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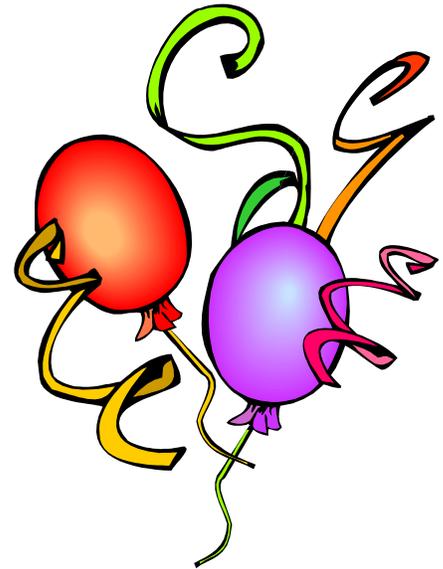
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## Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

### State Chapter Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Twenty years ago this month, the Executive Board of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association held its first meeting. The meeting of the Board made Wisconsin the first to have its state chapter sanctioned by the International Correctional Education Association. In an effort spearheaded by former Department of Corrections Director of Education Bob Hable, the Wisconsin Chapter of CEA adopted a constitution and began its official functions.



So what has the state chapter been up to for the past 20 years? Here are some of the initiatives that CEAW has taken.

Even prior to the establishment of the state chapter, Wisconsin was active in promoting correctional education. Wisconsin hosted its first regional conference in 1984. The combined Region III & IV CEA Conference was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison.

WELCOME TO  
REGION III & IV  
CEA CONFERENCE

# Join CEA

Usually in this space, you would see a membership application for the Correctional Education Association --- but times change.

Because most people have access to the web and in order to save space in this newsletter, we have decided to discontinue running a copy of the membership form in each issue of the CEAW *News Review*.

Instead, we will insert in each newsletter a reminder to “Join CEA” and directions to go to the national CEA website, [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org), to either join on-line or print a membership form for yourself.

We may also remind you of some of the benefits you will receive with your CEA membership --- like: CEA membership will entitle you to free membership in one of CEA’s Special Interest Groups. Additional SIGs may be joined at an additional membership cost of \$5 each.

We are especially encouraging members to join either of the two SIGs chaired by Wisconsin members --- the Literacy SIG chaired by Barb Wulfers or the Parenting SIG chaired by Diane Birch and Jerry Bednarowski.

So if you haven’t already joined CEA, please go to the national website and do so.

Individual memberships are only \$55 and students, volunteers, retirees, and clerical and support staff get reduced rates.

<b>Executive Officers</b>		<p>The CEAW News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEAW and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to CEAW Secretary Barb Rasmussen at Racine Correctional Institution, 2019 Wisconsin Street, Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900, <a href="mailto:barbara.rasmussen@doc.state.wi.us">barbara.rasmussen@doc.state.wi.us</a> or CEAW News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: <a href="mailto:jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com">jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</a></p>
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# Using Storytelling to Breakdown Barriers to Learning



Storytelling is more than entertainment. It can be used as an effective teaching strategy within corrections to assist students to broaden their perspectives on life and thinking patterns.

The CEAW Executive Board has selected Susan Butcher's proposal to present a workshop on *Using Storytelling to Validate Student Experience and Breakdown Barriers to Learning* as the winner of CEAW's 2006 Showcase Award.

Susan has worked for the Department of Corrections since January, 2002. She began as a teacher/teaching assistant for the Felony Drug Offender Alternative to Prison Program (FDOATP) as a contract employee. This past October, she was hired as an Alternative to Revocation (ATR) teacher for the Department of Corrections, at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, in downtown Milwaukee.

Susan recently graduated with a Master's Degree in Adult Education and a minor in Instructional Design. Her research and written thesis for graduation was on the use of storytelling as a teaching strategy, specifically within the Department of Corrections.

According to Susan's thesis, research shows that those who are incarcerated, as a whole, have come from difficult past environments, which leads to having a different way of learning than most others who have had successful educational experiences. Because of this, her research project focused on exploring narrative/storytelling, as a teaching strategy, and how it influences adult learning in a correctional facility. In the process of developing her thesis, three methods of research were used.

As the first method, a formal literature review was prepared to obtain background information on storytelling, including past history and current use. Secondly, Wisconsin Department of Corrections professionals were interviewed to explore their teaching strategies and use of storytelling with offenders. The final element was a personal observation journal.

In analyzing the data given, three themes emerged. These included connection between teacher and student, validation of student experience and student perspective. Connection between teacher and student was seen in the relationship between student and teacher within the classroom. Validation of student experience was shown in developing empathy for self and others and being able to see how past behavior influences present circumstances. Student perspective included learning to broaden and challenge the student's current perspective, issues related to changing thinking patterns and approaches that involve reflection.

Susan submitted her research to the Journal of Correctional Education and is in the process of revising the paper for publication. For being selected as the winner of the Showcase Award, Susan will receive a \$250 stipend to help cover expenses for her to present a workshop on her thesis at the Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton this October.

(continued from page 1)

## State Chapter Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Coinciding with the formation its state chapter, Wisconsin selected its first Teacher of the Year to represent the state at the Region III Conference. In 1986, Wisconsin's Teacher of the Year Mike Breszee participated in the International CEA Conference in Cincinnati. Since then, CEAW has sponsored a candidate to participate in the Region III selection process each year. Over the course of those years, four Wisconsin teachers were selected the Region III Teacher of the Year and represented the Region at the International CEA Conference. They were Phil Leader from the Wisconsin Resource Center in 1992, Anita Wilcox from Blackhawk Technical College and the Rock County Jail in 1998, Mel Free from Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution in 2004, and Mary Stierna from the Wisconsin Resources Center in 2005.

One of the first orders of business for the new CEAW Executive Board when it met in May 1986 was to decide that a CEAW newsletter would be published. From its beginning, the goal of the newsletter was to shine a light on the efforts and achievements of teachers in corrections, promote a sense of community among correctional educators, and raise the profile of correctional education among governmental agencies and the public. Jerry Bednarowski was named newsletter editor. Since May 1986, 113 issues of the bi-monthly newsletter have been published.

In order to meet some of the professional needs of correctional teachers, CEAW has worked with various educational, government, and professional agencies to plan and deliver conferences, credit courses, and teacher in-services.

Since 1986, CEAW Board members have served on the Conference Planning Committee for the Wisconsin Correctional Association's Annual Conference. As a result of these efforts, workshops featuring educational speakers and topics have been frequently included in the conference programs.

In 1988 CEAW began working with professors at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to create courses that specifically address the needs and interests of teachers working within correctional facilities. Five different three-credit courses were offered from 1988 to 1996. Enrollment totaled over 100.

In 1990 and 1991, CEAW teamed with the Corrections Concerns Committee at UW-Oshkosh to offer two Corrections in the 1990's Conferences.

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter of CEA, in 1996, CEAW partnered with DOC to host the Region III & IV CEA Conference in Madison. About 341 correctional educators from 11 states participated in the conference.

On six different occasions, CEAW teamed with the Corrections Training Center and the Teacher Training Advisory Committee to plan, organize, and provide funding for DOC Teacher Training Days or State Correctional Educational Conferences.

For the past two years, CEAW has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Technical College System to sponsor the Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference. Workshops specific to corrections became an integral part of the conference and participation of correctional educators has increased to account for about one-third of conference registrants.

The success that correctional teachers experience in their classrooms is often enhanced by the support of Individuals and organizations who contribute their time, energy, and resources to supplement educational programs in institutions. To recognize the significant impact of these volunteers and businesses, the CEAW Board established the Friends of Correctional Education Award. Since 1989, the contributions of 56 individuals and organizations have been recognized by the CEAW Board.

To help promote professional development among its members and their families, CEAW established an annual scholarship. Each year since 2000, a \$500 scholarship was made available to a member or family member who is pursuing a university or technical college degree in an educational or library field.

Technology has influenced the way we communicate since CEAW was founded 20 years ago. When we started, we were limited to printed communication. With the development of the internet, CEAW was able to expand its professional network. In October 2000, CEAW established its own website, [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org) which is linked to the national CEA website. Thousands of people from throughout the U.S. and from many foreign countries have visited the website and learned about what's happening in correctional education in the state of Wisconsin.

To help teachers encourage incarcerated students to develop their writing and art skills, in 2000, CEAW began a creativity project. A committee of CEAW members was established to promote the initiative, select entries, and publish an anthology of student works. For each of the past six years, CEAW has edited, funded, and distributed the booklet to CEAW contest participants, CEAW members, correctional libraries, and other interested individuals.

Throughout its existence, the CEAW Executive Board has continually promoted innovation and excellence in correctional education. To recognize some of those teachers at the forefront of program development, in 2001, CEAW created the Innovative Program Award. This award evolved into today's Program Showcase Award.

To provide services to educators with specific interests shared by segments of its membership, the national CEA organization has created 17 Special Interest Groups. Last year CEAW established its own SIG for teachers of Parenting programs. Diane Birch of SCI became its first Chair and Mary Dahl of GBCI became its Co-Chair. The Parenting SIG began publishing a newsletter, edited a Guide to Successful Parenting Programs in Corrections, and developed a Recommended Parenting Curriculum. Seeing the work being done by the Wisconsin Parenting SIG, the national CEA organization asked the Wisconsin group to go national. Jerry Bednarowski became the first Chair of the national Parenting SIG.

Early this year, the national CEA had a vacancy in the Chair of their Literacy Special Interest Group. Barb Wulfers of SCI volunteered to accept the challenge. She is beginning to develop a plan and direction and establish communication with potential SIG members.

So over the past 20 years, CEAW has been busy and hopefully, correctional educators throughout Wisconsin and beyond have benefitted.

To mark our anniversary, CEAW is honored to again host the Region III & IV CEA Conference. We hope that all participants will find the conference to be informative and enjoyable. We hope to continue to serve our members on into the our next decade



## A Better Way

A play written and performed by inmates of Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution was recently staged for inmate audiences at KMCI. The one-act play, entitled "A Better Way," was written by Reuben Anderson. The plot centers around the relationship of a condemned man with his son and the son's interactions with his friends, one of whom is a drug dealer. The message of the play involves facing challenges, making positive choices, and taking responsibility for oneself.

Eight shows were performed for groups of 30 to 40 inmates at a time. Each performance was followed by a "talk back" session with questions, comments, and discussion. The cast of characters included Leon Carter as the old man on death row, Kenith Taylor as his son, Reuben Anderson as the son's friend, and Reimond Whitfield as the drug dealer. Kurtis Jones served as understudy. The play was directed by staff member John Bollig.

The play was well-received with positive feedback from both inmates and staff.



Kenith Taylor as Tru tells Reimond Whitfield as Gutter, "Stop holding the world responsible for your pain."

## SCI Financial Literacy Program Honored

Lori Koenig, teacher at Stanley Correctional Institution, was awarded an individual Governor's Financial Literacy Award at a ceremony held Monday, April 3, 2006 at the Governor's Executive Residence in Madison, Wisconsin. First Lady Jessica Doyle presented Koenig with the award and remarked on her hard work to establish a quality financial literacy program for offenders who will soon be releasing from prison. Attending the ceremony with Koenig were seven staff from the education department at SCI.

Back row: (left to right):  
Brenda Peterson, Courtney Gerber, Pegi Fleming  
(student teacher), Barb Wulfers, Joanne Curry,  
Laurie Prochnow.  
Front row: (left to right): Lori Koenig and Peggy  
Meyers



# Job Fairs Not Just For Campus Anymore

It's hard to get a job interview while you're in prison, but state corrections officials are trying to change that.

For the third year in a row, earlier this year, about two dozen employers and a wide range of job placement agencies set up shop in the gym at the Oakhill Correctional Institution, while more than two hundred inmates wandered from booth to booth looking for advice on how to find work once they get out.

Corrections Secretary Matt Frank says such fairs are a joint effort by the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Corrections to help inmates find work or at least job leads before they're released. Frank says the public is best served if these offenders are not only held accountable for their actions but also have the opportunity to become successful members of our community. He says the result will be fewer new crimes, fewer offenders returning to jail and fewer taxpayer resources spent on law enforcement, court time and incarceration.

43-year old Melvin Boone has spent the last 26 years behind bars for armed robbery and murder. As he talked at the job fair with a representative of Brunzell Lumber and Millworks, he says he's hoping the construction training he got at Oakhill may help him land a job with the company. He says it sounds like something he'd like to do. He says he knows as an offender, he'll have to prove himself to an employer, and he says that's something he's looking forward to.

However, moving ex-offenders into the workforce is likely to be an uphill battle. Wisconsin's prison population stands now at about 22,000. About 9,000 are released each year. Studies show ex-offenders like Boone who don't find work have an 80 percent chance of getting stuck in the revolving door that leads back to prison.

by: Gil Halsted, Wisconsin Public Radio  
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## 2006 CEAW Creativity Contest

Submissions are now being accepted for the CEAW 2006 Creativity Contest. The rules and submission forms are on the next two pages of this newsletter. All entries must be received by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure that all submission release forms are signed by an education department contact person.

The CEAW Creativity Contest Committee welcomes a two new members this year, Susan Casper from OSCI and Joy Ellen Schuster from Milwaukee Public Schools/Milwaukee County Jail. The other committee members are Libby Kraft (WRC), Sharon Neseemann (WRC), Mary Stierna (WRC), Michelle McCaughtry (JCI), Elaine Miller (EAS), Linda Lentz (JBCC), Jane Schirger (RGCI), Mark Terpening (CCI), Ray Schlesinger (OCI), Conrad Reedy (KMCI), and Lisa Mueller (RCI). The committee would like to thank Pete Garetson from OSCI for his past involvement in the Creativity Contest and we wish him well in his new endeavors at OSCI.

# CEAW Creativity Contest Rules

1. Entries are limited to writers who are incarcerated in prisons, juvenile facilities, and county jails located in Wisconsin. People in alternative correctional programs such as bracelet monitoring, probation, and parole are not eligible.
2. **All entries must be the original work of the entrant.**
3. Submission emphasis will be placed on those enrolled in educational programs. Special needs students who have received high school diplomas but have skill levels at the basic education level are encouraged to apply.
4. Artwork must be black ink on white paper and allow for at least a one-inch margin around a standard 8.5 x 11" page. Wider and darker lines allow for better reproduction. Photocopies are allowed, but the teacher or representative must see the original work at the time of submission.
5. Writing is judged on voice, organization, and creativity. Any form of writing is acceptable: poems, essays, short stories, letters, etc. Writing can be as short as one paragraph, but should not exceed 1,000 words. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 2 pages.
6. Only one submission for each category, art and writing, will be accepted from each entrant.
7. The enclosed release form must accompany the entry. The instructor is responsible for explaining that the work will undergo the usual editing process which any publication undergoes. All writing technicalities (punctuation, grammar) will be corrected. Instructors are advised not to correct students' work. Assistance in writing should include suggestions for expanding ideas, development of themes, and organization. Over-correcting by instructors interferes with the voice of the writer.  
  
Entries may be reviewed locally by the Education Director or by DOC Central Office for appropriateness and security consideration as needs and policies dictate.
8. Entries must be signed by the Education Department contact person and received at the address on the release form by August 1, 2006. Winners will receive publications by January 2007. **No submissions will be returned.** Writers whose work is not accepted will not be notified.
9. The writer should include an address where he/she can be contacted in December, 2006. The institutional address can be listed, provided the student agrees to contact the instructor in December about contest results. For jail programs, booklets will be sent to the institutional address in care of the Education Department Contact Person, as listed on the form, for distribution to winners.
10. Writers retain copyright to their work. CEA-W has first publication rights and rights to the collection of work. Winners will receive two (2) copies of the book. No payment for published work will be provided.
11. Students may have their essays published anonymously. The release form, however, must contain the student's real name and signature. This information will be used by contest coordinator only and kept confidential. Write "anonymous" or use initials (no pseudonyms, please) on the writing submitted, and staple the two together.
12. Illegible submission forms or entries may be disqualified.

**SUBMISSIONS RELEASE FORM**  
**Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin**  
**“Creativity Contest 2006”**

Libby Kraft  
Wisconsin Resource Center  
PO Box 16  
Winnebago, Wisconsin 54985-0016  
(920) 426-4310 ex. 4410

I hereby give the CEAW permission to publish the following work(s), if selected for the contest publication. **These works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.** I understand that the selections may be minimally edited. I further understand that after publication all rights will return to me, however, original works will not be returned. The titles of the works submitted (maximum two) are listed below:

A. Title(s): **May submit only one (1) of each category.**

Writing: \_\_\_\_\_

Art: \_\_\_\_\_

B. CEAW will send each person whose work was selected two copies of the book. Please print **clearly** your full name and mailing address as of December 2006. Illegible submission forms may result in disqualified entries.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Inmate Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address – Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Institution where currently residing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address -- City, State, Zip)

Check here if this is a juvenile facility.

C. On the line below, please **print** the way you would like your name to appear in the book if selected. You may **only** use your institution name, first name with last initial, initials only, or anonymous. **No aliases.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT your name, initials, or anonymous)

D. Sign and date. By signing I verify that these works are my original, unpublished writings and/or artwork.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

E. Education Department Contact Person. (For county jails, the contact person will be responsible for distributing booklets to winning authors.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Facility)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact Info -- Phone or Email)

Please circle one: **Jr/Sr High School (DJC)**    **ABE**    **Intermediate**    **HSED**    **Post High School**

**NOTE: This form must accompany all submissions. Incomplete or incorrect submissions forms may disqualify the entry. Submissions must be sent to Libby Kraft, WRC, by August 1, 2006.**

# A Stitch in Time: Quilting Project Helps Inmates Give Back to the Community

Like the Elm Creek Quilters in a Jennifer Chiaverini novel, the members of the Great Escape Book Club also are making a quilt for a good cause. Club members are inmates at the Robert Ellsworth Correctional Center. They read a selected book and participate in follow-up activities based on the book's theme, said teacher DeNeal Ericksen.

Currently, they are reading "The Quilter's Apprentice" and the follow-up activity for the book is to make a quilt. The idea for the type quilt they're making came from another Chiaverini book "The Sugar Camp Quilt."

In that book, the women, from a little town in Pennsylvania in 1849 make a quilt to raise funds for a new town library. They wrote their favorite authors and sent along a scrap of muslin for them to sign that would be used in the quilt.

Following their example, book club members contacted the famous and the very famous for the project. To date the quilt has 35 squares bearing authors' signatures. Among them are David Baldacci, Sue Grafton, Judy Blume, Scott Turow, Paul Fleischman and Bill Cosby. Also contributing are Racine County's own Jane Hamilton, a best-selling novelist from Rochester, and Mark Hertzberg, The Journal Times' director of photography and a published author whose works chronicle the life of legendary American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

More than 65 members of the club read the quilt book, Pam Petersen said, while 35 women sewed the squares and other members sewed the green border and the yellow sashing between the squares.

The quilt will be raffled and the proceeds will be donated to Cops 'N Kids Reading Center, the Racine Public Library and the Racine Literacy Council.

Inmate Sommer Whitney was skeptical when Ericksen and Pam Petersen, another teacher, proposed the project. "When they said we'd be making a quilt I said, 'yeah' because it was new for all of us. The teachers didn't know how to make a quilt either," Whitney said.

Initially there wasn't much interest in quilting, but the story Chiaverini told was interesting, sparking her interest in the project, Whitney said. Whitney was surprised by the response from the authors. "I didn't expect the response. It was a big shock. I mean, Bill Cosby," she said.

Eventually, she would like to make a quilt with her son, Whitney said, "to tell the story of his growing up that I'm missing. He's 6 now. He was 3 when I came in. I only see him once a year because they live so far away. In Eau Claire."

Whitney hopes to be released by 2008, but if not, it will be 2010 before she and her son can make their quilt.

Since the project began, getting the mail every day has become exciting, said teacher Pam Petersen. "We thought we were done. Then Michael Crichton's came in and a couple of days later Bill Cosby's came in," Petersen said.

Preparing the women to re-enter society is their goal through educational programs, like the book club, that are offered at Ellsworth, Ericksen said.

"I love what the Education Department does for us. We wouldn't have a lot of things if it wasn't for them. They believe in us when nobody else will," Whitney said.

And as part of reintegration they emphasize that offenders should start thinking past themselves and give back to the community with projects like the quilt project.

Inmate Mishelle Petersen thinks the quilt is cool. "It's not something you would normally see in a prison. And learning to quilt - my generation doesn't quilt," said Petersen, 32.

She enjoys quilting and belonging to the book club has broadened her reading horizons. "I'm enjoying it a lot more. I'm just coming out of my comfort zone. I want to pass on some of the books to my children. I want to share my love of books with them. There are lessons to be learned from books like 'Quilters Apprentice.' It's something to pass on," Petersen said.

Ericksen said the book club was formed to promote literacy and the love of reading at the women's minimum-security facility. Literacy also is promoted through the Motherread program which offers literacy development from a parent involvement perspective, Ericksen said.

by: Phyllis Sides,  
Racine Journal  
Times

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# Local Press Feature Teacher of the Year

Since Sharon Abel of Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) was selected as Wisconsin's 2006 Correctional Teacher of the Year, East Central Wisconsin newspapers have recognized Sharon's award. *The Sheboygan Press* and *The Plymouth Review* published feature articles about Sharon and LTC's Adult Basic Education for the Incarcerated Program in Sheboygan County.

Here are excerpts of an interview with Sharon and quotes from testimonials by one of Sharon's former students and two of Sharon's colleagues that appear in an article written by Sue Mroz for the *The Review*:

"I'm honored to be selected as Wisconsin Correctional Education teacher of the year," she said. "And I'm grateful that the CEA-W Executive Board selected me to represent state prison and county jail educators.

"I'd also like to thank Sheboygan County Rehabilitation/Huber Law Coordinator, Roy Kluss, for nominating me. And I'm very appreciative of my LTC co-workers and the other Sheboygan County Correctional officers for all they do to support the Adult Basic Education for the Incarcerated Program."

Abel's educational philosophy, as expressed on the board in her classroom can be boiled down to seven words – "Enter to learn; go forth to serve."

She elaborated on her philosophy. "Useful applicability is the main component, so that inmates are prepared for employment," she stressed. "That's what it's all about. My major goal is to meet employers' needs by providing a more skilled workforce."

Toward that end, she cooperates with Kluss to facilitate Sheboygan County inmates' education and employment.

"We make it a practice to meet with business and industry leaders who might potentially hire Huber Law/Work Release inmates and former inmates," she said. "A better understanding of employers' needs is a great help in instructing inmates."

Although some of her days are stressful, Abel thoroughly enjoys teaching in a non-traditional setting.

"No two days have been the same," she said. "What I like is seeing the light bulb turn on – seeing the recognition in their eyes that they've gotten it."

"But the best part is when there is evidence that my students are applying their knowledge in the workforce," she said. "The practical application of knowledge definitely has a positive ripple effect.

"Though they are currently incarcerated, the inmates eventually return to our community," Abel said. "And those sentenced with Huber Law privileges are allowed out of jail as many as six times per week to work in our community's businesses and industries."

Former and present inmates commend Abel for instilling in them a desire to learn. Conrad Dulmes, Sheboygan, was incarcerated several years ago because of his drug addiction.

Since his release from the Sheboygan County Detention Center, he continues to attend meetings for Narcotics Anonymous on a regular basis and credits Abel for turning his life around.

"Sharon's program helps inmates develop self-esteem and a sense of self-worth," Dulmes said. "It's a starting point to change their lives and to continue to straighten their lives out."

“Sharon helped me to earn my HSED with honors,” said Dulmes, an employee of Old Wisconsin Sausage Co., Sheboygan. “She found a way to instill in me the determination to give it my all. She got me involved to the point that I shot for honor scores and regained my self-esteem.”

“Sharon treats all inmates respectfully,” he added. “I firmly believe that if she can get just one inmate a year to change his or her life for the better, the program is well worth it.”

She and Kluss are credited for organizing an inmate library at the Sheboygan Detention Center in 1998. At that time, they created a partnership with the Eastern Shores Library System, which acts as the fiscal agent for any grant monies received.

“Maintaining the Sheboygan County Inmate Library is a volunteer team effort,” Abel said, noting that Sue Mathews, a retired Mead Public Library Coordinator of Circulation & Technical Services, volunteers her expertise in selecting appropriate materials for the county’s incarcerated population.

Another plus for inmates in Abel’s care is that she is a former Sheboygan County Literacy Council tutor. Thus, currently LTC and the Literacy Council of Sheboygan County provide volunteer tutors to supplement education services for English Language Learners in the Detention Center. Abel assists in the recruitment of tutors, organizes scheduling, matches tutors with inmates and supervises their progress.

In addition to the above-mentioned credits, Abel is often asked to serve as a consultant. For example, she:

- ❖ Submitted a review of a jail-education manual for the National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice (EDJJ).
- ❖ Serves as a mentor to individuals wanting to start jail education programs in their counties.
- ❖ Advises various individuals and organizations, regarding grant writing, promotion and public relations.
- ❖ Makes presentations at the local, state and national levels.

In 1996-97, she initiated, designed, conducted and reported on a follow-up survey she completed, regarding her student inmates who participated in LTC’s Adult Basic Education for the Incarcerated Project from 1991 to 1996.

To promote community awareness, she arranged public speaking engagements to personally present the results of the survey to various civic organizations, the Sheboygan Bar Association, the Sheboygan City Council and other local agencies. The results of this survey, along with an article she wrote about strategies to better meet the needs of diverse populations and individuals in adult basic/secondary education programs, were published in *American Jails: The Magazine of the American Jail Association*.

Kluss provided some of the reasons he nominated Abel for the award she is to receive. “I have not met another individual who gives so much of herself in helping others – not only in education and her pursuit of teaching lifelong learning, but also in whatever the need may be,” he said.

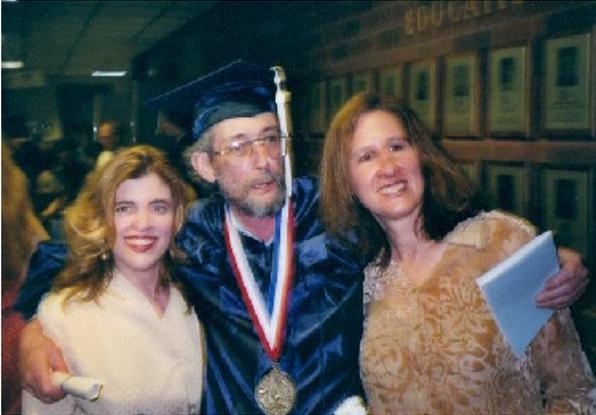
“Sharon’s work ethic and enthusiasm are appreciated by every one of her students and the outside agencies she works with.

“Her never-say-die attitude and relentless advocacy for education is contagious,” Kluss added. “In the beginning, Sharon’s passion for correctional education was not shared by all, but due to her never-say-die attitude, she now has many in our community advocating for correctional education.”

Sheboygan County District Attorney, Joe DeCecco, admits he was skeptical about the inmate educational program at first, but has changed his mind since learning that many inmates lack skills necessary for obtaining a good job.

“Sharon’s steadfast and dedicated commitment to inmate education has given a number of inmates the very basic tools that most of us take for granted, to function in society,” DeCecco said, “skills like filling out a job application.

“Her commitment has given them an alternative to a criminal lifestyle, if they so choose,” he added. “The program at least gives them a choice to be a contributing member of society and to find self-esteem, by providing for themselves and their families, through legitimate employment.



Pictured: Instructor Sharon Abel, HSED Honors Graduate Conrad Dulmes, & Former Instructional Assistant Rivi Hatt

“I am not that naïve to think that all inmates participate in Sharon’s programs to better themselves,” DeCecco admitted.

“But for those who do take advantage of Sharon’s dedicated and highly competent programs and who are serious about acquiring the skills they need, to become law abiding members of society, her program gives them an opportunity to turn things around. That’s good not only for them, but for the good of the community as well,” the District Attorney affirmed.

taken from *The Plymouth Review*  
by: Sue Mroz  
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## Hello CEA Members!

I would like to welcome all new Wisconsin members to the Correctional Education Association (CEA). For some of you, the regional conference in Wisconsin Dells was an introduction to CEA. I hope the experience was rewarding and you were able to discover ways that CEA could help you on the job. Continue to network with the new educators you met and remember to access the websites for important information and resources. The organization has many benefits to offer to its members.

This is my exiting article as the President for the Wisconsin chapter as I have turned the gavel over to DeNeal Ericksen. She has been an outstanding President-Elect and I can only imagine the wonderful things she will bring to this organization as your new President. I wish her the very best.

The past four years have been nothing but rewarding for me and I can’t think of a more fitting way to exit than to be the state that hosted the Regional conference. It took some sweat and a lot of energy but we did it. The Planning Committee put together an excellent conference and I want to thank all of them for the time and dedication they put into the event. Events like the Regional are so important because we are with people who understand our work. It is often difficult for people in the community to understand just what it is we exactly do, which is why it is good to get together with those who can relate. I wish to thank all correctional educators for allowing me to represent Wisconsin these past four years.

Peggy Meyers

## Retired Men Volunteer Time at Waukesha County Jail

Joe Schwarz and Ted Dahl are spending part of their retirement in jail – voluntarily. The two men teach English as a Second Language to inmates as part of the Waukesha County Technical College programs offered at the Waukesha County Jail.

“How much do you get paid?” Schwarz said jokingly to Dahl. “The same as you, but I heard they’re going to double it next year,” responded Dahl.

As volunteer tutors, Schwarz, 80, and Dahl, 72, donate their time. Dahl, of the town of Waukesha, has been with the program since July 2003 and Schwarz, of Wauwatosa, since late 2004.

“Before I retired, I went down to Retired Senior Volunteers Program of Waukesha County. They gave a list of different agencies that needed volunteers,” said Dahl who worked for 34 years at Tom’s Heating Service. Dahl began volunteering at the Literacy Council, and through them, he found out about the program at the jail.

Schwarz said his interest in law enforcement was piqued when he went through the citizen’s academy through the Sheriff’s Department with other members of the Golden K Kiwanis. He also connected with the Literacy Council. “I thought maybe the jail will be an interesting place,” said Schwarz. “I have met some interesting people.”

The range of inmates is wide, said Linda Galko, a WCTC instructor who works at the jail four days a week. Some haven’t been convicted yet, and some are awaiting transfer. The range in education is wide as well, said Schwarz and Dahl. There are those who are very literate in their native language (usually Spanish), while others are functionally illiterate.

Each week, the men work with up to 10 students, and using various methods, teach them English to help them function as contributing members of society when they are released.

“One thing I’ve noticed is that they always shake hands and say thank you maestro or teacher,” said Dahl.

Sometimes the lessons work both ways, as Schwarz talked about one of his past students who made quite an impression on him. “He said ‘you are not a rich country, we are a rich country. We love each other,’” Schwarz said noting the student, who was from Venezuela, took full advantage of the ESL opportunities to better his life before being transferred.

“What if one of these guys gets out and can speak English,” said Schwarz. “It may mean he can get a job a little easier.”

Dahl said sometimes when inmates leave, they will send a message of hello to the tutors.

“I just like to be useful,” Dahl said. “I enjoy the volunteer work. If I can, encourage them to make new friends and get in the right crowd.” “Do a good turn daily,” said Schwarz, a former scoutmaster.

taken from the Waukesha Freeman  
by Melissa Rigney Baxter  
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# New CEAW Board Members Assume Offices

Unfortunately, none of the CEAW Board offices up for election this year were contested. Fortunately, each office had an excellent candidate. At the May CEAW Board Meeting, the new Board members will assume their offices.

President-Elect DeNeal Ericksen will assume the President’s office. Former President Peggy Meyers has chosen to again serve as President-Elect. Julie Lidbury will become the new State Agency Representative, filling the previously vacant position.

All of the other positions up for election will be filled by the incumbents. They are:

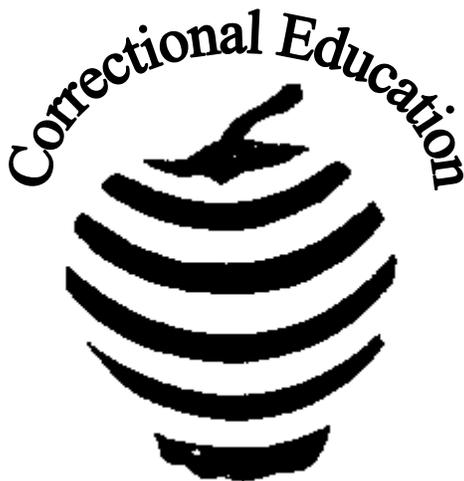
- Barb Rasmussen – Secretary
- Mike Breszee – Treasurer
- Linda Kozlowski – Maximum Security Representative
- Conrad Reedy – Medium Security Representative
- Jerry Bednarowski – Member At-Large/Newsletter Editor

To find out more about the Board members, you may check-out their bios in the March/April issue of this newsletter which is on our website, [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org).

# CEAW Executive Board Wants You!

The Executive Board is looking for a member to represent the Juvenile facilities. If interested please contact DeNeal Ericksen at [deneal.ericksen@doc.state.wi.us](mailto:deneal.ericksen@doc.state.wi.us).

CEA-Wisconsin News Review  
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# Association

