be announced

### MISSOURI

June 20–22  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
in Lake of the  
Ozarks, Mo.

### NORTH DAKOTA

To be announced



## ONE MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE...continued

*continued from page 4*

Laurie Larson and Melissa Cournia led Friday morning's "Instructional Writing Strategies" session. We had the opportunity to do some journaling, some free writing, and learn about the *6 + 1 Analytic Trait Model for Writing Assessment*. Do you use the ABCD method when you compose? If you do not know what that is: A (attack), B (brainstorm options), C (choose the best option to write about), and D (develop/prewrite).

MVAEA Board members who attended the conference took a little time for a discussion about the future of MVAEA and to do some strategic planning.

The silent auction had many items to bid on; I brought home a few! The auction raised over \$1,700, which was donated to the Minot Adult Learning Center to help with flood recovery in a truly heartwarming presentation.

All in all, we made new friends and thought it was great to connect with friends from other places and hear about what was happening in their states.

As I stated early on, if you are not supporting conferences at other states—or even your own—you are missing an opportunity to expand your horizons personally and professionally. For a list of upcoming state conferences, check out the list at right or visit [www.mvaea.org](http://www.mvaea.org).

# NEED EXTRA FUNDING???

## Apply for MVAEA’s Development Fund Award

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri)



### WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA?

When you apply for the MVAEA Development Fund award, you could receive the cash you need to launch a big idea of your very own!

The MVAEA Development Fund invites you to submit an application for the 2012 Development Fund Award, which will be announced at the 23rd Annual MVAEA Leadership Academy: CAMP L.E.A.D. on April 26-27.

Because MVAEA is holding a “Leadership Academy” and development funds are being used to offset the costs for *all* who attend the conference, this year’s Development Fund Award will be for only \$500.

Each recipient will have up to one year to complete his/her project and will receive up to \$500 for expenses upon submission of an itemized statement at the project’s conclusion.

A summary narrative, findings or conclusions, and any handouts or created materials will be submitted to the Board for review and shall henceforth become the property of

MVAEA. Also, a short article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley* for publication. In addition, the recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the following MVAEA annual spring conference. If a Leadership Academy is held in lieu of a conference, a formal presentation will not be required.

If you are a past Development Fund Award recipient, you must wait out one year prior to submitting a new application.

To apply, please complete and submit application (at right) by **March 31** to:

**Rhonda Jones**  
**St. Louis Public Schools**  
**Adult Education and Literacy**  
**5078 Kensington Avenue**  
**St. Louis, MO 63108**

**Rhonda.Jones@slps.org**

### CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. The 2012 Development Fund Award will be announced at the MVAEA Leadership Academy Camp L.E.A.D., April 26-27, 2012, in South Sioux City, Neb.
2. Each recipient will have up to one year to complete his/her project and will receive up to \$500 for expenses upon submission of an itemized statement at the conclusion of the project and submission of an article for the *Happenings in the Valley*.
3. A summary narrative, findings or conclusions, and any handouts or created materials will be submitted to the Board for review and shall henceforth become the property of MVAEA.
4. A short article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley* for publication.
5. Recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the following MVAEA annual spring conference. If leadership academy is held instead of a conference, presentations will not be required.
6. Recipient must be a 2012-13 member of MVAEA and continue with membership through 2014.

**To apply or to learn more, please contact:** Rhonda Jones, MVAEA Development Chair  
5078 Kensington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 367-5000 phone  
(314) 367-3057 fax  
Rhonda.Jones@slps.org

# DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION FORM

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application shall consist of this completed form, along with a brief description of the following:

1. Description of the activity
2. Purpose of the activity
3. How the activity is to be implemented
4. The need for—and the impact of—the activity on adult education practices
5. Anticipated outcome of the activity
6. General description of the budget
7. Any innovative aspects of the activity
8. If you are a recent Development Award recipient, you must wait 1 year before applying again.

Each criteria is judged on a five-point scale; the applicant with the highest points receives the award.

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 above.



### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To apply for the grant *or* to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Rhonda Jones, MVAEA Development Award chair, in one of the following ways:

*phone*  
314-367-5000

*fax*  
314-367-3057

*email*  
Rhonda.Jones@slps.org



# STATE NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA

[www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm)

by Rose Kreitinger

September was a busy month for North Dakota. We had training on the LACES program on Sept. 21 for our reporting system. This is an updated student information management system. The training was for everyone across the state and was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan.

Following that training, North Dakota held its fall conference on Sept. 22-23 at the Seven Seas. NDALL's conference was titled "Learning Together to Make a Difference." This was the first year that the adult education group was joined by the alternative high school group. It proved to be a great combination, and we look forward to working together to make NDALL a stronger association.

### OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Two of the MVAEA board members joined us in North Dakota for our conference. Karen Ulanski and Sue Choens from Kansas made the long trek north and were introduced by the president of NDALL, Deb Sisco, who recognized the regional board members.

Pam Sagness addressed "Understanding Generational Differences," which was an interesting topic showing the impact of how the different generations have had various things that molded their beliefs and morals. Today, those things are having an impact on the working world that now has five generations working in it.

A four-person panel discussion was held regarding Career and Post Secondary Readiness. They shared what they look for when someone is applying for a job. Each had

a different perspective on a part of what is expected and desired by the people entering the work force.

The following awards were also presented. *Educator of the Year*: Latisha Sims, Grand Forks Adult Learning Center *Adult Education Outstanding Leadership/Service Award*: Valerie Fischer, State Director of Adult Education and Literacy, Bismarck *Alternative Education Outstanding Leadership/Service Award*: Deb Dillon, Woodrow Wilson Alternative High School Principal, Fargo *Exemplary Student of the Year 2010-11*: Stacy Winkler, Grand Forks Adult Learning Center *NDALL President*: Deb Sisco, Minot Adult Learning Center 2009-11

*Legislative Service Awards*: Representative RaeAnn Kelsch, District 34, Mandan, and Representative Bob Skarphol, District 2, Tioga

One other annual conference event that was fun for all was the silent auction. This year there were 83 items donated, which generated well over \$1,300. Silent auction funds normally go into a scholarship fund, but this year the proceeds went to the Minot Adult Learning Center to help them with flood relief.

## NEBRASKA

submitted by

Terry Ramig

Even though

[www.acean.org](http://www.acean.org)

is no longer a valid website, you may contact Terry Ramig (or other MVAEA members from Nebraska via Terry) at [terryr@northeast.edu](mailto:terryr@northeast.edu).

## KANSAS

[www.thekaea.org](http://www.thekaea.org)

by Sue Choens

With all the turnover in state leadership within Kansas since my last report, there has not been much new activity. Instead, I have no official state report for Kansas this time. Instead, I have provided an article about my experience at the MVAEA conference in North Dakota. Please see the article on pages 4-5.

## MISSOURI

[www.maacce.org/](http://www.maacce.org/)

by Rhonda Jones

MAACCE had a wildly successful planning committee meeting in September and I'm happy to announce that we have a theme for the 2012 conference. In celebration of an epic

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event that rolls around every four years.... drumroll, please...we selected “A MAACCE Olympics—One Conference, One Goal!” In celebration of lifelong learning and achievement that comes from hard work and excellence, our team unanimously chose this theme to represent us next year. MAACCE’s 2012 annual conference will be June 20-22 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

So pack your togas (oh yeah, I did say “toga”—any color sheet will suffice), your olive wreath, or your speedos and track shoes! Light those torches! And get ready to go for the GOLD!! Watch for an e-blast soon with additional details, and check MAACCE’s website for information.

### **MISSOURI ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY**

Our state’s Adult Education and Literacy Directors held their fall director’s meeting on Oct. 5-7 in Osage Beach. It was a celebration of success, as Missouri met performance targets for 2011. DESE is still awaiting results for Entered Employment, Retained Employment, GED Attainment Rate, and Entered Postsecondary. Other presented topics included Professional Development, Effective Teacher Resources, Certification, GED Update, and WorkKeys.

## **IOWA**

[www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org)

*by Dale Amunson*

Held in conjunction with the Iowa Adult Literacy Institute, the annual conference was held in Marshalltown, Iowa, at Iowa Valley Community College and the Best Western Regency Inn on July 13–15. Julie Thomas and Janet Leifeld co-chaired the conference. The attendance was 164 over the 3-day period.

The fall organizational meeting for the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning was held Oct. 5 at the Honey Creek Resort and Conference Center at Lake Rathbun just north of Centerville, Iowa. Julie Thomas is the current president of the association, having previously served as the 2011 conference chair.

Newly elected board members and some of the appointed committee chairs were in attendance at the organizational meeting. Julie welcomed all and proceeded about the business activities for the coming year—including the monthly meeting schedule, legislative breakfast on Capital Hill in Des Moines, and the annual conference to be held in July at Honey Creek Resort.

In new business, we discussed the idea of having the Missouri Valley Adult Education do a joint venture with IALL in the sponsorship and/or planning of the IALL annual conference. After several thoughts and comments were exchanged regarding this plan, it was left to Dale Amunson and Steve Allison, MVAEA alternate delegate, to bring more information back at the next IALL Board Meeting as well as to the annual conference planning committee.

Prior to the IALL Board Meeting on Oct. 5, the Conference Planning Committee met at the Honey Creek Resort on Oct. 4 to begin the planning process for the 2012 IALL annual conference to be held July 11-13 at Honey Creek. Frank DeMilia of Northwest Iowa Community College is the conference chair for next year. The initial planning is looking at a single-topic type conference with a variety of speakers covering multiple topics through the duration of the 2-3 days of the conference. Steve Allison is developing an RFP to send to various presenters that have voiced interest in working with IALL on the next conference. The agenda may not include a keynote and capstone speaker but rather will focus on more staff development issues pertinent to our daily needs as educators. If you know of speakers that may have an interest in coming to Iowa to present at this conference that can contact Steve through Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa

## **MINNESOTA**

[www.mnmacae.org](http://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 Kreitingner

Deb Sisco

Marian Thacher

*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](mailto:minot.k12.nd.us)

## CONSULTANT'S

O  
R  
N  
E  
RHow are you contributing?

by Deb Sisco (North Dakota), membership services consultant

**M**y husband and I were recently inducted into the Minot High School Athletic Hall of Fame—as contributors. It was quite the honor, but also a shock to be honored for something that we just considered “doing things parents did.” All three of our daughters were runners, competing in cross-country and track & field from the time they were quite young. Since I am not one to just sit around and watch from the sidelines, very early on I volunteered to help. Who would have ever thought there would be recognition for “just helping” over all these years?

Now after being told of receiving this award, I have been thinking about what a “contributor” really is. Checking online for the definition (who opens a dictionary anymore?!), I found that a contributor is “a person or thing that contributes something, in particular” or “a person who writes articles for a magazine or newspaper.” So by writing this article for the MVAEA newsletter, I am a contributor. I was a contributor all those years I supported my kids in their sales of everything from candy bars to raffle tickets to who knows what while they were in school (although I have a feeling I contributed more by just buying it myself!). The list just goes on and on as I think about the groups I have contributed to over the years. I am betting that if you really thought about it, you have a very long list of things you have done that would make you a contributor, as well.

Now the question comes to this organization of MVAEA. **Are you a contributor?** Have you attended conferences and worked when they were being held in your state? Have you continued your membership and supported the organization? Hopefully you have promoted it in your area? Maybe you have even received an award from MVAEA for your work with your state organization? I could go on and on, but the question remains: Have you contributed to MVAEA?

MVAEA needs your help to keep this organization alive and prosperous. Will you continue to be a contributor and support our regional organization? When you think about it, membership is just one way to be a contributor. Is your membership past due? There are also many other ways to contribute.

The MVAEA Board met in October and will gather again in the coming months, so contact your state rep with any thoughts you might have about how this organization can continue to survive! Instead of standing on the sidelines and saying changes need to be made, I would encourage you to offer suggestions. Above all, be an active contributor.

*To contact any board member, please visit the MVAEA website at [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com) for names, email addresses, and phone numbers. Thank you.*

Coming  
UpDeadlines for  
“Happenings in  
the Valley”  
Newsletter

Friday, January 6

Friday, February 24

*Email articles or*

*photos to the editor:*

*kiplecomm@*

*cablene.net*

## MVAEA Leadership

## Academy:

## CAMP L.E.A.D.

April 26-27

Marina Inn

South Sioux City,

Nebraska

## 2012 STATE

## CONFERENCES

See page 5 for

dates & locations