

To all WSSA Members and Friends,

This year has flown by so fast it is unbelievable. It seems it just started and now we are three months away from the conference. But, what have we accomplished in this year? I am sorry to say that we didn't meet the goals that I had set for the Association and myself. Why is that?

As I had predicted in the beginning of this term, the financial crunch would hurt us and it did. At our meeting in March at Stevens Point the only committee that attended was the ESS Committee. We have been short members for all the other committees though out the year. This has been an issue that we discussed to some lengths in the Executive meeting but could not come to any conclusion. What do we need to do?

It is the feeling of the Executive committee that much of the lack of participation is due to counties tightening up on staff attending meetings such as WSSA or any other organization. There just isn't enough money or time available. Because of this, WSSA has not been able to be effective in working with the State, except in the ESS area, to effect change. I see this as an even more serious problem in the next year and following. We, the Executive committee looked at restructuring the Association. We could not come to a conclusion on how best to do that. It appeared that we would still have the same problem in getting staff to attend. If the county can't afford to send staff, then it will not matter how we structure our Association. Currently many of the staff that are attending, are doing so on their own time. This is commendable, but it is not feasible for the whole Association to expect this of every committee member.

I have asked for input from the membership and I ask again. What do you think we should do to make sure that WSSA is viable in the future? Remember, WSSA is you, the membership. The officers and committee members are made up of staff from around the State. If WSSA wishes to continue then the membership will have to find a way to be active in the committee structure as well as the officers. In my last letter I was asking for people to nominate someone for president-elect, secretary and parliamentarian. We received no response although we have found people to run for the offices.

I ask you to think seriously about the future of WSSA. We will continue, we have been in situations like this before and we were able to continue. But we are up against some formidable foes this time and we all need to pull together to make it work. If you have any ideas please feel free to contact me or any member of the Executive committee.

Thank you,

Dennis Wittig  
President