

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

Summer/Autumn 2006

2006 WSSA CONFERENCE & TRAINING INSTITUTE

The 2006 Wisconsin Social Services Association Conference and Training Institute was held at The Regency Suites in Green Bay on June 7th, 8th and 9th, 2006.



Dr. John Powers

Wednesday morning, Sharon Boesl, presented a workshop on Ethics and Boundaries. At 1:00 p.m., the conference officially started with welcomes by Paula Hintze, WSSA President-Elect; Nan Pahl, E. S. Coordinator, Brown County DHS; and Roberta Gassman, Secretary for the Department of Workforce Development. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. John Powers whose presentation was entitled "Passion: Do What You Love; Love What You Do." He offered simple but highly effective suggestions on how to immediately begin enriching your life in passion – therefore, highly productive – ways.

Thursday started out with the Annual Business Meeting with workshops starting at 9:00 a.m. Six different workshops were offered at each time frame. The workshops presented were in different areas including economic support; supervisory; mental health; social human/services; and general. We would like to acknowledge our speakers who were: Trent Zeitler; Vicki Jessup, John Haine, Mark Hensley, Barbara Welch, Carol Ziesemer, Renee Rickert, Eric Gibson, Greg Staniforth, Cheri MacDonald, Tony Veeder, Jane Greenwood, Irene Anderson, Matt Secor, James Kates, Nancy Pellegrini, Gina Christiansen, Julie Feld, Jenny Hoffman, Bonnie DeBauche, Paul Gasser, and Rebecca Lockery.

At Past Presidents' Luncheon, Dick Bennett was the speaker. His presentation was entitled "My Last At Bat." He shared his memories with us of what mattered over a long coaching career. We appreciate his coming from Washington to join us.



Dick Bennett

Thursday night was the Awards Banquet. WSSA honored award winners who showed exceptional service to the organization as well as several honorary lives and scholarship recipients. (Picture of winners/recipients in this issue of *Update*.)

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President's Message

The vibrant colors of autumn are fast approaching along with cooler temperatures, fresher air and the Packers still in the running for the Lombardi trophy (as I write this they are only one game out of first).

I would like to thank all who attended and participated in our Organization Meeting on August 15, 2006 where attendance and participation by far exceeded my expectations. People that I have met through WSSA never cease to amaze me by their commitment and dedication to this association. (Special thanks to Jaci Fuller who gave a wonderful presentation on the history of WSSA).

The 2006/ 2007 year is off and running, you are now enjoying reading your newest edition of *Update* (thanks to Christy Mancl-Wood County). We are trying a couple of new sections to our newsletter, one

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Friday opened up with our Wrap-Up Speaker, Paul Gasser, with his presentation entitled “How To Know When Enough Is Enough.” Paul talked about stressors – how to track, accepting and avoiding, altering, choosing your response, and ways to curb it.



Paul Gasser

One of the Conference Committee members was Geri Arndt. Geri is a WSSA Honorary Life who lives in Colorado. She came to this year's conference and a special thank you to her for traveling so far to help us, especially with the beautiful table flower arrangements.

In attendance were 125 individuals and evaluations reflected a very positive experience with wonderful comments. The 2006 Conference Planning Committee would like to thank everyone who attended and made this such a successful conference. We hope to see you at the next conference!

PAST PRESIDENTS

This year ten Past Presidents were able to join us at the Past Presidents' Luncheon.

Front Row (L to R):

Helain Andersen, Retired, Racine County DHS
Faith Valenti, Retired, Milwaukee County DSS
Marjean Sutherland, Lafayette County DHS
Kathy Brown, Wood County DSS

Back Row (L to R):

Jim Bestul, Lincoln County DSS
Ted Prange, Retired, Wood County DSS
Paul Greene, Retired, Dane County DHS
Norman Whitford, Retired, Winnebago County HSD
Rick Kane, Shawano County DSS
Wes Rohrer, Retired, Sauk County DHS



2005/2006 WSSA AWARD WINNERS / HONORARY LIVES / SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Front Row (L to R):

Stephanie Gagnon, Goodwill Industries of NCW Membership Liaison Award
 Fred Baewer, Columbia County DHS Social/Human Services Award
 Mary King, Kenosha County HSD Excellence in Economic Support Award
 Colleen Roethe, Kenosha County HSD Southeastern District Award
 Sherri Arnold, Kenosha Job Center Gayl Farris Outstanding Clerical Award
 Helain Andersen, Retired, Racine County DHS Honorary Life Recipient
 Irene Anderson, Bureau of Long Term Support Distinguished Service Award

Back Row (L to R):

Jim Bestul, Lincoln County DSSScholarship Recipient
 Linda Sweet, DHFSPresident's Award
 Jaci Fuller, Retired, Wood County DSSSpecial Recognition Award
 Marjean Sutherland, Lafayette County HSDPresident's Award
 Carrie Stockbridge, High School Principal,
 Homme Youth & Family Services of Wittenberg, WI Friend of WSSA Award
 Cheryl Woltman, Wood County DSSRookie Of The Year Award
 Christy Duhr, Richland County DSSSouth Central District Award
 Rick Zynda, BEM/DHCF/DHFSHonorary Life Recipient
 Bonnie Weyers, Shawano County DSSScholarship Recipient



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

is a section to make book recommendations that cover topics related to social/ human service and / or social issues or change. If you have read such a book and would like to submit a recommendation or any other ideas for our next UPDATE please email it to Christy Mancl cmancl@wood.co.wi.us.

Our website (www.wssa.ws) is running smoothly with the most up to date happenings of WSSA (thanks to Marjean Sutherland –LaFayette Co.). Our website will have the most current information on meetings-dates, locations and agendas, trainings, general WSSA information and contact information. If you haven't done so already please take the time to check it out.

The planning for midyear (Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2006) and Conference 2007 (May 30-June 1, 2007) is underway (thanks to conference co-chairs Holly Jackson – Eau Claire Co. / Margaret Schmitt – retired from Brown Co.). These two brave people graciously accepted my challenge to work with their committee to get attendance at the 2007 Conference back to the numbers that had attended when I first joined WSSA 12 years ago. So if you want to see if it can be done mark you calendars and be there! If you have ideas for topics or presenters please contact Holly and Margaret through Holly's email address jacksonhm@voyager.net.

I am looking forward to a great year in WSSA working with all of you to promote the mission of WSSA. WSSA is dedicated to working to improve the well being of all people throughout the State of Wisconsin by fostering a commitment to human dignity based on respect, honesty and integrity.

Everything you have ever done – every moment, every experience, and every relationship – has brought you to this moment. You are perched on the leading edge of your life.

— Alan Cohen

Thanks in advance for great year!

Paula Hintze

WSSA 2006-2007 President

DWD/ DWS/ BW-2 Partner Training Services

Kaiser Group, Inc

phintze@kaisergrp.com

WHAT'S NEW?

Stephanie Gagnon, Eastern District President, has recently started a new job working as one of two new Disability Benefit Specialists for the Calumet/Outagamie/Waupaca Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). Congratulations, Stephanie!

If you or someone you know would like to share promotions, retirements, etc. with the members of WSSA, please feel free to email an article to be published in the *Update* to Christy Mancl at cmancl@co.wood.wi.us.

WSSA HISTORICAL NOTES

I obtained the following information regarding the history of WSSA from a copy of the “50th Anniversary WSSA Journal” and other Journals and Update newsletters. I also researched copies of the WSSA Constitution & Bylaws and amendments passed at annual business meetings regarding committees.

I hope this “ongoing” column will provide some interesting facts for WSSA members, for a better understanding of the Association.

If anyone has additional information and/or facts, please contact me.

Jaci Fuller

7493 North Road

Eau Claire WI 54701

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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 programs. 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 was also President in 1938/39. The first annual conference was held at the Ladysmith County Club, Ladysmith May 17 and 18, 1937. (Other records indicate the first convention was held November, 1937, in Ladysmith with 38 counties represented.)

In 1936 another group of people in Wisconsin who were administering direct relief, certifying federal relief programs, 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 McMahan, Buffalo County, was elected the first President in 1942/43 of the WPWA. Fifty-one counties were represented. Paul Hickey, Kenosha County, was elected WPWA President twice (1973/74 and 1967/68) and served as WPWA Past President three times.

In 1970 the county directors formed a Directors and Board Members Group, and the WPWA lost many directors as members.

The Wisconsin Public Welfare Association name was changed January 1, 1976, 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 Hubert Humphrey, then Mayor of Minneapolis, and running for US Senator, gave the main address. Wisconsin's governors often addressed conventions. The keynoter at the 1978 joint conference with WSSA and the American Public Welfare Association was Jesse Jackson. At the 1953 convention in Green Bay, 64 counties were represented.

Other convention/conference highlights include the 1966 conference at Lake Delton, with Norman Whitford, Winnebago County, as President. There were over 400 attendees, and one of the main speakers was Whitney Young, Executive Director of the National Urban League from New York City. That year all 72 counties were members and there were 2,301 individual members. The organization was most affluent with over \$6,000 in the bank.

WISCONSIN SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Mid-Year Education & Training Forum

November 30, 2006

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Elkhart Lake Ballroom B

“Refuse to be a Victim”

Presenter: Captain Randy S. Schultz, Director, Patrol Division, Brown Co. Sheriff's Department

Captain Schultz's professional experience has shown that the majority of victimization can be avoided with a small amount of preparation and adoption of the survivor mindset and values. Although avoidance of victimization is certainly the preferred practice, a few simple yet effective physical tactics are introduced as a last resort.

He also as part of this presentation will include law enforcement's simple structured yet extremely effective outline for defusing heated verbal exchanges. By using a practiced procedure employees can perform in the most professional manner when stressed by an angry customer.

Randy will also provide a defined end, allowing an employee to realize the situation cannot be resolved by their communication and needs to be presented to supervision or terminated. The sequence leaves control to the customer when within law, policy and procedure. This leaves unfavorable results the responsibility of the customer or simply outside of policy.

Past attendees indicate comfort in reduced stress and justification of why they ended the conversation when they did. Employers have regularly noticed a significant reduction in customer complaints against employees. Many have also found the system useful in their personal lives.

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Crystal Lake Room

Choose from one of the following:

- Cherrywood Smoked Ham and Dill Havarti Croissant w/vegetable pasta and fresh fruit
- Classic Caesar Salad with Herb-Marinated Chicken Breast (Hearts of Romaine tossed with traditional dressing, garlic and herb croutons, shredded parmesan and presented with a sliced breast of herb-marinated chicken breast)

Each of the above will be served with Chef's choice of dessert and coffee, tea or milk.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Elkhart Lake Ballroom B

“Survival of our Emotional Well Being”

Don Everhard has been training social workers state wide and is quickly becoming known for captivating audiences with his humor and real life experiences He is a safety expert in the field of social work. Today he will be teaching survival of our emotional well being.

His topics will include:

- a. Creating an attitude of excellence
- b. Building relationships and making a difference
- c. Overcoming Adversity
- d. Protective Behaviors

Don Everhard brings an array of life experience into his trainings and has proven over and over to be an outstanding and dynamic speaker. He has over 19 years experience in social work, 8 years experience as a police officer, a Martial Arts Expert & Instructor, is licensed in Administration and has a Masters in counseling.

Certificates will be available for Professional and/or Social Work continuing education hours. As of this printing CEU's and ECM credits are being requested. Call 715-836-1028 for more information.

READING CORNER...

Recommended Reading:

Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich

Millions of Americans work full-time, year-round, for poverty-level wages. Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. How can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on six to seven dollars an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity - a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Instantly acclaimed for its insight, humor, and passion, this book is changing the way America perceives its working poor. This is a must read for anyone working with low income working families!

Submitted by Beki Lockery, DWD/DWS/BW-2/ Partner Training Services, Kaiser Group, Inc.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

I would like to thank WSSA and the 2005/2006 Executive Committee members for the "Special Recognition" award that was presented to me at the 2006 Conference awards banquet in Green Bay. It is such an honor to receive an award and this one is very "special" to me. So, **THANK YOU** Marjean, Kevin, Paula, Christy, Denise, Faith, Stephanie, Linda and Chris! I will treasure this award.

Jaci Fuller

UPDATE

Update is published by the Wisconsin Social Service Association. Submit articles or letters to:
Christy Mancl at Wood County Dept. of Social Services, PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone 715/421-8600, Fax 715/422-4713

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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**WSSA Mid-Year Education and Training Forum
November 30, 2006**

Name: _____ **Job Title:** _____

Agency: _____ **County:** _____

Mailing Address: _____ **City** _____ **WI Zip** _____

Choose one of the following:

_____ **Full Mid-Year Training Registration** **\$30.00**
(includes workshop materials for morning and afternoon and lunch)

_____ **Cherrywood Smoked Ham and Dill Havarti Croissant**

_____ **Classic Caesar Salad**

_____ **Morning/Afternoon Workshop Registration – No Meal** **\$15.00**

Please 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) made payable to WSSA by November 24, 2006 to:

**Holly Jackson
207 W Chippewa St
Cadott WI 54727
Fax: 715-836-7627**

Questions? Please contact Holly at 715-836-1028

NOTE: For hotel reservations, please call 1-800-876-3399, and request rooms under WI Social Services Association. When asked for the promotional code, use SOCIAL.