

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

October/November 2003

2004 WSSA CONFERENCE

The 2004 Conference Planning Committee is in full swing. We are working towards making this a training opportunity that you will not want to miss. Here is what is lined up so far.

Keynote Speaker: James Hmurovich

Jim is the former Director of the State of Indiana Division of Family and Children. Anyone who attended the Big 10 Conference in Milwaukee will know what a dynamite speaker he is. Jim's topic will be on leadership. Situational leadership requires all of us to take on the challenge of change so as a team, we can improve services for our clients, meet our obligations to the public, and help manage our own fears and concerns. Jim will provide a context for moving towards a whole new world.

Jim will also conduct a workshop, "Improving Outcomes by Losing Control," for Supervisors in Human Services. The workshop will provide a checklist of do's and don'ts to establish a sense of team so goals can be attained, outcomes can be improved and our own sanity will prevail.

Ethics & Boundaries will again be offered. The time for this workshop will be on Wednesday, June 16, 2004. The time will be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

Other workshop topics that will be offered include gangs, Alzheimer's Disease, investment, Medicaid updates, food stamps, team building, social work certification and safety in conducting home visits.

The dates of the 2004 WSSA Training Institute & Conference (note name change) are June 16, 17 & 18, 2004. It will be held at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

The 2004 Conference theme is "Moving To a Whole New World." Wednesday evening, June 16th is theme night. Come dressed up "out of this world."

If you have any ideas for workshops/speakers, etc., contact a planning committee member. The 2004 members are:

Fred Baewer	fbawer@co.marquette.wi.us	608-297-9136, Ext. 238
Holly Jackson	jacksonhm@voyager.net	715-836-1028
Lorraine Beilke	lorraine.beilke@co.clark.wi.us	715-743-5233
Jayne Carroll	socjayne@co.shawano.wi.us	715-526-4717
Christine Hanten	chanten@co.wood.wi.us	715-421-8600
Christine Vincent	christine.vincent@co.columbia.wi.us	608-742-9227
Thomas Sandholm	sandhtj@dhfs.state.wi.us	608-267-7190

Watch for further updates in this newsletter. You can also check the website at www.wssa.wis



President's Message

It is hard to believe that it is Fall already and soon enough we will be experiencing another round of that wonderful winter weather. I hope that this issue of Update finds everyone in good health and even better spirits.

There continue to be changes made throughout the State, in all aspects of government, due to budget constraints and cuts. I truly feel that we, as an Association, have taken a positive and proactive approach to concerns that have been made by our employers. Gone are the days when our committees would meet for two days every month. We, as an Association, "saw the writing on the wall" and went to one-day meetings each month. Most recently, we have gone to a schedule of meeting one day every other month except for the July (Organizational), December (Mid-Year Training), and April (Pre-Conference) meetings. There will still be times when committees

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WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (WSSA)

Mid-Year Education & Training Forum

December 4, 2003

Hotel Mead & Conference Center, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

10:00 a.m. to Noon Programs:

“IM: Where Are We Now??” – *Theresa Fosbinder, Department of Health & Family Services, Income Maintenance Training Coordinator, Madison, WI* – Theresa’s presentation will be on what is going on in the Income Maintenance world including web activities, Food Stamp Access and Accuracy, implementation of budget bill items, and more!

“Do’s & Don’ts of Court: How Not To Lose Your Case or Be Held In Contempt Of Court” – *John Henkelmann, Assistant DA, Wood County* – John’s presentation will focus on pre-court preparation, testimony – what to say (or not to say) on the stand, and court cases and fair hearings.

Noon to 1:00 p.m. will be lunch on your own.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Program:

“Your Wisconsin Retirement System Benefits” – *Steve Kessler, Department of Employee Trust Funds, Madison, WI* – Steve’s presentation is on retirement and other benefits administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds. He will discuss retirement, disability, death and separation benefits as well as health and life insurance benefits (if applicable). The presentation will also include an illustration of an actual retirement calculation. There will be ample opportunity for questions during and after the presentation.

Certificates will be available for Professional and/or Social Work continuing education hours.

Networking/Hospitality 4:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

(Little Italy Buffet: minestrone soup, Caesar salad, vegetarian lasagna, penne pasta, arrabiatta, spaghetti with tomato sauce, garlic bread, beverage and chef’s choice of dessert)

If interested in attending, please fill out the registration form and send by 11/24/03.

WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (WSSA)

Mid-Year Education & Training Forum

December 4, 2003

Hotel Mead & Conference Center, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

(For hotel reservations, please call 715-423-1500 or 1-800-843-6323)

Registration Information

Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Agency: _____ County: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Choose one of the following:

_____ Full Mid-Year Training Registration \$25.00
(includes workshop materials for morning and afternoon and dinner)

_____ Morning/Afternoon Workshop Registration \$10.00

Complete one registration form for each person who will attend the Mid-Year Training. Mail the form(s) along with a check, money order or purchase order (no cash please) made payable to WSSA by November 24, 2003 to:

Holly Jackson
207 West Chippewa St.
Cadott, WI 54727
FAX: 715-836-7627

Questions? Please contact
Holly at 715-836-1028.

WSSA NORTHLAND DISTRICT 2003 - 2004

President:

Jaci Fuller
N9120 E. Island Road
Phillips, WI 54555
(h) 715-332-5563
tnj51058@pctcnet.net

Secretary/Treasurer:

Sharon Clark
Ashland Co. DHS
301 Ellis Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806
(w) 715-682-7004 (ext. 130)
sclark@hsd.co.ashland.wi.us

Constitution/Bylaws:

Jaci Fuller
N9120 E. Island Road
Phillips, WI 54555
(h) 715-332-5563
tnj51058@pctcnet.net

County/State/Legislative:

Barbara Love
N9994 Tranus Lake
Springbrook, WI 54875
(h) 715-634-8202

E. S. Workforce Development:

Sharon Clark
(see above)

Representatives for Northland District are still needed for the following committees:

Conference Planning; Economic Support/Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Programs; Finance; Long Term Support; Operations and Social/Human Services. Also needed is a President-elect.

Any WSSA Northland District member interested in serving on any WSSA committee or if you would like more information regarding committees or Northland District, please contact Jaci Fuller (address, telephone number and e-mail listed above). We need YOU! Thanks! Your participation will benefit you, your agency and the people you serve.

Submitted by: Jaci Fuller

DISTRICT REBATES

Rebates, do we need them? This is a question that has come up in the Executive meetings a number of times. First, what are rebates? According to WSSA's Bylaws, each member will pay dues to the association to be a member. Out of these dues, 12.5% will be returned to the district association. What happens to the money that goes back to the district associations? Well, in times gone by, it has been used to set up training meetings and large groups of members from each district would attend the meeting. This is no longer happening. It has been difficult to set up a meeting and even more difficult to get the members to the meeting. So, what can we do about this?

There have been discussions in the Executive Committee meetings to do away with the rebates and use that money to help the districts set up regional trainings and meetings. We are thinking that by doing this we could utilize the funds more efficiently by contracting with a speaker or speakers that could go to a number of different areas of the State. We also felt that this might free up budgets so that staff could attend if we could provide a meaningful training event.

What do you think? Should we discontinue the rebate process? This would mean amending our bylaws. Or, should we continue to give the districts the rebates and let the district set up the meeting training events? Please, give us an answer. It is your association. Thank you.

Please send replies to: President Jim Bestul,
Clark County DSS
517 Court Street, Room 502
Neillsville, WI 54456
FAX: 715-743-5742
E-mail: *james.bestul@co.clark.wi.us*

Or call him at: 715-743-5233

Submitted by: Dennis Wittig

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

WHAT WSSA HAS MEANT TO ME

What does WSSA mean to me? Memories! The networking with my peers, the excellent training sessions, Jesse Jackson speaking in Milwaukee and in the evenings, the dancing, card games, swimming pools, etc.

I began working part-time for Florence County Combined Services Board (51.42/.437 Community Programs in September, 1974. The Combined Services Board Director also served as the Social Services Department Director. After working for 9 months, in June of 1975, our Director told me that I would be "managing" the agency alone, for three days, as the social services staff was going to "Conference". I had no idea what he was talking about until I became a full time employee and a member of WSSA in 1976. Nikki (Gyllander) Migas, the 51.42 Deputy Director, told our Director it was time for Dahly to attend "The Conference". The Florence County Director at that time was George Folz. George was acutely aware of the importance of having a spirited, energetic working environment. The only directive he gave when the Florence County Contingent (which normally was about 90% of the entire staff plus several board members and the Director himself) left for "Conference" was this: "Go and have a good time." A great camaraderie existed within WSSA and this filtered back to our work environment. Our staff came back to work after attending the conference with a renewed sense of being appreciated, morale was upbeat, and with the great memories, we always looked forward to the next year's conference.

In those early years, I had the opportunity to cross a bridge, which let to meeting many, many new friends. Some of those friends are now gone, but the memory of the fun, jokes and the bonds of friendship will be with me forever. Among those who are gone, like "BIG" Ed Paulson, dear Helen Johnson, Lowell Trewartha, Lou Rizzardi, and piano-playing Bud Thurston, are the kinds of people that are a strong foundation for an organization like WSSA.

When Big Ed was President, he told me that his greatest ambition as President of WSSA was to have 500 members attend "his" conference. I believe he met that goal and surpassed it by two or three registrants. Ed was ecstatic!! That was the 1980 Conference at The Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh. The band that played for the two nights was "Monopoly". There were so many dancers, there was not room for a toothpick, let alone another body on the floor. The band was so great that the Conference Planning Committee had them back at the following year's conference in Stevens Point. The Point conference was a repeat of the 1980 conference, in numbers attending and numbers on the dance floor! Sleep may have been lacking but we had great times.

I became the county membership liaison in 1982 and, for several years, had 100% membership for our county.

I want to be sure that you don't have the wrong impression. Aside from the fun we had, the Florence County staff did attend the sessions. A lot of knowledge left with us from the training provided.

Some seasoned WSSA members will remember those "good old days", an era that cannot be duplicated. However, I can say, "Been There and Done That"!! Thank you, WSSA, for the many numbers of new best friends that I have made during my 27 years as a member. I truly value those friendships and hope to continue making new friends in the future. I have great memories and some wonderful pictures of those good times. It has been, and will always be my pleasure.

Thanks again!

*Financial Manager, Retired
Florence County HSD
Florence County Liaison: 1982 - 2002
WSSA Honorary Life Member
Dahly Bosley*

EXCUSES FOR SUCCESS

Dear Fellow Members of WSSA:

I have only been the President of the Wisconsin Social Services Association for just over three months and I must admit that at times I find myself wondering how Past Presidents have been able to keep up. Maybe others were not dealing with a 12 year old seventh grader concerning missing assignments and the importance of grades, a seven year old second grader who thinks he is at least a sophomore in high school, a just turned three year old who is starting toilet training, and a six week old who does not sleep unless he is being held. I am sure others have had issues that were even more important to them while they held this position. We all have our own lives and families that we must try to balance with the jobs that we do and the people that we serve. I guess that all I need to do is look in the mirror and remind myself of something that I recently wrote in my son, Matthew's, assignment book. "SUCCESS is not spelled with EXCUSES".

Now that you have asked yourself the question "What the heck is he talking about?", let me explain. It is my own personal goal this year to make the Wisconsin Social Services Association and its June 2004 Conference as great as possible. I feel that we have extremely dedicated people on the committees that are active and that we are very fortunate that those people are being allowed to continue their committee involvement. I have heard people talk about the "good old days" when 400 – 600 people were attending the yearly Conference. The last few years Conference Planning Committees have budgeted the Conference make or break point at 200 people attending. The committees have felt that without those numbers of people attending, the Conference was not a success. They have been wrong. The Conferences have been and will continue to be only as successful as the membership involved and their support of the Association and Conference. That magical number of 200 is just an excuse. Now don't get me wrong. I would love to have 400 – 600 people attending the Conference next June at the Hotel Mead (June 16 – 18 by the way), and I also do not want the Association to lose any money due to lack of attendance. But I refuse to let there be any EXCUSES as to why YOUR/OUR Conference and Association cannot be a SUCCESS even during these trying fiscal times.

In closing this letter, I would like to ask each and every one of you to keep Wisconsin Social Services Association in mind when you are making plans for the trainings/conferences that you may attend in 2004. Yes, I know that some agencies have reduced their training budgets dramatically and some may have even been eliminated. We need each other now possibly more than ever. Wisconsin Social Services Association must have the commitment of its membership and the membership must have the commitment of WSSA. Please look at the opportunities that are available at this year's Midyear Training Conference in December and also give YOUR/OUR Association first consideration when making plans for trainings/conferences you will request to attend next year. Remember, SUCCESS is not spelled with EXCUSES.

*Jim Bestul
President*

IN MEMORY

Ed Page, Jr., age 66, passed away on 7/5/03 while in the "Northwoods". For over 30 years, he worked for Dane County Department of Human Services as a supervisor for the Foster Care Agency. He retired on 4/26/94.

Ed was a member of WSSA for a number of years. He served on various committees, attended numerous conferences, and received an Honorary Life in 1994.

LOOKING FORWARD

WSSA is moving to the future in many ways. Soon you will be able to go to the WSSA Website and click on the link to update your mailing address, enter your email, or choose to receive WSSA information via email only.

County liaisons are the organizational link to WSSA members. WSSA and Conference updates will be forwarded through the liaison to local members. Watch your emails!

COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REVISION AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

South Central:

David Zeller (Chair)
Sauk County DHS
P. O. Box 29
Baraboo, WI 53913
608-355-4205
dzeller@co.sauk.wi.us

Southeastern:

Faith Valenti
4447 S. Whitnall Avenue
St. Francis, WI 53235
414-769-3261
vogramma914@aol.com

Northland:

Jaci Fuller (Secretary)
N9120 E. Island Road
Phillips, WI 54555
715-332-5563
tnj51058@pctcnet.net

2003/2004 GOALS:

- 1) Recruit more members for our committee and other committees.
- 2) Inform all committees of the procedure and policies for submitting amendments and resolutions, along with the deadline dates to submit them to our Committee.
- 3) Submit articles to the UPDATE.
- 4) Receive and review proposals for amendments to the Bylaws and make recommendations.
- 5) To receive and review proposals for resolutions and make recommendations.
- 6) Encourage each committee to submit at least one resolution to be presented at the annual business meeting in June, 2004.

Per the Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, B1, "All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

Per the Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, A states "All resolutions to be acted on at the Annual Business meeting, shall be submitted to the Constitution & Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.

Deadlines to submit amendments: March 19, 2004

Deadlines to submit resolutions: May 17, 2004

If any WSSA member has any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the committee members listed above.

Submitted by: Jaci Fuller

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Greetings from Operations Committee! I hope everyone received information from your liaisons about the awards and how to become a committee member. I know that the budget cuts have stopped members from coming to any meetings. This should not stop members from participating in any committee meetings. You can always work from your home. We need all the help we can get.

There will be a letter sent out to members who have not signed up again and would like to. There will also be information sent out about being an officer, whether its your district or state offices. The state officers for the 2004/2005 year will be President-Elect, Parliamentarian, Historian and Treasurer. So start thinking of who you would like to see in these offices.

Awards are one of the biggest factors in our organization. If you know of someone who you think truly deserves an award, you can submit it to me now as you don't have to wait till the last minute. If you know of someone who is retiring and is a member, you can submit her/his name for an honorary life.

For additional information on the awards or any questions, please feel free to contact me any time.

Here's an idea for a Christmas present! A MEMBERSHIP IN WSSA.

Have a safe and healthy holiday and I hope to see you all soon.

Helain Andersen
1715 Willow Road
Sturtevant, WI 53177
andacres@core.com or
helain.Andersen@goracine.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kathy Brown, Wood County DSS, is the current WSSA Secretary. 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)

need to meet more often and we need to support those committees in their efforts as they cannot always match speaker or State contact schedules to the pre-arranged dates and times.

I continue to receive correspondence from several of you in regards to the direction that you want to see YOUR Association take. I am pretty sure that I have still responded to all questions, comments and concerns that have been brought to my attention. If not, "rip me a new one" and let me know. Or, let Kathy Brown, our esteemed Secretary, know and she will gladly "rip me a new something" (another feeble attempt at humor).

It is probably mentioned once or twice in other areas of this Update but I would like to encourage each and everyone of you to attend the Mid-Year Training that is scheduled for December 4th and 5th. (I know that the Conference Planning Committee has put in a lot of time and effort and they have arranged for trainings that members have expressed an interest in.)

One thing that I would like to encourage everyone to think about, when they are looking at conferences/trainings for next year, is that several people have told me that they will be limited to one conference this next year. What does this mean for WSSA? It means that each and every one of you must mark your calendars now for the 2004 Conference, June 16th – 18th, at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

Jim Bestul
President

STATE ELECTIONS

In October/November, information regarding state offices for 2004/2005 will be sent to all membership liaisons. If you do not see any information posted in your agency, please contact your agency liaison or Operations Committee Chair, Helain Andersen.

Helain can be reached at 262-638-6593. Her e-mail is helain.Andersen@goracine.org.

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 _____

Membership Type	Membership Category	Association
<input type="checkbox"/> New	Regular \$25	1. Northland
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing	Student \$10	2. South Central
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Associate . . . \$10	3. Eastern
	Contributing +\$25	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

Address _____
 Work Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Speciality/Interest Area(s): _____
Type _____

Employer	Employee Job Function	
<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Mgmt./Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> SS Para Prof.	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical _____
<input type="checkbox"/> University (for students)	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Support Spec. _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Program Other _____	

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.”*

Web Site: www.wssa.ws

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