

### New roads lead to conference success

#### In This Issue

*Adult perspectives:*  
Consider the value of  
meaningful conversation  
page 2

President's message  
page 3

Past president's message  
page 4

Development award  
recipient announced  
page 5

Preconference,  
capstone, and concurrent  
session summaries  
pages 5-9

MVAEA presents awards  
pages 10-12

Missouri will host  
2009 conference  
page 12

State news  
pages 14-16

Consultant's corner  
pages 17-18

by Steve Allison, MVAEA president and  
Conference Planning Committee co-chair

**N**ew Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning was the theme for the 2008 MVAEA conference. Those "new roads" led Iowa's Conference Planning Committee from Iowa to try some new things.

1) The 2008 conference was a joint conference between three organizations: Missouri Valley Adult Education Association (MVAEA), the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL), and the Iowa ABE Institute.

2) MVAEA's traditional spring conference timeframe was moved to July to accommodate all of the organizations.

3) The conference was held in a new venue—the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

#### Record attendance

These "new roads" may have been a contributing factor in our conference attendance, which surpassed 200 registrations, and preconference Leadership Academy attendance, which was right at 100 attendees. Or it could have possibly been the excellent slate of speakers and sessions available for attendees.

There were over 30 sessions from which participants could choose, beginning with a

preconference event featuring Art Ellison, New Hampshire State director of adult education. Art talked about the "Politics of Adult Education" and the importance of building an advocacy network at the state level.

#### Conference keynote

The 2008 conference kicked off with Byrd Baggett's keynote message of "Building Relationships" and "Growing to the Season of Significance."

Byrd's Texas accent and great storytelling ability kept participants focused, and his message was well received.



#### An array of concurrent sessions

Following the keynote address were 18 professional development sessions focusing on adult literacy, family literacy, adult learning (credit), professional development, technology, and business and industry training.

*continued on page 7*



## Consider the value of meaningful conversation

Meaningful conversation is one of the most important aspects of learning, especially for adults. Sadly, it doesn't happen very often anymore. We should always strive to stimulate meaningful conversations in your classroom. Here are a few ideas to get conversation started.

### What do you most relish in conversation?

To start with, remind yourself of what you most relish in conversation. Recollect the most interesting conversation you had in the last week. Ask yourself what made this conversation so enjoyable or valuable. People often say sincerity/caring, wit or humor, relevance, charm, originality, clarity, or informativeness.

Now think...which of your students are strong on one or another of these, and how can you give them a chance to express it? Who else might you invite who would bring delightful strengths to the conversation?

### Interested in a talking stick?

Want to invite a few of your more thoughtful guests to go deeper? Pass around a "talking

stick" (or any object), which gives the person holding it the floor to express themselves fully on a particular discussion topic.

### What about table topics?

Use Table Topics™—well-tested questions that appeal to everyone.

### Do you really listen to your students?

Really listen to what your students are saying when they touch on a subject of strong interest to them and to you. Make a point of asking more. "Fred, that's really interesting. Could you tell us more about how you learned that...how it works in practice...why you think it's important..."

### It's up to you!

Consider it your responsibility as the teacher or class leader to move in at these points with a conversational pick-me-up. Your students will bless you for it! Truly, conversation is your most readily-available, pervasive, and useful way to stimulate your mind and continue learning and growing.

**THE "ADULT PERSPECTIVES" COLUMN WAS CREATED BY Jim Lightbody, former *Happenings in the Valley* editor. phone: 402-435-3662 e-mail: jimdonnal@aol.com**

*by Ron Gross (about.com)*

*adulthood.about.com/od/icebreakers/p/conversation.htm*



**L to R: Mary Schaefer (North Dakota) and Leslie Shore (Minnesota) were two of many Presidents Breakfast attendees at the 2008 conference.**

## Leaders gather for annual President's Breakfast

*by Mary Schaefer (North Dakota), MVAEA past president*

The President's Breakfast is held each year in conjunction with the annual MVAEA conference. Prior to the opening ceremony on the morning of July 17, a total of 18 people representing the MVAEA board and the leaders of six of the seven MVAEA states gathered in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to share news, network, and discuss challenges.

The theme of advocacy for adult learners and adult education programs held common interest across the region. This meeting provided a format for state leaders to share their

strategies in advocacy efforts and share valuable suggestions. A common challenge among some of the MVAEA states relates to the difficulties being faced to maintain healthy associations at a state level. The recent decision on the state of Nebraska to dissolve their association accentuated this challenge.

Other states discussed challenges with fragmentation or funding stream changes. This group of leaders took the opportunity to support each state and offer solution-centered suggestions to strengthen state associations.

This networking and support underscores the value of MVAEA in times of challenge and transition.

## From the President

# Traveling new roads together

by Steve Allison (Iowa), MVAEA president

On July 18, I accepted the president's gavel from outgoing MVAEA President Leslie Shore. Since that time, I have reflected on what it means to be president of such a prestigious organization.

When I see the names of all of the many individuals who have held the president's office in the past—and when I consider that Missouri Valley Adult Education Association is the oldest regional adult education organization in the United States, I realize the responsibility this position holds. With the assistance of a very capable board of directors and state representatives, I am ready for the challenge.

Adult education throughout our seven-state region is undergoing some challenging times. Funding issues are a huge factor in some states, and the structure of adult education has been changing over the past few years as well. We need to come to the realization that adult education is not the same as it was in the past.

These changes, or paradigm shifts, offer us great opportunities and potential in the field of adult education. We simply must look at it positively and discover new creative ways to serve our students. I also believe the power of an organization like MVAEA is a great resource we must utilize to meet the challenges that face us in this changing world of adult education.

As I watched the membership pass through the halls at the Mid America Center and interact with each other in

Council Bluffs, I found myself thinking, "What a diverse group of professionals this organization represents!" It is this membership mix that makes the organization as strong as it is today. And it is these members who are willing to share their knowledge with each other to promote the changes needed for adult education to prosper in the Valley.

As president-elect, I spent the past 15 months working with an energetic group of adult educators from Iowa planning the 2008 conference. That time flew by in a flash! Thanks to a very capable co-chair, Deb Goodall, I think the conference went very well. I am sure this next year will pass by just as fast as the last; there is work to be done and not much time to do it.

As an organization, we need to collaborate as much as possible to make all of our state organizations as strong and vibrant as possible. Adult education in each of our states looks a little different. We have traditional adult education departments, ABE, GED and adult literacy, four-year credit institutions, corporate training departments, and those who work with secondary schools to provide services for our students.

With such a diverse group of educators, we simply need to tap the potential of our membership and share resources for the good of all in the field of adult education.

The challenge is in front of us; we must take *New Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning*.



MVAEA President  
Steve Allison (Iowa)

## From the Past President

### Change requires involvement



by Leslie Shore  
(Minnesota),  
outgoing  
president

**T**he instant outgoing President

Mary Schaefer handed me the MVAEA president's gavel in 2007, I knew I was standing on the shoulders of the work the past presidents had done to get MVAEA into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We are in a time of unprecedented, rapid change in all areas of our lives, and education is no exception. There are a number of new trends that effect adult education and the direction MVAEA must take in order to fulfill its mission of promoting the professional growth and intellectual development of adult learners, educators, and facilitators.

Although the original Baby Boomer bulge in college enrollment has long past, it is this same generation that is coming back in droves to partake in adult education opportunities. They are returning to education to finish degrees in order to move up or change their careers. They are pursuing master's degrees and advanced certifications to position themselves favorably as companies merge, send jobs off-shore, or answer the entrepreneurial call. This has created a need for 'professionalizing' curriculums.

The number of foreign-born students in our adult classrooms is at an all-time high and growing rapidly. Although they bring fresh perspectives, experiences, and diversity to

our educational institutions, there are different demands on delivering culturally competent and effective education at all levels of educational need.

We are now in the unique position of teaching four generations of learners who are working with or managing four generations of employees. The statistics paint the landscape: 54% of Generation Xers participate in adult education courses, 49% of Boomers participate, and 17% of the Veteran generation participate. Each generation has its' own shared experience, point of view, and over-arching motivation. This has created multi-generational classrooms that have their own unique issues with which to contend.

Of course, through the growth of online courses, technology expands the reach of adult education and makes education possible for rural, overseas, over-employed, under-employed, entrepreneurial, and time-strapped students in any situation. However, instructing online is different than teaching face to face. The reality is that by 2009, it is predicted that one in ten students will be enrolled in an online degree program, and there are not enough properly trained online instructors to handle this anticipated growth.

This last year as MVAEA's president has shown me that as members of MVAEA, we can be change agents in the panoramic possibilities for adult education that face us. Everyone's continued participation in newsletter content, professional development, and conferences will keep MVAEA members at the leading edge of this extraordinary change in adult education.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
We are now in the unique position of teaching four generations of learners who are working with or managing four generations of employees.

**GUESS WHAT?**  
By 2009, it is predicted that one in ten students will be enrolled in an online degree program.

# How to navigate the Internet and virtual library sources efficiently

by Tom Haskell (Iowa), MVAEA treasurer

With an audience of 32 attendees, Charlotte Knoche gave an informative talk about the strengths and weaknesses of Wikis, the social networking of bookmarks, “del.icio.us,” RSS, and other applications of the Internet that have come a long way since first being introduced. Student papers, research topics, and other uses of the Internet were discussed. Participants also had an opportunity to explore Web page biases.

Some of the most helpful items Charlotte shared included handouts that are also available online. Several were from the non-profit group called Educause (listed at right). The time for this session was over before we knew it.

The topics were great, and the handouts gave us much to consider. Our presenter was later honored as the recipient of MVAEA’s Development Fund award.

## WIKIS:

[connect.educause.edu/Library/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAbout/44397](http://connect.educause.edu/Library/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAbout/44397)

## RSS:

[net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7024.pdf](http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7024.pdf)

## SOCIAL BOOKMARKING:

[net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7001.pdf](http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7001.pdf)

[del.icio.us/](http://del.icio.us/)

*(one of the most popular social bookmarking sites)*

## OVERALL INFORMATION:

[www.educause.edu/](http://www.educause.edu/)

[7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSeries/7495](http://7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSeries/7495)

*(a great reference for nearly all the information presented in this session)*

## ON THE WEB

resources you can put to work right now

courtesy of Charlotte Knoche and the helpful presentation she shared at the 2008 MVAEA conference

## Dr. Charlotte Knoche receives two big awards

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri)

The recipient of the **2008–09 Development Fund Award** is Dr. Charlotte Knoche, director of library services at Concordia University-St. Paul, for a project entitled, “Social Bookmarking for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.” She will study how social bookmarking—a strategy for storing, organizing, searching, and managing favorite Web pages—can be used to augment the educational process.

As an award requirement, Charlotte will present at next year’s MVAEA conference in Kansas City, Mo. Sue Choens, last year’s Development Fund award recipient, presented on “Ambassadors for Butler Adult Education” at this year’s MVAEA conference in Council Bluffs. Thank you, Sue!

We encourage you to consider projects for next year’s award!

Dr. Charlotte Knoche is also the recipient of **MVAEA’s 2008 Hovland Award**. As director of library services, Charlotte will plan four faculty workshops to be held in the library.

Workshops will be held at various times throughout the year so all may find a convenient time to attend. This will be primarily a “train the trainer” approach. Faculty will be empowered to share their favorite Web bookmarks with their colleagues and students. This will be especially helpful as they develop their syllabi and personal and course Web pages, and when they enter their courses into Blackboard and steer their students to reliable and credible Websites.

Charlotte will be presenting on this innovative project at MVAEA’s 2009 conference.



L to R: Rhonda Jones stands with 2008 award recipient Charlotte Knoche.

# Leadership academy preconference addresses “The Politics of Education”

by Mary Schaefer (North Dakota), MVAEA  
past president

**“In this area, truth and justice have no advantage over untruth and injustice. They are all equal. The advantage in the public policy arena goes to those who can win the political battle for their position almost without regard for its merits. We must understand how the system works and work for our students. To do anything less is to totally abdicate our responsibility as adult educators and human being.”**

— Art Ellison, co-chair of the Policy Committee, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education



MVAEA members had a tremendous opportunity to experience the passion and expertise of Art Ellison, state director of adult education in the state of New Hampshire and co-chair of the Policy Committee of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, as he presented the MVAEA Preconference Leadership Academy on July 17 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A record number of 100 registered for this dynamic presentation, entitled “The Politics of Adult Education.”

They were not disappointed. From beginning to end, Art’s knowledge, passion, and specific tools gave attendees concrete ideas to promote adult education within their states and throughout our country. His extensive handouts and examples provided reinforcement to make the process real as educators return home. A few of his many practical strategies were as follows:

- Target the Appropriations Committee for your state. This group is the key.
- Invite these legislators to your programs to visit your classrooms, to speak to your classes,

and to teach about democracy.

- Invite these legislators to your graduations. Take pictures of them with graduates. Send them newspaper articles about your program.
- Keep in mind that these key legislators are vital for students to contact. Remember, it does not take many letters to reach the threshold where legislators pay attention.
- Use simple strategies such as postcard campaigns from students thanking these legislators for the support of your programs. Postcards from students can also thank these legislators for program support when they obtain their GED.
- Make fact sheets available to legislators. Some like data, others testimonials. Use both.
- Ask for advocates outside our system. Our programs benefit many in our communities.

As Art brought his three-hour session to a close, he asked participants to identify three things they would do to advocate for adult education. I would like to challenge all of us to read once again Art’s highlighted quote and identify three things *you* will do.

In Art’s words, “to do anything less is to totally abdicate our responsibility...”



## Change is inevitable; growth is optional

by Steve Allison (Iowa), MVAEA president

**D**uring Rob Bell’s conference-closing capstone address, he spoke about how “Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional.”

We had fun understanding how to be change-agile as opposed to change-fragile. Rob’s key topics from the capstone message covered:

- Positively dealing with worries, which are really just *misguided imagination*

- Definition of what truly matters most
- Characteristics of great teams
- Focus on making deposits in the emotional bank accounts of others
- Keeping the main thing as *the main thing*

Attendees were asked to determine one to three ideas they learned at the conference that they will commit to themselves to implement. We left the conference fired up and with ideas to make our personal and professional lives more fun and effective.



## Conference—goers travel new roads together

*continued from page 1*

Later on Thursday afternoon, we featured four fun personal development activities that were also very well attended.

The final day of the conference featured six more professional development sessions followed by the capstone speaker Rob Bell. Rob came from Wisconsin, and his address was entitled “Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional.” His topic of change was very appropriate, as all of adult education is deal with a rapidly changing environment.

The conference also had the normal business meetings, luncheons, and awards banquet, along with a very spirited silent

auction that generated over \$1,000 to be split between the development funds of MVAEA’s seven-state region.

All in all, none of this could have happened without the participation of the membership and the support of many Iowa peers who assisted in the planning process for the conference. I can’t express my gratitude enough to all who helped make the *New Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning* 2008 MVAEA conference a huge success.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Kansas City on June 3-5, 2009. I am confident the folks from Missouri will give us a wonderful experience.

### WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Let us know!

We’d like to include your

news in the

next issue of the MVAEA newsletter.

Contact the editor,

Shari Kiple, at

kiplecomm@

cableone.net.

## Here today, gone tomorrow: Strategies for motivating and retaining adult learners

by Beverly Davis (Butler Community College Adult Education), El Dorado, Kan.

Thanks to all who attended this session [at the conference of MVAEA, IALL, and the Iowa ABE Institute]. By the large attendance, I can tell this is a problem for many adult educators.

I used information from a ProLiteracy two-day workshop presented by national trainers Lennox McLendon and Kathi Polis. Much of the presentation was also based on a 2004 NCSALL research study by John Comings. The information can be found at [www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/research/report12.pdf](http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/research/report12.pdf)

Allan Quigley, Ed.D, professor at St. Francis Xavier University, reports three barriers to persistence: 1. situational, 2. institutional, and 3. dispositional.

John Comings defines “persistence” as follows: “Adults staying in programs for as long as they can, engaging in supported self study or distance education when they must stop attending program services, and returning to program services as soon as the demands of their lives allow.” Comings refers to these

adult learners as stop outs, rather than drop outs. Furthermore, Comings suggests four supports and sample strategies for learner persistence:

1. **management of positive/negative forces,**
2. **building self-efficacy,**
3. **clear goals, and**
4. **progress.**

If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation I used at my presentation, simply Google, “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow.”

Here is another valuable resource: [ncbsonline.net/Student%20Retention.htm](http://ncbsonline.net/Student%20Retention.htm). This contains training materials from the student retention workshop conducted at the 2005 Basic Skills Conference by Kathi Polis of Strategic Training and Resources, Inc.

If adult educators are interested in studying and practicing methods to retain and motivate our adult learners, I would encourage them to become involved in an online study circle. We will study methods that have been researched in the past and methods that members of the group have found successful.

I welcome your thoughts on this topic. You may e-mail me at [bddavis@butlercc.edu](mailto:bddavis@butlercc.edu).

# Sessions span diverse topics, but offer universal value



## That's not online training!

*presented by Jerry VanOort*

Jerry discussed the business drivers creating demand for e-learning, as well as situations and circumstances that may be conducive to use of e-learning, filters and criteria to apply in analyzing the learning situation, and ways to determine the most appropriate delivery method(s).

*moderated by Frank DeMilia*

## Leading in the conceptual age

*presented by Carol Horner*

The Conceptual Age is the rise of the right brain, as we have an increasing abundance of choices. We have Asia, which is the site of the “knowledge worker,” and we also have automation. Conceptual also means looking bigger and broader. Going “green” is a good example of the Conceptual Age.

*moderated by Marcia Antworth*

## Not just for geeks!

*presented by the Best Buy Team*

A team of Best Buy professionals from Sioux City came prepared for a “show and tell” about



technology ranging from digital television converters to the latest handheld devices. These passionate “geeks” answered questions about calling plans, phones, internet access, Blu-Ray vs. HD DVD, and plasma vs. LCD TVs. And they looked to the future with holographic projectors.

*moderated by Frank DeMilia*

## Practical ESL strategies for the adult classroom

*presented by Stephanie Jones-Vo*

Stephanie engaged her audience with activities to share new ideas. She shared eight components of sheltered instruction: 1. lesson preparation, 2. building background, 3. comprehensible input,

4. strategies, 5. interaction, 6. practice, 7. lesson delivery, and 8. review or assessment. These strategies will have great results for students—increasing engagement, achievement, morale, and true learning.

*moderated by Jennifer Wilson*

## Political advocacy for adult educators

*presented by Art Ellison*

Art presented a session filled with advocacy strategies and ideas to support adult education and literacy. Art has his finger on the pulse of legislation and advocacy issues, and he provided an update on federal allocation cuts, projections for 2009, and reauthorization of AEFLA.

*moderated by Helene Grossman*

## Classroom technology

*presented by Deb Sisco*

Deb demonstrated SMART Board technology while presenting various ways to make learning interactive. She shared some very interesting and useful web sites, and she explained how social bookmarking can be a convenient way to access your favorite sites from any computer.

*moderated by Frank DeMilia*

## Parent-Child Together (PACT)

*presented by Gloria DeBower*

Gloria shared what she uses to run PACT activities through the Iowa Valley Community College District Family Literacy Program. Some of the activities she shared included the family storytelling, literature circles, 4-H clubs, backpacks, and literacy games.

*moderated by Sandy Supianoski*

## Technology trends in education

*presented by Gretchen Bartelson*

Gretchen explored the future of teaching and learning by discussing who we are trying to reach and recognizing that “Net Gen” students want to learn what they want, when they want, and however they want.

*moderated by Frank DeMilia*

### 3-page business operating system

*presented by Ron Haugen and Bill Burdick*

“Three-Page Business Operating System” is a new and exciting program that enables your business clients to better manage their companies. It uses the talents of a company’s management team to create a realistic plan that integrates the goals of an organization into daily operations. In doing so, this makes the business plan operational. Featured in this process is a simple, seamless method of weekly performance assessments.

### Data reporting for Family Literacy Program grant recipients

*presented by Amy Vybiral*

Iowa’s community colleges are now in Round Four of Family Literacy funding through a WIA grant in partnership with IWD. Amy presented strategies for data collection regarding the adult and children participating in the program. The purposes of the evaluation include determining the impact of the Family Literacy Programs and considering preparations for future grant opportunities.

*moderated by Helene Grossman*

### Impact of culture on family literacy

*presented by Stephanie Jones-Vo*

This presentation was very captivating and informative for the attendees. Stephanie gave some wonderful ideas for addressing the cultural differences that exist between instructors and students in many GED classes. In addressing those differences, she shared some really useful and intriguing ideas for getting—and keeping—the interest of students in a class. One of the most memorable ideas was to create a warm, welcoming, and inviting atmosphere to ensure that those who come once will be more likely to return. Another idea was to bring along other person who might be interested in participating when/if given the opportunity. She also mentioned that providing food is an excellent way to promote continued student interest and/or participation (big surprise!). Stephanie was interesting and informative, and she encouraged participants to ask questions.

*moderated by Judy Kuisle*

### Make 'em say “Wow!” customer service

*presented by Rob Bell*

Rob Bell shared a concurrent session entitled, “Make 'Em Say ‘Wow’ Customer Service.”

His topics included:

- A comparison of satisfaction versus loyalty
- 10 service standards that are important when customers decide where they will be loyal
- The importance of building relationships (positive body language, excellent listening skills, selection of positive words, and use of empathy to understand others)
- 5 steps to turn service breakdowns into loyalty building opportunities
- A reminder: absolutely everything counts!

*moderated by Angela Cox-Weston*

### Practical applications of adult learning principles

*presented by John Henschke*

A student of Malcom Knowles, John shared practical application of research on androgogy, which is the art and science of helping adults learn. Learning is enhanced when students have involvement in what will be learned, John said. Adult students want to know how what they are learning applies to their current situation. Session participants asked for suggestions on helping students discover how they learn and that they can learn. As John reminded, you can’t make adults learn. You can only assist them.

*moderated by Laura Schinnow*



**Conference attendees enjoy a concurrent message from Isaiah McGee, who spoke on the topic: “How to Get Lucky: Preparation, Opportunity, and Smart Risk Taking.”**

# MVAEA honors members with awards

by Tom Haskell (Iowa), MVAEA treasurer

The following awards were presented at the 2008 MVAEA conference in Council Bluffs.

## Susan Padfield, Kansas MVAEA Achievement Award

Susan Padfield began her work with the Ottawa Adult Education Center in Ottawa, Kan., 20 years ago as part of a Carl Perkins grant, and she has been its coordinator for the last nine years. She is committed to doing the work it takes to be successful in the competitive grant process mandated by the Kansas Board of Regents for all the state's adult education centers.

Susan has spent many long hours ensuring her staff understands what it takes to help students become successful. Due to staff turnover, she has had numerous challenges and changes along the way. In January 2007, Ottawa formed a new collaboration with adult education centers in Paola and Osawatomie, Kan.

A member of KAEA since 1999, Susan received the KAEA Distinguished Service Award for her adult education efforts in 2000. She is committed to a job well done and she has a passion for education that is evident. She laughs with students and cries with them. She truly understands what it means for students to be successful, and she shares in their struggles.

## Diane Hill, North Dakota MVAEA Achievement Award

Diane Hill is an adult education veteran who highly deserves this recognition. Diane goes the extra mile every day to motivate and encourage her students. For example, one of many sayings she uses to

inspire students is: "Don't trouble trouble, until trouble troubles you." And it is commonplace for Diane to organize rideshares among students, facilitate contacts with community

L to R: Mary Schaefer, Diane Hill (North Dakota award recipient), and Randy Eider



professionals, and whatever she can to assure the success of the clients with whom she works. Diane will often meet with clients in restaurants and other locations to facilitate student progress.

She was also the driving force behind early programs at the New Life Center and the Cass County Jail in North Dakota.

## Barbara Carder, Missouri MVAEA Achievement Award

Barb Carder has served in adult, community, and continuing education for 17 years. She received MAACCE's Award of Merit in 2000 for her outstanding community education program in Reed Springs, Mo.

Barb has served on the MAACCE Board (as treasurer) and on the Conference Planning Committee for over 10 years. In the past three years, she coordinated the MAACCE Leadership Institute.

As assistant director of online courses at the University of

Central Missouri, Barb helps faculty develop better assessment tools for online curriculum and instruction. She has also hosted training classes for faculty to improve their skills in teaching interactive television courses.

Barb has fulfilled the role of an adult educator, but also knows the life of an adult student. She was a mother of three while completing course work toward her master's degree using night, weekend, and online courses.

## Ron Kluck, Nebraska MVAEA Achievement Award

Ron Kluck of Central Community College (CCC) is Nebraska's MVAEA Achievement Award winner.



L to R: Barb Carder and Mary Schaefer



This award recognizes his leadership as dean of extended learning services at CCC.

Ron joined the CCC staff in 1982 as a community education coordinator at CCC-Columbus. He was

promoted to associate dean of community education in 1984, and he moved to his current position in 2000. He supervises adult education programs, extended learning services, and the training and development programs throughout CCC'S 25-county service area.

Ron has been a member of ACEAN for more than 20 years, having served as secretary, publications chairman, president-elect, president, and past president. ACEAN presented him with the Rookie of the Year award in 1985 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1998. He was also named CCC-Columbus Person of the Year in 1994.

### **Joe Kimbrough (posthumous award), Minnesota MVAEA Achievement Award**

Joe Kimbrough was born in Bowling Green, Ky., in April 21, 1930, and graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1952. Following two years in the U.S. Army, Joe received a master's degree in library science from Indiana University in 1954.

He worked in the Sturgis Public Library in Michigan and was later appointed assistant director of the public library in Lansing, Mich., in 1960. Five years later he became its director. Later, he was named director of public services at public library in Denver, Colo., and moved on to serve as director of the public library in Minneapolis in 1975 until his retirement in 1989.

Joe was MACAE's eighth president in 1982-83. He was the first past president to pass away in 2007. With this award, Minnesota celebrates his adult ed contributions in Minnesota and the nation.

### **Sylvia Hollow Horn, South Dakota MVAEA Achievement Award**

Sylvia Hollow Horn began as a community/continuing education tutor at Oglala Lakota College in March of 1991. For 16 years Sylvia has gone

above and beyond for AEL students, often working overtime to meet their needs. She has been active on a number of local and state committees, served as a SDALL board member, and worked on the Disability Task Force. She is also responsible for creating the state's AEL writing standards. Her insight on Native American issues is always valuable (and necessary) at the state level.

Sylvia's own health has been challenged at times, and heart surgery and diabetes might have led anyone else to quit...but not Sylvia. Working and teaching students has kept her healthy. Bringing students from a very low level to completing their GEDs keeps her heart smiling.

### **Shari Zenor Kiple, Iowa MVAEA Achievement Award**

For MVAEA, *Happenings in the Valley* is the primary information tool among members in the Valley's seven states. In Iowa, the *Quarterly Exchange* provides news and information to its members. In both organizations, Shari Zenor Kiple coordinates their newsletter communication.

In 1991, Shari began working for Von Pittman in the Division of Continuing Education at the University of Iowa. Von served IALL's board was involved with publications. He delegated newsletter efforts to Shari, and she took on full editorial responsibilities for *Quarterly Exchange* soon after.

In 2000, Shari was asked to edit MVAEA's



*Happenings in the Valley*—formerly edited by Jim Lightbody, an 18-year publications veteran.

Since then Shari has served admirably as the editor for newsletters from both organizations. From snail mail to electronic delivery, she has initiated positive changes in our publications. Shari holds a journalism degree from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in PR from the University of Northern Iowa. She is the owner of Kiple Communications and a proud mom to Lyndi (age 10), Grace (age 8), and Clark (age 3).



**L to R: Mary Schaefer, Sylvia Hollow Horn (South Dakota award recipient), and Lori Yost.**

### **HEY, THANKS!**

**Special thanks to Evan Bensley and Judy Kuisle, Iowa members who were responsible for taking photos of this year's MVAEA award recipients.**

# Nebraska's Terry Ramig recognized with Founders Award

by Tom Haskell (Iowa), MVAEA treasurer

**T**erry Ramig has served as state representative for eight years, as MVAEA president-elect, president, and past president two different times. As Greg Nolting explains, "For those of us who have known her over the years, the decision to award this prestigious honor is easy." Professionally, Terry has

worked for Northeast Community College's West Point Center and served in leadership positions for Nebraska's state association.

While MVAEA president in 2003, Terry received ACEAN's award for Outstanding Adult Educator for her services as

Northeast Community College's regional coordinator. During the presentation she was cited for freely giving of her time and talents to work to improve the field of adult and continuing education, and she was lauded for her commitment to provide credit and noncredit programs to students in northeast Nebraska.

Phil Wegman notes that Terry Ramig has always gone beyond what has been expected of her. When an MVAEA president resigned unexpectedly

a few years ago, Terry met with the board and developed a plan to share responsibilities instead of requiring the newly elected president-elect to assume multiple jobs. She has a record of outstanding service to MVAEA.

She also deserves praise for a number of cost-cutting measures that still kept MVAEA's qualitative influence high. It was under her leadership, for example, that MVAEA's publications began to be delivered electronically. Considering postal hikes since that decision in 2003, electronic delivery has saved considerable resources. Had MVAEA continued sending publications by traditional mail, the last postal hike alone would have increased costs more than 17 percent.

In Terry's nomination for this award, there were over six pages of material describing Terry—most were by former MVAEA presidents. Perhaps Bob Schlimgen summarized it best:

*"Terry Ramig epitomizes the adult learner, educator, and leader. She never forgot her early life in the profession as an adult learner...she has the traits we appreciate regardless of our chosen profession: humility, tenacity, loyalty, and sincerity."*

For all these reasons and more, Terry deserves to be named one of MVAEA's chosen few—the recipient of the Founder's Award.



**L to R: Bob Schlimgen, Dale Amunson, Terry Ramig (Founders Award recipient), Phil Wegman, and Greg Nolting.**

## **"Show Me" state provides hospitality Missouri invites MVAEA to 2009 conference**

by Michelle Hanson (Missouri)

**A**n ambitious committee worked diligently to plan the Wednesday night hospitality event at the MVAEA 2008 conference. Held at the Bass Pro Shop's world-famous Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the festivities promoted next year's MVAEA conference, which will be held in Kansas City. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Mark your calendars for June 3-5, 2009, when the state of Missouri will host the MVAEA conference, with *All-Star Students & Educators: Achieving Your Personal Best* as its theme.

**Conference attendees from Iowa enjoy a relaxing time at the MVAEA hospitality event.**



# Butler Community College Adult Education celebrates honor society pinning ceremony

by Beverly Davis (Kansas)

**B**utler Community College Adult Education program recognized its first group of adult learners into the National Adult Education Honor Society on Aug. 2. The group consisted of learners who have passed their GED tests and earned a Kansas high school diploma. Learners who continue to study for their GEDs were also recognized. Although 13 learners were inducted, eight learners and about 60 guests attended the ceremony.

**Learners who were inducted** received a National Adult Education Honor Society lapel pin and NAEHS certificate, a recommendation letter for employment, and a recommendation letter for financial assistance if they pursue secondary education.

Special guests included Kansas House Representatives John Grange and Ed Trimmer. Grange addressed the learners and congratulated them for their demonstrated effort to excel as students. He reminded them that there are many challenges ahead, and that the qualities they demonstrated to be inducted into the NAEHS would help them to be successful in life. Induction is based on: 1. dependable attendance, 2. cooperative attitude, 3. work ethic, and 4. good character. Grange told the inductees these are qualities he and other employers seek in employees. Grange also brought an *El Dorado Times* reporter who wrote a front-page article about the ceremony.

**“I’ve sure had a lot of hurdles** to get through,” said Barbara King, one of the quoted learners, “but it feels good knowing I’ve overcome them.” She talked about how she once worked for Raytheon, but once she lost that job it was difficult to find another job without a high school diploma. Now with a diploma, she has had several job offers. “It sure feels good to be a hot commodity,” she said. Another learner quoted was Thalonda Brooks, who continues to study for her GED although she is a single mom of six children and drives a

little over 30 miles (one way) each day to class. Although Brooks has started and stopped her studies several times, she is determined to pass her GEDs and wants to go to college to make a better life for her and her family.

**“Don’t doubt yourself,”** says Brooks as she encourages other learners to keep at it. “You’ll find yourself able to push forward and be better than you thought you could be.”

I was master of ceremonies, I read what their teachers had written about them and had them stand up front. It was obvious that learners, as well as their family members, were extremely proud of this honor.

In closing, I encouraged learners and other guests to learn more about Randy Pausch and his message entitled, “Last Lecture.” During this lecture he talks about the lessons he learned in life. After the ceremony, we shared refreshments donated from area businesses.

**This was a very proud moment** for our learners—many of whom had never been recognized for the good things they do. Many family members and friends also thanked us for what we had done and talked about the changes they had noticed in their learners. It was a celebration worth repeating again and again. We plan to have induction ceremonies each February and August in the future.

**The first NAEHS inductees from Butler Community College take time for a photo.**



To find out more about the “last lecture” of Randy Pausch, the Carnegie Mellon University professor referenced at left, visit [www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/index.shtml](http://www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/index.shtml) for several relevant links.

Learn more about the National Adult Education Honor Society by visiting [www.naehs.org/](http://www.naehs.org/) or e-mailing Bev Davis at [bddavis@butlercc.edu](mailto:bddavis@butlercc.edu).



# STATE NEWS

## NEBRASKA

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

*submitted by Anne Ausdemore*

It was with regret that the board of directors of the Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska (ACEAN) voted to dissolve the organization effective May 15, 2008. The board unanimously voted to take this drastic and final action as a result of steadily declining membership and no candidates to serve as president. ACEAN, Inc. has been without a president-elect since 2004. A few current board members are serving their fourth and fifth years in office.

The board will use the rest of 2008 to make the necessary financial and legal arrangements to dissolve ACEAN, including distributing remaining funds among the foundations of colleges that were active in the organization, following directives in the ACEAN constitution.

The leadership has struggled during the past few years to reactivate the membership and purpose of ACEAN. A recent newsletter to members indicated: "We have always valued the relationships that we've formed while serving ACEAN and appreciate the support provided by the membership."

Individuals who work in adult and continuing education in the state may remain active in MVAEA to have access to professional development opportunities and remain in contact with colleagues from other states.

## KANSAS

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

*submitted by Sue Choens*

### Professional development in 2009

The Kansas Adult Education Leadership

Academy is moving into its second year. An appointed committee presented a statewide marketing brand and campaign to the group in July. Program directors and select staff owe our thanks to the Kansas Board of Regents for providing the funds to enroll in Kansas State University's EDACE 886 Sem/Quality Program/Staff Management for the fall.

We are pleased to announce the selection of the Kansas CASAS state trainer. Kathy Petz, director of adult education at Hutchinson Community College, submitted the successful bid to the Kansas Board of Regents. She completed her training at the CASAS Summer Institute to become certified as a CASAS state trainer in June.

KBOR is providing program training that will use the Annenberg Algebra professional development modules for a year-long mathematics learning experience. Participants who complete all 10 modules can earn three hours of graduate credit.

More than 170 attended the Kansas Adult Education Association's 2008 conference on February 20 and 22 in Great Bend. Using *The Heart of Kansas Adult Education* as the theme, the conference included Kathleen Corpus dressed in full period attire as she provided a lesson on the history of the Great Bend, Fort Dodge, and Larned region. Dr. Gerald Bailey, Kansas State University professor, helped KAEA members learn about "How to Create and Nurture Teams." Many programs from across the state presented concurrent sessions. Butler Adult Education brought the traveling trophy back home for a second year for having the most staff presentation at the conference. Evening entertainment included a "KAEA Idol" contest and a hypnotist! Many awards were presented, and two programs received Past Presidents Development Fund Awards to help with projects in the coming year. For pictures

*continued on page 9*

### HAVE YOU "HERD" THE NEWS?

The state of KANSAS earned this year's MVAEA "Herd" Award at the 2008 MVAEA conference in Council Bluffs. Presented to the non-host state with the most attendees, the Herd Award is an annual MVAEA tradition. Kansas had at least a dozen members in attendance.

*continued from page 8*

and more information, visit [www.thekaea.org/conf2008/conf08.htm](http://www.thekaea.org/conf2008/conf08.htm).

Mark your calendar to attend KAEA's 2009 conference. With "Taking the Next Step; Successful Transitions for Adult Learners" as its theme, the conference is scheduled for February 25-27 at Garden City Community College. Hector Martinez has received tremendous support from the Finney County Convention and the local tourism bureau with conference planning process. He promises us a great time. Hope to see you there!

#### Other news

Dr. Kathleen Corpus, Kansas MVAEA alternate representative, has resigned her position, as she has accepted a faculty position at Shepherd University in West Virginia. Her resignation from the Adult Learning Center at Dodge City Community College was effective Aug. 8.

On June 18, a tornado did extensive damage to Kansas State University and the home of Candace White, a Manhattan Adult Learning Center instructor, who says there had not been a tornado in Manhattan in the past 30 years she has lived there, so there was a false sense of security. Fortunately there were no injuries, and repairs are underway.

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Michelle Hanson*

The Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education (MAACCE) held its 2008 conference on April 28-May 1 as a joint conference with the National COABE Conference. It was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, and there were nearly 1,000 attendees.

An ambitious committee worked diligently to plan the Wednesday night hospitality event at the MVAEA 2008 conference. Held at the Bass Pro Shop's world-famous Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant, festivities promoted next year's MVAEA conference, which will be held in Kansas City!

Next year's MAACCE conference will be June 3-6, 2009, at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City. It will be a joint conference with MVAEA. Plans are already underway to make this conference a big success, using *All-Star Students & Educators: Achieving Your Personal Best* as the theme.

MAACCE has considered purchasing an online package to facilitate registration. More information on the conference and registration procedures will be posted at [www.maacce.com](http://www.maacce.com) as it becomes available.

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Janet Jacobsen*

Nancy Herther was recently named MACAE president-elect. She is currently the librarian for sociology, anthropology, American studies and Asian American studies in the Social Sciences and Professional Programs Department at the University of Minnesota.

Herther holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Minnesota, with a minor in adult and continuing education. In 2008 she received the Martha L. Stanley from MACAE in acknowledgement of her lifelong contributions to the field of adult education.

MACAE presented a community forum last spring on the topic, "Civic Engagement and the Lifelong Learner." Co-sponsored by the Vital Aging Network (VAN), the program was well-attended by both MACAE and VAN members, as well as the general public.

The program highlighted connections between lifelong learning and civic engagement. For example, higher levels of education usually indicate greater levels of civic involvement. In addition, leaders and participants in civic engagement activities frequently require training to start, develop, and oversee successful projects.

Jim Scheibel, one of the program panelists and the former mayor of St. Paul, explained that individuals find civic engagement activities more satisfying if they continue to learn throughout their involvement.

VAN has responded to the need for training by developing its Advocacy Leader-

*continued on page 10*

### CONFERENCE

#### UPDATE: 2010

**The Kansas Adult Education Association (KAEA) board has agreed to host the MVAEA conference in 2010 and also to participate in the MVAEA conference rotation. We are looking forward to hosting a great conference!**

— Sue Choens



*continued from page 9*

ship for Vital Aging program, which provides leadership training for adults between 45 and 75. MACAE hopes to develop several additional public programs to be presented during the coming year.

The first issue of MACAE's new journal, *Praxis*, was published in July.

Planning is underway for the fall MACAE conference, which will be held Nov. 7 at the University of St. Thomas. Since that date coincides with the statewide meeting of MinneTESOL, MACAE is planning several opportunities for MinneTESOL members to participate in our conference.

A call for papers has been sent for this conference, which will use *The Mosaic of Adult Education* as its theme. Under Herther's leadership, a committee is planning a keynote address, a variety of workshops, a book swap, a silent auction, and an awards ceremony with reception.

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

*submitted by Deb Sisco*

Most of the Adult Learning Centers in the state of North Dakota were on summer vacation during the month of July, with classes resuming in all centers around Labor Day.

Valerie Fischer has been named the new director of adult education and will be overseeing the program for the coming year.

In other news, the state fall conference of North Dakota Association of Lifelong Learners, will be held Sept. 18-19 in Mandan, N.D. This conference is a joint effort of adult educators, Even Start, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers.

Dr. Richard Cooper will be the guest speaker for the conference.

### **WHAT'S GOING ON?**

**If you are doing something that works, let others know! If you need assistance with a challenge, let others help!**

**If you want to speak out on an adult education topic, let others hear! MVAEA Happenings in the Valley is the forum. Contact your state representative with story ideas, articles, photos, and anything else of interest. to MVAEA members. We look forward to hearing from YOU!**

## **IOWA** [www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org)

*submitted by Shari Kiple*

Iowa hosted the joint conference of IALL, MVAEA, and the Iowa ABE Institute in July with tremendous success. Thank you to all who attended, presented, and contributed to this fantastic event.

Iowa's own Steve Allison has assumed the MVAEA presidency for 2008-09. Dale Amunson will serve as interim MVAEA membership services consultant through October.

*submitted by Evan Bensley*

The results of the IALL board elections were announced at the joint IALL/MVAEA conference on Friday, July 18. Thanks to all who agreed to run for leadership offices.

**President-Elect:** *Martin Reimer* (Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City) is dean of the Corporate College at WITCC. He will be working on IALL's 2009 conference.

**Treasurer:** *Jennifer Crull* (Southeastern Community College, Mt. Pleasant) will serve her last term as treasurer. She has already served four years as treasurer and will now continue for two more years. Jennifer is the director of Adult Basic Education services for SECC. In the fall of 2009, the IALL membership will provide a treasurer-elect to work with Jennifer and transition to the treasurer position.

**Secretary-Elect:** *Judy Kuisle* (Southeastern Community College, Mt. Pleasant) will serve as the secretary-elect to the IALL Board. Judy will learn under Debbie Leone as she works as the IALL secretary. Judy is a GED instructor at the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility.

**At-Large Board Members:** *Teresa Bartschat* (Drake University, Des Moines) is a new board member. She coordinates the Billie and Robert D. Ray Lifelong Learning Society at Drake.

*Frank DeMilia* (Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon) has been re-elected to the IALL board for his second term. He is a business and industry coordinator at NCC.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA** [www.sdall.org](http://www.sdall.org)

# Interim consultant shares important information

*continued from page 18*

## Membership is growing!

MVAEA has **171 new members!** As close as According to information provided by Linda Robinson, our database person, MVAEA is currently at 266 members including all new and existing members, plus lifelong members.

**Welcome to all new MVAEA members and thank you to all returning members who have already paid their MVAEA dues for the upcoming year.**

## Past presidents make their mark

There were two people noticeably missing from the conference this year: Howard and Eunice Hovland. At the time of the conference, Howard was recovering from heart surgery.

If you are new to MVAEA, the Hovlands are from South Dakota, and many years ago they shared a great gift with MVAEA. They endowed and challenged our seven state associations to initiate their respective development fund accounts for activities that support of adult learning. In subsequent years, they have also contributed more funds to each state to help grow those funds. Their smiles have enhanced the conference for many, many years. In fact, I have been a member of MVAEA since 1982, and I cannot remember NOT seeing them at the conference—even though they retired from active education many years ago.

The Hovlands hold a belief in adult learning, and a value for learning for students of all ages, that cannot be ignored. In previous years at the annual recognition of past presidents, Howard and Eunice were always there—ready to rekindle old relationships and share their fervor for what we all do every day in the educational arena. We

## SILENT AUCTION NEWS

Here is one of many MVAEA conference attendees who checked out the wide variety of donations at this year's silent auction. And gsuess what? This year's silent auction raised more \$1,000 to be divided among the development funds for the seven states in MVAEA.



hope Howard is recovering quickly, and that we will see the Hovlands next year in Kansas City.

## Help us spread the word!

Another past president, Harlan Copeland, was unable to make the conference this year, but should also be acknowledged for his contribution to MVAEA. Harlan has endowed a fund that will provide grants to help members become legislatively active in promoting adult learning. This grant is not about lobbying for the cause, but rather about helping to fund initiatives that spread the word about the importance of adult education to people who make decisions about future funding for adult and continuing education.

As you read this report, MVAEA board members are developing guidelines for this grant. There will be more information in the next issue of *Happenings in the Valley*.

## There's still so much to learn...

Sharon Luhring, membership services consultant, and her husband are still in Alaska savoring nature and the beauty of that state. From there, they hope to travel to China to experience the flavor of that world, as well. Both have to be wonderful experiences and great learning opportunities. Perhaps Sharon will contribute to future newsletters about what she has seen and learned along the way?

## Life moves on

It is still dry in this part of Iowa, and scenes of flooding and tornadoes have become a little more palatable, but the devastation will not be forgotten. Nevertheless, school has begun again, and learning—like life—goes forth. Have a good and prosperous learning year.

# 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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Shari Kiple

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# CONSULTANT'S

## ORNER Membership update...and more

by Dale Amunson, interim MVAEA membership services consultant

**T**he joint conference of MVAEA, IALL, and the Iowa ABE Institute was fantastic and extremely well attended. Kudos to Steve Allison and Deb Goodall, their committee, and everyone who helped make this event a rousing success. The MidAmerica Center, Bass Pro Shop, and area hotels were also very nice venues, and all worked well to house the participants from our different states.

The final attendance count was approximately 210 people. Our *New Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning* led us to a community with an excellent conference facility and many exciting sessions. Learning is about people working with people, and this provided an opportunity for all of us to work with new people, a new center, and new topics. Best of all, July seemed to be a very good month to attend a conference.

### Was this history repeating itself?

For all who were unable to attend the MVAEA conference this year, it was 70 years ago this year that the first conference of the adult educators of the Missouri Valley was held. In pursuing the history before this conference, I learned the conference has a much longer history than that of the actual association. There have not been 70 conferences, as they were not held during World War II because of travel and funding. I found it monumental that the first conference occurred so many years ago. I also discovered that the Founder's Award was named after a man named Everett Hosman, who was responsible for planning the first conference. Ironically, that first conference was held 70 years ago in Omaha, Neb.—just across the Missouri River from this year's conference location.

*continued on page 17*

## Coming Up

**November 10, 2008**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**February 10, 2009**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**April 10, 2009**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**June 3-5, 2009**

MVAEA Annual Conference Events  
Kansas City, Mo.

## Quoted...

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”

— Robert F. Kennedy

“The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.”

— Flora Whittemore

“The years teach much which the days never knew.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

— Victor E. Frankl

## 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 this form and dues (payable to MVAEA) to Dale Amunson (contact information located above this form).