



CURRENTS

From the President



Andy Tyskiewicz

Inside this issue:

COABE Annual Meeting	2
Chattanooga Choo Choo	3
From The Field	4
Membership	5
Membership Benefits	5
Bulletin Board	6
Tidbits and Endnotes	7

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year. The upcoming year will be full of challenges for our local programs given the economy and funding cutbacks at all levels. The jobs agenda remains critical as the need to grow the economy and put people to work is paramount. The importance of work, whether more traditional or based in entrepreneurial circles, cannot be underestimated as a key to self esteem.

“Literacy to Work” is the theme of our 2011 Conference in San Francisco. We will again offer an extensive array of sessions designed for your professional development needs. I want to extend my gratitude to the conference organizers and committee from our partner, the California Council on Adult Education. CCAE has done a terrific job of organizing and designing what will be another successful joint conference with COABE. The conference program will offer pre-conference, concurrent, plenary, and roundtable type sessions which will offer a variety of learning opportunities.

The purpose of the conference is professional development and capacity building. However, as we are all aware, another dimension of our work has taken a prominent position during the planning of this conference. That dimension is ad-

vocacy and student empowerment. Unfortunately, a labor dispute has erupted between the union that represents hotel workers and an array of hotels, one of which is the Hilton, our host hotel. We were made aware of this situation during the summer of 2010. As we have posted on our website, a contract negotiated in 2008 is in effect with the Hilton and COABE/CCAIE. We sincerely hope that any disagreement can be settled between the union and our host hotel to the satisfaction of all parties involved, providing workers with acceptable wages and working conditions and continuing to maintain a viable climate for business. We continue to monitor the situation and provide you with updates on our website including contact information for the hotel which is available on our home page at www.coabe.org.

COABE continues to be contacted by many national commercial companies regarding potential partnerships. Although we are limited by the volunteer nature of our organization, we continue to follow up and investigate collaborations that will enhance services to our members. These arrangements may initially provide product discounts and set the stage for inventive strategies to meet the needs of our students.

The talents and expertise of our members are varied and provide COABE with extensive development opportunities in the training and technical assistance arenas. A future goal of ours is to facilitate this exchange of expertise. As a national convener or coordinator of our local talent, COABE can help solve local problems and be instrumental in program improvement.

As we move into 2011, I am reminded of the words of our friend and leader, Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, whom I had the pleasure of speaking with in Connecticut early last summer. Her presentation to a local leadership group representing all facets of government and education was hopeful as she reinforced federal efforts to close the gap between education and labor and to streamline our funding sources. If our mission is to indeed help individuals succeed in their roles as workers, parents and citizens, then we will need resources that are flexible and complementary. As a member of the National Coalition of Literacy, COABE is part of national efforts to enable local programs to deliver excellence in programming. It is excellence in programming that COABE is about. Excellence that moves students forward and keeps educators smiling. See you in San Francisco.

Dateline COABE

- COABE Board of Directors Meeting, April 16, 2011, San Francisco,, CA
- COABE Annual Conference, April 17—21, 2011, San Francisco, CA
- COABE Annual Conference, 2012, Norfolk, VA

California, Here We Come! COABE 2011 Meets April 17 - 21 in San Francisco. Theme is "Literacy to Work"

Join adult education professionals and students from across the country for this joint national conference sponsored jointly by the California Council for Adult Education (CCAEC) and the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE), April 17-21, 2011 in San Francisco, California.

Pre-conferences will begin on Sunday, April 17, with the opening session on Monday, April 18. The **state association preconference** (our first ever for presidents of state associations) will take

place on April 17 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.. All activities will be held in the beautiful Hilton San Francisco Hotel Union Square on O'Farrell Street.

Plans are being finalized for an outstanding list of guest speakers, thought provoking and high quality breakout sessions, and exciting activities to explore the amazing city of San Francisco.

We look forward to seeing you there!

In addition to enjoying the very best in professional develop-

ment for adult educators, you will have the opportunity to meet the national leaders in adult education; applaud the 2011 award winners; and gather with your peers to discuss common interests and issues. The focus on *literacy to work* is timely and makes this a conference not to be missed!

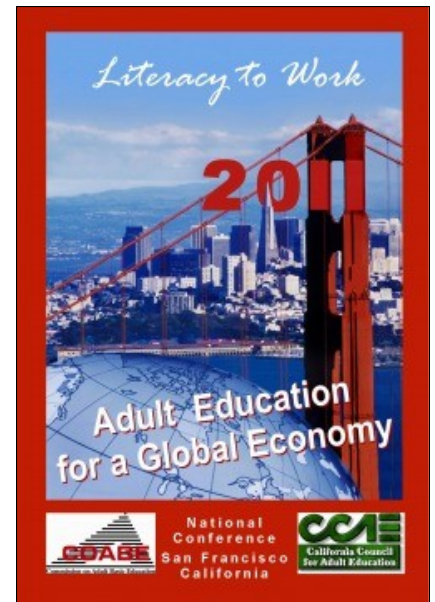
COABE awarded 50 conference registration mini grants for \$350 each this year, due to special funding provided by Dollar General. In addition, we are offering 5 student scholarships, thanks to our new partner, GED Academy, and one \$1000 scholarship, thanks to an endowment from NIFL.

The presentation ceremony is a beautiful event which is a highlight of the annual conference!

COABE Awards to be Presented

COABE's prestigious awards include the Edgar M. Easley Outstanding Adult Education Teacher of the Year; the Outstanding Student of the year; the Outstanding Administrator of the Year; the Kenneth J. Mattran Award for National or Interna-

tional Service to Adult Education; The Chester Klevins Award for Outstanding Workplace Literacy project; and the Partner in Adult Learning Services award. Every year, the COABE organization honors outstanding leaders in the adult education field.



Visit the conference website at www.ccaecoabe2011.com for complete conference agenda and hotel and registration information.



Conference Hotel is Hilton San Francisco Hotel Union Square on O'Farrell Street. Make reservations now!

Chattanooga Choo Choo COABE Regional Institute A Success!

Co-sponsored by Dollar General and TAACE

COABE's Region 3 Choo-Choo Institute, hosted by the Tennessee Association of Adult and Community Education (TAACE), offered an additional opportunity for staff development in many varied areas. It was attended by 196 adult educators from Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. The four main sessions focused on Advocacy, Reading, Quality Improvement, and Health Literacy. Also offered, were 17 round table discussion groups pertaining to an array of adult education interests and learning techniques. The sessions varied from a presentation on the Barbara Bush Foundation, to Team Building, Demystifying Technology, to Using Blogs to Enhance and Extend Writing and Reading Practice. The keynote speaker, Van Richmond, kept the audience laughing with tears as he spoke, presenting, "The Magic of Superheroes: Fulfilling the Mission of Adult Educators". (Chattanooga proved to be an excellent conference venue, and a city to revisit at the first opportunity. The Editor)



FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Just want to give my heartfelt thank you to all the people who helped make the Choo-Choo Institute a success. I received nothing but good feedback from many. Special thanks to Phyllis Bradley, Peggy Davis, Jackie Taylor, and CLS, for your non-stop assistance in so many aspects of putting on a top quality staff development opportunity for COABE region 3. To all the presenters, thank you for your expertise and willingness to share your knowledge with others. I had a sneak peek at the evaluations and they all looked great! Thanks to everyone on the conference committee for the well done jobs you volunteered to do. Also, thank you to the people who stepped up to the plate to man the TAACE booth and collect evaluations. The evaluation committee is still working to tabulate the evaluations so we can report back to COABE and the Dollar General Foundation, thank you. To Barbara Salice, Sharon Bonney, and Jackie Taylor, COABE representatives, for your assistance and trust that TAACE could provide a quality institute. So many of you were right there to assist. Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State, and you all proved that with your actions to make Tennessee Adult Education and TAACE shine for our COABE region 3 participants. I appreciate all your time and efforts. **Margaret Bott, Conference Chair**

From the Field



Heart of Georgia Technical College GED Classes Throw Block Party for Kids

by Dahlia Allen, Dublin, Georgia

Children began arriving at 9 a.m. for the party that was to begin at 11 a.m. They were there to play games and eat hot dogs and hamburgers, but most of all they came to pick up bags of school supplies.

Jamez Rozier was in line for lunch, but he was even more excited about the school supplies. “It’s gonna save my mamma a lot of money,” he said. Rozier was one of 125 children pre-K through fifth grade who attended the block party Saturday on the grounds of the Oconee Cultural Center. Their hosts were students in the Heart of Georgia Technical College GED class that meets daily at the center.

The event culminated a service-learning project – a teaching-learning strategy combining academics with community service – that had engaged the class for several months. Raising money for the party, students washed cars, sold lemonade, wrote letters to churches, and placed collection boxes for school supply donations around town. When teachers in adult education classes on the HGTC main campus shared news of the Southside project with their students, those three classes began to compete with each other to help donations. Then, with their own money, the Oconee Cultural Center GED students bought the t-shirts they wore Saturday – gold-colored shirts with bright blue letters proclaiming, “Let’s get it – Education!” Their teacher, Corshea Thomas, explained the choice of colors. “The gold is for Dublin and East Laurens. The blue is for West Laurens. The (GED) students wanted the whole county to be represented.”

Students and children alike sweated in 100-degree weather, but the heat dampened none of the enthusiasm. Music blared while GED students led children in jump rope contests, water balloon fights, bowling, a cake walk, pick-up ducks, and water-color painting. A firefighter from the Laurens County Fire Department entertained a group of small boys with Freddie the (remote control) Fire Truck. Members of Mt. Tilla and Living Faith churches helped with the cooking. At noon, hot dogs and hamburgers came off of the grill. Some of the students kept a modicum of order while others served soft drinks and plates garnished with potato chips.

Then the school supply distribution began. The GED students had obtained official school supply lists and filled HGTC plastic bags with packs of paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, coloring books, and crayons. They sorted the bags into boxes by grade level. Among the donations were several book bags which found homes, as well.

When Thomas presented the idea of a service learning project to her class, they were enthusiastic, she said. “They wanted to do something for their community. Someone suggested that the kids don’t have anything to do, so they decided on a block party and came up with the name ‘Southside Helping Hands,’” she said. They elected officers for the project – Joel Foster, president; Clint Walker, vice president; Courtney Billue, secretary; Sharon Lattimore, treasurer; and Africa Houston, parliamentarian.

As they planned the event, they prepared for the GED exam as well. They wrote essays on such topics as why the project is important, how to give a block party and why, and how they would spend \$1 million if they had that much to improve the community in which they live. These they kept in portfolios. “They used critical thinking skills and increased their social awareness while they practiced writing. They worked on oral communication as they asked for donations,” Thomas said. Walker echoed his teacher saying, “We learned more language and reading and improved our math because we had to plan how much food and how many school supplies we needed.”

They learned more than academics, though, said Terriana Sterling, “We found out that helping people can be important. I know some single parents who don’t have jobs.”

Rozier saw the day as an opportunity to motivate the children who attended. “Maybe showing them we care can help them not make the same mistakes we did, help them understand that education is the future,” he said.

The planning and hard work were offset by the satisfaction of putting on a successful event, Esther Forte said. “We found out that a lot of people will help out if you ask them to. “We hope this (block party) will help keep some kids in school. If we can keep just one kid in school, it will be worth it,” she said.

The students credited their teacher for motivating them to do the project. “Mrs. Thomas is the best teacher I’ve ever had,” Rozier said. “Lots of teachers say they care about students. She really does. She believes that just because we made mistakes doesn’t mean we can’t change.”

When the class members debrief, they will talk about what worked and what could be improved. They have not planned another such event – at least not this year, Thomas said. However, they will continue to accept donations of money and school supplies and will give them to neighborhood children at the beginning of the second semester.



COABE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Save on the Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal (\$35 member/\$65 list price).

Save 40% off online purchases select Pearson Longman products and 25% off all GED Academy products.

Access to member's only online repository of best practices created by and for members and state of the art professional development matrix.

Award, incentive grant, and scholarship winners receive conference registration, prepaid travel costs to the conference, and stipends of \$1,000-\$2,000.

Timely advocacy alerts and calls to action with a history of success keeping federal funding in adult education.

Join adult educators, professionals, and students from across the country for the joint national conference of the California Council for Adult Education (CCAEE) and the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE). The conference is scheduled to take place on April 17-21, 2011 in San Francisco, California. Literacy to work, adult education for a global economy is the theme. Pre-conferences are scheduled to take place on April 17 with the opening session on April 18, 2011. Members save \$75!

CONTACT: COABE

PO Box 620

Syracuse, NY 13206

Phone: 888-44-COABE

Fax: 866-941-5129

Email: info@coabe.org

WWW.COABE.ORG

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Individual membership 1 individual \$35

GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

- Affiliate group membership 5 individuals \$150 Save \$25

(\$30 per person)

- Small group membership 10 individuals \$300 Save \$50

(\$30 per person)

- Medium group membership 25 individuals \$700 Save \$175

(\$28 per person)

- Large group membership 50 individuals \$1,200 Save \$550

(\$24 per person) 100 individuals \$1,200 Save \$1,100

(\$6 per person) 200 individuals \$1,200 Save \$5,800

(\$4 per person) 300 individuals \$1,200 Save \$9,300

(\$3 per person) 400 individuals \$1,200 Save \$12,800

(\$2.40 per person) 500 individuals \$1,200 Save \$16,300

CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

5 LARGE GROUP MEMBERS

4 MEDIUM GROUP MEMBERS

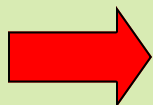
22 SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

11 STATE/PROVINCIAL
MEMBERS

32 AFFILIATES

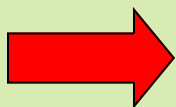


BULLETIN BOARD



Would you like to see your name in print? Call for papers for *The Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*.

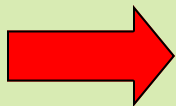
The ABEL Journal, jointly published by COABE and ProLiteracy, prints both academic research papers and how-to articles from practitioners. If you have an idea that has worked well in your program or class and that you'd like to tell your colleagues about, or if you have recently completed some research and wish to publish a paper about it in a refereed journal, please consider submitting a manuscript to the ABEL Journal's editor, Beth Oddy, at journaleditor@proliteracy.org, 315-422-9121 x389. For submission guidelines, see www.coabe.org (go to the ABEL Journal tab). Beth would be happy to discuss your ideas with you —just call or email her.



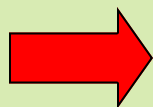
Calling All Students! Are you interested in attending the COABE CCAE National Conference in San Francisco, CA on April 17-21, 2011?

With generous funding provided by the GED Academy, COABE is offering 5 student scholarships to cover conference registration.

Contact Sharon Bonney by January 21, 2011 for more details at sharon-bonney@coabe.org or 888-44-COABE (888-442-6223).



Would your state be interested in hosting a COABE Regional Institute? Contact Dr. Barbara Salice at bsalice@san.rr.com



Need Professional Development Information? Have something to share? Check out the Repository on the COABE website www.coabe.org



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS

COABE

P.O Box 620

Syracuse, NY 13206

www.coabe.org

NOTE: Email our office manager sharonbonney@coabe.org with comments regarding the organization. Your remarks could be anything from why you like the journal or newsletter; your experience with regional institutes; what you are looking forward to at the San Francisco conference; how the advocacy emails help you; or what benefits of COABE you find most useful.

Your comments will be shared with the COABE leadership for planning purposes, and **your name will be entered into a drawing for complimentary membership for next year. Winner will be announced in San Francisco in April!**

TIDBITS

- Journal subscriptions and memberships are at an all time high!
- New information is added to the COABE website regularly—be sure to visit.
- Check out the deep discounts provided to our members by GED Academy and Pearson Longman, leaders in the adult education publishing industry. Add to the online repository, created by and for our members.
- Watch for balloting via email for the upcoming COABE elections!

end notes.....

- Professional Development Committee recommends the following work on pride: Katzenbach, J., & Khan, Z. (2010). *Leading outside the lines: How to Mobilize the Informal Organization, Energize Your Team, and Get Better Results* (San Francisco, Jossey-Bass)
- The conference team for the recent Tennessee Regional Institute and the team responsible for the upcoming annual conference in San Francisco can tell us something about the organizational pride which putting on a major event can bring. We are very grateful for their time and energy!