

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

August/September 2004

2004 CONFERENCE

The 2004 Wisconsin Social Services Association Conference & Training Institute was held in Wisconsin Rapids at the Hotel Mead & Conference Center on June 16, 17 and 18th.

On Wednesday morning Sharon Boesl presented a workshop on Ethics and Boundaries. At 1:00 p.m. the conference officially started with the welcome by president James Bestul. After a welcome by Wood County Director, John Chrest, the Keynote speaker, James Hmurovich of Indianapolis, Indiana, was introduced. Jim's keynote presentation discussed how individuals can manage change by using situational leadership.

After the keynote presentation, six workshops were offered for the rest of the afternoon. These workshops were designed to appeal to all of the attendees. Some of the workshops offered were: Communication Toward Mutual Understanding, Wisconsin Social Work Certification, Care Planning for LTS Workers, and Improving Outcomes by Losing Control.

Wednesday night is the traditional "Theme Night." This year's theme was "Moving to a Whole New World." Many individuals came dressed in what they thought they would be wearing in the future. Edie Udulutch, Marjean Sutherland and Jim Bestul "won" for being "best" dressed.

Thursday started out with the annual business meeting and then the workshops started at 9:00 a.m. We offered five different workshops at each time frame. Workshops were presented in different areas including: Economic Support, Supervisory, Mental Health, and general information. Workshops were presented by: Jean Jirovec, James Jones, Tony Dziedzic, Cori Marsh, Joan Helbing, Gary Vargas, Dennis Bedford, Gerald Schuelke, Tony Veeder, Theresa Fosbinder, Janet Evan and Autumn Arnold.

At the Past President's Luncheon, Dr. Zorba Paster was the speaker. His presentation was titled "How to Live a Long Sweet Life - Cracking Your Longevity Code." His presentation had those in attendance listening to every word. He wanted us to realize that we need to watch five areas of wellness: the physical, the mental, the family and social, the spiritual, and the material.

Thursday night was the Awards Banquet. WSSA honored award winners who show exceptional service to the organization.

Friday opened up with our Wrap-up speaker, Mark Therrien, with his presentation titled "The Power of Positive Insanity." Mark had those in attendance laughing with his illustrations and explanations of how to reduce stress and keep a positive perspective in our crazy world.

In retrospect, this conference was attended by only 124 people, but our evaluations reflected a very positive experience. The 2004 Conference Planning Committee would like to thank everyone who attended and made this a successful training experience.



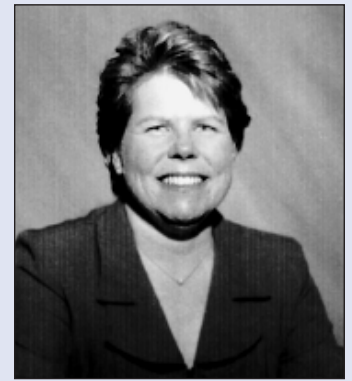
James Hmurovich,
Keynote Speaker



Dr. Zorba Paster,
Past President's
Luncheon Speaker



Mark Therrien,
Wrap-up Speaker



President's Message

Who would have guessed when I joined Wisconsin Social Services Association in 1989 that I would become President of this outstanding organization 15 years later? Not me that's for sure but I am truly honored to represent such hard working, dedicated and compassionate people.

Working in the Social/Human Services Field has never been easy but with the current fiscal issues, it is becoming extremely difficult to keep up the excellent service we are used to providing with less resources and larger case-loads. This is one reason why it is so important for WSSA to stay alive and well and that can only be accomplished with your help. Please consider using some of your valuable time to become more involved in WSSA. You could join a committee, become a liaison or attend a district training, to name just a

(continued on pg. 7)

AMENDMENTS TO THE WSSA BYLAWS

At the June 17, 2004 Annual Business Meeting, the following amendments to the bylaws were approved by the membership present:

- 1) Amendment 4-01 – Article II, Section 1, Item F: Add “at least” to the last sentence:
“The term of office shall be at least one (1) year commencing on the first day of July, except the Finance Committee, which is a two (2) year term”.

This will allow districts the ability to change their district bylaws in order to have the district president position a two-year term, if the district membership approves the change.

- 2) Amendment 4-02 – Article III, Section 3, Item A.3: Reword the section to read:
“There term of office of each of the officers shall commence on the first day of July. All officers shall be elected to a two year term, except the President-Elect who shall serve one year as President-Elect, one year as President, and one year as Past President. The Parliamentarian and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.

This amendment changes the State Parliamentarian position from a one year term to a two year term.

Any WSSA member or agency liaison having a copy of the WSSA Constitution and Bylaws, please make the above changes.

The WSSA Constitution and Bylaws is on the website (wssa.ws). Please refer to the website as it is current with additions and/or changes.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the WSSA Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee members listed below.

David Zeller
Sauk County DHS
P. O. Box 29
(608) 355-4205
dzeller@co.sauk.wi.us

Faith Valenti
4447 Whitnall Avenue
St. Francis, WI 53235
(414) 769-3261
vogramma914@aol.com

Jaci Fuller
N9120 E Island Road
Phillips, WI 54555
(715) 332-5563
tj51058@pctcnet.net

Submitted by: Jaci Fuller

WSSA WEBSITE

Be sure to visit WSSA’s website at

WWW.WSSA.WS

for updated information on the organization, committee members, conference, continuing letters from the president, etc.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Kathy can be contacted at:

P. O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8600
Fax: 715-421-8693
E-mail kbrown@co.wood.wi.us.

“MEMORABLE MOMENTS” (From An Honorary Life)

I am indeed fortunate to have an honorary life membership in WSSA as this organization is so important to all staff members in our public and private agencies. It is the one common thread that gives its membership a special purpose both from an educational point of view and the element of great friendships for all working in the many facets of social welfare.

My first association with Wisconsin Public Welfare Association started in September of 1957 as a social worker with the Sheboygan County Public Welfare Department. My Director at that time was Anthony J. Baron who was instrumental in starting the organization. He served as President and became Editor of *WPWA News* up until his retirement. Back at that time the training sessions and annual conference were so vital to proper staff development. I later became co-editor of the *WPWA News* and this publication became a combined county/state method of disseminating information so important for agencies struggling with new Federal and State changes. Politics hadn't saturated State Positions and the Secretary, Wilber J. Schmidt, was appointed by a board not by a Governor. Thomas Lucas managed Federal and State Economic Programs. Bob Lizon was Mr. Child Welfare and county input was solicited before programs were implemented. Thank heavens for the members of the association who gave unselfishly of themselves to build, expand and sell the value of this special togetherness.

After achieving a Masters Degrees in SW from UW-Milwaukee, I transferred to Wood County Department of Public Welfare in 6/63 as a Social Worker Supervisor under Harry H. Precious, Director, who also for many years was active in WPWA and encouraged agency staff on committees of the association.

My philosophy as Director of Wood County DSS from 1969 to my retirement in June of 1998 was to involve as many staff in appropriate association activities as possible and encouragement of board members attendance at annual conferences.

I have seen my staff grow within WSSA activities, and actually “weld” breaks in the association so it would not fail but would expand its value. People such as Elizabeth Keena, Jaci Fuller and Kathy Brown did chart the direction that exists today. As a budding Social Worker, Kathy lent purpose to the organization, grew strong in developing her organizational skills, and actually can be referred to as MISS WSSA. Thus I am indeed fortunate with my 41 year career in Social Work that I met and worked with many talented individuals on the county and state level.

Both Sheboygan and Wood County were excellent agencies but especially Wood County because Kathy Brown is still Pushing the Buttons to make WSSA a success.

There – 10 minutes out of 41 years for you. Good luck with *Update*.

Phillip J. Lukowicz



I have two memorable moments and both relate to WSSA Conferences. The first was the theme night (normally Wednesday night) and we were to dress as someone we knew. I noticed Judy Sicard had on plaid polyester pants, solid shirt, black horn rim glasses and her hair parted on the left. She often walked past me and waved but I never caught on for about 2 hours. Then it dawned on me. She was dressed just like me!!! Judy, you looked just like ME. Everyone was in on the joke but me.

(continued on pg. 4)

The second memorable moment came as I was co-chairing my second conference. Normally on Wednesday night we would have a disc jockey spinning records from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. and we would have free beer to liven up the crowd. Some on the conference committee objected to having free beer and the vote was to not have it this year. At the last minute, I decided to offer free beer and soda. By 7:00 p.m. we had about 275 people “rocking around the clock” having a great time.

It was great planning a conference and then seeing everything come together. Times were different then and we would have 400+ people register for the conference. Those were the good old days and now I know I am old talking like that.

My Best
Dale Van Mieghem

2003/2004 WSSA AWARD WINNERS / HONORARY LIVES:



FRONT ROW (L TO R):

- Virginia Wiedenfeld, Richland Co. DSS, Retired . . . *Award for Excellence in Economic Support and Honorary Life*
- Linda Sweet, DHFS *Membership Liaison Award*
- Jim Bestul, Clark Co. DSS *President's Plaque*
- Faith Valenti, Milwaukee Co. DSS, Retired. *Special Recognition Award*
- Mary King, Kenosha Co. DHS *Southeastern District Award*
- Janet Popp, Lafayette Co. HSD *Gayl Farris Outstanding Clerical Award*
- Marjean Sutherland, Lafayette Co. HSD *President's Award*

Back Row L to R:

- Christine Hanten, Wood Co. DSS *North Central District Award*
- Tony Veeder, DWD *South Central District Award*
- Jayne Carroll, Shawano Co. DSS. *Rookie Of The Year Award*
- Barbara Love, Washburn County Board *County Board Recognition Award*
- Roberta Bloner, Kenosha Co. DHS *Southeastern District Award*
- Ken Cady, Sauk Co. DHS, Retired *Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Life*
- Stephanie Gagnon, Outagamie Co. DHS. *Eastern District Award*
- Judy Berry, Sauk Co. DHS, Retired *Honorary Life*
- Christine Vicent-Sec, Columbia Co. DHS. *Rookie Of The Year Award*



Lorraine Beilke, Clark Co. DSS, not able to be in picture. Lorraine was presented with North Central District Award.

Two other recipients of Honorary Lives were Doreen Wentland, Columbia County DHS and Ernie Messinger, Waukesha County DH & HS.

Foster parent for Becky this upcoming year is Cheryl Bahr, Shawano County DSS (our “out of this world” foster mother) and for Bucky, it is Rhoda Endicott, Vernon County DHS.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2004/2005

President

Marjean Sutherland
Lafayette County DHS
P. O. Box 206
Darlington, WI 53530
(W) 608-776-4906
(H) 608-776-2769
FAX 608-776-4915
m.Sutherland@jobcenter.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kevin Loef
Kenosha Job Center
8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 122
Kenosha, WI 53143-6508
(W) 262-697-4521
(H) 262-694-7238
FAX 262-697-4563
KLOEF@co.kenosha.wi.us

PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Bestul
Clark County DSS
517 Court Street, Room 502
Neillsville, WI 54456
(W) 715-743-5233
(H) 715-787-3548
FAX 715-743-5242
james.bestul@co.clark.wi.us
(H) *bestul@excite.com*

TREASURER

Christy Mancl
Wood County DSS
P. O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(W) 715-421-8600
(H) 715-421-1172
FAX 715-421-8693
cmancl@co.wood.wi.us

SECRETARY

Kathy Brown
Wood County DSS
P. O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(W) 715-421-8600
(H) 715-421-3387
FAX 715-421-8693
kbrown@co.wood.wi.us

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Jaci Fuller
N9120 E. Island Road
Phillips, WI 54555
(W) Retired
(H) 715-332-5563
tnm51058@petcnet.net

HISTORIAN

Helain Andersen
Racine County DHS
1717 Taylor Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
(W) 262-638-6593
(H) 262-886-4012
FAX 262-638-6943
helain.Andersen@goracine.org

EASTERN

Stephanie Gagnon
Goodwill Industries
1800 Appleton Road
Menasha, WI 54952
(W) 920-832-2192
(H)
FAX 920-832-4779
gagnonsa@co.outagamie.wi.us

NORTHLAND

Barbara Love
N9994 Tranus Lake
Springbrook, WI 54875

SOUTH CENTRAL

Linda Sweet
DHFS
P. O. Box 309
Room 1050
Madison, WI 53707-0309
(W) 608-266-9197
FAX 608-261-6758
sweetle@dhfs.state.wi.us

SOUTHEASTERN

Faith Valenti
4447 S. Whitnall Avenue
St. Francis, WI 53235
(W) Retired
(H) 414-769-3261

THANK YOU

Once again, a huge thank you goes out to the Department of Workforce Development for their financial contribution to the WSSA Annual Conference and Training Institute. This recognizes their support of our organization.

2005 WSSA CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

ATTENTION WSSA MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PERSONS

The 67th Annual WSSA Conference will be held at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delavan, Wisconsin on June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2005.

Conference Co-Chairs are: Jackie Bennett, Racine County WDC
1717 Taylor Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
Phone: 262-638-6644
FAX: 262-638-6994
E-mail: Jacquelyn.Bennett@goRacine.org

Edie Udulutch, Sauk County DHS
P. O. Box 29
Baraboo, WI 53913
Phone: 608-356-4866
FAX: 608-355-4299
E-mail: edulutch@co.sauk.wi.us

Check out the conference site by going to www.lakelawnresort.com. The Conference Planning Committee is excited about the conference site as they offer conference attendees a wide array of comfortable rooms, lofts and suites all with balconies or patios overlooking the golf course, lake or courtyards.

We welcome ideas, suggestions and comments from all of you. The 2004 Conference Planning Committee is to be congratulated on a fine conference and excellent training opportunities. It will be difficult for this planning committee to match the quality of training that we had this year, but with everyone's input and a dedicated Conference Planning Committee, we will do it! Mark your calendars now. We would like to see everyone attend next year's conference.

PLEASE NOTE: Lake Lawn Resort has requested the following regarding purchase orders:

- mailed in advance of arrival
- separate purchase order for each stay
- delineate what the purchase order is to cover (i.e. rooms, food, incidentals)
- can be faxed in advance if won't be here in time by mail
- should be sent with a tax exempt form unless number is listed on purchase order



WSSA Past Presidents

Front Row L to R:

Kathy Brown	1992/1993
John Granchay	1999/2000
Jackie Bennett	1987/1988

Back Row L to R:

Ted Prange	1976/1977
Wesley Rohrer	1968/1969
Ron Stuber	1988/1989
Dennis Wittig	2002/2003
Lloyd "Bud" Thurston	1969/1970

I THOUGHT I HAD HEARD THEY GOT A NEW JOB

Didn't think you would get rid of me that easily, or did you? At the April Executive Committee meeting we discussed adding an area to *Update* for job changes, advancement, and retirements. Since yours truly brought this up, guess who was nominated to write this article. But now it is YOUR turn. What we would like would be for our membership to make the Executive Committee aware of the job changes, advancements, or retirements that occur within our membership. We propose that these then be listed in the next *Update* issue. As an example, and I hope he doesn't mind, as I didn't ask him first, one of our members, Tom Madsen, is now the Director of the Department of Social Services in Langlade County. See how painless this is. So we ask that everyone submit changes, advancements, or retirements as they become aware of them.

Jim Bestul

WHOEVER SAID NOTHING IS FREE

This is to inform all Honorary Life members that a motion was passed at the July, 2004 organizational meeting waiving future conference registration fees. Honorary Life members who have received this award are eligible for this benefit.

REMINDER

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

Kathy Brown
Wood County DSS
P. O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
FAX: 715-421-8693
kbrown@co.wood.wi.us

(continued from President's Column, pg. 1)

few. One committee will be meeting electronically through e-mail and conference calling to help members get involved without leaving their office. My feeling is whatever venue works for the committee will work for me. The most important thing is that we stay involved with the current issues and have a "voice" at the State level.

Training is another very important part of our organization and I feel we offer some of the best in the State at a very reasonable cost. When people hear "WSSA", I want them to automatically think of great training. With the conference numbers dropping each year, this will become more difficult to budget but we will just have to be creative. We may have to cut in other ways but not in excellent speakers. Conference has always helped rejuvenate my attitude and I think everyone can use that at least once per year. The 2005 Conference will be held on June 1, 2 and 3 at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin. The Conference Planning Co-Chairs are Edie Udulutch from Sauk County DHS and Jackie Bennett from Racine County DHS. They are ready and waiting for your great ideas for conference. Please feel free to contact Edie at 608-355-4280 or Jackie at 262-638-6644.

In closing, I would just like you to know that Wisconsin Social Services Association is an important part of my life. It has helped me professionally and personally in so many different ways. There are many dedicated members who have put their heart and soul into keeping WSSA active since 1937. I will do my best to keep it strong during this 67th year and with your help, we can make that happen. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, issues and yes, even complaints, that you may have. My phone number is 608-776-4906 or e-mail me at m.Sutherland@jobcenter.org. Thanks for the opportunity to work for you.

Marjean Sutherland
President

Wisconsin Social Service Association Membership Application

Membership Year: July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

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

New

Continuing

Renewal

Membership Category

Regular . . . \$25.00

Student . . . \$12.50

Associate . \$12.50

Contributing +\$25

Association

1. Northland
2. South Central
3. Eastern
4. West Central
5. Southeastern
6. North Central

**Return Application and Dues to:
Christy Mancl
Wood County DSS
P.O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495**

Employer

County

State

Students

Private Agency

Employee Job Function

Mgmt./Supervisor

SS Para Prof.

Economic Support Spec. _____

Employment Program Other _____

Social Worker

Clerical _____

UPDATE

Update is published by the Wisconsin Social Service Association. Submit articles or letters to: Kathy Brown at Wood County Dept. of Social Services, PO Box 80954, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 Phone 715/421-8600, Fax 715/421-8693

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

PRRST STD
 US Postage Paid
 Permit 98
 Wisconsin Rapids WI

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

