

# MVAEA

## Happenings in the Valley

### Iowa is ready to host MVAEA members

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**FEBRUARY  
2004**



*by Evan Bensley  
(Iowa), MVAEA  
president-elect*

**T**he MVAEA conference brochure is ready for mailing!! In fact, you may have already received it by the time you read this article. If you have not yet received a brochure, or if you would like additional copies, please e-mail me at [ebensley@nwicc.edu](mailto:ebensley@nwicc.edu). The brochure is also available on the MVAEA Web page, which may be accessed at [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com).

#### Something for everyone

The Iowa-based MVAEA Conference Planning Committee has worked hard to perform the impossible—provide educational opportunities to all areas of adult education. In addition to tracks on ABE/ESL and GED, we have topics that will appeal to educators who are involved with business and industry training, distance learning, and other areas of continuing education, as well as personal and professional development. Each state involved with MVAEA has unique needs for its membership. We will try hard to provide the educational opportunities that you need to enhance your specific job!

#### Leadership Academy

Conference festivities will begin on Wednesday, March 31, with

the Leadership Academy. Nancy Wegge will conduct an entertaining and informative afternoon session on a great topic: “Creating Teams That Work Real Magic.” This topic will be the perfect start to the conference.

#### Hospitality reception

Kansas will host a hospitality reception at the beautiful Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center on the evening of March 31. Transportation will be provided from the Sioux City Convention Center where the conference will be held. The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is a new and exciting area attraction, and you're sure to enjoy the Center's impressive historic display on the Lewis & Clark expedition.

#### Local attractions and flavor

For entertainment after hours, Sioux City features a historic district—Historic 4th Street—that offers a variety of wonderful restaurants within a few blocks of the Plaza Hotel and the Sioux City Convention Center. Sioux City also offers excellent shopping at area businesses and at the Southern Hills Mall, which is region's largest mall. Another great attraction within walking distance from the

*continued on page 5*



**Nancy Wegge**



**Mark Johnson**



**Kathy Peterson**

## Adults of all ages appreciate tools that make texts more tangible

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *While many adult and continuing educators work with nontraditional age students, it's important to remember that—legally, at least—most traditional age students are actually adults, too. Regardless of how old students are, they are certain to appreciate any teaching tool that makes texts more tangible and brings learning to life.*

*The following article was adapted from a Learning Resources Network (LERN) Web article. For more information on LERN, visit [www.teachingonthenet.org](http://www.teachingonthenet.org).*

According to a recent LERN survey of faculty in higher education, few professors are incorporating multimedia such as audio lectures into their online courses. From the survey, only nine percent of faculty are estimated to be using multimedia online. The rest are not prepared for the new generation entering higher education—Generation Y, or those students born after 1980.

The reason: Generation Y students learn visually. Their learning benefits from sights and sounds as well as from text. The good news is that while (or because) Gen Y spends more time online than other generations, Generation Y students watch less TV and read more.

We know people learn differently, and some learn by hearing, which may explain why

in-person lectures are so standard. Even so, adults in the Gen X and Baby Boomer generations are more text oriented. Generation Y students are less likely to tolerate purely text based online courses or classes that rely solely on lecture. They are also more likely to want more interaction.

### What you can do

To prepare courses (online or otherwise) for Generation Y—or any other adults you want to captivate with the material—here are a few things you can do.

1. **Incorporate visual PowerPoint presentations.**
2. **Turn slides into visuals, replacing words with graphics, pictures, clip art, and charts.**
3. **Introduce an audio presentation of 10–15 minutes. It can either be an overall introduction to the course or an audio lecture for one of the units in the course.**
4. **Turn quizzes, especially self-quizzes, into games.**
5. **Develop one interactive activity for each unit in the course.**
6. **Start reading more about Generation Y.**
7. **Keep talking with kids under age 20 about how they learn.**

The *Adult Perspectives* column was inspired by Jim Lightbody, former MVAEA newsletter editor.

## CONSULTANT'S

## OPINION

by Sharon Luhring, membership services consultant

MVAEA's membership has become increasingly diverse. As of Feb. 6, MVAEA has a total of 201 members. By state, the breakdown is as follows:

<b>Florida</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>1</b>

Please join us in welcoming our newest member to MVAEA!

Richard Rowray  
Dance Ambassadors  
2080 Southridge Drive  
Coralville, IA 52241  
phone 319-339-1417  
e-mail [danceambassadors@aol.com](mailto:danceambassadors@aol.com)

## From the President

### Who have you acknowledged today?

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska), MVAEA president

Feb. 4, 2004

I lost a friend and professional colleague yesterday. I've spent the past hours reflecting on memories of times we worked or socialized together. I am reminded again of how fleeting life is, and how important it is to cherish each moment of life.

The original intention of this article was to encourage you to acknowledge your co-workers and professional associates by nominating him/her for an award. Opportunities are given to us regularly to recognize others we hold in high regard. Although our intentions are good, we may not always follow up with action.

Although nominations for the MVAEA Founders Award are due all too soon (Feb. 17), it is not too late to be thinking and

preparing for next year's recipient of this prestigious honor. Also, each state represented in MVAEA chooses an individual who is an active participant and contributor in its state association—as well as MVAEA—to receive the MVAEA Achievement Award at the annual conference.

Taking the time to gather information and prepare a nomination can be tedious and easy to set aside. I'm guilty of that myself. But I can tell you from personal experience, both as a nominator and a recipient of an award, it is well worth the time and energy! It truly is just as exciting to be the "giver" (nominator) as the receiver!

As I reflect today on the loss of my friend, I am reminded to tell others how much I appreciate and care about them. Whether it is by word, by nomination of an award, or in a prayer, take action *this moment* to acknowledge someone today.

### Got any big ideas?

Do YOU have research news, a book review, or a great idea for an article to contribute to *Happenings in the Valley*? Please share it with other MVAEA members! See page 7 for details on how to submit an article.

## Explore the hospitality reception at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center!

submitted by Karen Ulanski (Kansas)

Kansas is excited to be hosting the 2005

MVAEA annual conference! Our theme—

which, by the way, took lots of collabora-

tion—is *Together, we can make it happen!*

This year's hospitality reception will be hosted

by Kansas at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive

Center in Sioux City, Iowa. This center is an

impressive regional attraction!

The reception will be held Wednesday

evening, March 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. Hors

d'oeuvres will be served, and there will be a

cash bar. A shuttle will provide courtesy

transportation for everyone from Sioux City

Convention Center to the Interpretive Center

and then back to the hotel.

Come and join us for some fun because

*Together, we can make it happen!* in 2005.

**THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP QUIET!****Silent auction will raise funds for MVAEA *and* individual states***by Dale Amunson (Iowa)*

**And the  
Development  
Award goes to...**

**You'll have to attend the MVAEA annual conference in Sioux City to find out! The recipient of this year's Development Fund scholarship will be announced, along with all other MVAEA award recipients. For details on the MVAEA conference or its annual awards, visit [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com).**

**M**VAEA's Development Award has been presented for many, many years, and it has contributed to projects conducted in all the states of Missouri Valley's seven-state region. In order for this program to exist, however, it takes funding. One way to help support the Development Award is by participating in—and contributing to—the annual silent auction held at the MVAEA annual conference each spring.

The silent auction is a *very, very exciting activity* that has raised many hundreds of dollars to support the development award. It has also helped to raise money for *your* state. Each year the proceeds of the silent auction are divided—half to MVAEA and then percentage-wise to each state based upon the money raised for items from the states that have contributed. This is a *win-win situation* for those who contribute and bid. Why? Because the Missouri Valley Adult Education annually awards a scholarship to someone from the organization who wishes to complete a project that will enhance the mission of adult education in some aspect or another. These annual scholarships are funded by...you guessed it: the silent auction!

Please plan now to bring one or more exceptional item(s) that will sell for big bucks at this year's silent auction—then take home part of the proceeds to your state organization.

To help with, contribute to, or simply learn more about the silent auction, please contact Dale Amunson using the following information:

*daleaa@butler-bremer.com*

*319-278-4747 phone*

*P.O. Box 36, Clarksville, IA 50619*

Finally, please plan ahead—both to apply for the Development Fund grant and/or to contribute to the silent auction. See you at the MVAEA conference in Sioux City!

# MVAEA conference will provide professional development value

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hotel is the Sioux City Art Center, which has a wonderful gallery and excellent exhibits.

## Inspirational keynote

On April 1, the conference will begin with an inspirational and patriotic keynote presentation. Mark Johnson, former Green Beret Officer, will present, "We Are Champions—Feel Good About It." Mark will discuss effective leadership and the impact it has on your work.

## Concurrent sessions

Throughout the conference on April 1 and 2, breakout sessions will feature wonderful, highly informative presenters. Pick the topics or sessions that interest you and then enjoy the presentations!

## Silent auction

As in the years past, a silent auction will be held during the conference. It may offer the perfect opportunity to find a unique gift or regional item you like enough to place a bid!

## Awards festivities

The annual MVAEA awards banquet will

begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Iowa will add a special (surprise) twist to the evening's festivities. We want everyone to bring a sense of humor and a smile to the banquet. We promise you an evening you won't forget!

## Capstone address

The MVAEA annual conference will conclude on Friday with morning breakout sessions and brunch. The capstone speaker is Kathy Peterson, who will present a great address entitled, "Leaving A Legacy" that will be a perfect ending to our conference festivities. Because we understand that many of you have a long distance to travel, the conference will conclude by noon.

## Warm welcome

The MVAEA Conference Planning Committee realizes that state budget cuts in education may restrict travel and conferences for you. However, we would like to assure you that the 2004 MVAEA Conference will give you the best value for your money. To register, visit [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com). We look forward to seeing you in Sioux City on March 31 and April 1-2!

**TO  
LEARN  
MORE  
ABOUT...**

### **Sioux City Tourism**

**[www.siouxcitytourismconvention.com/](http://www.siouxcitytourismconvention.com/)**

### **Events at the Sioux City Orpheum Theatre or Tyson Events Center**

**[www.orpheumlive.com](http://www.orpheumlive.com)**

**[www.tysoncenter.com](http://www.tysoncenter.com)**

### **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center**

**[www.siouxcitylcic.com](http://www.siouxcitylcic.com)**

### **Sioux City Art Center**

**[www.siouxcityartcenter.com](http://www.siouxcityartcenter.com)**



# STATE NEWS

## NEBRASKA

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

## NORTH DAKOTA

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

## SOUTH DAKOTA

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

*submitted by Lana Reich*

SDALL has received a VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) grant to provide a VISTA volunteers at nine adult education sites. These volunteers are responsible for recruiting other volunteers to work with beginning level and intermediate AEL students. These volunteers will provide a great resource to the adult education programs across the state.

On Jan. 29 the state's adult education programs and VISTA volunteers showcased their programs at our state capitol. Legislators were able to view informational displays while adult educators explained how state funding assists adult learners in our state.

A training program for all South Dakota English as a Second Language teachers will be held in Sioux Falls on Feb. 20.



## WHY NOT...

Tell a friend or colleague about the benefits of joining Missouri Valley Adult Education Association? You'll find a membership application form on the last page of this newsletter.

To learn more about our seven-state organization, visit [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com).

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Dr. Diana Cohen*

MACAE (Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education) held its annual fall conference in conjunction with VAN (Vital Aging Network), University of Minnesota, College of Continuing Education. The conference was held Nov. 6-7, 2003, in Roseville, Minn. The conference theme was *Know and Grow*, focusing on models to connect older adult learners to community learning resources, application of principles of adult education, teaching with learning circles, navigating Web sites, and "yearning to learn—and finding time to do it." Members of VAN and MACAE attended conference sessions, interacted with one another, and bid on silent auction items.

Conference business included installing the new board and recognizing current board members for their service. Dr. Pauline Christensen, director of graduate and continuing education at Winona State University, is MACAE's 2004 president. It is also MACAE tradition to recognize and present awards to adult educators, learners, and programs. MACAE begins another year with a new mission statement: "To promote professional growth and foster community among adult educators."

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Les Lang*

The Missouri Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) board met on Jan. 9, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake Ozark, Mo. The conference planning committee met the previous day to discuss the summer conference. Overall, much was accomplished, and very few details remain to be finalized before the conference, which is

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scheduled for June 16-18 at Tan-Tar-A.

The MAACCE board commenced its meeting with approval of the board minutes from the previous meeting and approval of the treasurer's report. The AEL report indicated that the focus for 2004 is on the role of data in program planning. In a meeting held in September, the Directors Conference addressed the uses of data in local planning decisions and included a follow-up activity for directors to implement locally. A director's manual is being prepared through the Missouri AEL Professional Development Center. The change for funding based on data from the second previous year has adversely affected many programs. Enrollment is increasing statewide; directors are finding it difficult to meet current needs based on services given two years ago.

The community education five-year state plan is in its final writing. Legislation has put a new twist to the Honorary High School Diploma. Now any veteran serving in any war/conflict—or any civilian POW—can apply for the Honorary Diploma. This has proven to be a popular program, and many deserving adults have applied for the Honorary Diploma.

Funding cuts in various categories continue to create a real problem for adult/community education programs. Another big concern is how to attract more higher education personnel to our state association. It appears that the higher education category continues to shrink in membership. The next board meeting will be March 19 at Tan-Tar-A.

## **KANSAS** **www.thekeaa.org**

*submitted by Bev Davis*

Kansas adult educators met in Hayes, Kansas, in early February for the state association's 2004 annual conference, *Encouraging Circumstances*. We displayed great courage by traveling across the state through snow, sleet, and a little bit of sunshine.

According to Darylee Flynn, president-elect, "Despite the cold outside, we had warm hearts." Approximately 180 educators, administrators, and support staff participated in

quality professional development activities.

Susan Cowles, who helped create and continues to update "*The Science & Numeracy Special Collection*" at <http://literacynet.org/scinecelincs>, presented several workshops covering topics in science and mathematics. Workshop participants received many teaching strategies and tools to take back to the classroom. Be sure to visit the Kansas Web page for teaching strategies and tools you can use, too. Susan volunteered to be our keynote speaker when our scheduled keynote speaker had to cancel due to the weather. She presented a slide presentation about her stay in Antarctica. Kansas educators and staff from the Kansas Board of Regents presented workshops on various topics, including marketing your program, using technology in the classroom, teaching writing strategies, CASAS training, program improvement, and orientation.

We look forward to hosting the 2005 MVAEA Conference in Overland Park, Kansas. More information will follow, but mark your calendar now! The conference dates are March 16-18, 2005. Hope to see everyone there!

## **IOWA** **www.iowall.org**

*submitted by Shari Kiple*

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning is preparing for its annual Legislative Breakfast, which will be held in Des Moines on March 11.

As IALL celebrates an outstanding 2003-04 fall conference (held mid-October in Ames), we are pleased to report that 46 new members joined at the time of the conference. Heather Willard, our president-elect and Conference Planning Committee chairperson, is leading up a team of members to plan the 2004-05 annual fall conference that will be held on Oct. 13-15 in Des Moines. Looking ahead, IALL has announced that its 2005 Office Professionals Workshop (an event held every other year) is tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2005.

And, of course, Evan Bensley, IALL member and MVAEA president-elect, has been working with his team to finalize plans for the upcoming MVAEA conference on March 31 and April 1-2. We'll see you in Sioux City!

## **MVAEA**

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

### **Editor**

**Shari Zenor Kiple**

### **Contributors**

**Dale Amunson**

**Evan Bensley**

**Diana Cohen**

**Bev Davis**

**Barb Eisenmenger**

**Les Lang**

**Sharon Luhning**

**Terry Ramig**

**Lana Reich**

**James Zach (photos)**

**Submit articles or story ideas to:**

**Shari Zenor Kiple**

**ph: 712-276-5176**

**kiplecomm@**

**cablone.net**

**For address change or info on MVAEA:**

**Sharon Luhning**

**Membership**

**Services Consultant**

**P.O. Box 336**

**Madison Lake, MN**

**56063**

**ph: 507-243-4347**

**sluhning@mctcnet.net**

# ON THE WEB

resources you can put to work right now

<http://www.ncee.org/wfd/whitepapers/index.jsp?setProtocol=true>

This Web site provides access to a white paper entitled *Toward a National Workforce Education and Training Policy*. This white paper is a joint project of the Workforce Development Program, Jobs for the Future, and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.

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

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) is a non-profit organization that strives to improve access to education for adults through partnerships with business, government, labor, and higher education.

[www.Bartleby.com](http://www.Bartleby.com)

A free searchable database of reference books is located at this site.

[www.handsonenglish.com/currentevents.html](http://www.handsonenglish.com/currentevents.html)

This site allows you to explore a current events activity from Hands On English with your students. Links to all previous current events activities can be found at the same URL.

[novel.nifl.gov/susanc/pressind.htm](http://novel.nifl.gov/susanc/pressind.htm)

For students and tutors new to using the Internet, this is a great place to start. It provides strategies for Internet users, electronic field trips, and specific lessons to help learners develop skills while exploring the Internet.

[puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com](http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com)

Sponsored by the Discovery Channel, this site

was designed for classroom teachers. Tutors and adult learners could adapt it for instructional purposes, since it allows users to create and print word searches, crossword puzzles, and math puzzles using their own word lists.

[www.lacnyc.org/resources/index.htm](http://www.lacnyc.org/resources/index.htm)

Created as a resource for adult literacy instructors, this site is also useful for students and tutors.

[www.edunet.com](http://www.edunet.com)

This site covers the basics of English grammar: parts of speech, letter sounds, and alphabet pronunciation. While it seems aimed at highly educated speakers of other languages learning English, advanced literacy students would benefit from reviewing definitions of the different parts of speech and then creating sentences using those defined parts of speech.

## Coming Soon

### MVAEA Board Meeting

March 31 in Sioux City, Iowa

### MVAEA Leadership Academy

March 31 in Sioux City, Iowa

### MVAEA Annual Conference

March 31-April 2 in Sioux City, Iowa

### Deadline for the next issue of *Happenings in the Valley*

April 20

## Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (check one)

Individual (\$30)

Life (\$300)

Student (\$10)

Retiree (\$10)

New

Renewal

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 7 for contact information).