

A Letter from the President:

A Happy New Year to all WSSA members, potential members and all who visit this website. One of my New Year resolutions was to write this letter (although I usually do not make resolutions). It is my honor to serve as the WSSA President for 2008/09. I did get a late start as I did not start the position until October.

The WSSA year is already half over, as the Association year is from July to June. Attendees at the 2008 annual conference received their membership for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. For members not attending the conference, I hope you did renew your membership. If you did not, it is not too late!

This brings me to the subject of Awards. To be nominated to receive a WSSA award, the person must be a current member. Awards are the Association's way of honoring members who have shown outstanding leadership and achievements. Descriptions and requirements of each award, along with the nomination forms, are described in the "Awards" section of the web site. Now is the time to nominate your peers! If the person is not a current member, why not consider paying for their membership!

The 2008/09 Conference Planning Committee, under the direction of Co-chairs Paula Hintze and Dave Turk, is diligently working to provide an excellent conference. Workshops will provide the needed training. We hope you will consider attending, because in addition to receiving training and meeting training requirements, it is also an opportunity to network with other professionals in your field.

Due to budget cuts and increased workload, most of the WSSA committees have not been active the last couple of years. The Economic Support Committee for the Elderly, Blind and Disabled Programs has eight members and generally meets in Madison. The Operations Committee is composed of two members; the main function of the Committee is to forward postings and information to the agency liaisons. The Constitution & Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee is composed of three members, and meet on an "as needed" basis. I am hoping we can obtain a few members interested in the Economic Support/Workforce Development Committee. Please contact me if you are interested and would like more information. I know there are a lot of talented and energetic members who could lead a committee! Volunteer – you will be glad you did! The other committees, which have not been active for the last couple of years, include Long Term Support, Social/Human Services, Finance, and County/State – Legislative. If anyone would like more information regarding those committees, please contact me.

The Executive Committee is comprised of the State Officers (President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian and Parliamentarian) plus the District Presidents. All districts except Eastern District are represented. I know there are many individuals qualified for stepping into this position, so please step forward! The Executive Committee meets five times during the year at a central location.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas for the betterment of WSSA, please contact me or anyone on the Executive committee. We welcome any new ideas or suggestions. I encourage members to get involved, and to recruit a new member. As the motto goes – "WSSA Needs YOU and You need WSSA!"

I wish to thank each WSSA member who is on a committee for their dedication and enthusiasm and contributions! Also, a big thank you goes to each agency liaison for your help in posting material so that members and potential members can be well informed, and in promoting WSSA.

A very happy, prosperous and healthy new year to all!

Jaci Fuller, WSSA President 2008/09
7493 North Road
Eau Claire WI 54701

E-mail: tomnjaci@clearwire.net
Phone: 715-225-3978

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