

Greetings Fellow Wisconsin Social Services Association Members,

Now that we have had time to adjust to our first taste of Wisconsin winter (at least for us Northern counties) I hope that everyone is in good spirits and ready for our second season. You know, the one that follows "Road Construction". WINTER. It started to seem that this winter would be longer and crueller than previous winters, due to the Packers record, but after the Sunday night Minnesota game all appears well in the world again.

I hope that several of you who are reading this have already made plans to attend the Mid-Year Education and Training Forum on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. If not, what are you waiting for? Christmas? It will be over by then. Now some people truly do have a good excuse for not being there this year. For example our President-Elect will not be able to attend this year. But can any of us really blame Marjean, Hawaii or Wisconsin Rapids in December, let's be honest, probably 99.99% of us would also choose Hawaii. She even said that she was going to somehow incorporate a grass skirt into this year's theme night and make her husband, Dave, wear it. But for the rest of you who will not be in Hawaii how about attending the Mid-Year?

Several WSSA members recently attended an IMAC meeting and we are hopeful that WSSA and IMAC can work collaboratively to better serve the clients that we have in common. The Conference Planning Committee is extremely busy trying to wrap up as many loose ends as possible for the Conference in June. Seems extremely early to me but that is why they are on that Committee and I am not. I know that the Committee is working very hard to put together an excellent Conference and they have even planned some surprises. "No I can't tell you what because then it would not be a surprise." Let's just say that it should be as exciting, maybe more, than the "Rick \$'s" in Manitowoc, or the "Poker Hand" in Baraboo.

I hope each and everyone one of you has a Merry Christmas, yeah I know I am not always the most politically correct person, and a Safe and Happy New Year. Just remember that he is making a list and checking it twice.

Jim Bestul