

## Conference Update

Conference Chairperson Donita Kaare reported that 420 attended the 30<sup>th</sup> annual IACEA conference, *Learning in the Land of Lincoln*, in honor of our 16<sup>th</sup> President's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many participants got their picture taken with our life-sized figure of *Honest Abe*. Twenty-six people enjoyed a trip to the Lincoln Museum. Fifty-one conference goers enjoyed the Legislative Advocacy session, which included a tour of the state capitol. Many were inspired by Bob Love's keynote address while others spoke highly of the Friday morning workshops. Neil Sturomski, Richard Cooper, and LeeAnn Piano provided interesting sessions from a national perspective and Libby Smith explained how to deal with crisis in our classrooms. In addition, 370 adult educators renewed their memberships to IACEA during March. It was an enriching and exciting three days and the feedback from conference goers has been overwhelmingly positive!

## Divisions Update

Vice President Vicki Hinkle reported that plans were finalized for the conference Division meetings. The Administration Division meeting focused on networking and sharing of best practices. Divisions will make meeting reports available on the website following the conference. These same reports will be sent to the funding agencies and the Service Center Network.

## Membership Update

Membership Chairperson Shari Crockett reported that the membership database has been transferred to *Filemaker Pro*, with the assistance of Todd Jorns at ICCB. The current pre-conference estimated membership is as follows: Region I: 204; Region II: 55; Region III: 88; Region IV: 69; and Region V: 120; for a total membership of 536. An updated number will be available once all memberships from the conference have been tabulated and reported.

## Scholarship Update

Chairperson Bill Ingwersen reported that the Davidson Memorial committee approved an application for a COABE Grant for Carla Raynor of Kishwaukee College.

## Nominations and Elections Update

At the IACEA spring, 2009 conference on March 4, 2009, Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee Laura Bercovitz introduced the following, newly-elected IACEA Board members for 2009-2010: President-Elect: Lyn Buerkett; Treasurer: Connie Frazier; Vice President for Divisions: Vicki Hinkle; Junior Division Chair for Administration: Becky Hale; Junior Division Chair for Support Services: Carol J. Gaa; Junior Division Chair for Instruction and Curriculum: Basic and Secondary: David Adcock; Junior Division Chair for Instruction and Curriculum: Directed Programs: Kathleen Long Kelly; Junior Director, Region I: Laura Bercovitz; Junior Director, Region II: Irene Birkholtz-Benter; Junior Director, Region III: Rose Park; Junior Director, Region IV: Lisa Carr; and Junior Director, Region V: Jane Alberter.

## Marketing Update

Marketing Chairperson Lyn Buerkett reported that the website design team assisted the committee in preparing the revised IACEA brochures that were distributed at the spring, 2009 conference. The committee also decided to order plastic holders for the brochures to distribute at the April, 2009 Administrators' meeting. Lyn reported that the Marketing Committee will work with Divisions, Membership, and the Legislative committees to design a presentation for the April Administrators' meeting to boost membership among administrators and their staff members.

The committee also discussed how best to market what IACEA does, being mindful that the association is directed toward educators. This includes marketing to advisory councils, program directors, administrators, and program instructors and staff with the message that "we are here for you."

David Baker of the website design team also sent ideas for a possible redesign to the association's webpage, including more pictures. Additionally, the committee discussed the possibility of embedding pictures throughout the website.

## **Finance Update**

Chairperson June Hickey reported that insurance has been paid for the Board of Directors and officer's liability. The event insurance has also been paid but will be studied for the future.

## **Awards Update**

Chairperson Marilyn Schmidt reported that there were multiple nominations for each award and final decisions regarding award recipients would be made by February 20, 2009 for formal presentation at the conference awards luncheon on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

## **Legislative Update**

Co-chairperson Joyce Fritsch and IACEA's Legislative Consultant Larry Stuffle reported on their efforts to focus on maintaining state funding levels and concentrate advocacy efforts with the Governor, other top legislative leaders, and budget negotiators.

Letters were sent to all program directors encouraging them to address the impact of the 2.5% budget rescissions and late payments. The committee is also working on an organization letter congratulating Governor Quinn. Co-chairperson John Muirhead will update the spreadsheet of programs and their legislative districts. The Legislative Committee also added an IACEA's Past-President's reception to the conference and invited Governor Quinn and influential legislators. Finally, the Board approved the presentation of an award to retiring Senator Frank Watson of Greenville to recognize his contribution to education in the State of Illinois across his long years of service in the state legislature.

## **ACEPAC Update**

Treasurer Len Dirksen reported that the license for the 50/50 drawing at the spring conference had been received. He also reported a balance in the checking account of \$4,000.00. Chairperson Hickey distributed the new ACEPAC membership form and encouraged all members of the Board to join.

## **Site Selection Update**

Chairperson Vicki Hinkle reported that the contract with the Springfield Hilton has been signed for the 2011 annual spring conference.

## **GED Testing Update**

Chairperson Shari Crockett reported on the GED Testing Committee's conference call meeting on January 28, 2009. The discussion addressed a statewide marketing initiative with the Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) to highlight high GED test scores, an effort to identify the three top committee priorities, and a review and evaluation of the GED practice test and how it is used.

## **ISBE Early Childhood Division, Even Start Update**

ISBE Liaison Cindy Zumwalt provided the following information to the Board: the FY 2009 Federal Appropriation for Even Start is \$66 million, supporting seventeen programs (sixteen fewer than FY 2008): thirteen continuing programs, two first-year programs, and two fifth-year programs; Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend program funding for FY 2009 through March 6, 2009 at FY 2008 levels; The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress may choose to extend the CR through the rest of this year or they may draft a new budget for the remainder of the year; thirteen programs that are currently in their 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> years will not be funded: letters were sent to these programs on January 26, 2009 and these programs must compete in the RFP process if future funding is desired. If Even Start remains at level funding (\$66 million), there will be approximately \$1,800,000 available for FY 2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> year programs. FY 2010 Even Start Family Literacy RFPs were released on January 30, 2009 and were due back on April 2, 2009. The RFP included the following statement: "In the event that these funds do not become available to ISBE, no proposals submitted under this RFP will be funded."

## **Illinois State Library Literacy Office Update**

President Humphreys distributed copies of Liaison Cyndi Colletti's report that included the following information: FY 2010 Adult Literacy Grant Applications are available and the applications are due back with a postmark or commercial receipt of 4/15/09; Online Volunteer Tutor Training (OLTT) was launched statewide on January 23, 2009 to all Secretary of State-funded Adult Volunteer Literacy programs; *Spotlight on Achievement and Service* nominations were requested by March 5, 2009. These awards recognize outstanding achievements made by adult literacy students and by adult literacy volunteer tutors. Awards will be presented May 13, 2009 at the Illinois State Library; and the National Assessment of Adult Literacy Report was released.

## **COABE/ProLiteracy/IACEA Conference Update**

Co-chair Marilyn Schmidt updated the Board regarding next year's joint national conference in Chicago. The joint COABE/ProLiteracy/IACEA conference will be held at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Avenue. The conference will begin with pre-conference sessions on Monday, March 15, 2010 and will end on Friday, March 19, 2010. This joint conference will also serve as IACEA's annual spring conference for 2010. This conference will be an exciting opportunity for professional development for adult education in Illinois. The COABE/ProLiteracy/IACEA Conference co-chairs are Laura Bercovitz, Vicki Hinkle, Kendra Humphreys, and Marilyn Schmidt.

Marilyn further reported that the co-chairs have met with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, hotel staff, and representatives from COABE and ProLiteracy. Co-chair Laurie Bercovitz and Lyn Buerkett, Exhibitor Committee Chair, are working on exhibitors' packets and Co-chair Kendra Humphreys and IL Event Committee Chair Judy Bates are working on the pre-conference event in Louisville. Kendra Humphreys is also working on the IL booth with Shari Crockett to introduce COABE conference participants to Chicago and Illinois. Co-chair Vicki Hinkle is working on the call for presentations. Sub-committees also held planning meetings at the spring, 2009 IACEA conference. Donations for the baskets to be given away at the event are being discussed. Invitations to speak are being sent to First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden.

The Board authorized the opening of accounts for the purpose of the COABE/ProLiteracy/IACEA conference. Authorized signers on those accounts are the following: Connie Frazier, Treasurer, IACEA; Joyce Fritsch, Treasurer, IACEA/COABE/ProLiteracy Conference; and Donita Kaare, IACEA President-elect. Account transactions shall require one (1) signature. The Board also approved the purchase of a printer for photos not to exceed \$100.00.

## **IACEA Board Meeting Dates for Next Year**

The Board meeting dates for next year are the following:

**September 10 & 11, 2009**

**November 12 & 13, 2009**

**January 28 & 29, 2010**

**March 15, 2010**

**April 15 & 16, 2010**

**June 24 & 25, 2010**

## **GED-i Update**

Liaison Crystal Hack reported that *GED-i* is looking to work with small national program partners starting in 2009. Past partnerships have been with very large programs or entire states to partner with nationally. This has resulted in partnerships beyond Illinois with the State of Washington, Central Piedmont Community College in North Carolina, Maryland, and Minnesota. *GED-i* has had so many small program inquiries over the past several years that the *GED-i* National Committee decided to begin to market a small program partnership opportunity.

Illinois is beginning to see a return on its investment. This year, national program partnership funds have adjusted in offsetting the cost of several new *GED-i* resources that will be introduced to administrators at the spring ICCB Administrators' meeting.

The *GED-i* team is looking to do several things in 2009-2010. Downloadable, printable math worksheets were recently added. In 2009-2010, it is expected that downloadable, printable writing worksheets will be available. The team is also working on electronic math flashcards and several other new resources to support *GED-i* online learning efforts.

## **New Business Update**

President Humphreys reported that, by unanimous consent, it was decided to keep the association's old digital camera for back-up use. The Board also approved a motion to pay travel expenses for Legislative Committee Co-chairperson Joyce Fritsch to attend Capitol Hill Day in Washington, D.C.

## **Legislative Awareness Day Update**

Chairperson Val Harris reported that Tuesday, March 24, 2009 had been designated as Legislative Awareness Day at the Illinois State Capitol.

**Get involved!**

**Add your voice and join *IACEA*  
*The Voice of Adult Education*  
*In Illinois!***