

# UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

November/December 2005

## WSSA 2006 CONFERENCE JUNE 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH

As 2006 is approaching, it will soon be time for the 2006 Conference. This coming year it will be held at Regency Suites in Green Bay ([www.regencygb.com](http://www.regencygb.com)). "Sowing the Seeds of Change in the Social and Human Services Field" will be the theme. It is a great opportunity to receive training without running wild through an agency's budget!



The committee is working hard to provide training for staff in long term support, economic support, clerical, Para-professional, W-2, social/human services workers, board, directors, and administrative as well as providing general information, so there will be no "fumbling" when it comes to choosing which workshops best suit you.

Wednesday evening is Theme Night, which will be "Down On The Farm." As always, this event is primarily for networking with colleagues new and old, and to socialize. So dust off those overalls and straw hats and come "huddle" for a real "Ho' Down in Title Town."

There will be a workshop on Ethics and Boundaries. This workshop will provide the much sought after continuing education credits social workers need to remain current with their certification.

Invited featured speakers will be John Powers who will "kick off" with the Keynote address. Mr. Powers is a nationally known speaker and author from Lake Geneva, WI. John does his homework and before each presentation he conducts extensive research into his clients' organization, its' internal workings, needs and "goals." Past Presidents' Luncheon will feature Dick Bennett, former UW-Wisconsin men's basketball coach. Our Wrap-up speaker is Paul Gasser from Mayo/Franciscan Healthcare.

Please feel free to contact the Conference Planning Co-Chairs with any suggestions or concerns:

Jim Bestul	Marquette Co. DHS	608-297-9136
Kathy Brown	Wood Co. DSS	715-421-8600



### President's Message

Isn't it funny how we take things for granted? I was struggling with what to focus this article on when a fellow co-worker mentioned the holidays and things we should be thankful for. By the time this goes to press we all will be in the middle of the holiday season. If you are like me, this is the time of year when there never seems to be enough time. Even though my life seems to become more hectic (if that's possible) this time of year, I still like to take some time to reflect personally and professionally on the things I am thankful for. So in keeping with that theme here are a few of mine as they relate to WSSA.

I am thankful to the number of individuals and agencies who committed to the first regional training sessions sponsored by WSSA. One of the goals of the Executive Committee this year is to provide

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**WSSA**

# WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (WSSA)

## Mid-Year Education & Training Forum December 1, 2005 Regency Suites – Green Bay, Wisconsin

### 9:00 a.m. to Noon

#### **“Bullies” – (Meeting Room 5A & B)**

*Presenter: Mark Hensley, Director of Program Development for Homme Programs*

Topics covered will be:

- ❖ Introduction: We Need to Take a Victim Centered Approach
- ❖ Casual Factors and Maladaptive Cycles of Behaviors: Where Do Bullies Learn to be Bullies
  - ❖ Effects/Impacts of Bullying
- ❖ Holding Bullies Accountable and Interventions that Work
  - ❖ Protecting Our Children and Ourselves from Bullies



– OR –

#### **“Achieving Successful I.M. Communication” – (Meeting Room 6A & B)**

*Presenter: BEM Staff and Paula Hintze, Kaiser Group*

Where do I go to find information about CARES Worker Web? Or Electronic Case File? What changes are coming up and how can I plan for them? Who are those people from “BEM” and why do they keep sending me emails? How do I know when handbooks have been changed or updated? Where can I send suggestions and ideas about CWW or other things...how can I be heard?

This facilitated workshop will be an opportunity to discuss the communication mechanisms of the DHFS/DHCF/Bureau of Eligibility Management regarding I.M. programs. This will include how information is disseminated, as well as how feedback and suggestions are gathered. BEM staff responsible for I.M. communication will be in attendance to listen to this open forum discussion.

### Noon to 1:00 p.m.

#### **LUNCH – (Ballroom B1)**

Buffet Style: Soup de Jour, assorted breads, sliced turkey breast and ham, sliced cheeses, assorted sandwich fixings, vegetables with dip and beverage. (Please list special dietary needs)



### 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



#### **“Understanding Social Security and SSI Disability Programs” – (Meeting Room 6A & B)**

*Presenters: Bruce Schultz, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration and Robert L. Hunt, Section Chief, Wisconsin Disability Determination Service*

This PowerPoint driven presentation will guide you step by step through the initial eligible guidelines and the disability decision making process. You will learn what you can do to get your clients the most accurate disability decision possible, while avoiding delays. The appeals process, continuing disability reviews and work incentives will also be explained.

For hotel reservations, please call (920) 432-4555 or 1-800-236-3330. Rooms have been reserved under WSSA.

Certificates will be available for Professional and/or Social Work continuing education hours. This training meets 3 CEU's or ECM's for the morning session and 3 CEU's or ECM's for the afternoon session.



# WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (WSSA)

## Mid-Year Education & Training Forum December 1, 2005 Regency Suites – Green Bay, Wisconsin

**WSSA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose one of the following:

- Full Mid-Year Training Registration \$30.00  
(includes workshop materials for morning and afternoon and lunch)
- Full Mid-Year Training Registration (No Meal) \$20.00
- Morning or Afternoon Workshop Registration with Meal \$20.00  
(includes workshop materials for morning and afternoon)
- Morning or Afternoon Workshop Registration (No Meal) \$10.00

### Workshop(s) attending (please check preference):

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon     Bullies                      – OR –                       Achieving Successful I.M. Communication  
 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.     Understanding Social Security and SSI Disability Programs

Please 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)  
made payable to WSSA by November 25, 2005 to:

Lafayette County HS  
Janet Popp  
P.O. Box 206  
Darlington, WI 53530  
Fax: 608-776-4914  
Questions? Please contact Janet at (608) 776-4922

## AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS DEADLINES

Changes to the Constitution & Bylaws are made through amendments which alter the current language to reflect a new policy or procedure. The proposed amendment should improve the Constitution and/or Bylaws as dictated by changing times. Amendments must follow a certain format which includes the specific article, section, sub-section, etc. The type of change proposed, an addition, deletion or alteration, must be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee at least 90 days prior to the annual business meeting (Bylaws Article V, Section 2,B.1). The deadline for submitting amendments is **April 7, 2006**.

A resolution is the formal means to express an opinion on an issue or action. Resolutions should provide information on the issue and offer a solution endorsed by WSSA

membership. The Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee must receive proposed resolutions at least thirty days prior to the first day of the annual conference (Bylaws Article V, Section 3,A). The deadline to submit resolutions is **May 8, 2006**.

Policies and Procedures for submitting Amendments and Resolutions and forms are available for committees or WSSA members by contacting Jaci Fuller, (715) 839-7866 or email [tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net).

With all of the changes in the social/human services field, WSSA needs to keep up with the changes. Resolutions may be a tool for our membership to impact change. Remember, as a member of WSSA, your ideas and involvement are important!

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to Goodwill Industries of Southeastern, WI, Inc. and Gina Christiansen for the job well done in regards to the training presented on Cultural Diversity: Building Competencies in four locations throughout the state of Wisconsin. These trainings were sponsored by Wisconsin Social Services Association.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!



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# GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

## SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!!!!

Each year, WSSA offers up to two scholarships with a total value of \$1,000 (\$500 each) to WSSA members. The following is the criteria:

**Scholarships:** Up to two scholarships, with a total value of \$1,000 (\$500 each) are available to be awarded to WSSA members who are pursuing their career in social/human services at the undergraduate, graduate or associate degree level. The applicant must be a Wisconsin resident and have been employed by a social/human service agency for at least two years. The applicant must be enrolled in a college or technical institute for a minimum of six credits. The form must be signed by the applicant and submitted with two letters of recommendation. Each winner is presented a certificate of scholarship at the WSSA Conference Annual Awards Banquet. A check is sent to the scholarship recipient upon verification of enrollment in an institute of higher education.

**Conference Grants** are available to WSSA members (one or more conferences), for a total value of \$500 with the following criteria:

1. All state and national conferences will be considered.
2. Conference content must be related to Human/Social Service Programs.
3. Conference content must be relevant to the applicant's current job duties.
4. Conference must benefit the individual, agency and WSSA.
5. Conference money is to cover conference registration, hotel, meals and other travel expenses up to \$500 (minus agency contribution).

**Eligibility:**

1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing with WSSA.
2. Membership in WSSA for the past two years.

**Determination:**

1. Applications received between December 1st and April 15th will be eligible for consideration. The decision will be recommended to the Executive Committee at the April meeting and the recipient announced at the WSSA Annual Conference.
2. National conferences will have priority over State conferences.
3. Years of service to WSSA
4. Preference will be given to a WSSA member who has not attended a conference at WSSA expense in the past five years.
5. The Awards Committee will recommend for final approval by the Executive Committee.

**Responsibilities of Recipient:**

1. Any additional costs or encumbrances of attending the conference beyond what are awarded by WSSA.
2. Approval by County or Agency of employment to attend.
3. Participant will be required to give a written summary of the conference to be published in the *Update*.

Application forms are available on the WSSA website ([wssa.ws](http://wssa.ws)). Applications for scholarships must be received by the Operations Committee by **February 8, 2006**. Please send them to:

Colleen Roethe  
Kenosha County HSD  
8600 Sheridan Road  
Kenosha, WI 53140

## NOMINATE YOUR PEERS FOR WSSA AWARDS!!!

Now is the time to fill out a nomination form to honor a WSSA member! The following is a list of the awards and criteria:

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:** This award is given to an individual to honor and recognize their unique contributions to the field of social/human services through dedication, leadership and humanitarianism. A plaque is presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**GAYL FERRIS:** This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of a person who has made a unique contribution to the field of social/human services in the clerical profession. This award honors a clerical worker who, in the performance of their duties, demonstrates an understanding of the needs of people and gives evidence of dedication to the profession. A plaque and a \$50 check are presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**MEMBERSHIP LIAISON:** This award is given to an individual who is a membership liaison for their agency and has worked side by side with the Operations Committee doing mailings and keeping the individuals in their agency/department informed. They have used their time and energy to recruit members and contribute to the Association. As agencies vary in size, consideration will be given regarding number of members obtained in the nominee's agency. A liaison can submit their own nomination. A plaque will be presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** This award is given to an individual to honor and recognize their unique contributions and who has given a substantial amount of time and energy during their first 12 to 18 months of membership. The nominee does not need to be a committee member. The Executive Committee will choose this award with recommendations from the Operations Committee. A plaque will be presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**SOCIAL/HUMAN SERVICES:** This award honors the efforts of an individual who has made a unique contribution to, and demonstrated outstanding performance in the administration or delivery of social/human services programs. The nominee must have worked in this area for a minimum of two years and exhibits leadership by serving on agency, civic, or state committees or work groups for the development, improvement or revision of social/human services programs, policies and procedures. A plaque will be presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**ECONOMIC SUPPORT:** This award honors outstanding efforts of an individual who has made a unique contribution to the field of Human Services in any of the Income Maintenance/Economic Support professions. This award shows WSSA's appreciation to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding performance in executing the many complex policies and programs. They have shown professional attitude toward clients and co-workers, plus cooperation with other agencies involved in serving their clients. A plaque will be presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**HONORARY LIFE:** Honorary Life memberships are for individuals who have served and have been of significant benefit to the Wisconsin Social Services Association (WSSA) and are pending loss of their eligibility for regular membership due to retirement or leaving the field of human services. They exhibit leadership, dedication, and have made outstanding contributions to the field of human services. This person must have been a consecutive member of WSSA for at least 10 years during their career and be a current member. They also must have served as a State committee member, district officer or county membership liaison. Once awarded, Honorary Life Membership is irrevocable. A framed certificate is presented at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

**COUNTY BOARD:** This award recognizes an individual county board member who has demonstrated exceptional support for the goals and objectives of WSSA. The nominee must exhibit leadership, dedication and/or has made outstanding or unique contributions to the field of social/human services. They must be a current county board member at the time of nomination and citizens appointed to the social/human services boards are also eligible. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge the contributions county board members make in the field of social/human services as well as the importance of the role they play in agency and individual participation in WSSA. A plaque will be presented to the winner at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

Take time today to complete an awards nomination form for someone you know in the social/human services field! Remember, the deadline for nomination forms to be received by the Operations Committee is **February 8, 2006**. For forms, see your WSSA agency liaison or go to the WSSA website (wssa.ws).

## FRIEND OF WSSA AWARD

This award was established in 2000 to recognize an agency or organization that has demonstrated exceptional support for the goals and objectives of WSSA. It acknowledges contributions made by a county, agency or organization through participation, lending of its members, of time or other resources to sustain the ideals and growth of WSSA.

### CRITERIA:

1. County, agency or organization – not an individual.
2. County, agency or organization that has demonstrated exceptional efforts to help WSSA improve the well-being of people throughout Wisconsin.
3. Any WSSA member can nominate any county, agency or organization throughout the year for this award. Deadline for the award would be as of the end of the April meeting.
4. The Executive Committee makes the final determination of the recipient, and whether or not an award is going to be given out.
5. Award will be presented at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

WSSA members may submit nomination letters to the WSSA Executive Committee using the above criteria.

## IN MEMORY OF

Richard C. Holt, 68, of Friendship passed away on Sunday, October 16, 2005. Richard was the current Deputy Director of Adams County Health and Human Services and a current member of WSSA.

## COMMITTEE MINUTES...

Will soon be added to the WSSA website ([www.wssa.ws](http://www.wssa.ws)). They will be located on the Standing Committees page.

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opportunities for training that would benefit agencies and workers. This first training titled *Cultural Diversity; Building Competencies* was schedule at four locations during October and November and provided Enhanced Case Management hours for staff who may not have met their requirements for the year as well as personal and professional development. I hope those of you that attended one of the sessions enjoyed the training and will encourage others to attend WSSA sponsored training in the future.

A second reason for me to be thankful is the commitment and dedication the members of the Executive Committee and Conference Planning Committee have demonstrated in my short term as president. I can only imagine the amount of personal time these individuals put in to make WSSA all that it can be (I think I heard that somewhere). A great deal of time and effort is going into bringing you the best for the regional meetings, Mid-Year Education and Training forum and the Annual Conference. Once again thank you to all involved in making this happen.

I am also thankful to the Columbia County DHHS for use of their meeting space. This is the first year since I have been a member of WSSA that meetings have not been scheduled in Stevens Point. This is an attempt by the Executive Committee to meet the needs of its members. We are asking for feedback from the Committees as to whether or not this arrangement is working for you.

And last but not least, I would like to thank all of you for the work that you do and the people that you serve. Please keep in mind, especially during those hectic and trying times, that *you do make a difference*. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

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](http://www.wssa.ws)

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 US Postage Paid  
 Permit 98  
 Wisconsin Rapids WI

**WSSA**  
 P.O. Box 8095  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

