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Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

Friends Give Boosts to Education Programs

*F*or the fifteenth consecutive year that the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin is showing its appreciation to noteworthy individuals and companies who have supported educational programs in correctional institutions by presenting the Friends of Correctional Education Awards. Those honored have made meaningful contributions to the improvement of education programs available to inmates.

Plaques will be presented to the award winners at the Wisconsin Correctional Association Conference this fall.

The Friends of Correctional Education to be honored this year are:

Vern Lever

At the Racine Correctional Institution, Monday mornings = Vern Lever. Each Monday morning for two hours (for over three years!) Mr. Lever has tutored students who are at the most basic level or in ESL classes. He gives these students his undivided attention and the students look forward to and appreciate these sessions. He teaches everything from ABC's to dictionary skills to words of wisdom that he has learned from his own life experiences, including anecdotes about his participation in the 1952 Olympics.

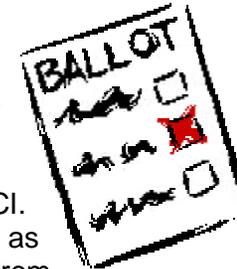
It is because of his dedication and commitment to RCI (he even asked to come to the prison after he was trained as a tutor) that Vern Lever was nominated as a Friend of Corrections.

Vern Lever was nominated by RCI teachers Judy Walborn and Barb Rasmussen.

Dr Ronald Rochon

Since February 2000, Dr Ronald Rochon from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse has voluntarily participated in our HSED graduation

ProLiteracy America-Wisconsin Institutions Elects New Officers



New officers were elected at the June 9, 2003 meeting held at RCI. Elections were held for Secretary, Co-chair and the Training Program Advisor.

Jeanne Samson from FLCI was elected Secretary, replacing Linda Kozlowski from CCI. Linda did an outstanding job in the role of Secretary for the last year, and was elected as the new Co-chair on June 9th. Linda will be sharing Co-chair duties with Scott Carey from Jackson Correctional Institution. Since Scott is on active military duty, Pat Reese also assumes the position of Accreditation Chief. She will be keeping all our important papers in order for the next round of accreditation. As Co-chair for last two years, Pat did a tremendous job of keeping the affiliate on track and moving forward despite many changes and challenges. The board appreciates her dedication and hard work, and applauds her performance throughout the last year.

Kay George from RYOC was elected to be the first Training Program Advisor, a new position on the board. Some of Kay's duties will include coordinating all trainer workshops, and maintaining a training kit and training records.

Special thanks to OSCI and Betty Yost as they again compiled the data for the annual statistical report. For over a year, all affiliates have been sending monthly data to OSCI for compilation and Betty and her crew have been doing a great job with maintaining the records.

The Board also took a tour of Racine Correctional. Many board members had not been to the institution before. We were very impressed with the school area and the size of the classrooms at Racine. The tour was wonderful, and so was lunch in the training kitchen. Thank you to Joyce Caldwell and RCI for hosting the meeting and for her hospitality. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2003 at CCI.

By: Mary Stierna, WRC

Executive Officers		The CEA-W News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association Wisconsin Chapter.
President	Peggy Meyers, SCI	
President Elect	Betty Volquardsen, OCI	The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections,
Secretary	Barb Rasmussen, RCI	
Treasurer	Mike Breszee, WCI	
Executive Board		
Maximum Security	Ray Schlesinger, WCI	
Medium Security	Conrad Reedy, KMCI	

Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin

Re-announcement

Re-announcement

2003

Scholarship Program

For the fourth year, CEA-W is sponsoring a \$500.00 scholarship

Purpose: The CEA-W Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members (or their spouses/dependents) who are pursuing a university or technical college degree in educational or library field.

Amount: For the year 2003, CEA-W has endowed one scholarship of \$500. The recipient must provide verification of enrollment in an accredited university or technical college.

Eligibility:

- 📖 Applicant must be a current CEA-W member, member's spouse, or member's dependent.
- 📖 Applicant must be pursuing (full or part time) a graduate, undergraduate, or technical degree in education or library science.
- 📖 Applicant must be entering his/her freshman, sophomore, junior, senior year, or graduate school. First year students must have been officially accepted by the college/university they plan to attend.
- 📖 Past winners are not eligible.

Application: Applicants must complete the application form that is an insert in this newsletter, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to the address below no later than August 29, 2003. Incomplete application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

Selection: Scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-W Scholarship Committee with approval by the CEA-W Executive Board of Directors. Criteria for selection will include academic record; financial need; school, community, or association activities; and the applicant's statement of interest in and commitment to the field of education and criminal justice. Recipients will be notified in writing.

OSCI Librarian Receives Recognition



Betty Yost, Librarian at OSCI, was among three Department of Corrections staffers to receive Honorable Mention at this year's Virginia Hart Special Recognition Award on Wednesday, May 7. Margaret Browder, Unit Manager, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility and Patricia Ogren, Superintendent, Southern Oaks Girls School were the others who, were recognized for their success in bringing an extra human dimension of warmth to the work setting.

Betty Yost has been the Librarian at OSCI since December 1994. Betty has worked in cooperation with teachers in the "Breaking Barriers with Books" literacy program. She also has been involved with the ProLiteracy America project for the past eight years. Betty is on the Board of Directors of the PLA-Wisconsin Institution Organization. Her experience, professional manner and knowledge has gained respect for her from many other institutions. She has been asked several times to train new librarians from other institutions and has been a resource for three institutions in setting up their general libraries.

Virginia Hart was Wisconsin's first female cabinet officer, having served as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Chairperson of the Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relations Commission and Chairperson of the Labor and Industry Review Commission.

Upon retirement, an award fund was established in her honor to recognize "exemplary performance and contributions to the citizens of the state" by a woman in government. The award recognizes women in state government whose contributions are substantial, but not necessarily well known. Through this program, the contributions of all women in state government are recognized.

Creativity Contest Briefing

The CEA Creative Writing Initiative has kicked off its fourth year of the "Creativity Contest". Meeting for the first time this year in March, planning for this year's contest was a breeze thanks to the hard work of the previous year's members. The forms were released, the appropriate administrators notified, our budget determined, and information disseminated to the necessary people.

All of us on the committee are excited about this project. The chance to have inmates express their creativity through writing and art in an effort to promote literacy is a cause we all believe in strongly. To create a positive product that is entirely the result of the hard work of DOC inmates and staff is an effort of which to be proud for all involved.



Dr Rochon Truly believes and draws on the "teachable moment," and continues to amaze anyone who comes into contact with him with his diplomacy, sincerity, kindness, and strength. Dr Rochon is an inspiration not only to the inmates, but also to all individuals who have the pleasure to meet and work with him.

Dr Ronald Rochon was nominated by PDCI teacher Deanna Thein.

Francelia Wonders and Michigan Braille Transcription Service

Without the boost from Francelia Wonders and the Michigan Braille Transcription Service, the Oshkosh Correctional Institution's Braille program could not have achieved the success it has. Ms. Wonders has graciously given both personal and professional help in establishing the OSCI Braille program. Her expertise has proven to be of great value to the staff charged with developing OSCI's program.

In addition, Ms. Wonders recently donated with no strings attached approximately \$60,000 worth of Braille production equipment to further expand OSCI's program.

Francelia Wonder and the Michigan Braille Transcription Service was nominated by OSCI teacher Dave Hines and Education Director Dave Haines.

Fatheread Promotes Literacy And Parent Involvement



Imagine a place where parents come together to read and talk about books, and through analyzing stories and characters, think through challenges that face them as parents.

Imagine that in this place, parents develop better reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

Imagine that when they leave this place, they take with them books and ideas to share with their children by reading and talking about great children's books as a family.

Such a place exists in the FATHEREAD PROGRAM at Oakhill Correctional Institution. Fatheread (and Motherread) are programs offered by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Classes are taught by instructors who are trained and certified by Motherread Inc. The curriculum has been used in over a dozen states for the last ten years, and was recognized by Laubach Literacy International and the Barbara Bush Foundation as an exemplary literacy program. However, it is more than a literacy program, because it shows parents how stories can bond them with their children and encourage them to read. Oakhill's program began April 23 and meets once every other week for twelve weeks. Based on the success of this program, OCI will probably begin another group in the fall.

The men of Oakhill have the opportunity to join two other support groups related to being a parent. "Fathering

Employability Skills Update

Educators practice what they preach. Even though I have only been employed by the DOC at RCI for just two years, I was fortunate enough to be invited to participate in the Employability Skills workgroup. I have been actively teaching Employability Skills at RCI since 2001.

Under the energetic direction of Lisa McClure and Jean Thieme, representatives from each institution have been meeting since the winter of 2002. The Employability Skills workgroup has worked diligently to develop a competency based Employability Skills curriculum. This curriculum covers four main objectives: Career Assessment & Awareness, Job Seeking, Applying, and Maintaining.

Each objective has competencies that are either core or optional. With a variety of competencies, we have allowed for the instructors to creatively pick and choose from a pool of instructional tools.

This competency-based curriculum will allow students to transfer from one institution to another and be credited for any competencies they may have met. This curriculum will be introduced to all DOC institutions this fall after the final approvals are given from all Education Directors. In addition, the Employability Skills workgroup will continue to meet as needed in order to revise, share and troubleshoot the curriculum.

Thanks to the great efforts of Mike Exum, the workgroup has also incorporated a portfolio system into the curriculum. Students will create portfolios to be used in the institutions and in the community upon their release. The portfolio includes items such as an action plan, personal data records, resumes and community resources.

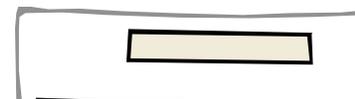
Through hard work and personal dedication on behalf of the directors and the institution representatives, I believe this competency-based curriculum will be a positive learning experience for both staff and students. It is truly a pleasure for me to be able to meet and share ideas with such a magnificent and dedicated group of teachers.



By: Jennifer Hellenbrand, RCI

One Change in Executive Board

This year's election process for CEAW Executive Board members resulted in only one change. Kevin Tripp who had been a Member-At-Large decided not to seek a new term.





Notes from Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Earlier this year CEAW 2003 Teacher of the Year, Jim Wimberger attended the Regional I and III CEA Conference held in Lancaster, PA. Jim participated in the Region III Teacher of the Year interviews and attended several workshops and conference activities. Here is his report:

"Planting the Seeds of Success" was the theme of the 2003 Region I CEA conference. With national security on orange alert, I experienced the high security atmosphere of the maximum security prison in which I work. As inmates have done many times, I removed my shoes, opened my bags for inspection and ran everything through the x-ray machine. Could it have been that I forgot to remove the cell phone from my pocket before going through the metal detector? Upon arrival in Philadelphia, the high alert was even more evident with security personnel highly visible. They would not allow anyone to linger in the baggage loading areas and were adamant about no parking except to load as fast as possible!

I arrived in Lancaster with my portfolio, filled with enthusiasm and all kinds of information on the programs I teach and "corrections callous" acquired throughout almost fifteen years working for DOC. The weather was damp and sunshine at a premium. However the weather did not dampen my enthusiasm for getting the most out of the conference.

Region III joined Region I in hosting this conference in Lancaster, PA. The seeds of success must have been germinated before the conference because the attendance was, as one of the co-chairs said, "We expected 300 and it looks like we will have 600". They had great participation in spite of budget problems. Wisconsin is not alone with budget problems as I found out talking to people from Ohio, Michigan, New York, Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas, New Jersey, Indiana and Pennsylvania. None of the states were experiencing major cuts in education. I guess the benefit of rehabilitating the offender through education still has value.

I found the educational session content to be of quality and most session rooms were overflowing with attendees. The sessions I attended ranged from Safety/Security in the Classroom, Career Education and Work, Psychology of Teaching, CEA Vocational Report/Study and Jobs Upon Release. I found useful information in all of them.

The TOY interview consisted of a series of questions asked by panel members. I was then able to present aspects of my programs that I consider unique and demonstrate value to the inmate student and the community. I included pictures of projects and inmates who had completed projects, newspaper articles about the program, curriculum and student record keeping packets. The panel was generally receptive and posed many questions about the Building Maintenance and Care Program and how DOC programs are certified in the State of Wisconsin. They were interested to hear that my program is certified through the Wisconsin Technical College System. During the interview, the full attention of two members was less than I would have hoped while the balance of the panel showed great interest in my presentation. Because the previous participant finished early, I had the opportunity to interact with the panel for 45 minutes. As one of the panel members said "I learned a lot about the education system in Wisconsin DOC. You did an excellent job presenting it." Because I was representing all of the CEA members from Wisconsin, I was happy to have had the opportunity to participate in the process. It was an honor to represent CEA Wisconsin at the convention.

The winner of the TOY award for Region III started a Barber program at an institution. She worked for Ohio Corrections since 1999.

CEA Membership Application

Please print your name and address carefully. List your name and address, as you would like them published in the annual Directory of Correctional Educators.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$50 year
- Institutional/Library \$85 year
- Student/Volunteer/Retiree \$30 year
- Clerical/Support Staff \$20 year

Mail to:

CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

4380 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: (800) 783-1232

Fax: (302) 918-1900

Referred By: _____

Membership #: _____

We Accept VISA or MasterCard

Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

For More Information Contact:

Barb Rasmussen, CEAW Secretary

Phone: (262) 886-3214 Ext. 520

Email: barbara.rasmussen@doc.state.wi.us

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