

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

March/April 2006

WSSA 2006 CONFERENCE



The 69th Annual WSSA Conference will be held June 7th, 8th and 9th at The Regency Suites in Green Bay. As in previous years, Ethics and Boundaries will be Wednesday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Keynote Speaker is John Powers who has received two Emmy awards for his work in television, wrote and co-produced a Broadway musical, written four best-selling books and has been a guest on such shows as *Oprah* and *Today*. His presentation is entitled “Passion: Do What you Love; Love What You Do”. Past President’s Luncheon speaker is Dick Bennett, basketball coach for Washington State University, formerly coach at UW-Madison, whose presentation is “My Last At Bat”. The Wrap-Up session speaker is Paul Gasser, Mayo/Franciscan Healthcare, and his presentation is entitled, “How to Know When Enough is Enough” which deals with stress management.

Roberta Gassman, Secretary for the Department of Workforce Development, will speak on June 7th and provide an update for attendees.

Workshops thus far include:

- Medicare Part D
- Understanding Your Customers and Yourselfs (identifying one’s own temperament which increases individuals’ self-awareness and understanding of others)
- Bullies (where do bullies learn to be bullies; effect/impacts; interventions; etc.)
- Successful I.M. communication
- Purposes of most Common Elderly Medications
- You Lead People, You Manage Things (individual leadership style as well as situational leadership styles)
- Internet: Children’s Safety
- Guardianship for Elder Abuse
- Meth Labs, Pharm Parties and Huffing
- The Angry Child—HELP (anger management for children under age 10)
- SSI/W2
- Strength Based Management Techniques
- Divestment and Waiver Part C

Several other workshops are being finalized which include W2 and Economic Support issues. The registration brochures will be mailed in March. A registration form is included in this issue of the *Update*.



President’s Message

It seems so appropriate that I am writing my last Update article on a day when they are predicting five to seven inches of snow in my area (Kenosha). This truly is March Madness. We go from 60 degrees this past weekend to blizzard conditions today. I like March Madness but more for the basketball that I can watch than for the weather.

I consider this March Madness thing very similar to our jobs in that every day the majority of us come to work and we experience this March Madness thing. I think by now we all have just accepted that dealing with constant change, like the weather, is something we need to do and what our jobs are about. Just like the individuals we serve who are constantly facing change. Whether it’s the new drug plans, reporting requirements, new computer systems or training

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REFLECTIONS

Can I really be old enough to retire?! No way!...Way! When I added up the numbers: Shawano County (8 years) + State of Wisconsin - DHSS/DWD/DHFS (26 years) = 34 years + a birthday (57) = 100% State Retirement Benefits!! Yikes! It's really here! So, after much deliberation, it's time to spread my wings and fly off to other things that are calling. My church's Missions Committee, which I'm active in, already has plans for expanding my "opportunities to serve." Six years of short-term mission trips to the Dominican Republic (DR) have evolved into an extended family relationship with lots of great people (DR friends and teammates alike). And "For the Love of the Game", and my career in baseball/softball, the DR, as the center of the international world of baseball, is my "Field of Dreams". Other places are also begging for people to serve (i.e. Katrina and Rita victims, etc.). So, this isn't really retirement, but a change of scenery, and a chance to get back into "the field"!

Retirement begins in early December with the trip of a lifetime, to the 3rd poorest country in the world, Burkina Faso, West Africa, where we will spend Christmas with our daughter and son-in-law, serving in the Peace Corp. Real camels and shepherds in their nativity scene!! Only God knows where this trip will take us next...! And, of course, there's the "honey do" list waiting upon our return in early January!!

As I reflect back, my career would likely not have taken the course that it did had it not been for WSSA. As the Shawano County Income Maintenance Supervisor in the mid-70's, I became active in WSSA, and joined the County/State Relationship Committee. This took me to Madison to meet with "The State", and offered exposure to the system, policies, programs, and people. It was the link to a job with the Department of Health and Social Services, and a continued role and relationship with local agencies via WSSA. As a DHSS liaison with WSSA, I had the opportunity to work with WSSA members for change in programs and policies. I also gained experience in leadership and negotiation skills, which opened other doors at the State level for various positions, from program and policy analysis and development, to program supervision, and liaison with the State legislature during the initial period of "welfare reform" in the early 90's.

The path also led to participation in national organizations (United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF), and the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) – the national equivalent to WSSA. As Wisconsin's representative on the APHSA Food Stamp Modernization Committee, I had the opportunity to help reform and simplify national Food Stamp policies and procedures, to improve state and local program administration – and most importantly, to reach more of the low-income people we are called to serve. Meeting and working with state and federal staff, officials, and legislators, and being a part of change to one of our major national programs has been a highlight of the past 34 years!

In addition, experience gained from participating in WSSA Conference Planning Committees also led to Federal Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer Conference Planning opportunities. Therefore, in looking back, WSSA was the source, or the foundation, that opened many doors along the way. And, last, but not least, I wouldn't have met Ed Asner, had it not been for the 1991 WSSA Conference, and I'm sure he feels the same about me! o-)! (Of course, I *had* to mention this other career highlight!)

I am eternally grateful for what WSSA has meant to me, and to my career in human services. I've been blessed to have worked with so many terrific and talented people, committed to improving the lives of the sick, the poor, and the needy. Thank you for your spirit of partnership and your friendship. And thank you, WSSA, for all you have done.

Rick Zynda

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

WSSA will conduct the annual business meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at the annual conference in Green Bay. Check your brochure for the time and place.

The deadline to submit resolutions to the WSSA Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolution Committee is May 3, 2006. Policies and procedures and forms for submitting resolutions are available for committees and WSSA members by contacting Jaci Fuller at (715) 839-7866 or via email at *tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net*.

With all of the changes in the social/human services field, resolutions can be a tool for our membership to voice opinions and impact change.

We hope to see you at the WSSA Annual Conference in Green Bay and at the annual business meeting!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

Past-President and this year's Conference Planning Co-Chair, Jim Bestul, has recently accepted a position as Director of Lincoln County Department of Human Services.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Christy Mancl, Wood County DSS, is the current WSSA Secretary. All changes in name, address, phone, or e-mail need to be submitted to her.

Christy can be contacted at:
P. O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
Phone: 715-421-8600
Fax: 715-422-4713
E-mail *cmancl@co.wood.wi.us*.

IN MEMORIAM

WSSA has lost one of its active members this past February. Judy Sicard passed away on February 7, 2006. Judy was an employee of Walworth County.

REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

WSSA and the Department of Workforce Development are co-sponsoring a training entitled, “Resiliency: Your Rx When Helping Hurts”. All professions-including the helping professions-have hazards. Being alert to those hazards and knowing how to prevent or respond to them keeps helping professionals healthy. Resiliency has been cited as an antidote to the hazards of helping. If you want to know more about developing resiliency in the face of these hazards, this workshop is for you. This training will be offered on the following dates:

April 4, 2006	Turtle Back Conference Center	Rice Lake
April 6, 2006	Best Western Village Haus	Shawano
April 11, 2006	Ramada Inn	Richland Center
April 13, 2006	Clairemont Inn & Meeting Center	West Bend

The cost of this training is free. For more information and registration forms, please go to WSSA’s website, www.wssa.ws, or you can also register at the DWD/DHFS Learning Center website, www.uwosh.edu/ccdet/wss/.

REMINDER

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

Christy Mancl
Wood County DSS
PO Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
Fax: (715) 422-4713
Email: cmancl@co.wood.wi.us

WSSA WEBSITE

Please be sure to checkout WSSA’s website at:

WWW.WSSA.WS

for updated information on the organization, committee members, regional trainings, annual conference, letters from the President, etc.

W.S.S.A. DISTRICT INTEREST SHEET

Listed below are the offices for the different districts of WSSA. As a current member you are eligible to run for and/or nominate anyone for these positions.

If you would like to run for an office, please put an X by the one you are interested in. If you wish to nominate another person or persons, please so indicate. Each person nominated will be contacted to see if they are interested in holding a position with Wisconsin Social Services Association.

I would like to run for:

I would like to nominate (name, agency, phone):

_____ President Elect

_____ Secretary / Treasurer

_____ Constitution & By-Laws

_____ County / State – Legislative

_____ E. S./Workforce Development

_____ E.S. Elderly, Blind & Disabled

_____ Finance

_____ Long-Term Support

_____ Operations

_____ Social / Human Services

Name _____ Phone Number: _____

Agency Name: _____

Return by May 1, 2006 to:

Colleen Roethe
Kenosha County DHS
8600 Sheridan Road
Kenosha WI 53140

The 2006-2007 Committee responsibilities will begin in July of 2006 at the organizational meeting. They meet bi-monthly at a central location until the conference in June. If you have any questions, please call.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Where have we been as an Association – where are we going? There have been many meetings where the discussion has been on the future of WSSA. The answers must come from the WSSA members themselves.

I have been going “down memory lane” lately – sorting through a box of WSSA material such as conference brochures, Updates, Journals and committee minutes. I could say “those were the good ol’ days” – however, I will refrain, as I hope the best days are yet to come!

In the past, WSSA had full committees, elections at the district level, and members competing to serve on committees. This year committees were not represented by every district, and some committees had only one or two members or were vacant. Members I have talked to say they cannot get off work, their agency will not let them join “outside” organizations, or work load too heavy, budget cuts, etc., prevent them from participating on committees.

In the past, county agencies joined WSSA. Directors and county board members were active on committees, and allowed their employees to attend WSSA functions and meetings. This year (as of the writing of this article) only five counties are members of WSSA! The question is why have only five counties out of the 72 counties joined? This is an area that must be explored and counties, directors and county board members informed of the benefits of membership in WSSA.

The WSSA UPDATE newsletters were published every other month and now there are three or four during the year. *The Journal* was a publication on a specific subject and published two or three times per year. The last, and final issue of the *WSSA Journal* published in spring 2000, titled “Best Practices in WSSA” had some interesting articles on tradition, history, challenges and district involvement. Some of the best practices included communication, involvement of districts, commitment of members, enthusiasm, compassion and involvement of members. The articles stressed the need for district and individual involvement and the challenge of membership participation. Even in 2000, participation in WSSA and on committees was dwindling. Members were unable to participate or attend meetings.

The annual conference, however, has continued to be successful although attendance has dropped over the years. The Conference Planning Committee plans and provides excellent training, along with a chance for members to learn from other professionals and exchange ideas. Ethics

and Boundaries workshops are provided that meet the State of Wisconsin continuing education requirements for the two hours of social work ethics and two hours of boundaries. Other workshops provide training certificates toward Enhanced Case Management training requirements.

Last fall (October, 2005) WSSA as an Association sponsored four regional trainings at a low cost to participants. District meetings were held prior to the training. In April of this year four more regional trainings sponsored by WSSA and DWS will be held at no cost to participants. Training certificates were given for six hours to be used toward social work, W-2/economic support and Enhanced Case Management Training requirements.

So, the question to be asked is “Where are we going”? What is the future of WSSA as an Association? Will districts continue to function, have meetings and have members serve on committees? Or will WSSA just become a training group for human/social services workers? In order to provide training opportunities, WSSA needs the support and membership of counties, human/social services county board members and directors. It is a benefit to counties when the necessary training is provided in their area. There is a need to get the word to counties and directors how WSSA benefits them. Workers who belong to WSSA can be better trained and better informed on issues by being on a WSSA committee and attending WSSA sponsored training. There are many options to be explored, questions to be asked, and answers to be found. WSSA needs input from members so solutions can be sought to make this Association stronger and better.

The Mission Statement of WSSA states: “The Wisconsin Social Services Association is dedicated to working to improve the well-being of all people throughout the State of Wisconsin by fostering a commitment to human dignity based on respect, honesty and integrity.” With your help, WSSA can continue to thrive and be influential in improving the well-being of all people throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Get involved! Even if you cannot attend meetings or serve on a committee, your thoughts and ideas are important! Please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee – we would like to hear from YOU!!!

Jaci Fuller
7493 North Road
Eau Claire

telephone: 715-839-7866

e-mail: tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net

requirements, change is going to happen and we need to make the best of it. That is what I appreciate the most about WSSA. The people that I have met over the years through this organization are very committed to the people they serve and in trying to influence change in a positive way that will ultimately benefit the people they serve.

Well that's enough of my personal thoughts on this Madness thing. Since this is my last article there are a few things I would like to mention. I looked back at Marjean's last Update article and found that a lot of the points she made are similar to the things I was planning on writing about. We are still in need of a President-Elect. As Marjean mentioned this is an extremely important position for the organization. The individual filling this role will eventually assume the position of President and having that year to watch and ask questions is a great opportunity. I realize there is a time commitment but this is well worth it and there are always others on the Executive Committee willing to offer assistance if you are worried about the responsibilities. If you are interested please contact any member of the Executive Committee or e-mail me at kloef@co.kenosha.wi.us.

Conference Planning is working extremely hard on finalizing all the things that most of us take for granted but are extremely important to the success of a conference. You should be receiving the booklet shortly for registration and I ask that you consider the WSSA Conference in Green Bay at the Regency Suites on June 7th, 8th and 9th. If you are like most of us, training opportunities are very limited due to time and money and the Conference, I believe, offers a tremendous bang for your time and buck.

I would also like to give you an update on the regional training the organization sponsored last fall and is scheduled to sponsor with DWD this spring. The *Cultural Diversity: Building Competencies* training that took place last October and November was very well received. There were a total of 77 individuals who attended the 4 sessions and a number of them had no previous experience with the organization. I thought that this was a great start and believe that spreading the word about WSSA through these training venues will be key to the organization's future.

By the time you receive this edition of the Update the second regional training sponsored by WSSA and DWD will be taking place. This training, *Resiliency: Your Rx when Helping Hurts*, is designed to have an impact on both your personal and professional life. I hope all who wanted to attend were able. The registration response has been good and we are hoping for a full house at all the locations.

In conclusion, (that sounds so final) I would like thank all of you for the work that you do and your affiliation with WSSA. I encourage you to express your opinions and continue to let your voices be heard. It is through your involvement that the organization will continue to make a difference. Take care and I hope to see you at a Regional Training and Conference.

Kevin Loef
President

Wisconsin Social Service Association Membership Application

Membership Year: July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

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	Membership Category	Association
<input type="checkbox"/> New	Regular . . . \$25.00	1. Northland
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing	Student . . . \$12.50	2. South Central
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Associate . \$12.50	3. Eastern
	Contributing +\$25	4. West Central
		5. Southeastern
		6. North Central

Return Application and Dues to:
Denise Jeffers
Wood County DSS
P.O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

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"/> Students	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Support Spec. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Program Other _____	

UPDATE

Update is published by the Wisconsin Social Service Association. Submit articles or letters to: Christy Mancl at Wood County Dept. of Social Services, PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 Phone 715/421-8600, Fax 715/422-4713

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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 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495



69th Annual WSSA Training Institute and Conference
June 07, 08 & 09, 2006
Regency Suites, Green Bay, WI

Name _____ Job Title _____

Agency Name _____ County _____

Mailing Address _____
 (this address is where you want your WSSA information (mailings) to be sent)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

If you want to receive further WSSA information via e-mail, check here _____

Is this your first conference? ___ Yes ___ No Are you a WSSA Agency Liaison ___ Yes ___ No

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS – Free Registration

- _____ **Full Conference Registration** **\$150.00**
 - _____ **Full-Time Student – Full Conference Registration** **\$ 75.00**
 - _____ **One Day Attendance** (All day Wed. or All day Thurs. Only) **\$100.00**
 - _____ **Full-Time Student – One Day Attendance** **\$ 50.00**
- (Above fees include: workshop, handouts, Ethics & Boundaries, and membership in WSSA)

Check here if you will be attending Ethics and Boundaries (Included in your registration)

- _____ **Ethics & Boundaries only** **\$ 35.00**
 (This workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 07, 2006 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm)

MEAL INFORMATION

- _____ **Full Meal Package** (includes all meals listed below) **\$ 59.00**
 (Please Note: Full meal package for overnight guests is \$43.00)
- _____ **Theme Night Dinner** (Roasted Top Round/Baked Chicken Buffet - Wed. 6/07) **\$ 17.00**
- _____ **Breakfast** (Buffet in Atrium – Thurs. 6/08 - FREE if 6/07 overnight guest) **\$ 8.00**
- _____ **Past President's Luncheon** (Roast Beef/Ham/Turkey Breast Croissant -Thurs 6/08) **\$ 9.00**
- _____ **Awards Banquet** (Thurs. 6/08) (circle your preference below) **\$ 17.00**
 Sliced Sirloin Stuffed Pork Chop Mhai Mhai (fish)
- _____ **Breakfast** (Buffet in Atrium - Fri. 6/09 - FREE if 6/08 overnight guest) **\$ 8.00**

If you have any special dietary needs, please explain: _____

Total for Registration and Meals \$ _____

Complete **ONE** registration form for each person who will be attending the Training Institute. Mail the form(s) along with a check, money order or purchase order (no cash) made payable to WSSA by May 17, 2006 to:

Janet Popp
Lafayette County Human Services
P.O. Box 206
Darlington, WI 53530

Questions?-----Call 608-776-4922 e-mail: jpoppp@lchsd.org fax: 608-776-4914

Requests for refunds must be in writing and received no later than May 24, 2006 (substitutions accepted)