

UPDATE

Wisconsin Social Service Association Newsletter

February 2007

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Hello WSSA members! We would like everyone to reserve May 30, 31 and June 1, 2007 for the 70th Annual WSSA Training Institute and Conference. This year we will be at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. You can make reservations now by calling 1-800-876-3399 and use Social07 as the reservation code for our group. If you will be using a Purchase Order, you will need to call directly at 920-876-5826, use the same reservation code. You can see more about the Osthoff Resort via their web site at www.osthoff.com.



Osthoff Resort

We are currently working on obtaining great speakers for this year's training institute. Here are some of the things we are working on.

We will again offer Ethics and Boundaries on Wed May 30th. Sharon Boesl will be the speaker and during the four hours of training she will cover basic through advanced information for attendees. The cost for this workshop if you will not be attending the whole training institute will be \$40.00.

Our keynote speaker is Jeffery McMullen from Appleton WI. He gives people a chance to sit back, take a deep breath and rebuild a positive self-image. That image becomes the foundation for accomplishing personal and professional goals. Jeffrey B. McMullen is the author of *Just In Time ... Just Isn't Enough!* He also will be conducting a workshop.

We are also working on workshops in the following areas: Child Protective Services, Economic Support, Guardianship issues, Workforce development, and Adult Services. Supervisors will also have workshops that will be focused for them.

Wednesday night is the traditional theme night and we have something special planned. There will be no dance that night. Watch for further information.

Thursday night will be our Awards Presentation and we will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary of this training institute. We will be having a dance after the awards presentation.

If you want to nominate someone for a WSSA award, check out the WSSA web site www.WSSA.ws for more information on how to nominate someone.

If you have any further ideas please contact one of your conference planning members: Holly Jackson, jacksonhm@voyager.net, Margaret Schmitt, 920-327-3926, Jayne Carroll, socjayne@co.shawano.wi.us, Julie Van Dahm, jvandahm@co.wood.wi.us, Judy Johnson, Johnson_ja@co.brown.wi.us, Deb Jacobsen, djacobse@co.kenosha.wi.us, Pat Gipp, 715-526-6354 and Ted Prange, tdprangeway@wctc.net. You can also find our telephone numbers at the WSSA web site: www.wssa.ws.



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all had wonderful holidays full of family, friends and festivities.

This fall I was one of the lucky ones who was able to attend and participate in both the True Colors training and the WSSA Midyear training event at our conference site, The Osthoff Resort. Both of these events gave me a bit more insight into why I may respond the way I do in certain situations and how to work with others more productively and best of all I got to laugh☺. The midyear event gave me the opportunity for becoming more aware of personal and professional safety issues in the social, human and workforce development areas that we choose to work in. Great job by Judy Johnson of Brown County for taking the lead on bringing the two speakers to midyear and with a little luck some of you may be given an opportunity to

(continued on pg. 4)

MID-YEAR TRAINING REPORT

WSSA held its annual Mid-Year Training on November 30 2006 at the Osthoff Resort. Two great speakers, Randy S. Schultz and Don Everhard, presented to 47 attendees.

The morning session was led by Captain Randy S. Schultz of the Brown County Sheriff's Department. His presentation entitled "Refuse to be a Victim" was very well received. Randy's main focus was to have us realize what situations exist that could make a person a victim of a crime. He gave us great tips on how to always be aware of our surroundings and to notice everything and anything that could be out of the ordinary. He explained that many crimes of victimization could have been avoided with just a small amount of preparation. He also introduced a few simple physical tactics that we all can use. For example, if you are walking through an empty parking lot to your vehicle and you notice another person walking in a manner that you feel threatened, you can use your cell phone to deter that person from potentially making you his/her victim. Randy led us on a discussion of how you could use other items in that type of situation. We also discussed other potential situations and how to diffuse the potential hazard. The last part of his presentation was on effectively defusing heated verbal exchanges.

Our afternoon session was led by presenter Don Everhard of Elite Management. His presentation was entitled "Survival of our Emotional Well Being". His topics included: creating an attitude of excellence, building relationships and making a difference, overcoming adversity and protective behaviors. Don wanted us to realize that in order to survive in the workplace and in our personal lives that we need to keep a positive attitude and to surround ourselves with other people who also have a positive outlook. Another point was that you should always be the best you can be, even if you are in a situation that may be stressful.

Don demonstrated how to protect oneself from an attack. This demonstration provided the attendees some basic skills. For example, to strike someone in the eyes if he/she is coming at you from the front.

Mr. Everhard covered some of the same ideas that Randy had discussed in the morning session, but everyone attending agreed that it is always good to have reinforcement of core ideas.

AWARDS/ AWARDS/ AWARDS

Now is the time to think about who you would like to nominate for the various awards that WSSA has to offer. There is still time to submit your nominations. Information regarding each award can be found on our website under the link to Awards. Nominees must be current WSSA members.

AWARDS AVAILABLE:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Distinguished Service</i> | <i>Gayl Farris</i> |
| <i>Membership Liaison</i> | <i>Rookie of the Year</i> |
| <i>Social/ Human Services</i> | <i>Economic Support</i> |
| <i>Honorary Life</i> | <i>County Board</i> |
| <i>Friend of WSSA</i> | <i>Scholarships</i> |
| <i>Conference Grant</i> | |

Forms and Colleen Roethe's contact information for submissions can be found on our website www.wssa.ws. **The deadline is 03/9/07.**

RECOMMENDED READING

A Race is a Nice Thing to Have

by Janet E. Helms, Ph.D

A Guide to Being a White Person or Understanding the White Persons in Your Life

This short 95 page book is an excellent and easy to read book. *A Race is Nice Thing to Have* examines race, how to eliminate racism, and finding ways to cope with race in a multicultural environment. Dr. Helms uses different techniques, models, charts, and short assessments to discover racial identity and understand racism.

Summary by:

Elizabeth Senghammee

Kaiser Group, Inc

DWD/DWS/BW-2/ PTS Training Team



HISTORICAL CORNER (CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE...)

(The following paragraph was in the September, 1978 UPDATE, and written by Todd Rowland, WCHC).

WSSA dates back some 42 years with the bulk of membership from the counties. The State people are primarily with the Division of Community Services. In the early days of WSSA, dues were paid by the county agency. There were no individual dues. Staff were automatically members and not dues paying until 1970. Most counties were members of the Association and were paying the entire bill when funding was open-ended. Counties did not have budget constraints as they have now.

However, the following is an excerpt from the minutes of the business meeting of the Wisconsin Public Welfare Association in Green Bay on June 10, 1944, regarding membership dues.

“Should the dues be raised? Suggestion that membership dues be raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per year. Discussion on whether case workers could afford this. It was suggested that it would be better to have more members than increasing the Membership dues. Motion was dropped.”

A resolution at the 1953 annual conference increased the annual membership fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00, effective for the 1954 fiscal year. Individual membership dues were increased over the years, and at the 1999 Annual Business Meeting, a resolution was passed to increase the dues to \$25, the current dues.

One of the original purposes of WSSA was to provide a forum for “public welfare” employees through annual conferences and regional meetings. Another purpose was to provide a channel for action by the membership.

In 1935, the “State Public Welfare Department” was established and each county set up departments to administer programs and became the “County Pension Department”. Prior to 1935, the traditional idea to assist the poor was the responsibility of relatives and friends!

Until 1936, governmental social “welfare” agencies were fairly weak, however, with the passage of the Social Security Act and the establishment of “AFDC”, there was a growth of county agencies.

WSSA became more adept legislatively and developed an action posture with the “State Department of Health and Social Services”. The substitution of the words “Social Services” for “Public Welfare” came about with the 1962 amendments to Title IV of the Social Security Act.

submitted by Jaci Fuller

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The WSSA Annual Business Meeting will be on Thursday, May 31st, at 8 a.m. at the annual conference at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

An amendment is a change to the WSSA Constitution and/or Bylaws which alters the current language to reflect a new procedure or policy. Per the Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, B, 1, all proposed amendments to the Bylaws 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 to submit amendments is **March 2, 2007**.

A resolution is a formal means by which a member, committee or Association expresses their opinion regarding an issue or action that the afore-mentioned member, committee or Association wish to see changed. Per the Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, A, 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. The deadline to submit resolutions is **April 30, 2007**.

With all of the changes in the social/human services field, resolutions can be a tool for the membership to voice opinions and impact change.

Policies and Procedures and forms for submitting resolutions and/or amendments are available to WSSA members and committees. Please contact Jaci Fuller at (715) 839-7866, or email at tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net for information and forms.

We hope to see you at the WSSA Annual Conference in Elkhart Lake and at the Annual Business Meeting!

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

attend these speakers at Conference this year. Again I am in awe of how smoothly the Conference Planning Committees can pull these events off year after year!

Your Executive Committee continues to be the backbone of the Association even though we do struggle with what should be the direction of our Association and what we should be focusing our efforts on. Currently our efforts have been on getting back to our basics; working on communication efforts; re-energizing some of our committees; supporting our regional training opportunities and conference planning; and working updating our committee handbooks.

Some of you may be aware that WSSA Operations Committee is up and running with the following people taking the lead: Pat Mucha – Milwaukee County, Ann Oven – Kenosha County, Colleen Roethe- Kenosha County, as well as Faith Valenti-retired from Milwaukee County and Linda Sweet – DHFS of Executive Committee working to develop the distribution list for our county and agency liaisons to provide our liaison with information about WSSA electronically, to make it easier to distribute or print and post. If your agency has a bulletin board in which information can be posted about WSSA and you don't see anything, please contact us and we will be sure to send you information on our Association to post.

As a new year begins remember WSSA can be your resource for meeting your professional and personal development training needs. Keep checking our website at www.wssa.ws so you don't miss any of the opportunities we offer.

May 2007 bring you peace, good health and laughter!

Paula Hintze
WSSA President 06-07
DWD/DWS Partner Training Services
Kaiser Group, Inc.

Revisit your past only to recognize how far you have come.
— Alan Cohen

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS...

WSSA is currently seeking volunteers who may be interested in coordinating the Regional Trainings provided by the organization. These trainings are held twice a year (Spring and Fall). If you or someone you know may be interested, please email Paula Hintze at phintze@kaisergroup.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

In the time of tight budgets, busy schedules, and other time constraints, WSSA needs your help. The survival of the organization is dependent on the strength of its members. Please share a copy of the *Update* with anyone that may be interested in participating in WSSA on any level. Even if you are unable to attend meetings, there are ways that you can help. Please help find others who may be willing to join the organization. We don't want to lose our voice in the state. To participate please contact:

Paula Hintze
Kaiser Group, Inc.
2312 Wisconsin St.
Oshkosh WI 54901
Phone: 920-410-7402



HISTORY OF WSSA GOLF OUTINGS

The WSSA golf outing is a social activity for members attending the annual conference. It is held on Wednesday morning, **BEFORE** the opening of the conference. It is an opportunity for all members – directors, county board members, social workers, economic support specialists, clerical, social work assistants and anyone working in the field of social work or spouses of members attending – to have some fun, network and meet new people. A person does not have to be a good golfer to sign up, and prizes are given out at the Wednesday night theme night.

On June 12, 2002, the WSSA First Annual Lou Rizzardi Memorial Golf outing was held in memory of Lou and his love of the game of golf. The 65th annual WSSA conference that year was held at the Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, and Rick Kane was President.

Lou was employed by Marinette County for over 43 years and upon retirement was awarded the State of Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award by Governor Tommy Thompson. In 1995, Lou received the WSSA Distinguished Service Award for his long and devoted affiliation with the Association. He also received the Membership Liaison Award that year. He was very active in WSSA, serving on numerous committees and would have celebrated his **50th** year as a WSSA member at the 2002 conference. Sadly, Lou Rizzardi died on October 30, 2001, at the age of 83.

I remember my first WSSA golf outing was at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, in 1996. Chuck Sekel was the WSSA President that year. I was “teamed” up with Tom Fuller (my husband) and Bill Maertz from Milwaukee County. That evening on Theme Night, I was surprised when my name was called, and I went to receive my award – a small trophy for “putting up” with Tom & Bill!! If my memory serves me correctly, I was the only female golfing that year. It was fun and if I can golf, anyone can golf in the WSSA golf outing!

I have not been able to find when the golf outings began, so if anyone has additional information as to how the golf outing tradition began, please contact Jaci Fuller at (715) 839-7866 or e-mail tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED: WSSA COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION APRIL 20TH AND BEYOND

Over the last couple of months several people have shown an interest in becoming more involved with WSSA and would like to participate in a committee. This is an invitation for you to attend and participate in their next meeting at the **Osthoff Resort on Friday April 20th, 2007**. The Executive Committee is meeting on April 19th, 2007 and executive committee members will be in attendance on Friday 4/20/07 to participate and help facilitate the committee meetings.

All the committees will be meeting **Friday April 20th at 9:30 AM**: (Please check out website for agendas and additional information or contact Paula Hintze phintze@kaisergrp.com / 920-410-7402)

- **Economic Support- Elderly, Blind and Disabled** – A representative from DHFS has been invited to speak with this group and provide updates and answer questions. As soon as this is confirmed it will be posted on our website.
- **Economic Support/ Workforce Development**
- **Constitution and Bylaw Revision and Resolutions**
- **Social/ Human Services**
- **Operations**
- **County/ State and Legislative**
- **Finance**
- **Long Term Support**

Please check out our website for more information about each committee. Also if you have an idea or an interest in an ad hoc committee (anyone interested in an Ad Hoc Children and Family Services Committee – in response to the proposed creation of a Wisconsin Department of Children and Family Services), please let me know.

Please contact me at phintze@kaisergrp.com or 920-410 7402 if you are attending on 4/20 and with which committee you would like to participate and meet. Also let me know if you are interested in participating in one of our committees but are unable to attend on Friday April 20 so we can add your name to the committee distribution list.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2006/07 committee members for the WSSA Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Resolutions Committee are:

David Zeller, South Central District
Sauk County DHS
PO Box 29
Baraboo WI 53913

Phone: 608-355-4205
Email: dzeller@co.sauk.wi.us

Faith Valenti, South Eastern District
4447 S Whitnall Avenue
St Francis WI 53235

Phone: 414-769-3261

Jaci Fuller, West Central District
7493 North Road
Eau Claire WI 54701

Phone: 715-839-7866
Email: tom-jaci@sbcglobal.net

The duties of the Committee, as outlined in the Bylaws, Article III, Section 4, c.2, are as follows:

- a. To originate and review resolutions from other committees or individual members relative to clarity, intent and disposition. All resolutions, to be acted on at the Annual Conference, 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.
- b. To prepare a final revision of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association for presentation at the Annual Conference Business Meeting.
- c. To review and take action on all matters pertaining to Constitutions and Bylaws revisions and resolutions referred by the Annual Conference or Executive Committee.
- d. To recommend to the Executive Committee reprinting of the Constitution and Bylaws at appropriate times.

The Committee meets on an as-needed basis to review amendments and/or resolutions. Business is also conducted via e-mail and/or telephone.

If any WSSA member would like to serve on this Committee, please contact one of the Committee members listed above.

WSSA CONFERENCE PICTURES

Recently, in going through historical records, I noticed that we are missing pictures from a few WSSA conferences.

The years missing are 1984; 1985; 1988; 1989; 1992 and 1994. If anyone has pictures of the above mentioned conferences and are willing to part with them, would you please send them to me at: Wood County Dept. of Social Services, P. O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Kathy Brown
WSSA Historian

ATTENTION ALL SOCIAL WORKERS

WSSA is again offering an Ethics and Boundaries Workshop on Wednesday, May 30th, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Sharon L. Boesl, Ph.D., LFMT, Sauk County will present this training and she will cover basic through advanced Social Work Ethics and Boundaries. This workshop is included in your full conference registration fee. The cost for this workshop if you will not be attending the Conference and Training Institute is \$40.00.

ATTENTION SOCIAL WORKERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Are you interested in some free training?? The DWD has created many distance learning opportunities for our staff but feel they can be of equal benefit to you and your staff.

Below is small snapshot of the courses available through DWD Learning Center which can be found at <https://wss.ccdet.uwosh.edu/stc/dwd>

- Introduction to Wisconsin Works (W-2)
- Introduction to Collaboration
- Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for W-2
- Strategies for Coping and Producing Under Stressful Conditions
- Snapshot of Income Maintenance and Workforce Development
- Supportive Services and Community Resources
- Introduction to Civil Rights

Information and directions in order for you to have access to these courses is as follows:

New Registration Profile

If you are not in our registration database, please submit a Learning Center Registration Profile form so the registration staff can enter your information and send you a Learning Center logon ID. On the DWD Learning Center home page, click on Registration Profile Form (the second paragraph in the Registration Profiles section). Print this profile, fill it out as completely as possible, and return it to the registration staff. After you are entered in the registration database, we will let you know your Learning Center logon ID.





On-Line Course Access

On-line courses may be taken at any time. In the DWD Learning Center, click on Training Catalog. Then click All Course Search. After Keyword Search, enter all or part of the course name. Select the course you wish to take.

For some on-line courses, you will see two tabs, Course Detail and Course Content.

Course Detail provides a description of the course, including the type of delivery method, overview, intended audience, prerequisites, and estimated time to complete the course.

Course Content provides a summary of your status in the course, earned score, time to complete the course, attempts, dates started/completed, whether it is required, the required score to pass the course, and the maximum time and attempts allowed. Some courses have multiple components; these components also appear under the Course Content tab. A component can be either required or not required (this is indicated by “Yes” or “No” next to the **Required** text).

One of two symbols will appear to the left of **Status** in each component. The  symbol means the content view for the component has not been expanded. The  symbol means the content view has been expanded. You can toggle between the  /  symbols.

Launching an Online Course

If this is the first time you access an online course, you will see “Start the Course” in the Course Content area, and “Start Course” in the upper right area of the screen. Clicking “Start the Course” beneath a specific course component allows you to access that component only. Clicking “Start Course” in the upper right area of the screen allows you to access the first component. After you complete the first component, the next component will launch automatically.

If you have completed some, but not all, of the course components, you will see “Restart the Course” in the Course Content area, and “Restart Course” or “Continue Course” in the upper right area of the screen. “Restart the Course” will be beneath the course component titles that you have already accessed, and “Start the Course” will be beneath the course component titles that you have not accessed. Clicking “Restart the Course” or “Start the Course” in these areas allows you to access that component only. Clicking “Restart Course” in the upper right area will start the course components over from the beginning. Clicking “Continue Course” will start the first course component that you have not accessed.

If you have any questions, please phone the Registration staff at 920-424-1071 or email to ptsreg@uwosh.edu.



CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ONLINE LEARNING?? CHECK OUT VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Virtual University is a member-supported global learning community. They rely on student membership fees and donations to keep this project alive. They have a US \$20.00 registration fee per term and students can take up to four courses concurrently. There are no “per class” tuition charges. Check them out at www.vu.org.

Our Association was contacted through our website by a News Anchor/ Reporter by the name of Vanessa Shirley. She has agreed to allow us to print her contact information and the email she sent to us in order for individuals and individual agencies to contact her. If you contact her, it would be regarding any issues or stories you felt needed attention but not as a representative of WSSA.

My name is Vanessa Shirley. I'm a reporter at WKOW-TV 27 News in Madison. I'm writing to see if you have a story or issue you think the public would be interested in hearing about. Please feel free to email or call me with any ideas or information.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Vanessa Shirley
27 News Anchor/Reporter
Cell: (608) 212-1368*

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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US Postage Paid
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Wisc Rapids WI

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



70th Annual WSSA Training Institute and Conference
May 30, 31 & June 1, 2007
Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI

Name _____ Job Title _____

Agency Name _____ County _____

Mailing Address _____

(this address is where you want your WSSA information (mailings) to be sent)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ check here if this is your home address

E-Mail Address _____ Phone # _____

If you want to receive further WSSA information via e-mail, check here _____

Is this your first conference? ___ Yes ___ No Are you a WSSA Agency Liaison ___ Yes ___ No

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Honorary Life Members – Free Registration

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| _____ Full Conference Registration | \$150.00 |
| _____ Full-Time Student – Full Conference Registration | \$ 75.00 |
| _____ One Day Attendance (All day Wed 5/30 or All day Thurs 5/31 ONLY) | \$100.00 |
| _____ Full-Time Student – One day attendance | \$ 50.00 |

(Above fees include: workshop, handouts, Ethics & Boundaries, and membership in WSSA)

Check here if you will be attending Ethics & Boundaries (Included in your registration)

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Ethics & Boundaries only | \$ 40.00 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|

(This workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm)

MEAL INFORMATION

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| _____ Full Meal Package (includes all meals listed below) | \$ 59.00 |
| _____ Theme Night Dinner | \$ 17.00 |
| _____ Breakfast | \$ 8.00 |
| _____ Past President's Luncheon | \$ 9.00 |
| _____ Awards Banquet (circle your preference below) | \$ 17.00 |

Roasted Chicken

Roasted Sliced Sirloin

Salmon

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| _____ Breakfast | \$ 8.00 |
|-----------------|----------------|

If you have any special dietary needs, please explain: _____

Total for Registration and Meals \$ _____

Complete **ONE** registration form for each person who will be attending the Training Institute. Mail the form(s) along with a check, money order or purchase order (no cash) made payable to WSSA by May 18, 2007 to:

Holly Jackson
207 W. Chippewa St.
Cadott WI 54727

Questions?-----Call 715-271-3476 e-mail: jacksonhm@voyager.net

Requests for refunds must be in writing and received no later than May 23, 2007 (substitutions accepted)