

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

July/Aug. 2003

2003 WSSA CONFERENCE

The 66th annual conference was held on June 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2003 at the Ho-Chunk Casino and Conference Center which is located between Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells. A total of 159 people attended the conference that included 129 full conference attendees, 18 one-day attendees and 12 for ethics and boundaries only. Even though attendance was down this year we are very excited that 43 people were attending for the first time. This means we are doing a good job of promoting WSSA and the wonderful training this organization can provide at a reasonable cost.

Leading off the conference was Alan Cohen with *"Why Your Life Sucks (and what can you do about it)."* He also did two workshops that were very well attended and gave us many tools to use in our personal and professional lives. Encore! Studio for the Performing Arts entertained and educated us at the Past Presidents' Luncheon. This is a non-profit organization whose mission is to offer a professional path to the performing arts for people with disabilities. They performed *"Look Closer"* and *"Not Stubborn...Not Strong-Willed"* which were both outstanding. They mix together humor, singing and acting with a message that is very powerful. And to wrap things up was Tim Gard, a WSSA favorite, with *"Can I Say That At Work."* Tim promotes participation with giving away little gifts and leaves everyone feeling better about themselves and their job. The way he uses humor to get across important messages

is amazing. We also had 28 different sessions that people attended which touched on every aspect of the human/social service field.

We continued the tradition of adding a little incentive for participation at conference with giving away many donated items. We held a "poker run" which entailed getting signatures from eight of the 13 vendors and turning your sheet in to get a poker hand. Approximately 20 gifts were given for the best hands. Everyone that attended a session was able to grab a chip out of the bucket and these were used to purchase items at the auction held Friday morning with Tim Gard being the auctioneer. He really helped make this a successful event.



Wrap-up Speaker:
Tim Gard, CSP, Comic
Visions, LLC, Denver, CO

The evaluations were all very positive and we truly appreciate those who took the time to fill them out. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions are very welcome. The 2004 Conference Planning Committee will be starting soon to work on next year's conference and would love to hear your ideas. Please contact co-chairs, Holly Jackson at (715) 836-1028 or e-mail at jacksonhm@voyager.net and/or Fred Baewer at (608) 297-9136, ext. 238 or e-mail at fbraewer@co.marquette.wi.us.



President's Message

Where do I begin? Let me start by welcoming all of you to a new and unpredictable year for WSSA. New, in the fact that it is my privilege to begin representing this organization as it's President for the next year. Unpredictable, due to the current fiscal uncertainties.

I do not want to say that this will be the biggest and best year ever for WSSA, as I would not want to give an unfavorable impression of past years. What I would like is for everyone who is a member this year to be able to say that his or her membership was worthwhile. By worthwhile I mean that everyone has been able to take something back to his or her job and apply that something to the work that they do. Each year that I am a member of WSSA, I feel that I get out of the organization only as much as I am

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members have spoken and the Executive Committee has listened. Several members have expressed a desire for the Association to take a stance on issues that affect our membership. At our July organizational meeting, motions were brought forth and passed by the Executive Committee that we, as an Association, take a stance of displeasure with the decision to eliminate the Assistant Area Administrator positions and the decision to regulate the amount of Community Options Program funds that counties can spend on the various target groups that are served. (Due to Governor's veto on 7/24/03 concerning the AAA positions, the letter to the Governor expressed the Association support of this veto.)

Our hope is that by expressing our opinions on these issues we as an organization that represents workers who deal with these issues every day, can make a difference for these workers and the people they work with.

Contact any Executive committee member (listed below) with issues and/or concerns you may have. Individuals are welcome to attend any of our meetings and can present issues that affect them.

Executive Committee Members are:

Jim Bestul (President)
Clark County DSS
715-743-5233
james.bestul@co.clark.wi.us

Marjean Sutherland (President-Elect)
Lafayette County DHS
608-776-4916
m.sutherland@jobcenter.org

Dennis Wittig (Past President)
Columbia County DHHS
608-742-9206
dennis.wittig@co.columbia.wi.us

Christy Mancl (Treasurer)
Wood County DSS
715-421-8600
cmancl@co.wood.wi.us

Kathy Brown (Secretary)
Wood County DSS
715-421-8600
kbrown@co.wood.wi.us

Jaci Fuller (Parliamentarian & Northland District President)
Price County DHS (retired)
715-332-5563
tnj51058@pctcnet.net

Helain Andersen (Historian)
Racine County DHS
262-638-6593
Hander@racineco.com

Cheryl Bahr (Eastern District President)
Shawano County DSS
715-526-4716
socchery@co.shawano.wi.us

Linda Sweet (South Central Dist. Pres.)
DHFS
608-266-9197
sweetle@dhfs.state.wi.us

Kevin Loef (Southeastern Dist. President)
Kenosha Job Center
262-697-4521
KLOEF@co.kenosha.wi.us

NOTICE

The Elderly, Blind and Disabled bi-monthly meetings will be held on August 27th and October 22nd, 2003 at the Dane County Job Center on Aberg Avenue. The WSSA E.S.E.D.B. Committee will meet on August 28th and October 23rd at Dane County Department of Human Services on South Park Street. Any interested members are welcome to attend.

For more details, please contact the Chair of WSSA's E.S.E.D.B. Committee, Mary King, at 262-605-6608.

2003 – 2004 WSSA MEETING CALENDAR

The following are the meeting dates/places for committees. Any member is welcome to attend a meeting.

August 28, 2003 Best Western Royale, Stevens Point
 October 23, 2003 Best Western Royale, Stevens Point
 December 4 - 5, 2003 Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids
 February 26, 2004 Best Western Royale, Stevens Point
 April 29 - 30, 2004 Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids

WSSA Conference: June 16 – 18, 2004 Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids

Meeting Site Information:	Best Western Royale	Hotel Mead
	Jct. UW 51/I39 – US 10	451 East Grand Avenue
	5110 Main Street	Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
	Stevens Point, WI 54481	Reservations: 1-715-423-1500
	Reservations: 1-877-811-0217	FAX: 1-715-422-7064
	FAX: 1-715-341-5007	

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact WSSA President, Jim Bestul at 1-715-743-5246 or james.bestul@co.clark.wi.us

2002/2003 WSSA AWARD WINNERS:

FRONT ROW (L TO R):

Thomas Sandholm, DHFS, Madison *South Central District*
 Deb Solis, Dane County DHS *Rookie of the Year*
 Edie Udulutch, Sauk County DHS *Excellence in Human Services*
 Dahly Bosley, Florence County DHS (retired) *Honorary Life*
 Ann Oven, Waukesha County DHS *Southeastern District*
 Fred Baewer, Marquette County DHS *Eastern District*

BACK ROW (L TO R):

Linda K. Rasmussen, Dane County DHS *Excellence in Economic Support*
 Dennis Wittig, Columbia County DHHS *Past President*
 Sandy Walrack, DWD (retired) *Honorary Life*
 David Zeller, Sauk County DHS *Excellence in Human Services*
 Marjean Sutherland, Lafayette County DHS *Membership Liaison*
 Denise Gerlach, Wood County DSS *North Central District*
 Ronald N. Stuber, Shawano County DSS *Distinguished Service*
 Keli Poppe, Kenosha County DWD *Friend of WSSA (Kenosha County DHS)*
 Mark Schmitt, UW-Oshkosh, CCD *Special Recognition Award*



Left: Foster mother for Bucky this coming membership year is Loretta Shellman, Oconto County Human Services Board Member.



Right: Foster father for Becky is David Zeller, Sauk County Human Services Department.

PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I contacted WSSA Past Presidents asking if they would like to contribute to a "Past Presidents' Column." If you are a Past President, and did not receive a letter from me, it is because I do not have a current address for you. I would appreciate hearing from you. If you received a letter but did not respond, please do so anytime! I hope to hear from more Past Presidents for the next issue! Thanks to all who respond!

Jaci Fuller, N9120 East Island Phillips, WI 54555, e-mail: tnj51058@pctnet.net. Phone: (715) 332-5563

On the following pages are the responses I have received thus far:

When I first joined WSSA 18 years ago, we had a lot of members. The committees were all full to the max of committee people. We had no problems getting committees together. The district meetings were always held on time with no difficulties.

As time went by, so did the members. One after another, people were dropping out. Committees got smaller and district meetings were fewer. What happened, you say? Well, by the time I became President for 2000/2001, we got budget scares. Things took for the worse. Some people blamed the counties not sending them. No money to be used for meetings. Others just lost interest.

That last statement are the most bothersome words I have heard. How can you lose interest in an organization if you never get involved? We have committee members who use their

own time, their own money and, yes, their own mileage. Other words I have heard is that it's too clique. If all these things are true, then shame on us. But my own feelings are that people just don't want to get involved with an organization that could help your jobs and in some cases, your future. We have so much to give such as scholarships and yes, friendships.

I know that we will never be as big as we once were, but I sure would like to see people come back. I would like to see new faces get involved and really build this organization up again.

So, my words to all of you – PLEASE DON'T SIT BACK, JOIN NOW AND BE PART OF THE BEST ASSOCIATION THERE IS – WSSA!

Helain Andersen

I can't believe it has been 25 years since being President of WSSA and 14 years since retiring (not consecutive years – I am NOT that old). I have forgotten more about AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medical Assistance than I ever knew.

These years have been filled with trips, camping, my puppy dogs, computerizing and other fun things. Grandchildren and even some great grandkids, compliments of my gerbil-like offspring, keep me broke and busy with birthdays, Christmas, marriages, and so on.

Considering the current events, I feel that my son, Mark, and grandson, Brandon, need special recognition. Mark just came off a tour on his Trident

submarine, the USS Alabama, as First Class Petty Officer Submarine Sonar Technician. Grandson, Corporal Brandon, was just called up for the third time for duty probably in some desert. He is an MP in a guard reserve unit that was recently activated again. Previously, he was in Hungary and then Nicaragua.

The problem of some staff not being allowed time off or reimbursement for conference attendance has been a problem for many years. It will only get worse, I'm afraid.

*Paul Greene
President 1977/78
Resides in Madison*

IN MEMORY

Bernard J. Strumbras passed away on Monday, July 21, 2003 due to injuries suffered in a fall. Mr. Strumbras had been a member of WSSA for a number of years. He served as Deputy Administrator of the Division of Economic Assistance and Assistant Administrator of the Division of Community Services.

It does not take long after leaving the field to feel really removed and “out of the loop” as far as knowing what is going on in the profession. For me, it’s almost 10 years since I retired and the system in Wisconsin has changed considerably. We get a bit of information from a friend or two who are still employed in the agency and try to follow media coverage as it is.

Other commitments have precluded much participation in WSSA in these last almost ten years. The annual conference has fallen on dates when I have had commitments here, with either the Wisconsin Gerontology Institute’s annual conference or Adventures in Lifelong Learning’s “Week of Learning”, both of which are headquartered at UW-Parkside.

Adventures in Lifelong Learning (ALL) is completing its fifth year of programming. We have two meetings a month, featuring a guest speaker on a wide variety of topics. ALL differs from most of the other Lifelong Learning Institutes in Wisconsin, and elsewhere, in that we do not focus on classes, although we do have some short-term ones. We focus on the learning aspect, rather than on social functions, but do meet new, good people we would likely not get to know otherwise. Marilyn and I have been involved in ALL since its onset, and I have agreed to be nominated as president for next year. We have about 225 members in Racine and Kenosha counties, with 75+ at most meetings. There are “focus groups” which deal with a particular subject of interest to the members, such as book discussion, horticulture, religions, etc. A special feature is our “Week of Learning” in which we look at one subject for five days. Our fourth “Week” will again be the first week in June, this time looking at architecture, its history, the potential as a profession, the materials used, etc.

I have also been on the advisory board for the Wisconsin Gerontology Institute, which also meets at UW-Parkside, and holds its spring conference the first part of June, usually conflicting with WSSA’s conference.

The experiences I had with WSSA have been wonderfully helpful in these new activities. Knowing how boards and committees work has been useful, and will be even more so next year. Thanks to WSSA and to all of you who made my experiences possible. We have learned that it is wise, and most helpful, to go straight to the top when looking for speakers or when coping with problems. And that the potential guests with a the most impressive credentials are often the nicest people to deal with.

A couple pieces of personal information: After 20+ years of living in a condominium, we bought a ranch-style house two years ago, and thoroughly enjoy working in the yard. The other addition is my beard which began last Christmas while visiting our daughter and son-in-law near Rochester, MN (forgot my razor and opted not to buy another one!) The beard is mostly white – I’m having fun with it!

So, you see, we have become involved in activities that have precluded much active involvement in WSSA. However, we do follow what is going on, and appreciate the newsletters. In retrospect, the experiences I had in WSSA have helped lay the groundwork for what I am doing in these other organizations. Learning certainly builds on learning. And that is what ALL is all about! So, Thanks, WSSA!

*Moreau “Mac” MacCaughey
President 1989/1990
Residing in Racine*



WSSA Past Presidents

FRONT ROW (L TO R):

- Kathy Brown, Wood County DSS - 1992/1993
- Jackie Bennett, Racine County DHS - 1987/1988
- Wesley Rohrer, Sauk County DHS (retired) - 1968/1969
- Audrey Roecker - 1996/1997
- Faith Valenti, Milwaukee County DSS (retired) - 1998/1999

BACK ROW (L TO R):

- Ron Stuber, Shawano County DSS - 1988/1989
- Paul Greene, Dane County DHS (retired) - 1977/1978
- Ted Bennett, Milwaukee County DSS (retired) - 1959/1960
- Rick Kane, Shawano County DSS - 2001/2002
- Ted Prange, Wood County DSS (retired) - 1976/1977
- John Granchay, Shawano County DSS (retired) - 1999/2000

WSSA MEMBERSHIP LIAISONS

Following is a list of WSSA Membership Liaisons for the counties:

Richard Holt Adams County DH&HS 108 E. North Street Friendship, WI 53934	Jane Erickson Douglas County DHS 119 North 25th Street East Superior, WI 54880	Vickie Schultz Marathon County DSS 400 E. Thomas Street Wausau, WI 54403	Pam Flatoff Portage County H&HS 817 Whiting Avenue Stevens Point, WI 54481	Michael Bloedorn Washington County DSS 333 W. Washington Suite 3100 West Bend, WI 53095
Sharon Clark Ashland County HSD 301 Ellis Avenue Ashland, WI 54806	Cheri Davis Eau Claire County DHS P. O. Box 840 Eau Claire, WI 54702	Jill Messenger Marinette County 1605 University Drive Suite B Marinette, WI 54143	Kate Halstad Price County DHS 104 South Eyder Avenue P.O. Box 88 Phillips, WI 54555	Ann Oven Waukesha County DH&HS 500 Riverview Avenue Waukesha, WI 53188
Ida Peterson Barron County DH&HS 330 East LaSalle Avenue Barron, WI 54812	D'Nnelle Kelley Florence County DHS P. O. Box 170 Florence, WI 54121	Darlene Withrow Marinette County H&HSD 2500 Hall Avenue Marinette, WI 54143	Helain Andersen Racine County HSD 1717 Taylor Avenue Racine, WI 53403-2497	Sandra Watson Waupaca County DH&HS 811 Harding Street Waupaca, WI 54981
Sharon Woelfel-Nett Brown County HSD 200 N. Jefferson Street Suite 428 Green Bay, WI 54301	Ronda Votis Forest County DSS 200 E. Madison Crandon, WI 54520	Fred Baewer Marquette County DHS P. O. Box 405 Montello, WI 53949	Virginia Wiedenfeld Richland County H&HS 221 W. Seminary Street Richland Center, WI 53581	Maralyn Traylor Waushara County DHS P. O. Box 1230 Wautoma, WI 54982
Sue Gilson Brown County HSD 111 N. Jefferson Street Green Bay, WI 54302	Ann White Grant County DSS P. O. Box 447 Lancaster, WI 53813 Jan Sudmeier Grant County DSS P. O. Box 447 Lancaster, WI 53813	Barbara Nelson Menominee County HHS P. O. Box 280 Keshena, WI 54135	Darla Boldt-Cox Rock County HSD P.O. Box 1649 Janesville, WI 53547-1649	Barb Pommerening Winnebago County SHD P. O. Box 2925 Oshkosh, WI 54903
Beth Sass Buffalo County DH&HS P. O. Box 517 Alma, WI 54610	Jeannie Blumer Green County DHS N3152 State Road 81 Monroe, WI 53566	Faith Valenti Milwaukee County 4447 S. Whitnall Avenue St. Francis, WI 53235	Dana Rytte St. Croix County H&HS 1445 North 4th Street New Richmond, WI 54017	Paula Hintze UW Oshkosh CCDET 2312 Wisconsin Street Oshkosh, WI 54901
Laura Warndahl Neve Burnette County DHS 7410 County Road K #280 Siren, WI 54872	Deb Lyons Green Lake County DH&HS P. O. Box 588 Green Lake, WI 54941	Joyce Stoegbauer Oconto County DH&HS 501 Park Avenue Oconto, WI 54153	Edie Udulutch Sauk County DHS P. O. Box 29 Baraboo, WI 53913	Grace Bauer Wood County DSS 630 South Central Avenue Suite 404 Marshfield, WI 54449
Kelly Goettl Chippewa County DHS 711 N. Bridge Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729	Robert Glatczak Iron County DHS 300 Taconite Street Hurley, WI 54534	Judy Geyer Oneida County DSS P. O. Box 400 Rhineland, WI 54501	Patricia Acheson Sawyer County H&HS P. O. Box 730 Hayward, WI 54843	Kathy Brown Wood County DSS P. O. Box 8095 Wisc. Rapids, WI 54495
Mary J. Lawrence Clark County DSS 517 Court Street Room 502 Neillsville, WI 54456	Carolyn Kotchi Juneau County DHS 220 E. La Crosse Street Mauston, WI 53948	Robert Carl DHFS P. O. Box 697 Rhineland, WI 54501	Cheryl Bahr Shawano County DSS P. O. Box 29 Shawano, WI 54166	Pre Leverance P. O. Box 365 Oneida, WI 54155
Dennis Wittig Columbia County DH&HS P. O. Box 136 Portage, WI 53901	Theresa Hannes Kenosha County DHS 8600 Sheridan Road Suite 122 Kenosha, WI 53143	Barbara Spaude Outagamie County HHS 410 S. Walnut Street Appleton, WI 54911	Lynne Denis Sheboygan County HHSD 1011 North 8th Street Sheboygan, WI 53081	Laverne Plucinski Bad River P. O. Box 55 Odanah, WI 54861
Linda Sweet DHFS P. O. Box 309 Room 1050 Madison, WI 53707-0309	Marjean Sutherland Lafayette County DHS 627 Main Street Darlington, WI 53530	William Perrin Ozaukee County DSS 121 W. Main Street Port Washington, WI 53074	Sue Hady Taylor County HSD 540 E. College Street Medford, WI 54451	Jaci Fuller Price County DHS N9120 E. Island Road Phillips, WI 54555
Kathy Keller Dane County DHS 2322 South Park Street Madison, WI 53713	Fay Maschke Lincoln County DSS P. O. Box 547 Merrill, WI 54452	Carol Konsela Pepin County DHS 740 – 7th Avenue W P. O. Box 39 Durand, WI 54736	Mary Manka Trempealeau County DSS P. O. Box 67 Whitehall, WI 54773	Irene Lehman Rusk County DH&HS 311 E. Miner Suite C240 Ladysmith, WI 54848
Shirley Kitchen Dodge County HS&HD 143 E. Center Street Juneau, WI 53039	Ruth Wichlacz Manitowoc County HSD 926 South 8th Street P. O. Box 1177 Manitowoc, WI 54221-1177	Reggie Bicha Pierce County DHS P.O. Box 670 Ellsworth, WI 54011	Judy Sicard Walworth County H&HS P. O. Box 1005 Elkhorn, WI 53121	Mary Beth Gehrke Winnebago County SHD 211 N. Commercial Street Neenah, WI 54956
Cathy Theissen Door County DSS P. O. Box 670 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235	Darise Cadogan Polk County HSD 300 Polk County Plaza #110 Balsam Lake, WI 54810	Brenda Jo Deli Washburn County HSD P. O. Box 250 Shell Lake, WI 54871		If your county is not listed, there may not be a member- ship liaison. If interested in serving as a liaison, please contact Helain Andersen at (262) 638-6593.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kathy Brown, Wood County DSS, is the current WSSA Secretary. Therefore, all changes in name, address, phone, or e-mail need to be submitted to her.

Kathy can be contacted at:

P. O. Box 8095

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Phone number is (715) 421-8600

FAX 715-421-8693

E-mail kbrown@co.wood.wi.us.

WSSA WEBSITE

Be sure to visit WSSA's website at

WWW.WSSA.WS

for updated information on the organization, committee members, conference, continuing letters from the president, etc.

REMINDER

Articles for *Update* are welcomed from all WSSA members. Please be sure to send all articles to:

Kathy Brown

Wood County DSS

P. O. Box 8095

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

FAX: 715-421-8693

kbrown@co.wood.wi.us

(continued from President's Column, pg. 1)

willing to put into the organization.

Given the numerous and sweeping changes that have occurred, are occurring, and will continue to occur, in the Social/Human Services field, we are in constant need of additional training and training resources. We can each name our own personal nightmare when it comes to changes that we have experienced, as it is human nature to feel uncomfortable about and resist change. Eventually, with training and repetition, we adjust to change and continue to perform our jobs to the best of our abilities. I feel that WSSA offers some of the best and cheapest training/learning opportunities that are available anywhere.

Where do I end? I would like you to direct any and all concerns you may have to other members of the Executive Committee. "WSSA is not responsible for the last statement this person made as it was his own attempt at humor." I do ask that you contact me with your concerns, questions and comments. I know I do not have all the answers but I promise to try to find an answer and contact you back. I look forward to next year's Annual Conference and wish everyone the **BEST** in their pursuits this coming year and in the future.

Jim Bestul
President

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A COMMITTEE?

The Operations Committee is hard at work looking to recruit interested members in serving WSSA on committee assignments. Anyone interested in serving on any of the 9 committees (Economic Support, Long Term Support, County/State/Legislative, etc.), contact the WSSA President, Jim Bestul at (715) 743-5233, e-mail james.bestul@co.clark.wi.us or Helain Andersen at (262) 638-6593, e-mail andacres@core.com.

Working on a committee is a great way to grow professionally and meet others who share your common or uncommon interests. Some of the many benefits from being on a committee include opening up your world to other ideas and problem-solving techniques that can benefit you and your agency. It is never too late to be involved. Satisfaction and results guaranteed. Just ask any member who has been involved.

Wisconsin Social Service Association Membership Application

Membership Year: July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

County _____ County # _____

Assembly _____ Senate District _____

Congressional District _____

Employer Name _____

Address _____

Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Speciality/Interest Area(s): _____

Type _____

Membership Type

New

Continuing

Renewal

Membership Category

Regular ...\$ 25

Student ...\$ 10

Associate ..\$ 10

Contributing
+ \$ 25

Association

1. Northland
2. South Central
3. Eastern
4. West Central
5. Southeastern
6. North Central

**Return Application and Dues to:
Christy Mancl
Wood County DSS
P.O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495**

Employer

County

State

University
(for students)

Employee Job Function

Mgmt./Supervisor

Worker

SS Para Prof.

Economic Support Spec.

Social

Clerical _____

UPDATE

Update is published by the Wisconsin Social Service Association. Submit articles or letters to: Kathy Brown at Wood County Dept. of Social Services, PO Box 80954, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 Phone 715/421-8600, Fax 715/421-8693

WSSA: *"For the Communities in which we serve, we form this Association to improve the well-being of the people throughout the State of Wisconsin."*

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