Celebrating 30 Busy Years

Before Corrections was a department, Wisconsin hosted its first Region III and IV CEA Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison in May of 1984. At the conference, under the leadership of Division of Adult Institution Education Director Bob Hable, plans were made to form a Wisconsin State Chapter of the Correctional Education Association. A constitution was written and approved by the International CEA Executive Board.

In May 1986, the first CEA-W Board was sworn in and CEA-Wisconsin was born. Wisconsin became second in the nation to form a state chapter of the CEA, being beat out by Georgia by a few months.

Ralph Clements, the Electronic Servicing teacher at FLCI, served as the Chapter’s first President. Since then Board elections have been held each year. Sixteen different people have held the office of CEA-W President representing adult institutions, a juvenile institution, a DHS institution, DOC Central Office, the UW System, WTCS and county jails. Three Presidents served two terms: Ron Morello, FLCI; Peggy Meyers, WTCS; and Mary (Stierna) Davies, WRC.

(continued on page 2)
Board members who have served at least ten years are: Jerry Bednarowski, WRC; Penny Holt, TCI; Harriet Schoeneback, GBCI; John Brueggemann, DOC Central Office; Virginia VandenBranden, GBCI; Mike Breszee, TCI & WCI; Bob Garcia, FLCI; Conrad Reedy, KMCI; Betty Volquardsen, OCI; Jan Brylow, Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Dept.; Peggy Meyers, DOC Central Office & WTCS; Ray Schlesinger, OCI & WCI; Holly Audley, SOGS & DOC Central Office; and Laurie Jarvis, FVTC.

Professional Development
Since its founding, CEA-W’s main focus has been professional development. Training opportunities sponsored or co-sponsored by CEA-Wisconsin include:

- Beginning in September 1986 and continuing for 20 years, CEA-W Board members assisted in planning some workshop tracks for the Wisconsin Correctional Association Annual Conference.
- In 1990 and 1991, CEA-W assisted UW-Oshkosh in planning and delivering “Corrections in the 1990s” Conferences.
- In 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002, CEA-W co-sponsored the Teacher In- Services with the Corrections Training Center and DOC Teacher Training Advisory Committee.
- In 1999, CEA-W held the Wisconsin State Correctional Education Conference in Oshkosh.
- In 2003, CEA-W co-sponsored the DHFS/DOC Special Education Conference in Oshkosh.
- Each year from 2003 to 2012, CEA-W co-sponsored the Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference with Wisconsin Technical College System and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. At each conference, workshops for correctional educators were included in the program.
- In 2008, CEA-W began an initiative to provide services for teachers, education coordinators, and volunteers working in county jails and detention centers. To help them network, CEA-Wisconsin created the Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin’s County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers.

The CEA-W 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.

It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEA-Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Articles for publication may be submitted to the CEA-W News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com
• In 2008 and 2009, CEA-W partnered with Wisconsin Technical College System to sponsor the Jail Break Training Days.
• In 2009, Wisconsin hosted the 64th Annual National CEA Conference at the Madison Concourse.
• At the 2013 CEA-Wisconsin Training Day, CEA-W partnered with DOC to provide training to kick-off the GED2014.

Communication and Publications
In May 1986, the first issue of the CEA-W newsletter published. As of May 2016, 179 issues have been published. Jerry Bednarowski has been the Editor of the newsletter for its entire lifespan.

The bi-monthly Parenting Connections newsletter began publication in November 2004. As of May 2016, 69 issues have been published. Jerry Bednarowski has also been the Editor of this newsletter for its entire lifespan.

Over the years the technology used to publish the CEA-W newsletter has evolved. It began with inmate clerks at FLCI using typewriter stencils and a thermofax to set up the newsletter. In July 1987, the newsletter entered the computer age when the MPTC office staff working at FLCI did the first computer draft. In subsequent years, the newsletters computer layout duties shifted to the Editor’s son, Joe Bednarowski, the FVTC computer program students at OSCI, and office staff at WRC. When WRC Program Assistant Sandy Sterr-Heavener took over in 2000, she reformatted the CEA-W newsletter into its present layout. Upon his retirement from WRC, Editor Jerry Bednarowski took over the layout duties in July 2005 and continues to the present.

The printing of the newsletter was first done by the students in the Graphic Arts program at EAS. The printing shifted to a private company in September 1988, then the students in the Graphic Arts class at GBCI in September 1994, then the Printing Department at UW-Oshkosh in January 1999, and finally to the WRC Vocational Workshop in November 2003. WRC has continued doing the job until the present.

As email accessibility for correctional educators became more of a reality, electronic distribution of both newsletters gradually became more pervasive. The CEA-W Newsletter and Parenting Connection newsletter are now emailed directly to about 850 readers, with many of them forwarding the newsletters on to their colleagues. Both newsletters are posted in their entireties on the www.ceawisconsin.org, www.ceanational.org and www.fairshake.net websites. Selected articles are also posted on the Forums section of the national CEA website.

We don’t have any method of tracking the number of people who view the CEA-W newsletter in its entirety, but the number of CEA Forum viewers is tracked. The articles posted are viewed by about 100 people per month. An article, “Study Examines Mentoring Programs for Children with Incarcerated Parents,” was the most viewed article – having over 15,800 viewers since it was posted in November 2012. Some early issues of the Parenting Connection newsletter have been viewed by over 2,800 people.

In 2008, CEA-Wisconsin created the Directory of Education Programs in Wisconsin’s County Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers to provide a networking link for teachers, education coordinators, and volunteers working in county jails and detention centers. The Directory lists contact information for 188 teachers, program directors and administrators in most of Wisconsin’s counties.

Correctional Education Association—Wisconsin

News Review

(continued from page 3)

and Jails, was published. Copies of these handbooks were distributed to state and county correctional facilities, conferences and community agencies.

CEA-Wisconsin’s website hit the internet in October 2000. In 2008, Randy Kowalsky volunteered to be the website manager. Under his expertise, the website format was re-designed and expanded to became the most comprehensive of any CEA state or regional website. All of CEA-W’s newsletters and handbooks and information on all of CEA-W’s projects are available on the website.

Awards
In 1986, Mike Breszee was selected the CEA-W’s first Teacher of the Year to represent Wisconsin at the Region III CEA Conference. Since then, a Teacher of the Year was selected each year with eight of them going on to be named Region III Teacher of the Year and represent Wisconsin and Region III at the International CEA Conference. These Wisconsin teachers were named Region III Teacher of the Year:

- 1992 – Phil Leader, Wisconsin Resource Center
- 1998 – Anita Wilcox, Blackhawk Technical College/Rock County Jail
- 2004 – Mel Free, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
- 2005 – Mary (Stierna) Davies, Wisconsin Resource Center
- 2006 – Mel Free, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
- 2007 – Ken Van Mieghem, Wisconsin Resource Center
- 2009 – DeNeal (Ericksen) Perez, Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Institution
- 2012 – Laurie Crescio, Waupun Correctional Institution

In addition to the annual Teacher of the Year Award, CEA-Wisconsin presents several other awards:

- In 1989, CEA-W presented its first Friends of Correctional Education Award. Thus far, CEA-W has recognized 74 individuals and organizations that have been noteworthy in their support of Correctional Education. These friends are volunteers who contribute time and effort to an education program, community agency employees who have presented special workshops, business persons who have donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or advocates of correctional education in some way.
- In 1997, CEA-W sponsored its first Showcase Award. Each year the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board offers a $500 grant to help defray the professional expenses for a CEA-W member to present a workshop at the Region III CEA Conference, International CEA Conference, the Wisconsin GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference, or some other professional education or corrections conference. To date, eight innovative programs have received the Showcase Award.
- In 2000, CEA-W awarded its first scholarship to assist CEA-W members or their dependents who are pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college. Originally a $500 scholarship, the award has grown to $1000. Thus far, nine CEA-W members and ten family members have received scholarships – totaling $12,500.

Special Initiatives
Another CEA-W initiative began in 2001 when a group of CEA-W members volunteered to invite incarcerated writers and artists to submit their works for the annual edition of the CEA-Wisconsin Creativity Contest booklet. Each year the committee reviewed over 150 entries and selected 40-80 original prose, poetry, and ink drawings from Wisconsin’s jail, prison, and juvenile facility populations. CEA-W funded the printing of about 225 copies of the booklets each year, with each author and artist whose works are selected receiving two free copies of the booklet. Copies are also sent to each CEA-W member and each correctional institution library.

Creativity Contest Committee members who have served at least five years are: Mary (Stierna) Davies, WRC; Libby Kraft, WRC; Lisa (Mueller) Packard, RCI; Ray Schlesinger, OCI & WCI; Conrad Reedy, KMCI; Elaine Miller, LHS; Linda Lentz, JBCC; Jane Schirger, RGCI; Mark Trepening, CCI; Sharon
In 2004, CEA-W began a partnership with Ken VanMieghem, WRC, to hold an inmate art exhibits and silent auctions. The proceeds from the silent auctions were donated to local charities. The first three art exhibits were held at the Flying Pig Gallery and Greenspace in Algoma in August 2004, October 2005 and November 2006. Two more art exhibits and silent auction were held at the Appleton Art Center in December 2008 and December 2009. In September 2015, the most recent inmate art exhibit was held at UW-Fox Valley, with a silent auction following in December 2015 at the Esther Annual Banquet in Appleton.

Parenting Special Interest Group
Another CEA-W initiative began in the summer of 2004, when Jerry Bednarowski (WRC), Diane Birch (SCI), and Mary Dahl (GBCI) met to form the Parenting Special Interest Group (SIG). Since its onset the Parenting SIG sought to create a professional network for the instructors of Parenting classes, supervisors of Parent Support Groups, coordinators of Parent/Child Reading Projects, and organizers of Children of Incarcerated Parents Services.

Soon after the Parenting SIG founded by the Wisconsin chapter of CEA became operational, the International CEA officers asked if the Wisconsin group would expand to a national organization.

Among the Parenting SIG’s initiatives are the following accomplishments:
- A parenting network of about 250 members from over 30 states has been established.
- The Parenting SIG has sought to spread the word regarding the importance of providing Parenting programming in corrections by encouraging parenting instructors to conduct dozens workshops at correctional and education conferences including:
  - International CEA Conferences in Des Moines IA, Atlanta GA, Denver CO, Madison WI and St. Paul MN
  - Region III & IV CEA Conferences in Yankton SD, Ames IA, Bloomington MN, and Effingham, IL
  - CEA-Wisconsin Training Days
  - CEA-Ohio Conference in Huron, OH
  - GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences
  - Fulfilling the Promise Conferences
  - Wisconsin Social Services Association Conferences
  - Wisconsin Correctional Association Conference
  - Community agencies

The primary presenters of these workshops have been: Jerry Bednarowski, Deneal (Ericksen) Perez, Barb Rasmussen, Margaret Done, Mary Pohlman, and Andrea Uherka.
- In 2013, the Parenting SIG published a resource directory for parenting instructors and program directors, Prison Parenting Programs: Resources for Parenting Instructors in Prisons and Jails. It is a directory of model parenting programs designed to help correctional educators enhance existing or create new parenting programs in their correctional facilities. Thus far, 465 copies have
(continued from page 5)

been distributed. Funding from Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin covered the printing cost.

- The Parenting SIG sponsored two one-day seminars, “Effective Black Parenting” and “It Takes Attention to Change the Brain.” Each was attended by 20+ correctional educators.
- The Parenting SIG serves as an advocate for parenting programs in corrections by providing information relating to parenting programs in corrections and the needs of incarcerated parents and their families to governmental workgroups, correctional administrations, and community organizations at the national, state and county levels.
- The Parenting SIG also serves a resource for parenting instructors providing advice on developing Parenting programs to correctional educators seeking information on teaching or developing parenting programs.

Financial Stability
For the first ten years of its existence, the financial assets of CEA-Wisconsin were quite lean. The large attendance and vendor participation at the Region III & IV CEA Conference at the Madison Concourse in 1996 changed that. Continued fees from vendors at subsequent conferences and training days as well as the advent of silent auctions at CEA-W events in 2004, has allowed CEA-W to start new initiatives; give rebates on membership fees; increase awards to scholarship, Teacher of the Year, and Showcase winners; and reduce the registration fees charged at CEA-W Training Days.

Since 2004, CEA-W has held silent auctions at nine GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conferences, six CEA-W Training Days, three Region III & IV CEA Conferences and one Annual International CEA Conference. Income from the auctions has ranged from $834 to $2400 with the average being $1128.

The Future
So over the past 30 years, CEA-W has been busy and hopefully, correctional educators throughout Wisconsin and beyond have benefitted.

In recent years, CEA-W members have become more involved on the regional and national CEA level. Many members have presented workshops at Regional and International CEA conferences. Correctional educators from other states and government agencies have sought information and advice from the CEA-W Board.

In July 2005, Jerry Bednarowski became national chair of CEA’s Parenting Special Interest Group. In April 2009, Peggy Meyers was elected CEA Region III Director and DeNeal (Ericksen) Perez was elected Assistant Director. In July 2013, Peggy Meyers was elected national CEA Vice President. In 2015, Peggy was elected national President-Elect and she will assume the office of President in July 2016.

CEA-W membership is strong and energetic. Wisconsin has always ranked among the top five states in CEA membership. Along with Ohio, Wisconsin is one of the two most active state chapters. With your help, we hope to continue to grow and expand over the next 30 years!

Details and a timeline of these and other CEA-Wisconsin events in its first 30 years events can be found on the www.ceawisconsin.org website. Click on “CEA-W’s First 30 Years” and “CEA-W Timeline.”

71st International CEA Conference & Training Event
Corrrectional Education: Key to Successful Transitions & Promising Futures
July 31 - August 3, 2016
Hilton Long Beach
Long Beach, California
CEA-Wisconsin 2016 Scholarship Program

Again this year CEA-Wisconsin will award a $1,000 scholarship to a CEA-Wisconsin member or a member’s spouse or dependent.

Purpose: The CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Award Program is designed to assist CEA-W members or their spouses/dependents that are pursuing a degree at an accredited university or technical college.

Scholarships Details: CEA-Wisconsin awards a scholarship of $1,000. The scholarship will be awarded to a CEA-W member who is furthering his/her education in the education or library services field or a CEA-W member’s spouse or dependent who is pursuing a university or technical college degree in any field. 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 at an accredited university or technical college.
- 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 can be found on the www.ceawisconsin.org website, provide all required attachments, and submit the entire package to the address below no later than July 1, 2016. Incomplete or late application packages will not be accepted for consideration.

Selection: The scholarship recipients will be selected by the CEA-Wisconsin Board. Criteria for selection will include academic record, financial need, as well as school, community, or association activities. Recipients will be notified in writing.

For more information contact:

Holly Audley
CEA-Wisconsin Scholarship Committee
Office of the Secretary/Reentry Unit
Wisconsin Department of Corrections
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-240-5022
holly.audley@wisconsin.gov
2016 Friends of Correctional Education Award

Do you know someone who has been noteworthy in their support of correctional education?

This person may be a volunteer who contributes time and effort to an education program, a community agency employee who has presented special workshops, a business person who has donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or an advocate of correctional education in some way. If such person has contributed to your facility’s education program, submit his/her name for the "Friends of Correctional Education Award."

Nominees cannot be employed by the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, or a county jail.

To nominate a Friend of Correctional Education, send his/her name, a description of the contribution to correctional education (250 words or less), the institution(s) where the Friend of Correctional Education made his/her contribution and the nominator’s name to:

Willa MacKenzie
Western Technical College
400 7th Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-789-6033
mackenziew@westerntc.edu

Submission Deadline is: July 1, 2016

Learn All About CEA-Wisconsin at:
www.ceawisconsin.org

Beyond These Gates Ready this Month

The Creativity Booklet for 2016 – Beyond These Gates – will be distributed at the CEA-W May Training Days. The contest committee received 185 submissions, which included 142 pieces of writing and 43 pieces of artwork. The committee met in January to read through the writings and look at the artwork. Each entry is scored by each committee member participating in the judging. The number of published entries is limited due to space, so the highest scoring entries are included in the final booklet. Sixty-three entries are included in this year’s book.

The committee consists of Nancy Alderton, OSCi; Margaret Done, MSDF; Laurie Jarvis FVTC/Waushara County Jail; Laura Gebhardt, OCI; Linda Lentz, JBCC; Tim Mahoney, WRC; and Sharon Nesemann, WRC. This year Ed Gallatin and his workers at Oshkosh Correctional Institution typed and formatted the pages. The book is printed at Columbia Correctional Institution. Each person whose work was published will receive two copies of the book and all CEA-Wisconsin members will receive one copy of the book.

The Creativity Contest Committee is looking for additional members. If you are interested in participating in this yearly activity, please let Sharon Nesemann or Nancy Alderton know.

by: Sharon Nesemann, WRC
CEA-Wisconsin Board Has New Look

At the CEA-Wisconsin Training Days in Elkhart Lake on May 2-3, President-Elect Laurie Jarvis will assume the office of President of the Wisconsin State Chapter. She will be replacing Laura Reisinger who has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board as an At-Large Member from 2008-2012, President-Elect from 2012-2014 and President from 2014-2016.

Laurie received her Masters in Education from UW-Stevens Point in 2002. She has worked for Fox Valley Technical College since 1989. Laurie has a contagious enthusiasm for learning – teaching is her passion. She has had the opportunity to work with many different types of students: ELL, Family Literacy, Alternative High School, Business & Industry, GOAL, General Studies, and Incarcerated. Laurie is always amazed by how much she learns from her students and she hopes the lessons they learn from her are as powerful as the ones that they have taught her. Laurie has been teaching in a jail setting for over 15 years. Her first experience was teaching at the Waushara County Work Release Center and presently she teaches at the Waushara County Jail. Laurie has served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board as Jail/Detention Center Representative from 2007-2014 when she became President-Elect.

Dave Hines, now retired after being Education Director at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, has been elected President-Elect. He will serve in that office for two years and then succeed Laurie Jarvis as President in 2018.

Dave worked for 24 years in Correctional Education as a Librarian, Teacher and Education Director at both New Lisbon Correctional Institution and Oshkosh Correctional Institution. Twenty of those years were at Oshkosh Correctional Institution and four at New Lisbon Correctional. Dave has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology (UW-Milwaukee), a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science (UW-Milwaukee) as well as a Master's Degree in Career & Technical Education (UW-Stout). He has been a member of the Correctional Education Association for most of the last 13 years and served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board as At-Large and Medium Security Representative from 2012 to this year.

New to the CEA-W Board is Minimum/Maximum Security Representative Tina Thanos. Tina began her employment with DOC at Stanley Correctional Institution where she was an ABE, HSED and basic computer skills teacher from August 2012 to June 2013. She transferred to Green Bay Correctional Institution in June 2013 where she serves as an ABE, GED Math prep, Title1 and Restricted Status Housing Unit teacher. She also is a member of the GBCI Incident Command System Situation Unit, Employee/ Management Collaboration and Communication Committee, and Training Day Committee. Prior to working in corrections, Tina worked for seven years as Director/instructor at an alternative high school.

Returning to the CEA-W Board is Margaret Done. Margaret has been a teacher at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility since 1999. She teaches GED, Parenting, and Re-Entry classes. She has provided training for the GED 2014 conversion in Wisconsin and other states and presented workshops at several CEA and other professional conferences. Margaret served on the CEA-Wisconsin Board as Minimum Security Representative from 2008-2009, President-Elect from 2009-2010, President from 2010-2012, Maximum/ Minimum Security Representative from 2012-2014 and At-Large Representative from 2014-2015.

All of the other CEA-Wisconsin Board members up for election this year were unopposed and will be returning for another term. Continuing on the board are:

- Secretary – Sharon Nesemann, WRC
- Treasurer – Ray Schlesinger
- Education Director Representative – Peggy Meyers, WTCS
- At-Large Representative – Jerry Bednarowski

The new Board members will assume their offices at the May CEA-Wisconsin Board meeting.
Sharon Nesemann, CEA-W Secretary
Wisconsin Resource Center
P.O. Box 16
Winnebago, WI 54985

President’s Message

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” — Seneca

Where were you in May of 1986 as CEA-Wisconsin was just beginning? (I was planning my wedding for June.) A special thanks to Jerry who has single-handedly been the keeper of all CEA-W history. Without him, we would not be able to look back and see all that has been accomplished. After reading this newsletter, I am even more proud to be a part of this organization.

In closing my last column, I know that I leave this board in great hands. Laurie is an experienced leader who will guide the board's initiatives with her enthusiastic energy. I want to personally thank all of the board members who made my job as President an easy one. Everyone performed their roles professionally – they not only showed up for board meetings but also actively participated; they not only volunteered to take on assignments but also followed-through on them.

As I am finishing up my dissertation on Correctional Educators in Wisconsin and completing my Doctorate in Career & Technical Education at UW-Stout, I am trusting in Seneca’s wisdom that my new beginning will come.

Laura
lreisinger@lvcv.org