

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

November/December 2004

2005 CONFERENCE

“Swinging through the Social/Human Services Jungle” will be the theme of the 68th Annual WSSA Conference and Training Institute which will be held at the Lake Lawn Resort and Conference Center in Delavan, WI on June 1, 2 & 3, 2005.

Check out the resort at www.lakelawnresort.com.

We will be offering Ethics & Boundaries plus workshops in the following areas: Economic Support, Child Welfare and Delinquency, Long Term Support, Administration, Mental Health and Supportive Services.

Keynote speaker Frank Pastizzo uses a wonderful mix of music, comedy, and storytelling from his diverse career to capture his audiences and help them find ways to warm up their workplaces and be more supportive of one another. Check him out at www.warmuptheworkplace.com. Deanna Edwards will wrap-up the Conference along with sharing her beautiful voice so see her awesome profile at www.deannaedwards.com.

Plan to swing into dinner on Wednesday night dressed in your favorite Jungle attire. Remember anything goes and we sure hope Tarzan, Jane and Cheetah show up!

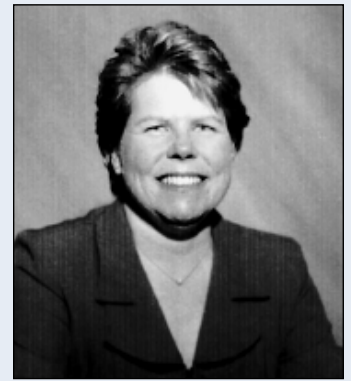
Listed below is your Conference Planning Committee. Please feel free to call them with any suggestions for next year’s conference.

Edie Udulutch – Co-Chair	Sauk County	608-355-4280
Jackie Bennett – Co-Chair	Racine County	262-638-6644
Tom Sandholm, Secretary	DHFS	608-267-7190
Janet Popp	Lafayette County	608-776-4922
Irene Anderson	BALTCR	608-266-3884
Paula Hintze	UW-Oshkosh CCDET	920-424-1740
Judy Sicard	Walworth County	262-741-3273

Please remember to write WSSA conference in your 2005 Calendar for June 1, 2 & 3 and we look forward to seeing you all there.

SPECIAL OFFER: We recently received notification from Lake Lawn Resort that due to our Annual Conference and Training Institute being held at their facility in June, 2005, they are offering our membership a Customer Appreciation Room Rate. This rate is valid from December 1st through December 30th, 2004. The rate is \$62.00 per night plus tax. Or upgrade to a loft for \$40.00 more or a suite for \$80.00 more.

For a reservation at this special rate call 800-388-LAKE and ask for the Customer Appreciation Room Rate.



President’s Message

The leaves are falling, the weather is chilling and football is in full swing so it must be fall. I do love this time of year, but unfortunately winter always arrives too soon and lasts too long.

By the time this goes to print, the election will be over and hopefully everyone took time to vote. Personally, I will be so glad for the campaigning to end and the fulfilling of promises to begin. There are too many important issues that need to be taken care of, and in my opinion, way too much money and time is spent on the campaign trail. Just imagine how those resources could help the people of the “Swing States” if used for services instead of votes. I will now remove myself from my soapbox and on to WSSA.

The Executive Committee established the following goals for 2004/2005:

1. To keep up the excellent training opportunities

(continued on pg. 7)

WSSA COUNTY/STATE/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DEFINES IMPORTANCE OF WSSA

The County/State/Legislative Committee began the 2004/2005 session with an interesting evaluation of the focus and purpose of WSSA and how it differs from other organizations that meet with State policy makers. In attendance were Deputy Directors, ESS line staff, a County Board member, a retired Supervisor and a Social Worker. The make-up demonstrated the fact that this organization is for all county staff and elected officials and we meet on a level field. All contribute their talents, knowledge and experience and all input is equally valued and needed. The organization is open to public social service agencies as well as private agencies that administer State programs. All aspects of human services can be addressed. There is a committee for every area. There is no organization like WSSA.

On Friday, October 29th, the Executive Committee joined the County/State/Legislature Committee at the Secretary of Health and Human Services Office in Madison. We met with the Secretary's Legislative Liaison, Ron Hermes, to get a feel for how WSSA can best be represented by this Committee. Ron indicated a willingness to assist us in meeting with the people who need to hear our views.

Ron was quite realistic about the position that the Department of Health and Human Services faces. The budget is expected to be nearly a billion dollars short in the coming biennium. There is no planned tax increase or reduction in services. Some very hard choices are going to face state and local officials in the coming years.

The DHFS Biennial Budget Request for 2005/2007 can be found at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aboutDHFS/index.htm. Ron indicated that the eyes of the State would be on medical assistance as that is the largest budgetary issue in the State. With these things in mind, the County/State/Legislative Committee has the hard task of communicating the needs of the county to make sure that nothing vital gets dropped or unfunded. The committee also offered the Association's assistance in reviewing proposed policy and giving input where needed.

This committee looks forward to a solid relationship with the Secretary's Office and hopes to stay strong and vital for many years to come. The County/State/Legislative Committee consists of Rick Kane from Shawano County; Barbara Love from Washburn County; Ann Oven from Waukesha County (Secretary); and Steve Ruff from Juneau County (Chair). Our next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on December 3rd at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin. We plan to be back in Madison for a January meeting with key budget personnel. This committee is still looking for more members. Please contact Kathy Brown at (715) 421-8600 to join.

Ann Oven

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETING

A district meeting was held on October 19th, 2004 at Lake Windsor Country Club. There were 17 in attendance and everyone expressed what a good training day it was. The morning speaker was Linda Heisler from the Department of Health and Family Services whose presentation was entitled "Memory: How's yours?" The afternoon speaker was Cori Marsh from The Clarion Center of St. Claire Hospital in Baraboo with a presentation entitled "Compassion, Fatigue or Burnout: What Is It and Do I Have It." Professional Development and Enhance Case Management Certificates were handed out to those who attended.

The business meeting was held before the morning speaker and committee reports were given from Executive, Constitution and Bylaws and Conference Planning.

The next meeting should be in April, 2005. The place is yet to be determined.

As President of South Central District, I am very pleased to see that we have most of the committees represented. I am hoping that more members of our district will consider being on committees. We are also looking for a President-Elect for the 2005/2006 membership year.

Officers/Committee Members are:

District President	Linda Sweet, DHFS	Constitution & Bylaws	Dave Zeller, Sauk County DHS
Secretary/Treasurer	Sandy Walrack, Retired	Long Term Support	Dennis Wittig, Columbia DH&HS
Conference Planning	Edie Udulutch, Sauk County DHS	County/State/Legislative	Steve Ruff, Juneau County DHS
	Irene Anderson, BALTCR	Operations	Virginia Wiedenfeld, Retired
	Janet Popp, Lafayette County DHS		
	Tom Sandholm, DHFS		

Submitted By:

Linda Sweet

South Central District President

“MEMORABLE MOMENTS” (From An Honorary Life)

The things I miss about work in order of degree missed are of course the people I worked with in both Trempealeau and Price Counties and all the many wonderful people I met over the years from other counties and State service through almost continuous service on WSSA Committees throughout my 32 year career. After the people, I miss (1) the ice cold water available in the office bubbler, (2) the photocopy machine and, (3) those talented typists who could decipher my illegible handwriting and type my reports, letters and grant RFPs.

The work itself I don't miss much if at all. I'm still working about 20 hours per week driving a morning and afternoon bus/van route for a sheltered workshop and also serving as a tour guide for Trempealeau County Bus Tours, Inc. My definition of geezer food is when you reach a point where you consume more pills for breakfast than actual food and when half the close friends that you have had over the years are gone to glory. I meet that definition on both counts.

I have very wonderful memories of WSSA so please don't ever take me off your mailing list!!!

We Trempealeau County conventioners anticipated WSSA Conferences with all the excitement and enthusiasm kids reserve for Christmas. We always went to all the workshops and all the meetings and took copious notes since we never knew when we would be asked to report in detail at a board meeting. For some strange reason board members over the years were actually suspicious we might be having a little too much fun.

I think about our departed WSSA friends a lot. Bud Thurston, Betty Keena, Helen Johnson, Ed Paulson, Dewey Mickelson, and Les Jordahl. Myself and our sons at every Spring and Fall fishing camp on Teol?? Lake at Hayward drink a toast after telling the “war stories” of our dear departed friends. The toast is “Aufgefohlen Kamarada” to our fallen comrades.

Wally Swenson

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While re-reading Jim Bestul's letter, I recalled one of those bitter-sweet times.

At our 1990 Conference in Appleton, Ed Asner was our special guest speaker for the banquet. His sister is a social worker so he had some first hand knowledge of the field and what goes on in real life. The Conference Planning Committee had tried for years to get him to come and finally his schedule could accommodate meeting with us. He turned out to be a charming, relaxed, comfortable man, not at all “the big Hollywood star” and he delivered a great address. This was obviously the sweet part of the evening.

The bitter: A short time after the banquet began I had learned that my first boss, Anthony (Tony) J. Baron had died. I announced it to the audience with a very large lump in my throat but many of those in attendance were too young to know who Tony was. He had been President of WSSA and editor of the newsletter and encouraged his staff to participate. His actual paid position was Social Work Supervisor at the then Sheboygan County Public Welfare Department, though he also functioned as acting Director of the agency because of the failing health of the Director. Tony and the agency became training grounds for a host of people who spread out around Wisconsin. We gained not only knowledge of how to do a job right but of why it should be done that way. The Baron philosophy was good to many of us and served us well. Thanks Tony.

Moreau MacCaughey

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Being retired for almost 15 years from Dunn County Human Services, and having been an employee for 20 years, I have never forgotten those special memorable moments with WSSA.

My job title was Homemaker II (that really dates me). During that time, I was a member of the WSSA Support Services Ad Hoc Committee for several years and I met many dedicated workers employed by Human Services who became friends. But I also was educated to the value of WSSA and the many programs, laws, etc. connected to WSSA.

In 1988, I was nominated for the WSSA Distinguished Service Award. On June 2, 1988 at the Spring Conference Award Banquet held in Stevens Point at The Holidome, I was presented that award. What an honor. It made me feel that WSSA, my Human Service Agency, and my co-workers really appreciated my dedicated work in the field of helping people and putting the word “human” back into Human Services.

How proud I am to be an Honorary Life member. And “Mrs. President,” don't take me off the mailing list of the *Update*. I read every one and though there are unfamiliar names, the news is still so interesting.

Do continue your dedication to WSSA.

Sincerely,
Laura B. Beguhn

WSSA MID-YEAR EDUCATION & TRAINING FORUM

December 2 and 3, 2004 - Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan

2400 East Geneva Street, Delavan, WI 53115

DECEMBER 2, 2004

9:30 a.m. Registration begins at

10:00 a.m. to Noon Program - Choose one of the following:

“ELECTRONIC CASE FILE AND CARES WORKER WEB UPDATES: WHERE ARE WE NOW?”

A representative of the Department of Health & Family Services, Madison, WI

This presentation will be on what is the electronic case file all about and where are we with the Cares Worker Web.

CONFUSED? COP ASSESSMENT, AUTOMATED COP ASSESSMENT, AUTOMATED FUNCTIONAL SCREEN, AUTOMATED ASSESSMENT/SUPPLEMENT. WHAT AND WHY?”

Presented by Gail Propsom, Policy Analyst Department of Health and Family Services Division of Disability and Elder Services Bureau of Long Term Support (Proposed)

Questions were raised about the use of the automated functional screen as a Community Options Program (COP) assessment. By itself, the screen is not sufficient to meet the minimal content requirements of a COP assessment as found in section 5.05-K of the **COP Guidelines**. The necessary additional information has been summarized and can be entered electronically at the same time the automated functional screen is being completed. When this is done, a COP county may bill for a full COP Assessment. And don't stop there, Gail will enlighten you on how this is accomplished as well as share with you the automation of additional requirements such as the “COP-W/CIP II Assessment/Supplement.” If the word “auto-fill” does not mean anything to you now, it will!

Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch: Soup and Salad Buffet in restaurant

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. “NEUROBIOLOGY OF ADDICTION AND BEHAVIOR: MAKING SENSE OF THE MYSTERY”

Flo Hilliard

This workshop will present the latest scientific knowledge of the brain, behavior and addiction in easy user-friendly language which can be immediately used to work with clients with addictive disorders. **This workshop has been approved for three (3) hours of enhanced case management equivalency. Certificates of attendance will be available for all of the workshops.**

4:30 p.m. Networking / Hospitality

6:00 p.m. Dinner - Your choice of Sirloin or Turkey with vegetable and apple pie with whipped cream.

DECEMBER 3, 2004

WSSA Committee Meetings - Please check with your committee chair for meeting times.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Agency: _____ County: _____

Mailing Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Choose one of the following:

Full Mid-Year Training **\$45.00**

Includes workshop and materials for a.m. and p.m. sessions, lunch and dinner.

Please circle one for dinner choice:

Citrus Grilled Sirloin or **Natural Roast Turkey**

Full Mid-Year Training without Dinner **\$28.00**

Includes workshop and materials for a.m. and p.m. sessions and lunch.

Morning/Afternoon Workshop Only **\$20.00**

Includes workshop and materials for a.m. and p.m. sessions.

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 please) made payable to WSSA to:

Janet Popp
Lafayette Co. DHS
P.O. Box 206
Darlington, WI 53530
jpopp@lchsd.org

Questions? Please contact Janet Popp at 608-776-4922 (work).

For hotel reservations please call 262-728-7950 or 715-341-5110. Request rooms being held by WSSA or Wisconsin Social Service Association

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REVISION AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The 2004/05 Goals for the Constitution & Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee are:

1. Receive and review proposals for amendments to the Bylaws and make recommendations.
2. Receive and review proposals for resolutions and make recommendations.
3. Inform all committees and members of the policies for submitting amendments and resolutions, along with the deadline dates to submit them to our committee.
4. Submit articles to The *UPDATE*.
5. Review District Constitutions and Bylaws to assure they are in compliance with the State Constitution & Bylaws.

The committee, at the request of the Executive committee, has prepared an amendment to the bylaws (Article IV, Section 1, A, 1) to change the district rebates from 12.5% to 10% of the dues, to be returned to districts. This amendment will be presented at the annual business meeting on June 2, 2005. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss and vote on this amendment and other business pertinent to the organization.

Per the Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, B. 1, "All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual business meeting." The deadline date to submit amendments for the June 2, 2005 business meeting is **March 4, 2005**.

Resolutions must be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee by **May 2, 2005**, per the Bylaws Article V, Section 3, A, which states "All resolutions to be acted on at the annual business meeting shall be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the annual conference."

WSSA committees and members are encouraged to submit resolutions. Policies and procedures for submitting resolutions and/or amendments, and forms, are available by contacting a member of this committee.

As a member of WSSA, your ideas, suggestions and involvement are IMPORTANT!

Committee members are:

David Zeller (Chair), Sauk County DHS, P. O. Box 29, Baraboo, WI 53913.
Phone: 608-355-4205 Email: dzeller@co.sauk.wi.us

Faith Valenti, 4447 S. Whitnall Avenue, St. Francis, WI 53235. Phone: 414-769-3261

Jaci Fuller (Secretary), 7493 North Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Phone: 715-839-7866
Email: tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net

Submitted by: Jaci Fuller

EMAIL MAILING LIST

WSSA is creating an email mailing list. If you would prefer receiving your information regarding training opportunities, conference information, etc. and we do not already have your email address, please email wssa_wi@hotmail.com and let us know.

Your email address will be used solely for the purpose of WSSA information distribution.

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.

Soon to be added to the website will be committee minutes and historical information.

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.

DISTRICT MAPS (Proposed Redistricting)

How many current members of WSSA remember when there were seven districts in our Association? Or who remembers the last time each district had representation on all the standing committees as well as Executive Committee?

Due to this, the option of redistricting has been explored and discussed the past number of years. The Executive Committee would greatly appreciate YOUR input. We have included a few of the proposals. Please submit your approval, disapproval, suggestions and/or opinions to President Marjean Sutherland at (608) 776-4906 or m.Sutherland@jobcenter.org.



EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING

The Eastern District held a “Get Together” 10/7/04 at The Goodwill Community Center in Menasha. The business meeting discussed the need for increased memberships, possible district restructuring, and updates on the County/State/Legislative Committee. After the continental breakfast and business meeting, there were two breakout sessions in the morning – “MAPP Health and Employment Counseling Program” presented by Pam Busche and Ellen Runde (HEC Screeners) and “Serving the Refugee Population” presented by Barb Biebel and Nenglee Vang from the Green Bay Catholic Diocese. Lunch was on your own and then in the afternoon, we had Eric Gibson from DHFS to talk about “Income Maintenance Updates” such as the latest on the Worker Web, Access Self-Screener and Electronic Case filing.

We expected 41 participants plus the speakers and ended up with 45 total for the morning and 33 for the afternoon. About half of the total attendees were WSSA members with some coming from outside the district such as Sauk and Portage Counties. We even gained a new member as well! Since I am only three years into WSSA and 1st year as EWSSA President, I owe a lot of the success of the meeting to Maralyn Trayler, EWSSA Secretary/Treasurer. She helped coordinate the MAPP speakers, gave much needed advice regarding everything from the food to the business meeting and was great with the encouragement. Thanks Maralyn!!! Another thanks goes to Goodwill since they were great in their accommodations, helping out immensely cost-wise with the rooms, mailings and even the certificates. We’re looking at March/April as the next meeting month, especially so that we can fill vacancies we have like...President-Elect, and for any of the committees. So, if any of you have suggestions for topics, locations, dates, etc., PLEASE contact Maralyn Trayler (920) 787-6580 or Stephanie Gagnon (920) 832-2192.

I hope those of you that came 10/7 had a good time, learned much and will bring your coworkers to the Spring meeting! I know each of us is swamped with our individual jobs and family responsibilities but getting involved with an organization like WSSA is a way to get our voices heard and be stronger advocates for our clients. See you soon!

Stephanie Gagnon
Eastern District President

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR 2005/2006 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The President-Elect, Kevin Loef, is presently looking at possible sites for the 2006 Conference. He is also looking at forming his Conference Planning Committee.

Kevin would like any individual who is interested in serving on the committee to contact him at (262) 697-4521 or email him at KLOEF@co.kenosha.wi.us. Interested individuals can also contact the Co-Chair, Kathy Brown, at (715) 421-8600 or kbrown@co.wood.wi.us.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW

Past President, Jim Bestul, recently accepted the Deputy Director position with the Marquette County Department of Human Services.

Maralyn Trayler, Waushara County ESS Worker, began a position as Manager Trainee on November 1, 2004. She will become the Economic Support Services Program Manager on February 2, 2005 when her Supervisor, Gay Meinke retires.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!

As the holidays draw near, WSSA Executive and Standing Committee members wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that 2005 is a safe and prosperous year for you and your families.

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

associated with WSSA, especially at conference.

2. To strengthen our committees by looking at ways to make it easier for them to communicate.
3. To keep on top of issues that affect the Social/Human Services field and to voice our opinion on the subject in a timely matter.
4. To ensure that WSSA stays alive and well during these uncertain economic times.

We're well on our way to meet these goals. Our County/State/Legislative Committee met with Ron Hermes, who is a liaison from Secretary Helene Nelson's office, on October 29th. The Conference Planning Committee has lined up many excellent speakers for the Mid-Year Training and June Conference. Professional Training and/or Enhanced Case Management hours are available for all our trainings. Committees are working hard and meeting wherever and whenever it is convenient to the members. We still need people for all our committees, so please think about helping out!

There was an excellent article called "Dream Deferred" in the September 2004 *Washington Monthly Magazine*. It is about Wisconsin's W-2 program, specifically in Milwaukee, and is definitely worth the 10-minute read. It provides great insight on the human aspects of both the caseworkers and the clients, which we all can relate to. It can be found on the web at www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2004/0409.deparle.html.

This should be enough from me for this *Update*. My last request is for you to please check out the Mid-Year Education and Training Forum that will be held at the Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, WI on December 2, 2004. The Conference Planning Committee has an excellent day planned with something for everyone. Please try to work it into your schedule – it will be well worth your time.

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	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:
Christy Mancl
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:
 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

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 US Postage Paid
 Permit 98
 Wisconsin Rapids WI

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

