



MAEA MEDIA

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Volume 3, Issue 2

NEWS FROM THE MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

Best Wishes

At the end of this year, I am reminded again of the things in life that really matter –the understanding attitude of friends and the closeness of family.

Thanks, to all who knew, for your thoughts and kind words after the death of my mother in November. The sadness of that event has recently been eclipsed by the joy of welcoming our first granddaughter to our family.

Emma Claire was born December 10 and joined her big brother, Avery, in South Carolina. Just as I am blessed within my family, I am equally privileged to serve as MAEA president this coming year. I thank you for that opportunity and do not take the responsibility lightly. On behalf of the entire MAEA Board, I extend our best wishes for the New Year and encourage you to contact us if you think we can be helpful. Where possible, we want to be your "voice" for a better Maine Adult Education in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas,

Otis Smith



President Otis Smith has called a special MAEA membership meeting on Friday, January 19th at 3:15 PM at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. The agenda items will include approval of a revised dues formula for FY 2008, and a change in the by-laws to allow the MAEA Board to vote on pressing items electronically or by telephone. Details of the dues change and the by-laws language will be mailed to the membership by December 20, 2006.

Maine Adult Education
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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.

Beyond the Classroom

Special Legislative Service Award

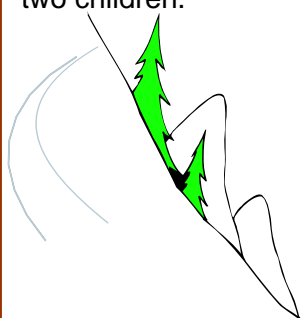
Senator Elizabeth Mitchell was given a Special Legislative Service Award by the Maine Adult Education Association. However, Senator Mitchell was unable to attend the Awards Ceremony at the MAEA Conference as she was being admitted to the Maine Bar on Oct. 25, having recently completed law school. A special awards presentation was held in late October at Augusta Adult Education with Augusta Director Mary Barnes and Patsy Crockett of Howe and Company, MAEA's lobbyist until her recent retirement. Patsy Crockett will be joining Senator Mitchell at the State House as she won election to the Maine House of Representatives on Nov. 7, 2006. Pictured are Mary Barnes, Patsy Crockett and Senator Mitchell.



Senator Margaret (Peggy) Rotundo Senator Elizabeth (Libby) Mitchell

Senators Peggy Rotundo and Libby Mitchell were responsible for the success of the college transition initiative last session and for the additional subsidy money the year before. Senator Rotundo has a long history with adult education in Lewiston, and Senator Mitchell has supported adult education ever since she began serving in the House of Representatives and while she was Speaker of the House.

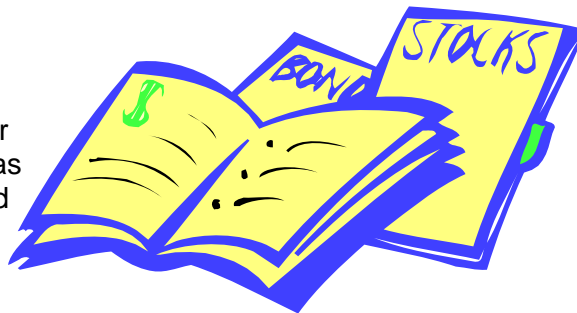
Senator Peggy Rotundo serves District 16 in Androscoggin County (Lewiston). She chairs the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and also serves on the State and Local Government Committee. Senator Rotundo is an educator. She lives in Lewiston with her spouse, Loring Danforth and two children.



Senator Libby Mitchell serves District 24 in Kennebec County (Augusta, China, Oakland, Sidney and Vassalboro). She serves on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and chairs the Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee. Senator Mitchell works as a consultant and lives in Vassalboro with her spouse, Jim, and their four children.

Money Management Class for New Americans

A partnership between Women, Work and Community, Portland Adult Education, and Maine Housing provided a Money Management class for New Americans from mid-October to mid-December in 2006. Participants, whose ESOL literacy was level four and above, learned about keeping track of income and expenses to develop a spending plan, the difference between needs and wants, and how to establish and maintain good credit. We reviewed employee benefits, and how they affect one's paycheck, income and other taxes, credit cards, interest, and service charges. Of course we talked about saving money—especially using Family Development Accounts—the matched savings accounts offered by Women, Work and Community and the Maine Family Development Account Coalition. Lots of math problems appeared on the board as we worked through examples!



Participant questions raised issues such as how the banking system works in this country, how to get credit, how to get a driver's license to have a better chance at employment, how to get legal advice for a child support dispute, how to start a business, how to pay for education, and how to buy a home. The emphasis is not limited to understanding where one is now, but also on planning for a more secure financial future.

We had guest speakers from Key Bank, the Maine Time Banks Network, and Coastal Enterprises Start Smart program. Class members learned about different bank products, how to get (and deliver) goods and services using the Time Banks exchange model, and how to get services to start a small business.



Recruitment time was very short, so the class was small. Four participants attended steadily; they were from Cambodia, Congo, Rwanda, and Sudan. Three of these successful participants want to start a small business; the fourth is ready for a homebuyer education class. Two individuals plan to work to get their driver's licenses. Two joined the Maine Time Dollar Network.

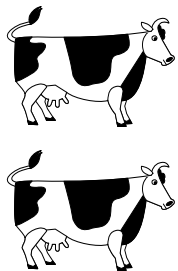
We had snacks and congenial conversation while talking about money, and the cultural and governmental differences between our native countries.

The class will be offered again beginning in January.

Submitted by Carolyn May, Workforce Development Coordinator for Cumberland County, Women, Work, and Community. Carolyn May is the Workforce Development Coordinator for Women, Work, and Community, located at 175 Main Street, South Portland, Maine 04106. Carolyn can be reached by phone at 207-799-5025 or by email: www.womenworkandcommunity.org



Computers on Wheels



Portland is following the lead of Sanford Adult Education and is about to purchase a COW - Computers on Wheels. The PAE staff has been raising \$18,000 to purchase a mobile cart and 17 PC laptops. The building will have an airport so the laptops can be used in any classroom. It is hoped that many classes will take advantage of this resource and our learners will improve their technology skills as necessary.

Submitted by Rob Wood, Co-Director of Portland Adult Education located at 57 Douglass Street in Portland, Maine 04102. Rob can be reached by phone at 207-874-8155, or by email: woodr@portlandschools.org



got vest?

Perkins

Like most programs, we are still looking at ways to adjust our usage of Perkins funding. However, we were approved for the use of our Adult set aside Perkins (from the secondary C&TE) to purchase on-line courses for adults wishing to take the three-class CompTIA A+ Certification Program offered through Education-2-Go. We've got four participants already at work, and hope that after the holidays we'll have lots more signing up. We also hope to use some of these funds to develop more distance certificate offerings.

Submitted by Bonnie Fortini, Director of Machias Adult & Community Education. Bonnie can be reached by phone at 207-255-4917, or by email: bfortini@msln.net



Executive Director's Report

After a busy fall tending to my "hobby" of managing the Oxford County Democrats, I am back on the job for MAEA. The investment of time paid off with the strong election results for the Democrats and the re-election of Governor Baldacci, as well as the defeat of TABOR. We have many friends in the legislature, on both sides of the aisle and in leadership. Many MAEA members were also involved locally for candidates from both parties and in the TABOR campaign.

Recently I have worked on the preparations for the Perkins meeting, getting acquainted with our new lobbying team, and on following up on financial matters from the conference and the collection of FY2007 dues. Thanks to all who paid dues so promptly –not much follow-up to do there! I have also been getting the Salary Survey updated and it is available by e-mail to members upon request.

I am hoping to get the web site updated soon and to get to work on the planning for our Directors Academy and Retreat in June. MAEA is exploring holding this at Colby College. MAEA will be offering a Grant Writing Workshop in early March, and hopefully another LERN seminar in April or May. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Cathy Newell, Executive Director of Maine Adult Education Association. Cathy can be reached by phone at 207.875.2722 or by email: maea@megalink.net



Beyond Borders



Vanessa Smith joined MSAD#5 Adult and Community Education as the Community Education Coordinator in July of 2006. Before taking on this full-time role, Vanessa had been a Math and Biology teacher for MSAD#5 Adult Education students for two years. In her short time as part of our administrative team, she has revived and expanded our community education offerings. Her dedication to her job is clearly evident when you hear the enthusiasm in her voice for every new possibility in community education! Vanessa has proved herself to be a great collaborator and has recently been awarded an opportunity to take her passion overseas.

MSAD#5 Adult and Community Education is in the preliminary stages of designing an international exchange program aimed at benefiting not-for-profit organizations. Vanessa will travel to South Korea in May of 2007 for four weeks and all of her expenses will be paid through a generous grant from Rotary International. She will have the opportunity to study the administrative and logistical elements of foreign exchange as well as the inspirational and cultural benefits of living abroad.



Vanessa will be dearly missed while she conducts “research” for implementing this new program and revels in South Korean culture. She will be gone from our program for a total of six weeks as she will be getting married two weeks prior to her trip. Post-nuptials, she will spend two tropical weeks with her new husband before getting back to the very difficult work of traveling to South Korea with a group of her peers. Vanessa will submit an update to be posted in the summer edition of the Media and I urge those of you who know Vanessa to wish her good luck –or **Hang-u-nŭl bim-ni-da!**– in her marriage and her overseas journey.

Submitted by Shannon Parker, Director of MSAD#5 Adult and Community Education located in Rockland, Maine. Shannon can be reached at sparker@msad5.org and Vanessa can be reached at vsmith@msad5.org



In the Field

Advocacy Training Day

The Maine Adult Education Association will sponsor an Advocacy Training Day at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell on Friday, January 19th from 9:00 until 3:00. There will also be a special MAEA Membership Meeting at 3:15. The Advocacy Training will cover techniques for effective advocacy for adult education at the federal, state and local levels. The keynote will be delivered by Martha Freeman of the State Planning Office. Other sessions will feature legislative leaders, our lobbyists and directors with particular effectiveness in local advocacy.

The Advocacy Training is sponsored by MAEA through a generous grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and there will be no charge to attend. Advance registration is required and is limited to 100. Since one of the goals for the training is to improve our effectiveness throughout the state, initial registration will be limited to one individual per program. Should spaces remain after January 8th, additional registrations from programs will be accepted.

To register: e-mail the MAEA office at maea@megalink.net



Patsy Crockett Retires

MAEA's long-time lobbyist, Patsy Crockett of Augusta, retired from Howe and Company in September. Executive Director Cathy Newell attended Patsy's retirement party in November and presented her with a vest, calendar, mug, and pin in appreciation for her work for us. Her retirement was brief as Patsy is now Rep. Patsy Crockett and will continue to bring our message in the legislature. She received campaign help from several of our colleagues in the Augusta area. Patsy was instrumental in working on our subsidy increases and also on the College Transition project. Bob Howe and Pam Cahill will continue to represent MAEA under the new name of Howe, Cahill and Company.



Perkins Issues

There has been much activity surrounding the transition to Carl Perkins IV during the fall and early winter. Following a webcast from MDOE, which raised concerns from the field about the eligibility of adult education programs to continue to access Perkins funds, a meeting was scheduled for Dec. 6 at KVCC by Yvonne Davis of MDOE's CTE team and Gary Crocker of MCCS, featuring a national expert on Perkins, Michael Brustein, a Washington DC attorney. Prior to the meeting Rob Wood and other MAEA members convened a meeting to generate questions. On December 6th there was an excellent turnout of adult education directors and a very informative discussion which appears to have identified ways that adult education can still be a player in Perkins. A Stakeholders Group will work on a Transition Plan and a new State Plan and adult education will be at that table.

Maine Adult Education Awards

Andrea Winslow, York Adult Education - Outstanding Support Staff

Andrea Winslow is a native of Liverpool, England now living in York, Maine with her husband Ron and her cats, Bonnie and Clyde. She has worked as the secretary at York Adult and Community Education (YACE) for ten years and is studying Behavioral Science at Granite State College. To say Andrea is indispensable to YACE would be an understatement. She is the heart, the backbone, and the glue that holds YACE together. To many, Andrea is YACE. Her warm personality puts the hundreds of students, teachers and professionals she meets at ease, both in the office and in the community. She is organized, knowledgeable, adaptable and efficient, with a particular talent for graphic design. Andrea never says "I can't do that." She simply figures it out and does it. Andrea is a lifelong learner, a skilled teacher and supervisor, and a wiz at event planning. She deals with all the situations that arise daily in a very hectic environment with grace and poise. Her dependability and conscientiousness are well known by her co-workers and clients. Perhaps it's her charming British accent, or her sweet smile – whatever the reason, there is no better person to represent the "best" of adult education than Andrea Winslow.



Kathi Medcalf, Sanford Community Adult Education Outstanding Adult Education Administrator



We at Sanford Community Adult Education often joke about what hours Kathi works, because she always seems to be here. That is because she is continuously monitoring the quality of our program – and not by looking at statistics. She looks at the students, the teachers, the staff and sees what is really happening in the classroom, the office and in the hallways! The word organization doesn't immediately come to mind when you look at Kathi's office space and yet, we have one of the best organized adult education programs around. That is because Kathi knows how to delegate and makes sure everything gets done in the most efficient and effective way possible. Whenever kudos are given out, Kathi is always the first to acknowledge the work of others. Those she acknowledges know full well, they did the work, but without her guidance and determination SCAE would not be what it is today.

Kathi Medcalf moved to Maine five years ago from the Seattle, Washington area. She lives in Scarborough, Maine with her husband of 14 years, Scott Flaker. Kathi has a Masters in Chemistry from Villanova University and is currently working on a Masters in Adult Education at the University of Southern Maine. Kathi worked as a high school chemistry teacher for 14 years before coming to Maine. She became the ABE coordinator at Sanford Community Adult Education in April of 2002, and the director in July of 2003. Outside of adult education, Kathi loves to travel and spends most of her vacations returning to the West Coast to see her niece and nephews. In the summer and early fall, Kathi can often be seen sitting in front of a beach cottage in Wells Beach reading.



Razell Ward, MSAD #52 River Valley Adult Education Outstanding Adult Education Teacher

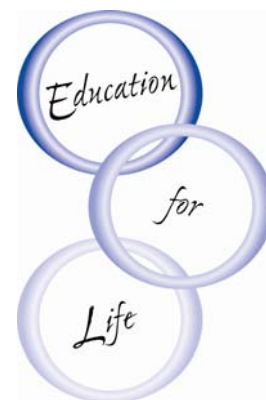


Razell has been teaching in the MSAD #52 River Valley Adult Education Learning Center since September 2003. As the only full-time classroom teacher she assumes numerous responsibilities. She spends hours working on curriculum to make sure it meets the needs of all students. Razell is totally committed to her students. Students have described her as “tough”, “awesome”, “cool”, “caring” and a “great teacher”. She often times is mentor, job coach, career counselor, lunch and transportation provider to her students. She works well with other staff members and is always willing to go the “extra mile” to help in whatever way she can.



Beth A. Gifford, MSAD #5 Adult Education Outstanding Adult Education Teacher

Beth A. Gifford has been working for the Mid-Coast Adult Learning Center in Rockland for six years and has built a remarkable collaboration between ABE and Literacy Volunteers of Mid-Coast Maine. As the Director of that affiliate and our permanent ABE/GED teacher, Beth invests her knowledge, resources, boundless energy and trust into her students. She assists learners from early literacy through to GED testing and has been integral in providing referrals for our local college preparation program. She sees education as a continuum and even teaches outside of the classroom as the "outCAST Players" literacy theatre group coordinator.



Beth is truly gifted at helping students help themselves. She not only advocates for them as a model but teaches them the skills (and voice) to advocate for themselves. Many of her students have never had an educator take the time to hear them, to help them or to see them as remarkable individuals. Beth has an extraordinary ability to create this trust and respect within the first few minutes of meeting her. It is clear, in her every lesson, in her every conversation, and in her every decision, that she is here for the students. Her commitment resounds within the walls of our Center and an environment of success, peer tutoring and enrichment is created.

She is an educator dedicated to her students –every day– every phone call. The normal stresses of work do not seem to touch Beth. Her students are greeted daily with a teacher who is fresh and invested.



Those who have had the pleasure to work with Beth understand this perfectly. For those who have not, it is hard to explain it in words. It is energy. It is boundless. Beth is a quiet educator and does not ask for praise. This award is a wonderful way to thank her for her work with literacy and GED students throughout the Mid-Coast.

Denise Ryan, Biddeford Adult Education Outstanding Adult Education Teacher

Denise Ryan has taught in the Biddeford School System since 1987 where she teaches high school science courses. She joined the Biddeford adult education team in 1999 and teaches year round. Courses include Chemistry, Biology, and Anatomy and Physiology.

Denise has managed a rigorous work schedule through the years, as well as keeping an active home life with her husband and two children, David and Alyssa. Denise enjoys travel and recently organized a trip to Australia for students and teachers. She says that the experience of traveling with students, friends, family, and colleagues has breathed new life into her teaching.

Denise notes that it is a pleasure for her to teach adults who come to her class with ambition and focus. They inspire her to continue changing the way she approaches teaching adults, as well as day school students. Denise listens to her adult learners and encourages them to articulate what works and what does not work for them when learning new materials. Denise says that her students are a great sounding board and test group for newly designed approaches to teaching new materials.

Last –but not least– Denise is quoted as saying, “Nothing pleases me more than to meet a former student when they are on the job. It is a great validation of why I continue to teach adult education to the citizens of Biddeford and the surrounding community.”

Biddeford Adult Education



Linda Lavertu, Sanford Community Adult Education Outstanding Adult Education Teacher

Linda Lavertu has been teaching adults for approximately 20 years at Sanford Community Adult Education. Linda is the embodiment of an adult education teacher. She teaches GED and ABE classes. Linda has been teaching with enthusiasm SCAE's lowest level students for most of her career and is amazing with the students. She is certified in Math and English. An ABE student wrote on a class evaluation: “This woman is the only teacher I’ve ever had in my life that’s actually been able to teach me, I love her way of teaching!” Linda has the patience of a saint and never gives up on a student even when they want to give up on themselves. She is always looking for ways to get through to her students.

Linda Lavertu is a native of Sanford, Maine, where she still lives with Tom, her husband of 29 years. Linda and Tom have two grown sons, Scott and Ryan. Linda is a graduate of Plymouth State College and was a first grade teacher for 10 years before becoming an Adult Education Teacher. When Linda is not teaching she enjoys her large extended family and has for 30 years been singing at weddings with her brother and sister.



Gerald LeVasseur Award
Al Menard, MSAD #52 River Valley Adult Education
(formerly Caribou Adult Education)



A native of Cranston, Rhode Island, Al was in the Air Force for 21 years. A Vietnam veteran, Al served at Danang Air Field in 1971-72, and had nine other assignments around the United States. Because he kept volunteering to return, Al served three of those assignments at Loring Air Force Base. He also served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor at Eielson AFB Alaska and as Technical Advisor for all aircraft maintenance at Loring before his retirement as a Chief Master Sergeant. After working as Counselor and Learning Center Coordinator, Al became Director of Caribou Adult Education in 1994. He provided exemplary service to his community in this capacity until just last month, when he was appointed Adult Education Director of MSAD #52 River Valley Adult Education (Greene, Leeds, and Turner).

Throughout his professional career, Al has demonstrated a passion for Adult Basic Education and Literacy. He has also proven his ability to successfully design vocational programs that have made it possible for community members to qualify for and obtain employment in fields that they are suited for and interested in. Al has led his staff to write many grants throughout his time in Caribou, among them were two Maine Family Literacy Initiatives grants, an Equipped for the Future Pilot Site Grant, several Workplace Literacy projects, and The [GO@Ls](#) project. Staff and students from Caribou managed *The Maine Idea*, Maine's Adult Education Student Newspaper for several years. Caribou was also a pilot site for the National Retail Federation's Retail Sales Certificate Program. Under Al's leadership, Caribou Adult Education received a Nellie Mae Transition grant that prepared over 50 individuals to attend post-secondary training without taking the remedial courses so often needed by today's students. In addition to serving individual students, Al saw the need to work with business and industry. As a result of his vision, Caribou Adult Education began working with area businesses to provide them with customized training in computer applications, accounting programs, nursing, home care, and other courses needed to meet their needs.

In addition to the many accomplishments in his local program, Al has served Maine Adult Education in a number of ways. He is a past member of MAEA's Executive Board. As a Board member, he was nominated by MAEA to represent Maine Adult Education on Governor Angus King's Maine Jobs Council, Maine's primary Workforce Investment Act State Policy Advisory Group. Governor Baldacci subsequently reappointed him. In terms of regional influence, Al was instrumental in re-establishing the Literacy Volunteers organization in Aroostook and Washington Counties. Al earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Career Education from Eastern Illinois University and a Masters of Education from Antioch Graduate School. He and his wife of 34 years, Vivian, now reside in Livermore.

Sincere Thanks

MAEA would like to recognize and thank Polly Stanwood of York Adult and Community Education and the Awards Committee for coordinating the MAEA Awards. We would also like to thank everyone who took the time to submit a nomination. The number of awards given each year is limited, and if your nominee did not receive an award this year, we encourage you to resubmit the nomination in another year. For more information about the MAEA Awards, see: www.maineadulted.org

Thank You



CASAS Training

Due to a date change for the Directors' meeting, the CASAS training, scheduled for March 23 in Lewiston, will be offered on March 30, 2007 in Auburn at the Auburn Public Library. If you're already registered for the training, there is no need to reregister. Just change the date and location in your calendar.

Questions? Please contact Carol Wynne at cwynne@awi.net or 873-1441.

