

MAEA MEDIA



Volume 2, Issue 3

NEWS FROM THE MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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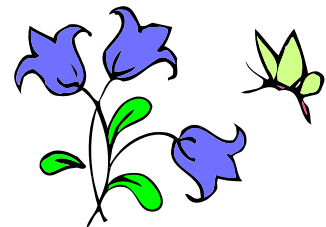
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Creating New Programs

MAEA is pleased to be collaborating with LERN to host one of their new seminars, *Creating Successful New Programs*. Topics to be covered include: a look at the mistakes most commonly made in trying new programs, the key elements of success in creating new programs, and how to design and market them. For a complete description of the training, visit the LERN website at www.LERN.org

What an opportunity MAEA members have for nationally recognized training right here in Maine on Thursday, May 4, from 9 am – 3:30 pm at Portland Adult Education, 150 Ocean Avenue, Portland. Area adult educators who have attended LERN conferences and institutes in the past have commented on the relevance of the material provided and the concrete tips for application they received. In addition to avoiding the high cost of travel to another state to attend, by registering through MAEA, the registration fee is just \$99 per person, rather than the regular rate of \$295 per person.

Please contact Cathy Newell, MAEA Executive Director at maea@megalink.net to register.



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The Maine Adult Education Association is a professional organization that advocates for adult education locally, statewide, and nationally and supports its members in order to meet the educational needs of Maine's adults.

SHARED RESOURCES

Expanding Services for Rural Students

As we know, it has become increasingly difficult for small programs to meet the educational needs of learners due, in part, to limited resources. Students preparing for college often need significant skill building prior to entering post-secondary education and they may also require assistance with the application and matriculation processes. Those who live in rural communities, away from support services that are found in more densely populated areas, may find the resources even more limited. This is especially difficult for students who could experience success with the extra helping hand.

Gray-New Gloucester and Windham have teamed up to help meet the needs of learners in multiple communities so that our combined available resources can be shared by many. “We have some learners who need college preparatory course work, but sometimes we do not bring in enough in registration fees to cover the expense of a class. If we share the load and work together to bring students from all of the communities we serve to one central location, then we can make the numbers work and the students get what they need”, said Eva Giles, Workforce Education Coordinator from Windham. If we don’t collaborate, no one gets what they need; but when we work together, students get to meet their goals.

Windham School Department
Adult Education

Although Windham and Gray are in southern Maine, many of their students commute from the outskirts of the region. Students come to these programs from many towns including New Gloucester, Raymond, Naples, Casco and occasionally from the Poland area. Often they are unable to make it to a site farther away. If we collaboratively plan our course

Gray-New Gloucester Adult Education Adult & Community Education

offerings, share the marketing, combine special programs, and work to serve all of the students in both programs we are able to provide all students with the services they need.

“There is no need for us to compete for the same market”, says Joan Tremberth, Director of Gray-New Gloucester Adult Education. “Both programs have staff members with different expertise and access to various support systems. If we coordinate programming so that we can offer greater options for learners we are exhibiting the essence of true community. We can take what we have and make it work for more students.”

Making collaborations work does require extra planning and follow through. Sometimes it means helping a student to get from your site to the next program down the road. It can mean working together on financing and scheduling. It means letting go of the “my program” concept and concentrating on the needs of many. It does mean extra work, but the rewards are great. All learners are given the tools to be successful.

*Submitted by: Eva M. Giles, Workforce Education Coordinator, Windham Adult Education
406 Gray Road, Windham, ME 04062. Eva can be reached at: 207-892-1819*

ADULT LEARNING - An International Commitment -



I took this photo when I was in Kenya last year.

It was taken in the middle of the Masai Mara plains. The tribal folk are the Masai. They are cattle herders. We became very familiar with their profession since we frequently had to stop for small herds (generally followed by a small boy) to pass around us. The roads are rutted, rock strewn and often washed out. Gas is hard if not impossible to find. The usual mode of transportation is by foot. The lucky Masai have bikes.

Yet everyone wants to go to school and they will travel long distances to do so. Little ones often have to go at least 5 miles.

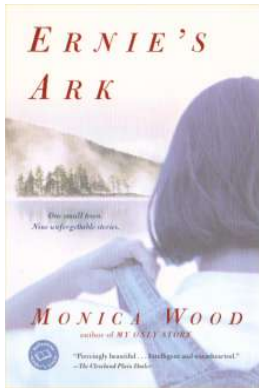
This is a reminder of how lucky we are to do what we do. It also is a reminder to me that I cannot complain about being in a basement without window...well perhaps on my better days I won't.

*Submitted by: Anne Kemper, Counselor / Coordinator Lewiston Adult Education Adult Learning Center
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YORK PUTS THE “COMMUNITY” IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

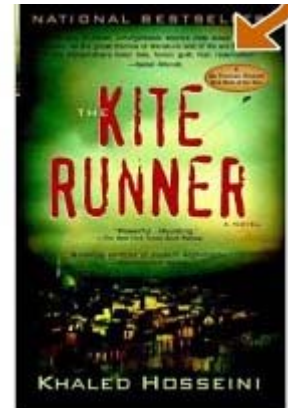
This spring, York residents will find many and varied opportunities to connect with their community, thanks to their local adult and community education program. York Adult and Community Education (YACE) will again sponsor “York Reads”, a community book discussion that promotes reading and literacy while building community. “York Reads” encourages people to meet and discuss the book; “York Night”, a town resource sharing event; New Books, New Readers, a Maine Humanities Council program that will focus on community themes; and a Welcome and Orientation session for York’s many foreign workers.



Building on the success of last year’s program, and focusing on the theme of community, folks in York will read *Ernie’s Ark*, a collection of nine interrelated short stories surrounding grief and loss in a small Maine town. Throughout the spring, discussions of *Ernie’s Ark* will take place at locations around town such as York Hospital, York Public Library, local businesses and schools. YACE plans to offer a series of adult enrichment courses to extend the theme. Possible related activities include a boat building workshop, the history of Maine paper mills, family/parenting workshops and more. Last year’s “York Reads” book was *Kite Runner*, about the difficulties growing up in Afghanistan during the rise and fall of the Taliban. Extension activities included an Afghan cooking class and an intergenerational workshop on kite-making.

“York Night” will be a community resource fair. Representatives from the town office, police and fire departments, schools, library and service organizations will all be present to ask questions, recruit volunteers and distribute literature about the many services and opportunities York offers to its new and long-time residents.

“Community” was the natural choice for the theme of the New, Books, New Readers program which the Maine Humanities Council (MHC) will bring to York this spring. Emerging readers from YACE’s ESOL, ABE, and family literacy classes will be able to take part in community book discussions under the guidance of a MHC scholar. Each participant will receive three books, which they have a month to read, and return next month for a facilitated discussion and three books for the next month. To ensure that no one is left out, dinner will be served and babysitting provided.



Every spring, York sees an influx of foreign workers who live in the community for three to six months. This year businesses that rely on foreign workers will join adult education to officially welcome them to the community. Together with the Chamber of Commerce, YACE will offer a trolley tour of key York locations, distribute a flyer with crucial resources and contact information, and run a used bike drive to make summer transportation available to those who want it. Local police will be present to answer questions, as will a handful of volunteer tutors.

Polly Stanwood, director of YACE hopes all these events will highlight York’s unique personality and give its residents, new, long-time and temporary cause to celebrate it.

Submitted by Deanna Strand, ABE Coordinator YACE

Deanna works for York Adult and Community Education and can be reached at 207.363.7922

Or at dstrand@yorkschoools.org

MAEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 3, 2006

Meetings attended: I have been in Augusta for many public hearing and work sessions since mid-January – by last count 10 days. On some occasions I was able to piggyback meetings on the same day. Basically I have done little other than legislative work for the past six weeks.

Legislative: There have been three initiatives this session. The “labor bill”, sponsored by Rep. Herb Clark, LD 1921, which promoted greater coordination between the Dept. of Labor and adult education had a public hearing at which Rep. Clark, who was laid off from the Millinocket mill, spoke very well on the importance of adult education in such circumstances. Through the good work of Larinda Meade at MDOL, there was a letter developed and presented to the committee and the bill is no longer needed. The language regarding college transitions included in the Supplemental Budget, LD 1968, is out of the Ed Committee with their approval and will hopefully remain in the budget. It adds college transitions as a program area and a subsidy category. LD 1785, the bill to provide funding for College Transitions, ramping up to 30 programs in five years, received a unanimous Ought To Pass from the Education Committee several weeks ago. The bill was originally a “concept draft” so had to be rewritten by the analyst and that process has been delayed by the extremely heavy workload at the Ed Committee. The bill cleared the committee on February 28th and is off to the floor fairly soon after it goes for fiscal note. Senator Libby Mitchell has been a wonderful sponsor for this. Programs will receive an alert for legislative contact once the bill has left the Ed Committee. Patsy Crockett and I will reschedule our meeting with the Governor on the bill soon – it was cancelled due to the death of the Governor’s brother in January.



Hall of Flags: Suzanne Rojas has filled all tables for the event on Monday, April 10. Other directors are encouraged to come to the State House that day. Governor Baldacci will be with us at noon for the program, and the legislative resolution is being circulated for sponsors. We will be starting at 8 AM. Lunch food is now banned from the Hall, so we just make coffee and snacks available in the morning.

Federal: The Bush budget level funds adult education, but again has recommended the elimination of Even Start (which was cut massively in December when last year’s budget was finally approved.) Art Ellison, State Director in NH and legislative chair of the National Council of State Directors, is working on the federal legislative effort and is asking for a substantial increase in AEFLA. At his request, I have approached Senator Snowe’s office about a Dear Colleague letter supporting the increase. There appears to be interest and they have also approached Senator Maria Cantwell. I have not heard the strategy regarding Even Start but imagine there will be an effort to restore it. Stay tuned.

Membership: Dues have been received from all who paid last year and certificates have been sent. There are a few programs that I will try and call but I do not think participation is likely. Dues will remain the same for next year and invoices will be sent in late April/early May for the convenience of those who like to pay in June.



MAEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Continued

March 3, 2006

Communications: The MAEA web site is now being hosted by Rainstorm out of Orono, the company that does CALL's site. They will do maintenance on an hourly basis, and I will undertake some professional development in the use of Contribute. The conversion produced a few problems but alert members called them to my attention and I hope all have been fixed – some of the links did not stay active when the hosting was switched. Please take time to check the information for your program. Regarding publicity, now is the time to generate “earned media” in your local papers, both weekly and daily. Please send me copies of adult education articles that appear in your regional papers, especially if the articles relate to college transitions. We will see that articles are circulated to legislators. I am working with the Communications Director for the State Senate on a possible press conference regarding Senator Mitchell's bill for mid-March.

Professional Development: Gail Senese and I have arranged for a LERN seminar to be held at Portland Adult Education (Baxter Building) on Thursday, May 4. The title is Creating Successful New Programs and a similar event in CT last year got rave reviews. If you register through MAEA, the cost will be \$99 per person if we have 10 or more registering – this is a substantial discount from the individual price. Please let me know who from your program would like to register through MAEA. Additional information is available at www.LERN.org. Lastly, dates for the Directors Academy are June 21, 22, and 23 in Bethel.



Distance Learning: I attended a meeting of the Strategic Direction three subcommittee recently. There are some interesting recommendations on how to reduce costs for the operation of ITV sites. One involves a collaboration with MPBN. There is discussion of setting some performance standards for sites, and I am keeping a close eye on this. I did not attend the UMS retreat in February because of legislative conflicts, but do have copies of all the materials.

Maine LEAD: There will be the annual forum on federal legislative issues on March 20 with the Congressional delegation staff. I will raise the issue of Even Start funding and also discuss the request for an increase in adult education funding which is being promoted by national groups. Several of our colleague organizations from LEAD, specifically MEA, are involved in the effort to defeat the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, similar to the anti-Palesky effort. The MAEA Board will decide on March 3 on our participation. Preliminary e-mail sentiment is strongly in favor of our involvement.

Other than that, I have been trying to keep up with calls and e-mails and am looking forward to fewer trips to Augusta and more fun working on Directors Academy and the Conference.

Please contact me with any questions or need for additional information.

Cathy Newell

March 3, 2006

Special Note: Coming Soon

Look for the Special Edition of MAEA Media that will showcase the COABE Institute by the Bay and MAEA Annual Fall Conference!

MIXING IT UP!

To make classes more accessible, Lewiston Adult Education is excited to offer great courses in convenient new formats. This will be the third semester that we've offered our community the ability to "get it all done in one day." *Super Saturday* was born in the Spring of 2005, and has been offered each semester since with increasing attendance. We offer a variety of courses, from Yoga to PowerPoint to Scrapbooking, to allow participants to devote one day (most courses run 9:00-3:00) to complete a course or have a little getaway. Feedback has been very positive, with most saying that they enjoy the chance to take a course outside the regular work-week and to get it all in "one shot." Instructors also like the opportunity to work a single day rather than spreading the class over several weeks. To make the day seem more communal, LAE provides lunch for everyone. At noon, students and staff converge on the cafeteria and sit together for a meal. What we find is that students swap stories, talk about the class their taking, and ask about other classes taking place – great cross promotion!

A new idea being tested this Winter-Spring is *Series Courses*. Instead of offering a six or eight week course that covers a wide range of topics, we've grouped related topics as a series. Students may register for the whole series (at a discount), or register for specific individual topics. So far, students have responded positively, with a mixture of complete series registrations and individual title registrations. This semester's series: *Beautiful Landscapes, Sumptuous Starts and Finishes, and Electricity in the Home.*

In our minds, it's all about convenience and options, and finding the right balance between the two in order to appeal to as many community members as possible!

*Submitted by Lisa D. Burch
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IMPORTANT DATES:

Director's Meeting	March 14, 2006
Bridges to Success/College Transitions	March 15, 2006
BESTPlus Training, Rockland	March 10, 2006
Grant Writing Workshop via ATM	March 23, 2006
CASAS Training	March 17, 2006
Adult Education Hall of Flags	April 10, 2006
MAEA Board Meeting	April 28, 2006
RFP Adult Education & Family Literacy	May 5, 2006 (due date)
CASAS Training	May 5, 2006
RFP English Literacy and Civics Education	May 19, 2006 (due date)
Adult Ed Director's Academy & MAEA Board Mtg	June 21-23, 2006
MAEA Board Meeting	September 15, 2006
Family Literacy Fair, Madison High School	September 30, 2006
COABE Institute by the Bay	October 23-24, 2006
MAEA Conference:	October 25, 2006

