

Well how was your Thanksgiving? I hope everyone enjoyed the time off and was able to eat enough of the Thanksgiving vittles to keep them going until Christmas.

I have been listening to all the talk regarding the budget woes the State faces in 2003-2005. I saw first hand what that really means when Sinikki McCabe, the Division Administrator for the Division of Supported Living responded to my letter for support with the comment, "Unfortunately, given the current budgetary situation that the State faces, we must regretfully decline your request to contribute towards the conference." I sent the same request to DWD but as of this date have not received a reply. But, I can read the writing on the wall. I expect they will decline as well. This will put a crunch into the conference, but as I said at the beginning of the year, this will have to be a no frills conference. So far the conference committee is doing an excellent job in putting the conference together with that in mind.

Where are we headed in the future? This is a topic that we will be discussing at length on December 6, 2002. I know that counties are looking to reduce their budgets in 2004. I received word that our county may be looking at a major budget problem due to the jail overcrowding issue. WSSA must be able to adapt to be viable. I am hoping that we will be able to develop something that will allow WSSA to be around in the next budgetary cycle.

Stay tuned for more information.

Respectively submitted by:

Dennis Wittig, President