

August 6, 2004

Dear WSSA members:

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity of being your President. I know how close the election was! It hasn't taken me long to figure out the hardest job as President – writing letters for the Update and Website. So welcome to my first Website letter, which means there will more to come at future dates. I encourage you to check the website (www.wssa.ws) regularly to see what new things I have come up with to write about, as well as to check for any additional information that may be posted there.

The organizational meeting was held on July 29 and 30, at Lake Lawn in Delevan. This will also be the Conference site next June. We had a good turn out and productive meetings. I was a nervous wreck for the first time in years, but everything went smoothly. We have added some new faces on committees, which is wonderful, but we can still use more. There are vacancies on every committee, so please think about getting involved. It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make. Wisconsin Social Services Association has such a history that makes me think “WOW”. All the people, over all the years, who have put so much work and dedication into this organization and now it needs each of us to keep it going strong. For that to happen, we need YOU! There are many ways to become involved, so please give me a call if you are interested. I may be reached at 608-776-4906 or e-mail me at m.sutherland@jobcenter.org.

The 2005 Conference will be held at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan WI on June 1, 2 & 3, 2005. You may view the resort at www.lakelawnresort.com for more information. The Conference co-chairs are Edie Udulutch and Jackie Bennett, who both have immense experience in planning conferences. They have an excellent supporting cast of Irene Anderson, Tony Dziedzic, Paula Hintze, Tim Morgan, Janet Popp, Tom Sandholm and Judy Sicard. We are excited to have three new faces along with the veterans. This makes for an excellent committee. Please feel free to contact any of them with ideas, suggestions or comments. There is a full listing of addresses, phone numbers and e-mails on the web. The Executive Committee did make two decisions that affect conference. It was decided that Honorary Life Members will have their conference registration fee waived

To end on a positive note, I am very excited about having an active County-State / Legislative Committee again. We have four members at this time with a couple more possible members. They will be meeting in Stevens Point on September 2, so if you have anything you want them to work on, please let me know. Once a chairperson is decided, I will pass that information along.

That should be enough for my first web letter, so until we meet again....

Marjean Sutherland, President
Wisconsin Social Services Association