



AESA celebrates exciting year of service

by Bill McKinney, AESA President

The Association of Educational Service Agencies prides itself on being an organization of just that—service. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your 2005-2006 president. The opportunity to work with this outstanding group of committed service agency executives has been a most rewarding and humbling experience.

Sincere appreciation must be expressed to the great leaders who offer their time and expertise to assure the success of our association's many endeavors. I am most grateful for all that past president Tim Gavigan did to set the stage for my presidency. Doug Garman, conference chair for the 2006 annual conference, did an outstanding job with the Savannah conference. AESA Foundation chair Ron Fielder oversaw a very successful CEO conference last July and we are looking forward to an expanded conference this July in Portland, Oregon. Additionally the AESA Foundation, after sponsoring the first pre-conference seminar for board members at the 2005 annual conference, has accepted responsibility for providing board training at future annual pre-conference sessions. With all the new AESA programs and projects, we are looking forward to the outstanding leadership of Lee Warne as president during 2006-2007.

AESA's Membership Services Committee has been busy expanding and creating programs to better serve you. Membership services also coordinated the regional breakfasts and the first timers' orientation at the annual conference in Savannah. The regional breakfasts enjoyed

their most successful year, with participation increasing dramatically, and the successful first timers' orientation looks to become an

annual conference tradition. The Executives in Residence program has grown from two to five participants per year under the leadership of past president Twyla Barnes.

The Business Relationships Committee has successfully enhanced AESA's posture in the business arena. This past year business memberships have grown from 52 to 61. We now have eight business partnerships with two new partnerships, Office Max and Liberty Mutual, on the verge of being officially announced, giving a current total of ten business partners. A number of other businesses have recently engaged AESA in initial conversations to consider partnerships.

New opportunities are helping AESA make steady progress toward financial stability. The organization has received its revenue historically from two sources, membership dues and the annual conference. This revenue stream has now expanded to include business memberships, business partnerships, and grants. AESA is excited to have received full funding for a U.S. Department of Education grant entitled "Supplemental Educational Services in Rural Schools."

AESA, as the national voice for ESAs, is increasingly seen as the

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Editor: Kelly LaGrutta
kellag@msn.com

Executive Council

President: Lee Warne

President-Elect: Douglas Garman

Past President: Bill McKinney

Central Region

Joseph Crozier

Iowa (319) 753-6561

Richard Lane

Michigan (989) 249-8701

Lee Warne

Minnesota (507) 537-2240

Eastern Region

Douglas Garman

Ohio (419) 354-9010

Joan Schuman

Massachusetts (413) 586-4900

Robert Witten

Pennsylvania (570) 523-1155

Southern Region

Linda Lowe

North Carolina (910) 296-0228

Judith Miller

Mississippi (601) 484-0301

Rick Saunders

Arkansas (870) 246-3077

Western Region

Dale McCall

Colorado (303) 722-4420

Bill McKinney

Texas (713) 744-6534

Terry Munther

Washington (509) 789-3800

Edward Schmitt

Oregon (503) 257-1504

Staff

Brian Talbott, Executive Director
(703) 875-0739

Kari Arfstrom, Assoc. Director
(703) 875-0739

Peter Young, Financial Officer
(203) 481-4063

Southern region hosts first summit

More than seventy directors, senior staff members, and business sponsors gathered April 6-8 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the first Southern Region ESA Summit. Representatives from eight of the 12 southern states participated in the three-day event hosted by the Dawson Educational Cooperative (Arkadelphia, Arkansas) and East Mississippi Center for Educational Development (Meridian, Mississippi). Co-chairs for the summit were Rick Saunders and Judith Miller. "The goal of the summit was to share promising ESA strategies," said Miller.

Southern Region council members developed the summit in response to requests made at the national conference regional breakfast in Savannah and on the membership services survey. "Since we are the newest region of AESA, the Southern Region members felt it was important for us to get to know one another and learn about our similarities and differences and how we can work together," Miller added.

The summit opened Thursday evening with a welcome reception and dinner sponsored by Educational Material Specialists and Riverside Publishing Company. Special guests included AESA executive director, Brian Talbott; AESA chief financial officer, Peter Young; Arkansas K-12 commissioner Ken James; and Mississippi K-12 deputy superintendent, Martez Hill.

A state-by-state exchange was held on Friday morning with representatives presenting an executive summary on their ESAs' governance, financial structure, and services. Each state also discussed their top three state and Federal concerns.

A networking reception and dinner sponsored by Scientific Learning and Promethean was held at the Clinton Presidential Center on Friday evening. Dr. Searetha Smith-Collins, executive vice-president of Syfr Corporation and author of *Road to Wisdom, Plain and Simple*, was the keynote speaker. Summit attendees also participated in a variety of breakout sessions conducted by area ESAs on accountability, leadership, school improvement, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The 2008 Southern Region Summit will be hosted by the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PEAC) in Panama City, Florida. Florida representatives (pictured right) participating in the 2006 summit included (left to right): Tony Anderson, executive director; and Paula Waller, Sharon Mitchell, and Rick Everitt.



Judith Miller welcomes Mark Elliot, president of Promethean-US Operations, to the Little Rock summit.



Executives in Residence program launches year three

AESA is proud to announce this year's participants of the Executives in Residence program, a year-long course on professional development for ESA leaders. The purpose of the program is to offer future superintendents of ESAs the opportunity to network, communicate, and spend a week or more interning at prominent agencies around the nation.

This year's cohort members include: Michael Lasher, chief operating officer, Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District, Pendleton, Oregon; Dennis Mathews, associate superintendent, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, Washington; Tim Merlino, chief financial officer, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, Washington; Patty Shafer, senior director, Region 4 ESC, Houston, Texas; and Julie Staley, Federal programs manager, Southeast Regional Resource Center, Juneau, Alaska.

Twyla Barnes, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, Washington; and Ron Hitchcock, Multnomah Education Service District, Portland, Oregon; will serve as facilitators.

If your agency would like to nominate someone for next year's program, please attend the Executives in Residence concurrent session at the annual conference in Palm Desert, California. Information also will be posted on the AESA Web site at www.aesa.us.

AESA celebrates service (continued from cover)

"go-to" organization in public education. One of the most influential educational groups in the United States, AESA's reach is nationwide, serving over 550 service agencies in 44 states. Approximately 15 states are currently exploring strengthening ESAs through their statutes, and these states have sought AESA as their resource in enhancing their ESAs' purposes. With an increasing national presence, an expanding relationship with businesses, a growing number of services for members, and a commitment to achieving financial stability, it is an exciting time to be a part of AESA!

AESA council positions now open

Executive council nominations are now open!

AESA is your voice at the national level. By linking the local, regional, and national activities into a strong network representing ESAs throughout the country, we have become one of the most influential educational groups in America. This success has been the direct result of outstanding leadership on the AESA Executive Council.

AESA is governed by a 12/13-member body including 12 council members and the immediate past president. The past president, depending on whether he or she was elected in the third or fourth year of his or her term, will either be the 12th or the 13th member.

Council candidates are nominated by region, but elected by national vote. If there are more than two nominees from a given region, a regional election will be held to determine the two finalists to be placed on the national ballot.

In order to maintain 12 council members and have four-year terms of office, each region elects council members three out of four years.

This year the Eastern Region has the bye and will not have a nominee. These states will, however, have the opportunity to vote in the general election.

States in the **Eastern Region** include: Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The following regions may submit nominations for council this year.

States in the **Central Region** include: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

States in the **Southern Region** include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

States in the **Western Region** include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Following the above regional delineation, nominations for specific positions must be submitted by filling out an AESA nomination form. All nominations and biographical statements are due at the AESA office on or before September 8, 2006. All nomination materials can be found on the AESA Web site at www.aesa.us.

Nominations open for national awards program recognizing contributions to ESAs

AESA is proud to support three national awards to recognize outstanding contributions to ESAs as follows:

Justus A. Prentice Award

This award recognizes an individual for contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of ESA programs at the regional, state, and national levels. Nominees have included past or present ESA executives and staff. Criteria include: advancement of the goals and philosophies of ESAs, outstanding accomplishments and innovative practices, exercise of leadership, and service to ESAs.

Walter G. Turner Award

This award recognizes an individual citizen who has made outstanding contributions in the advancement of ESA programs at the regional, state and/or national levels. Nominees could include board members, state/national legislators, and local/state/national educators, and professional association staff. Criteria include: advancement of the goals and philosophies of ESAs, outstanding accomplishments and innovative practices, exercise of leadership, and service to the ESA community.

E. Robert Stephens Award

This award recognizes an individual for research, writing, and/or publishing of information that advances the understanding of ESA programs at the regional, state, and national levels. The work(s) may include, but is (are) not limited to articles, monographs, dissertations, a book chapter, or a book. Nominees could include any individual whose work(s) meet the intent of this award. Criteria include: advancement of goals and philosophies of ESAs, scholarly nature of the work(s), and impact of the research writing(s) and/or publication(s) on ESAs.

Nomination Process

Nominations must be postmarked by August 25, 2006, and recipients will be recognized at the AESA annual conference in Palm Desert, California, November 19 to December 2, 2006. Application forms are available online at www.aesa.us or by mail upon request by contacting the AESA office at (703) 875-7039. Awards are based on merit and may or may not be given annually.

CALENDAR of events

Summer CEO Leadership Conference

Monday-Thursday, July 24-27, 2006

Portland, Oregon

The AESA Foundation will once again host the summer event not to be missed. For CEOs and their key staff members, the theme is balanced leadership and how ESAs throughout the country are incorporating this concept within their agencies and districts.

Tim Waters, president and CEO of Mid-continental Research for Education and Learning (McREL), has conducted extensive research and will speak on this topic.

Educators' Call to Action: Federal Advocacy Conference

Wednesday-Friday, September 13-15, 2006

Washington, DC

Congress will be deciding on important spending bills during this time and your voice is needed to ensure that education is funded at levels that will make a significant impact. Also hear about changes to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Perkins Vocational Education Act, the Higher Education bill, and the E-rate program; as well as early childhood education practices.

AESA Annual Conference

Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2006

Desert Springs J.W. Marriott Resort & Spa

Palm Desert, California

The only conference dedicated to educational service agencies; from board members, CEOs, and staff. Dozens of concurrent sessions by ESAs will be presented, visit with exhibitors and other agencies, and hear from insightful keynote speakers. Throw in a few special events and this is one conference you cannot afford to miss!

AESA room reservation policy: All rooms must be reserved in the name of the person who will be staying in the room. If you have a group of ten or more attendees, you will be required to sign an affiliate agreement when you register. This affiliate agreement outlines payment and cancellation procedures. Please call Joe Martinez at (760) 341-1820 to arrange for the affiliate agreement. Reserving rooms, and when necessary canceling rooms, is the responsibility of the individual or ESA making the arrangements.

More information regarding these events may be found at: www.aesa.us.