

Greetings Fellow Wisconsin Social Services Association Members and Web Page Viewers

My how time flies when you're having fun. As we approach the time for the 2004 Conference, I find myself wondering where has all the time gone. It does not seem or feel like 11 months have passed since I was introducing Secretaries Gassman and Nelson at the 2003 Conference. To think that in a little more than a month from now, Marjean Sutherland will take over as the President of our Association. It seems far off but it is not. I have learned a lot this past year and hope to continue my involvement any way possible after my term as your President has ended. Although in all honesty it may also be a good time for me to recruit another member (old or new) to maximize their participation and limit mine. This means I want to get another member more involved so that they will have the opportunity to experience how truly great it is to be an active member of WSSA and the benefits in being active, such as all of the people you meet.

What I enjoyed most about this past year? That is easy, the members of this Association that I have been privileged to get to know better. This includes anyone and everyone, from the four first time Conference Planning Committee members (wonder what they would have said last year knowing what they know now), Barb Love, a Social Services Board member from Washburn County (who I am sorry to say has been understandably disappointed by lack of Committee members), to everyone involved, both in front of and behind the scenes. I also have a lot of people to thank for all that that they have done this past year. Since I do not want to forget anyone individually, I just want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone collectively.

We recently tried something new at the April meeting this year. Several members had expressed an interest in receiving information from IMAC (Income Maintenance Advisory Committee). What we would like to continue in the future, is to have some type of schedule for IMAC members, who also are WSSA members, to meet with the Economic Support/Workforce Development Committee and the Economic Support Committee for the Elderly, Blind, and Disabled on Fridays, at the April, July, and December meetings.

I will assume that everyone reading this on the Web also has received a Conference brochure (or has accessed it through the Web page) and that each and everyone of you is attending the 2004 Conference and Training Institute. Conference Planning has again outdone themselves and put together another great Conference. **SEE YOU AT THE HOTEL MEAD IN JUNE.**

Jim Bestul, President
Wisconsin Social Services Association