

Wisconsin Social Services Association Newsletter

Spring 2018

#### The Best Escape Anyone Can Have WSSA Annual Conference 2018 June 13 & 14, 2018 Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin



The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual WSSA Training Institute and Conference will be Wednesday, June 13 and Thursday, June 14, 2018. The Training Institute will be held at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. This year's theme is WSSA 2018 The Best Escape Anyone Can Have (B.E.A.C.H.).

Seek to "sea" more at the workshops we will be offering on many topics, including: Workforce Development, Aging & Disability Services, Veteran's Services, Economic Support, Self-Care, Trauma Informed Care, and much more! Come dip your toes in the water and check out the speakers we have lined up for you. We want you to leave happier than a seagull with a french-fry, with a variety of knowledge and useful tips to bring back to the office!

On Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, we will honor our "Eyes of the Hurricanes" (Past Presidents) during our luncheon and that evening will be our traditional "theme" night dinner. Thursday, June, 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Awards Luncheon to recognize our "Treasures of the Sea", the men and women across the State of Wisconsin who were nominated by their mates.

Information regarding the conference will be out in March 2018. Start thinking of who you are going to nominate now! Go to the WSSA website for further information. The web address is: <u>www.wssa.ws</u>. If you have ideas for workshops, speakers or would like to serve on the Planning Committee, please contact either of the names listed. Are you ready "tropic like it's hot"?

Keep "Palm" and Carry On!

Angela Vaughn, Co-Chair angela.vaughn@kenoshacounty.org (262) 697-4600 Sherri Dabbs, Co-Chair <u>sherri.dabbs@kenoshacounty.org</u> (262) 697-4549

#### President's Message



Warm greetings to all!

My name is Kimm Peters and I am your WSSA President for the 2017-2018 year. I am very excited to be in this position and am looking forward to this term. As the winter holidays conclude, we are busy planning for our 2018 conference. It will be held on June  $13^{th}$  and  $14^{th}$  in Wisconsin Dells at the Chula Vista Resort. 2017 brought many changes for all programs Statewide and so I chose a B.E.A.C.H (Best Escape Anyone Can Have) theme for the Annual Conference. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for attendees to continue to learn and network with others in your field from all over the State of Wisconsin. Our hope is that you leave the conference with new contacts (friends) and new information.

(continued page 2)

Our organization is committed to offering broad range of training as we continue to work in an ever changing environment. Please do not hesitate to offer suggestions for trainings.

The association is looking to increase membership, increase involvement, and make the conference a success! I urge you to get involved and make a difference. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Remember to check our website for new information and remember we also have a Facebook page.

Kimm Peters 2017-2018 President Wisconsin Social Services Association



# *Rock N Roll!* ~ 2017 Annual Conference Recap ~

The 80th Annual WSSA Training Institute and Conference held on June 21 & 22, 2017 rocked with it's celebration for all of those sharing their "rock star talents" from around

Wisconsin. The conference was held at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. The conference began with a motivational keynote speaker Ann Kerian who presented *"I Love My Job".* 

We had speakers from all different facets of our work, including W2, social work, aging & disability, stress, IM, case management, fraud and customer service. All of our speakers were excellent and the reviews of their workshops were excellent. Your feedback is appreciated and utilized during future conference planning.

We had the opportunity to honor our Past Presidents at Wednesday's luncheon at the conference. We had a number of them in attendance. Our theme night dinner was fun as usual. During dinner we had a photo booth. That made for a photogenic evening and we will hopefully be bringing the fun back to future conferences!

On Thursday, we acknowledged those who had been nominated for their outstanding "rock star talents". They were chosen to receive WSSA awards and certainly deserved recognition for their contributions to the field of Human and Social Services. A huge congratulations to all the Award Winners!

Submitted by: Angela Vaughn



## **Thanks to the 2017 Conference Vendors!**

The following vendors had displays at the 2017 WSSA conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge:

- Correctional Education Association Wisconsin
- DCF/DFES/BWF/Partner Training Section
- Rawhide Inc.
- Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling
- Legal Action of Wisconsin Inc.
- IBA Resources LLC
- Springfield College
- Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative



Our thanks to the above vendors in providing valuable information to conference attendees! We hope to see them at the 2018 WSSA conference!

Be sure to visit the vendors at our 2018 conference. You will receive much information regarding their programs that you will be able to take back to your agency!

Submitted by: Jaci Fuller

email: tomnjaci58@gmail.com



## SEEKING VENDORS FOR 2018 CONFERENCE

Is there a certain vendor you would like to see at the 2018 Annual WSSA Conference to be held June 13 & 14 at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin? We would appreciate your suggestions as we prepare for the conference. Please contact me at:

> Jaci Fuller 3377 Southgate Court Eau Claire, WI 54701 e-mail: tomnjaci58@gmail.com phone: 715-225-3978

#### NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN AWARD!

It's time to start thinking about nominating someone you know for a WSSA award! The purpose of awards is to acknowledge and recognize individuals who exhibit leadership and have demon-strated outstanding performance in their position and have made an unique contribution in the social/human services field.

The WSSA awards available include the following: Distinguished Service, Excellence in Economic Support, Excellence in Social/Human Services, the Gayl Farris Outstanding Clerical, County Board member, Membership Liaison and Rookie of the Year. Nominees for Distinguished Service, Gayl Farris Outstanding Clerical and Rookie of the Year must be a WSSA member. Awards will be presented at the Annual Conference.

WSSA members can be nominated at any time during the year for Honorary Life Membership. Individuals who have been of significant benefit to the Association and the field of human services who may be pending loss of their eligibility for regular membership due to retirement and have had a consecutive membership for ten years and are current members are eligible for Honorary Life membership. A plaque is presented to the Honorary Life member at the WSSA Annual Conference Awards Lunch.

Per an Executive Committee decision, an individual does not have to be a WSSA member to nominate someone. The person nominated does not have to be a WSSA member for the following awards: Excellence in Social/Human Services, Excellence in Economic Support, and County Board.

In addition, WSSA offers up to two scholarships of \$500 each to WSSA members who are pursuing their career and education in the social/human services field and meet the criteria. A conference grant (for a total of \$500) is also available to WSSA members who attend a State conference which is related to human/social services programs and relevant to the applicant's current job duties.

The Friend of WSSA award was established in 2000 to recognize an agency or organization that has demonstrated exceptional support for the goals and objectives of WSSA. It acknowledges contributions made by a county, agency or organization through participation, lending of its members of time or other resources to sustain the ideals of WSSA.

Criteria for awards and scholarships as well as nomination forms can be found on the WSSA website: www.wssa.ws For more information, please contact an Executive Committee member.

#### DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: April 9, 2018

Send nomination forms to:

Kimm Peters, WSSA 2017/2018 President 8600 Sheridan Road Kenosha, WI 53143 kimm.peters@kenoshacounty.org



# WSSA TREASURER, HISTORIAN AND PRESIDENT-ELECT!

Nominations are now being accepted for the WSSA State offices of President Elect, Treasurer and Historian. The terms of office of each of the officers shall commence on the first day in July, 2018. You must be a current member of WSSA to nominate someone or submit your name and all nominees must be current members.

Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile organization. Become part of a team working together to provide valuable networking connections throughout the State, high quality/low cost training opportunities and advocates on behalf of people who serve customers of social services agencies.

Volunteer for one of the positions above or nominate someone! The positions require just a minimal time commitment. Duties of the officers of WSSA are described in this issue. For more information, you may go the WSSA website: <u>www.wssa.ws</u> or contact a member of the Executive Committee. Please send nomination forms to:

Kimm Peters, President Wisconsin Social Services Association 8600 Sheridan Rd Kenosha, WI 53143 kimm.peters@kenoshacounty.org Phone: 262-697-4664

# **YOUR DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!**

**Are you employed by a municipal, county, state, federal or private human service agency?** If so, then you could represent your District of the Wisconsin Social Services Association on the Executive and Conference Planning Committee.

Each of the six districts of the Wisconsin Social Services Association has representation on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is also the Conference Planning Committee at this time, and plans the yearly conference. It generally meets 5 or 6 times per year, to line up speakers, activities, meals, etc. The benefits of serving on a WSSA committee include professional development, networking opportunities, leadership training and meeting others in the human/social services field.

Can't find time away from the office? You can still contribute and serve via conference calls, emails and individual phone contact. Please consider representing your district - WSSA will benefit and so will you!

If you do not know your district, view page 6 or go to the website <u>www.wssa.ws</u>.

You may call or email me regarding the above for more information. Get involved and be part of a growing Wisconsin Social Services Association!

Kimm Peters, President Wisconsin Social Services Association 8600 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha WI 53142 phone: 262-697-4664 email: kimm.peters@kenoshacounty.org

## **WSSA DISTRICTS**

WSSA is a State organization that has local organizations throughout the State of Wisconsin, titled District Associations, which are comprised of people interested in the welfare of those individuals who are in need of human/social services. District Associations shall be considered units of WSSA except for purposes of administration and shall be responsible for primary action, local involvement and community education. Each District Association shall have a representative on the Executive Board.

The following are the WSSA districts and counties in each district:

NORTHLAND: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Price, Taylor, Polk, Rusk and Barron. (District President - Cary Breitlow)

SOUTH CENTRAL: Juneau, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Richland Grant, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Lafayette, Green and Rock. (District President - vacant)

**EASTERN:** Marinette, Oconto, Menominee, Shawanoo, Waupaca, Outagamie, Brown, Kewaunee, Door, Waushara, Winnebago, Calumet, Manitowoc, Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan. (District President - vacant)

<u>WEST CENTRAL:</u> Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Vernon, Crawford, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin and Eau Claire. (District President - Jaci Fuller)

**SOUTHEASTERN:** Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha. (District President - Kevin Loef)

NORTH CENTRAL: Vilas, Forest, Florence, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Adams and Clark. (District President - Julie Van Dahm)

Submitted by Jaci Fuller



# **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

#### (Must be current WSSA members)

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT:** (Three-year term consists of President-Elect, President and Past President) The President-Elect shall be the representative of the President on matters referred to him/her and shall upon request of, or in the absence of the President, preside over meetings of the Annual Conference or Executive Committee.

**OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN:** (Two year term) The Parliamentarian shall interpret the constitution, conference resolutions, procedures and other WSSA regulations and give an opinion thereon at the request of the President or Executive Committee. They also shall act as Parliamentarian at the Annual Conference.

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY:** (Two year Term) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of WSSA, all meetings of the Executive Committee and prepare information for permanent record in a book or file kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall at each meeting, at the direction of the President, read the minutes of the previous meetings and make such corrections as may be allowed. The Secretary shall have all property and equipment of the duties of the office. The Secretary shall render at the Annual Conference, a complete report of the functioning of this office for the preceding year and shall perform such other duties as may be imposed upon the office by the Executive Committee and the President. The Secretary shall be compensated for duties related to the assumption of the Office as recommended and approved by the Executive Committee.

**OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**: (Two year term) The Treasurer shall receive all funds collected from all sources. The Treasurer shall record all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall make a complete financial report at the Annual Conference and such other reports as may be required by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall pay by check, draw funds, bonds and securities in a bank approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be compensated for duties related to the assumption of the Office as recommended and approved by the Executive Committee.

**OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN**: (Two year term) The Historian shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining the historical record of the Association and will have authority to request from the Officers and Committee Chairpersons information necessary for the performance of the office. The Historian shall find storage space for the historical files, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:** (For your information) The President shall be the Chief Executive of the Association. The duties shall be to see that the provision of the Constitution and Bylaws, the regulations and policies established there under are observed and to be the presiding officer at the Annual Conference and all other WSSA meetings.

The President shall have the authority to designate the President-Elect to act in place of the President at public gatherings, at the Annual Conference and at Executive Committee meetings. In the event that the President-Elect cannot accept any assignment, the President may appoint another representative. The President shall have the authority to ask District Association Presidents to make appointments to such committees as may be deemed necessary.

The President may make appointments to committees of other organizations with approval of the Executive Committee. Appointees may be discharged after filing a report with the Executive Committee or by action of the President. The President shall be compensated for duties related to the assumption of the office as recommended and approved by the Executive Committee.



## WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION INTEREST/NOMINATION SHEET

For the State Association <b>&amp; Historian (2 year 1</b>	on positions of <b>President-Elect (3 year term), Treasurer (2 year term)</b>
& Historian (2 year (	(Must be current WSSA Member)
I am interested in <b>serv</b>	ing WSSA in the capacity of
I am employed by	
My present position is	
My past State and Loca	Association positions are
**************************************	**************************************
l would like to <b>nomina</b>	ate
For the position of	
Their work address and	d phone number is
YOUR INFORMATI	ON:
Name	
Address	
E-mail Address	
Phone	
	All nominees will be contacted.
Return form to:	Kimm Peters, President Wisconsin Social Services Association 8600 Sheridan Rd Kenosha, WI 53143 Phone: 262-697-4664 kimm.peters@kenoshacounty.org



## Congratulations 2017 Award Winners!

The following were honored on Thursday, June 22, 2017 during the awards luncheon hosted by WSSA President Missy Hubacher at the 2017 WSSA conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells, WI. President-Elect, Kimm Peters, assisted Missy in presenting the awards.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Irene Lehman. Irene began working at Rush County as an Income Maintenance Case Worker on April 7, 1975. five years later, she became an IM Supervisor where she has remained in that position for the balance of 42 years. Irene retired on April 7, 2017, and stated "What better day to end my employment, but on the same day I started it."

The Distinguished Service Award was also presented to Roberta Bloner who began working for Kenosha County on her 25th birthday. She worked for family benefits for 11 years before finding her calling in Long Term Care. She loves working with the elderly and strives to be professional, accurate and empathetic with customers.

We'd also love to recognize our third Distinguished Service Award winner, Kay Willard. Kay has devoted the last 30 years to Income Maintenance in Juneau County. She began with Juneau County on December 28, 1981 in the County Clerk's Office then transferred to an IM Worker on January 18, 1987. On October 9, 2001, Kay was promoted to an Economic Support Lead.

The Social/Human Services Award was presented to three outstanding individuals in 2017. Shalonda Black, Child Support Supervisor in Kenosha County, Holly Garcia, Economic Support Specialist in Racine County, and Carly Jackson, Child Care Program Assistant in Kenosha County. This award is to recognize an individual who has made a unique contribution to and demonstrated outstanding performance in the administration or delivery of a social/human services program.

The WSSA Award for Excellence in Economic Support honors the outstanding efforts of an Income Maintenance Worker who has made a unique contribution to the field of human/social service in the income maintenance profession. This award was presented to the following: Sarah Bartz, IM Division Manager, Shawano County; Nicole Boyer, Economic Support Specialist, Kenosha County; April Lee, Economic Support Specialist, Juneau County; Lauren Ciulini, Economic Support Specialist, Racine County; Jernisha Cooper, Economic Support Specialist, Kenosha County; Brittany Dupuis, Economic Support Specialist, Racine County; Heather Merten, Economic Support Specialist, Fond du Lac County and Diana Wood, Economic Support Specialist, Juneau County.

The Gayl Farris Outstanding Clerical Award, first given in 1981, is to honor an outstanding Clerical worker in the social/human services field. It was established by Gayl Farris, Assistant Director of Oneida County Social Services who won one million dollars in the Canadian National Lottery in 1980. She gave \$1,000 to WSSA to establish an award for an outstanding clerical worker. This year at the WSSA Conference, this award was given to Sandra Kotz, Office Clerk with Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc at the Kenosha County Job Center.

President Missy Hubacher presented the President's Award to Sherri Arnold, Goodwill Industries/Kenosha County and Sandra Kotz, Goodwill Industries/Kenosha County. This award honors an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding effort in assisting the President in obtaining the goals and objectives of WSSA.

All of the award winners are *"Rock Stars of Wisconsin!"* Congratulations to all!

## History of WSSA

The organization was established in 1937, known as the Wisconsin Association of County Pension Departments. In 1935 the State Public Welfare Department was established and each county set up departments, known as County Pension Departments, to administer the program. Troubles soon arose because of inexperience of agency workers. County welfare administrators met in January 1937 to discuss common problems, and the WACPD was formally organized, with 175 regular members. John H. Holtz, Rusk county, was the first president in 1937/38 and again in 1938/39.

In 1936, another group of people in Wisconsin who were administering direct relief, certifying federal relief program making placements in CCC camps and distributing surplus commodities was also having the same problems. These people formed the Wisconsin Public Welfare Association. In 1942 both associations merged to form the Wisconsin Public Welfare Association . Marvin McMahon, Buffalo County was elected the first President, with fifty-one counties represented.

In 1970 the county directors formed a Directors and Board Members Group and the WPWA lost many directors as members. January 1, 1976, the Wisconsin Public Welfare Association name was changed to the Wisconsin Social Services Association. Thomas Keith, Burnett County, was the last president of the old-named organization WPWA and the first president of the new WSSA, serving from July 1, 1975 to June, 1976.

Annual conventions (conferences) have been held every year with the exception of 1945 due to world war II. In 1948 Herbert Humphrey, then Mayor of Minneapolis and running for U.S. Senator, gave the main address. Wisconsin's governors often addressed conventions. The keynote speaker at the 1978 joint WSSA and American Public Welfare Association was Jesse Jackson. The 1953 conference held in Green Bay had 64 counties represented. The 1966 conference at Lake Delton, with Norman Whitford as president, had over 400 attendees, all 72 counties were members and there were 2,301 individual members. The 1975 conference held at the Madison Hilton, with Ed Paulson as president, had 800 attendees. The 1978 conference with Paul Green as president had over 400 attendees.

The first woman president of WPWA was Melinda Laumer, Marathon County in 1944. She served two consecutive years when no conference was held in 1945 during World War II due to gas and tire rationing. The first woman president of WSSA was Helen Johnson, Green Bay DFS, in 1978.

The president's gavel with the inscription "Presented to WPWA by L.J. Howman, Director of Winnebago Social Services in May 1960" was presented by the WSSA Historian Karen Eggleston, at the 1987 Past Presidents luncheon. The gavel has been passed on to the incoming president every year since then. The gavel of black walnut was made by L.J. Holman and his son.

The WSSA banner was first made in 1984 by Jane Ross (Mother of Kathi Kufahl, Brown County). The WSSA Journal, a publication on a specific program or idea, was first published in December 1982. The final issue of the Journal was published in Spring 2000. The WSSA newsletter UPDATE is a news publication with information for WSSA members. In the past it was sent three or four times per year by U.S. postal services and now sent via email and on the website.

(research by Jaci Fuller) 11/2016

### WSSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

		-,
PRESIDENT	Kimm Peters Kenosha County 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 122 Kenosha, WI 53143	Phone: 262-697-4664 kimm.peters@kenoshacounty.org
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Barb Kopplin Community Impact Coalition 114 E Main St Watertown, WI 53094	Phone: 920-262-9667 barbk@cacscw.org
PAST PRESIDENT	Missy Hubacher Goodwill Industries of SE WI, Inc. 6055 North 91st Street Milwaukee, WI 53225-6518	Phone: 414-847-4795 melissa.hubacher@goodwillsew.com
TREASURER	Sherri Dabbs Goodwill Industries/Kenosha County 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 122 Kenosha, WI 53143	Phone: 262-697-4549 sherri.dabbs@kenoshacounty.org
SECRETARY	Angela Vaughn Goodwill Industries/Kenosha County 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 122 Kenosha, WI 53143	Phone: 262-697-4600 angela.vaughn@kenoshacounty.org
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Jaci Fuller 3377 Southgate Court Eau Claire, WI 54701	Phone: 715-225-3978 tomnjaci58@gmail.com
HISTORIAN	Holly M. Jackson 207 W. Chippewa Street Cadott, WI 54727	Phone: 715-271-3476 <i>jacksonhm@voyager.net</i>
	DISTRICT PRESIDE	NTS
NORTH CENTRAL	Julie Van Dahm 1821 5th Street, South	Phone: 715-421-8613

1821 5th Street, South jvan54494@yahoo.com Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 NORTHLAND Phone: 715-395-7330 Cary Breitlow 1316 N. 14th Street, Suite 400 cary.breitlow@douglascountywi.org Superior, WI 54880 SOUTHEASTERN Kevin Loef Phone: 262-697-4521 Goodwill Industries/Kenosha County kevin.loef@kenoshacounty.org 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 122 Kenosha, WI 53143-6508 WEST CENTRAL Jaci Fuller Phone: 715-225-3978 3377 Southgate Court tomnjaci58@gmail.com Eau Claire, WI 54701

Wisconsin Social Service Association Membership Application Membership Year: July1, 2017 through June 30, 2018			
Name Mailing Address	Membership Type: New Renewal (member previous year)		
City	Employer Type: County		
State Zip County			
Phone E-mail			
Employer Job Title/Area of Work	Return Application & Dues to: Sherri Dabbs 8600 Sheridan Road Kenosha, WI 53143		

