

AESA NEWS

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Association of Educational Service Agencies

October 2003

Don't miss out! Register today for the AESA national conference, December 3-6, 2003

There is only one

There is only one national conference dedicated solely to educational service agencies (ESAs). The 2003 AESA annual conference will address the unique characteristics of ESAs, including interaction with customer districts, state agencies, and federal agencies. Other national conferences may offer a few sessions about service agencies; only AESA offers a complete conference focused on ESAs, recognizing the critical role of ESAs today in providing high quality, cost-effective support programs for local school districts and campuses. With the *No Child Left Behind Act* and the increased demand to improve student achievement and ensure accountability, opportunities for ESAs to be leaders of innovation are greater than ever. Whether you are a veteran of the annual conference or new to this event, you will find opportunities to share and learn. So leverage your resources...receive a return on your investment...make a difference by attending and participating in the 2003 AESA annual conference.

Register now

On December 3-6, come explore the possibilities and discover the opportunities at the AESA 2003 Annual Conference, Exhibition, & Showcase in Marco Island, Florida. Everyone is invited to be involved—CEOs, ESA staff, and board members. Spouses and guests are also welcome to register and attend. Registration and conference details are available at www.aesa.us.

Conference highlights

Conference highlights include an Internet café, vendor exhibitions, ESA showcases, product workshops, and regional breakfasts. General sessions feature keynote addresses by futures researcher **Dr. Peter Bishop**, who specializes in long-term forecasting and planning and will

focus on emerging trends and the future of ESAs; 2002 National Teacher of the Year **Dr. Chauncey Veatch**, whose commitment to the classroom and success with students from migrant families is an inspiration to leave no child behind; and Iowa Department of Education director **Dr. Ted Stilwill**, whose vision for ESAs and passion for ensuring high standards of performance for every child has helped establish a reputation for excellence in education for the state of Iowa.



Article provided by Bill McKinney, AESA council member and conference chair at Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, Texas.

Special events

Take the opportunity to register for special events such as the Thursday night dinner and entertainment, golf, and several exciting tours. Please be sure to make hotel reservations by November 1 to receive the conference rate.

A word of thanks

A special note of appreciation goes to all of the underwriters for this year's annual conference. Their outstanding contributions enable much lower conference costs for members. Without their generous support, registration fees would easily escalate.

So join the adventure! Come to Marco Island, Florida, and investigate the best educational products and services available...examine dilemmas and decisions confronting ESAs...discover inspiring solutions. Experience the AESA 2003 Annual Conference & Exposition...your best choice.

AESA NEWS

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Primary election candidates Eastern Region

Doug Garman

Dr. Douglas Garman is the superintendent of the Wood County Educational Service Center located in Bowling Green, Ohio. In addition to providing leadership for the school districts in Wood County, Doug has also served as president of the Ohio Educational Service Center Association. Additionally, Doug served as president of the Northwest Ohio Association of School Administrators as well as serving on numerous State Department of Education advisory councils. As a community leader, Doug has served on the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, the Wood County Family and Children First Council, and the Wood County Juvenile Court Advisory Council.

Doug Garman has a proven track record as a leader who has enhanced the community in which he lives and works. Many of the community and professional organizations have come to rely on Doug's expertise to move them forward. Doug would be an excellent addition to the AESA executive council.



Eastern Region

Linda O. Rhen

Linda O'Connor Rhen, Ed.D., is serving in her sixth year as executive director of Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit, one of Pennsylvania's 29 ESAs providing a variety of educational and support services to 22 school districts with a student population of 89,000. IU 13 continues to grow, with its staff now 1300, and budget doubling in eight years, due to increased service requests from school districts and other clients. She credits teamwork, an entrepreneurial spirit, high quality staff and support from member districts for the IU's success.

Linda began her career as an IU speech therapist, directed statewide initiatives, was director of Pennsylvania Department of Education's Technical Assistance Division and served in other leadership roles at IU 13. AESA activities include: federal relations committee, AESA conference presentations, and providing information and analysis for legislative meetings to support AESA positions. Pennsylvania's Association of IUs supports her nomination; she is past-president.



Primary council for Eastern and

Our AESA bylaws state in Section 4.3 *there shall be a primary election in* AESA has four regions. Our bylaws have a bye once every four years. This year there will have primary elections in the west and the Eastern Educational Service Cooperative in Arkadelphia at the general election.

For the primary elections, only the states where the candidates are Doug Garman, superintendent of Wood County; Linda Rhen, executive director of Lancaster-Lebanon; and Joan Schuman, executive director of Hampshire Intermediate Unit. In the Western Region the candidates are R. Stephen Aguirre, executive director of New Mexico; Dale McCall, executive director of Yavapai County Education Service Center.

The primary election ballots will be mailed to members of the AESA.

Eastern Region

Joan E. Schuman

Joan Schuman has been executive director of Hampshire Intermediate Unit. Previously, she held key positions with the Massachusetts Department of Education (appointment as the department's first female in 1974-1981), and director of the Central Massachusetts Intermediate Unit where she provided leadership in implementing model program development.

From 1999-2001, Dr. Schuman served as executive director of Educational Collaboratives, successfully providing services in Massachusetts. A member of AESA since 1999.

During her 38 years as an educator, Dr. Schuman has been an international, national, state and local community leader.

Western Region

R. Stephen Aguirre

As the executive director of High Plains Regional Educational Service Center, my mission is to provide the highest quality educational services to the community to develop an agency that provides services to the community. My mission is to provide the highest quality educational services to the community.

Accomplishments/responsibilities:

- Leading the state by coordinating state and best practices in literacy institutions
- Providing quality services, technical and ancillary services for regional districts
- Sponsoring and implementing local teaching strategies, behavior management, law, and more. The number of participants
- Recipient of significant grants including TLCP-Teachers Teaching Teachers
- New Mexico representative to RCCA
- Member, IDEA council, New Mexico

Council elections slated for Western regions

"If there are more than two nominees for a council position in a region, that region."

call for four-year terms of office for council members and each region will have one nominee. The Central Region has the bye and will not have a nominee. This year we have one nominee in the Eastern Region. In the Southern Region Ricky Saunders, director of the Dawson School District, Arkansas, is running unopposed and will only run in the December election.

In the Eastern and Western regions will be voting. In the Eastern Region the nominees are: Robert J. Smith, superintendent of Wood County Educational Service Center, Bowling Green, Ohio; Robert L. Lebanon, superintendent of Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13, East Petersburg, Pennsylvania; and Joan M. Gagnon, superintendent of the Massachusetts Educational Collaborative in North Hampton, Massachusetts. In the Western Region the nominees are: Robert Aguirre, director of High Plains Regional Education Cooperative, Raton, Colorado; Dale McCall, executive director of Centennial BOCES, Longmont, Colorado; and Paul N. Street, superintendent of Prescott, Arizona. The election will be held out in early October.

of the Hampshire Educational Collaborative since 1993. She has worked for the Massachusetts Department of Education, including as the manager (director of the Bureau of Student Services, Massachusetts Regional Education Center, 1981-1991), implementing education reform within 120 school districts. She has worked in areas of legislation, board of education policy, and



president of the Massachusetts Organization of Education Service Agencies promoting legislation that will increase the role of education service agencies. From 1996, she has served on the legislative committee since 1998. She has served in leadership positions on several boards representing community issues.

ional Education Cooperative, I have had the opportunity to provide services/support to eight school districts in New Mexico. These are rural areas where no children are left behind.



statewide projects including positive behavior support projects, technical assistance for federal programs, and coordinating projects.

l, regional, and statewide professional development activities in effective management, leadership, reading research and assessment, special education. The number of participants attending workshops has increase 380 percent since 2001. The Center for Community Technology Center, Transition To Teaching, Goals 2000, and others.

Primary election candidates Western Region

Dale McCall

Dr. Dale McCall is executive director of the Centennial BOCES in Colorado. The BOCES has 120 employees with an annual budget of \$13.5 million, serving 11 districts and 50,000 students in Northern Colorado. Dale has



degrees from Colorado State University and has worked as a teacher, principal, state specialist, district administrator, superintendent and executive director for 34 years.

Dale served as president of the Colorado BOCES Association, on the Board of Directors and legislative cochair for six years. He has participated in the national AESA conferences since 1966 and served on the Federal Relations Committee for five years.

Dale believes the role of educational service agencies will continue to grow and AESA should continue influencing federal legislation; serve as a strong voice for ESAs with the US Department of Education, Congress and state educational agencies along with providing professional development, technical assistance and legislative advocacy for ESAs.

Western Region

Paul N. Street

Dr. Paul N. Street has spent his career in all areas of public education, from classroom teacher to associate superintendent of public instruction for the state of Arizona. He has served on the Arizona State Board of Education, the State Board for Charter



Schools, and has been elected three times to the office of Yavapai County School Superintendent, the position he now holds. He has served as president of the National Rural Education Association and president of the Arizona Association of County School Superintendents. He is a cofounder of the Arizona Small and Rural School Association. He was active and influential with the passage of legislation that established education service agencies in Arizona.

Dr. Street was recently inducted into the Arizona Educators' Hall of Fame at Northern Arizona University and, in addition, has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Administrator Award from the Arizona School Administrators.

Educator's Call to Action a great success

AESA hosted its annual legislative conference on September 10-12, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel. With such close proximity to the House and Senate office buildings, regional and local superintendents, as well as board members and other key staff, made their way through the hallowed halls and the impact of their advocacy work was pronounced with the unanimous passage of Dodd/Hagel/Jeffords amendment allowing for an additional \$1.2 billion of IDEA in the education appropriations process.

On Thursday, attendees were welcomed by conference chairman David Calchera and AESA president Joe Marinelli. They then chose between various break-out sessions before heading to the Hill for appointments with their senators and representatives. Session topics included: education appropriations, where they heard about last minute deal making including the amendment for additional funds for special education; and update on IDEA and predicted changes to that law; a session on a myriad of educational topics such as Head Start/Early Childhood, the Higher Education Act, the School Lunch Program, Perkins Vocational Education; and an informal "how to" session for first-timers visiting Congressional offices.

Friday was an information-filled day starting with a very informative legal update provided by Maya Kobersy with the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, LLP. Susan Sclafani, AESA liaison and counselor to Secretary Paige hosted a U.S. Department of Education panel discussion, which included Robert Pasternack, assistant secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Service; Hans Meeder, deputy assistant secretary, Office of Adult and Vocational Education; and Doug Mescar, chief of staff to Ron Tomalis, acting assistant secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. For copies of the Power Point presentations for either the legal update of the IDEA session, or links to the documents mentioned by the USED panel, please go to: www.aesa.us/Legis/leg_news.html.

Closing the conference was a panel made up of enterprising ESA directors discussing what their agencies have done to assist their local districts with the implementation of NCLB. All conference participants entered into a lively discussion. The panelists were: William Mayes, Huron ISD, Bad Axe, MI; Linda Rhen, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13, East Petersburg, PA; Joan E. Schuman, Hampshire Educational Collaborative,

AESA thanks partners

AESA would like to thank our partners HP and Microsoft for their generous product donations the past few weeks.

HP recently donated two new servers and three new laptops to AESA. The servers will be used in the very near future to move AESA onto our own e-mail system—look for new e-mail addresses in the near future! The new servers will also enable AESA staff to easily coordinate schedules and meetings from around the country. In addition, the new servers will enable AESA to make regular backups of data and provide new and exciting services to members.

Microsoft donated operating systems for all five machines, plus copies of Microsoft Office and a variety of applications for our servers. This software, which includes some of Microsoft's latest products, will allow us to make use of the new servers and laptops.

These donations came on the heels of the gift of two laptops from Apple Computer earlier this year. Having the capability to use both Windows and Macintosh platforms will help facilitate our communications with educators around the country and ensure that our offerings are accessible to AESA staff regardless of the platform used in their agencies.

The new donations also will allow AESA to bring better and faster services to you, our members, and will enable AESA staff to work more closely together when spread all over the country. In addition, these donations will be the springboard for a number of new projects aimed at keeping ESAs closely connected with the federal government and with each other. It's going to take AESA a little while to install and configure all the new equipment, but look for more information (including new e-mail addresses for AESA staff) in the coming months.

HP, Microsoft, and Apple Computer are all longtime supporters of education service agencies in general, and of AESA in particular, and have a long history of generosity towards our community. AESA thanks them all for their continuing support and generosity.

Northampton, MA; and moderated by conference chairman David Calchera, EASTCONN RESC, Hampton, CT.

Please join your colleagues next year for this important legislative meeting September 15-17, 2004, at a Capitol Hill hotel. More information will soon be available on the AESA Web site at www.aesa.us.