

# WCEA

## January 2012

### Newsletter



<http://www.wcea.info>

Volume 2 - Issue 1



#### *Notes from the President*

Welcome to 2012!! This past year has been an exciting year for WCEA with several big accomplishments. Our new, dynamic website is getting many hits, reported by Julie Kosher, our web manager. The annual fall conference was a success with record attendance at nearly 80 people. The evaluation results were all positive – people liked the format with round tables in the morning with lots of sharing of programming ideas and strategies for Community Education and After-School to the three mini-clinics in the afternoon. And, we are embarking on developing an annual report of Community Education programs in the state.

We have several new board members who are replacing former members on the board – Kathy Dunkerson, Director of Extended Day Programs and Community Engagement in the Racine Unified School District and Karen Collins, Director of Spooner Area Community Education. Also Julie Kosher, a stalwart WCEA board member for many years has decided to step down as a board member, but continue her role as web manager. To replace her, Tanna Worrell, Community Education Director in the Unity School District, has agreed to serve. (See articles in this newsletter to learn a little more about each of these board members.) We wish to thank Cheryl Emerson, with New Richmond's Community Education and Dori Marti with the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College's Community Education outreach program for their past service on the board. And to Julie, who is a new inductee into the WCEA Hall of Fame, we are so thankful for her multiple years of service and guidance with WCEA.

Things to watch for in 2012 with our heightened political climate in the state is rumbling of an audit of school districts' Fund 80 accounts. A letter dated October 4, 2011, sent by five state legislators (four Assembly Representatives and one State Senator) to Senator Robert Cowles and Representative Samantha Kerkman, co-chairpersons on the Joint Committee on Audit requested an audit of Wisconsin Fund 80, or the "Community Service Fund." The letter stated:

The Community Service Fund (CSF) was a creation of the 1983-'84 Wisconsin State Legislature. It was intended to provide schools with the ability to extend the use of their facilities into the community, with expected participation fees offsetting any costs. All costs were borne by local property taxpayers through a separate CSF levy. In the 2001 Budget Bill, language was inserted which exempted CSF expenditures from the districts' revenue limits. The result was that no matter how many dollars a district spent of CSF activities (and assessed the property taxpayer) the district would still receive its "full measure" of state aids and property taxes for instructional purposes.

A concern expressed in this letter is that several districts have become far more "expansive" in their use of CSF and "creative" in defining what expenditures might be called "community service." Consequently, these legislators are urging an audit of Fund 80. The reality is that 274 school districts in the state receive Fund 80 monies, varying from a few thousand dollars a year to over a million, depending on the size of the district, but even some smaller districts are collecting several hundreds of thousands of dollars into their Fund 80 account. A pending audit could be good news for Community Education or bad news, depending on how the state legislature would ultimately define or narrow what is considered a legitimate use of Fund 80 monies. So after a discussion of this at our last board meeting, we wanted to make you aware of this letter and a potential audit. Consequently, it might be a good idea to have a discussion with your district administrator about how your Fund 80 monies are being spent.

You can find more information about Fund 80 on the DPI website [http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/ppt/comm\\_ser\\_fnd.ppt](http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/ppt/comm_ser_fnd.ppt) in a PowerPoint presentation by Jerry Landmark from several years ago.

Given this recent turn of events concerning Fund 80, something to watch for in the near future is a systematic process that is currently being developed to evaluate the effectiveness of your Community Education program. We are working with Stan Potts, a former WCEA Board Member and ardent supporter of Community Education, to develop an evaluation process that will be available to the WCEA membership and Community Education programs to examine the quality of their programs.

If you haven't renewed your WCEA membership for 2012, please send your check to the attention of Jill Arens, WCEA Program Assistant, Shawano Community Education, 1050 S. Union Street, Room 102, Shawano, WI 54166. Continue to check our new website ([www.wcea.info](http://www.wcea.info)) for updates, valuable resources, and other information for your Community Education programs.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

*Nancy Kraft, WCEA President*



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## ***Our upgraded web-site is ready...***

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Need a class evaluation form, a class proposal form, advisory council resources, or ideas on how to "Sell-a-brate" your Community Education program?

Find all of these resources and more at:

[www.wcea.info/](http://www.wcea.info/)

Check out the recently updated webpage for Wisconsin Community Education Association. This website is a work in progress and we need your help! The WCEA state board would like this site to be a great place to share ideas and resources for all community education directors and WCEA members. If you have resources that you would like to share or ideas for website content or even questions, send them to: [webmanager@wcea.info](mailto:webmanager@wcea.info)

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### *Musings About WCEA Membership Benefits*

Scott Lein, WCEA President Elect

One of the greatest benefits of attending the WCEA annual conference in October was harvesting ideas from professionals from all corners of Wisconsin. The workshops and round tables included wonderful tips on how to help build, fine-tune, and take our Community Ed program to the next level.

Networking and sharing resources with others within WCEA is a genuine form of professional development. I gathered useful documents, compared our practices to others, and learned from seasoned professionals. With a little reflection and program evaluation, one can, with relative ease, begin to make some potent changes to his/her program. Those changes will eventually pay off in the form of positive course evaluations, referrals for additional instructors, higher attendance rates, lower course cancellation rates, and more.

In Oregon, and I suspect many other places around Wisconsin, the implementation of best practices allows us to set in motion a system that creates its own success. Those best practices developed both inside and outside of Community

Ed settings, practically guarantee that the full life cycle of your programs is successful. Tightening the screws may include a team or an advisory board-based approach to program planning, multiple layers of program evaluation, or implementing active recruiting for instructors. It may include improving course descriptions and booklet content so your community members believe in a quality product that speaks to their needs and interests.

Whether your community is considering formalizing a Community Education model, or your district is attempting to take the Community Education department to the next level, WCEA has the connections to help make that happen. I encourage you to get more involved. Connect with one of our WCEA mentors. Plan to attend our fall 2012 conference. Get active with regional and state-wide meetings and carry the Community Ed philosophy beyond your locality.

Enjoy a wonderful 2012!

Scott Lein  
Oregon S.D. Community Education  
[608-835-4097](tel:608-835-4097) / [srl@oregonsd.net](mailto:srl@oregonsd.net)

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## ***Renew WCEA Membership Today***

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Please renew your 2012 membership with WCEA, if you haven't already done so. The state organization works on your behalf to provide you with timely information, resources, and assistance with your Community Education program. We have experienced mentors who are ready to address any questions you might have and willing to step up the plate!

Membership costs are low:

- \$50 for an individual or
- \$95 for district/center membership (up to 3 people) and for each additional person who wants to be a member from your district, the cost is then \$35/individual.

You can find a membership application on the WCEA website - [www.wcea.info](http://www.wcea.info)

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## 2012 Board Members

Nancy Kraft –President  
[nancykraft@centurytel.net](mailto:nancykraft@centurytel.net)  
715 452-5315

Scott Lein – President Elect  
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Gerry Traczyk – Treasurer  
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Candie Lehto – Secretary  
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Katy Kraemer – Past President  
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Julie Kosher – Icepac Region/Webmaster  
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715.635.0243

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262.664.6990

Jill Arens – WCEA Program Assistant  
[arensj1@ssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:arensj1@ssd.k12.wi.us)  
715.526.2192 ext 3202

## Meet Our New Board Members:

**Kathy Dunkerson** has been an administrative leader in the Racine Unified School District for eleven years. Her roles have included being the assistant director of the Lighted Schoolhouse after school program for 5 years and the Director of Community Engagement and Extended Day Programs for six years. As the Director of Community Engagement and Extended Day Programs she has worked to ensure the credibility of out of school time programs as a viable part of the learning experience for all children. She is currently the Wisconsin Ambassador to the National Afterschool Alliance, a Board member of the Wisconsin Community Education Association, a member of the Greater Racine Out of School Time steering committee, and a member of the United Way Caring for Kids committee. She has a Master's degree in Education from Concordia University of Wisconsin, and is currently enrolled for her PhD. She has been a resident of Wisconsin for 23 years. She is a mother of two and a grandmother of six. You can contact Kathy at 262.664.6990 or [kathy.dunkerson@rusd.org](mailto:kathy.dunkerson@rusd.org)

**Tanna Worrell:** I have been privileged to work in Unity School's **Community Ed** program since September of 1997. Like many of you, I have worn many hats in addition to Community Ed in these last 14 years - at one time or another I've managed the afterschool snack shop, created the school district newsletter, supported the athletics department, managed the volunteer program, worked in the Elementary office, manage Facility Use for non-school hours, and countless other duties. Of all the things I have done, and still do, I love the Community Education piece of my job the best. The ability to meet the needs of individuals in my own community is greatly satisfying - whether it's providing an opportunity for someone to express their creativity, or brush up on job skills, or participate in a meaningful fitness program, or experience quality entertainment in our rural area. As a mom of three grown children and two grandchildren, I enjoy my part in making this community dynamic and complete. I've lived in Polk County for 30 plus years, and currently live on 40 acres of paradise with my husband Dan and our Brittney Spaniel, Pepper. I enjoy gardening, wildcrafting edible and medicinal plants, cross-country skiing, running, good music, good food and good friends. You can reach me at:

Unity Community Education  
715.825.2101 x1560, or  
[tworrell@unity.k12.wi.us](mailto:tworrell@unity.k12.wi.us)

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**Karen Collins:** I have always cared deeply about helping others gain a strong educational base throughout my entire life, including the following highlights:

- Coordinating Community Education in the Spooner Area School District since 2008 while wearing many hats: Adult Education, Afterschool, and Summer School coordinator; Department of Public Instruction and Farm to School AmeriCorps Teams' Supervisor; Volunteerism Team Manager
- Serving the Spooner Area and State of Wisconsin as a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) AmeriCorps member strengthening our School-Family-Community Partnerships and Rural Community Sustainability
- Teaching students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades professionally and volunteering to teach in our parish Religious Education Program
- Serving our school family and community on a variety of leadership boards: Lakeland Family Resource Center, St. Francis Parish Council, Parent Teacher Association, Saving Graces Investment Club, Team Wellness, Citizens' Grassroots Referendum Committee
- Leading and teaching as a Licensed In-Home Family Childcare Provider
- Coaching community youth in FIRST Lego League, Destination Imagination, DramaRama, Theatre in the Woods Performance Director, Soccer and T-Ball Co-coach

I enjoy spending time when not in the educational setting with my two children, husband, and Black Lab in addition to friends and extended family. A bonus to what I do, I truly enjoy meeting new people with varied interests and trying out many new challenges offered in our Community Education Programming!! Weaving baskets, sewing, cooking gardening and working with glass projects have been some of my favorite new adventures in recent years!! Thank you for the opportunity to serve our state as a board member. You can reach Karen at:

[collinsk@spooner.k12.wi.us](mailto:collinsk@spooner.k12.wi.us)  
715.635.0243



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## New Feature Added to WCEA Website

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Do you need advice on a particular community education topic? As the New Year begins a new feature will be added to the WCEA website called

### ***“Dear Sandi”***



Send your questions to [kanes1@ssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kanes1@ssd.k12.wi.us) and Sandi will collaborate with other well established Community Education Directors in the state to get the best answer(s) to your question(s). All questions and answers will be posted on the website.

Here are some of the questions that may arise:

- What classes are money makers for your program?
- What craft classes are commonly offered?
- Is there a HOT class that I should be offering?
- How do you get instructors? How do you determine instructor pay?
- Who do you ask to be on your advisory council?
- What strategies can I use to increase enrollments so I don't have to cancel a class?
- How do I get the word out about classes and CE activities?

**Sandi awaits your questions!**

Sandi Kane, SCE Director • Shawano School District  
1050 S Union Street • Shawano, WI 54166  
715.526.2192 x3102 • [kanes1@ssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kanes1@ssd.k12.wi.us)

Visit the WCEA Website @ <http://www.wcea.info/>

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## Big Changes Nationally for Community Education.

After over half a century of serving as a professional membership organization for individuals and organizations interested in the concept of Community Education, the National Community Education Association (NCEA) closed its doors this past summer after realizing that membership fees could not sustain the costs of the services it had provided. As a final and fitting ceremonial ending to NCEA, a gathering of NCEA members and supporters occurred in Flint, MI, this past November where the Center for Community Education was based for many years. Community Education Coordinators and Directors, Professors of Community Education theory and staff from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation paid final tribute to NCEA and then entered into robust discussions regarding new and different ways that community education could maintain a presence nationally.

These discussions are still occurring on a virtual basis via a web-based platform called Mind Mixer. Anyone wishing to observe, or more actively participate, in these discussions can just go to <http://www.mindmixer.com/>

Wisconsin Community Education Association (WCEA) is a non-profit state organization committed to helping communities connect all learners with resources to strengthen every community and school through partnerships and citizen involvement.

The WCEA's mission advocates the improvement and expansion of the community education philosophy as an integral and necessary part of the educational process.

**WCEA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**Level 1**

- \$50 Individual
- \$95 District Center – (up to 3 people)
- \$35 4 or more (each individual person)
- \$50 Emeritus (retired) First Year
- \$ 5 Emeritus Renewal

**Benefits: Level 1**

- Discount Conference Fees
- Membership directory & spreadsheet
- Training scholarships when available
- Website "members only" Access
- Online training when available
- Right to hold office
- Newsletter
- List Serve

**Level 2**

- \$35 Advisory Council Members

**Benefits Level 2**

- Electronic Newsletter
- List Serve

**Level 3**

- \$250 Business Partner

**Benefits: Level 3**

- Discounted vendor fees
- Electronic newsletter
- Mailing Labels – 2 Sets

**WCEA  
MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

*Please print*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
School District or Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

**Check One**

- Individual \$50.00
- District/Center\* \$95.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional members \$35.00/each
- Emeritus – First Year \$50.00
- Emeritus Renewal \$ 5.00
- Business Partner \$250.00

**\*District/Center Membership**

Include a separate piece of paper listing additional names w/contact information. Additional persons can be named @ \$35/each with a District/Center membership.

Send to: Jill Arens  
**WCEA Membership**  
**1050 S. Union St.**  
**Shawano, WI 54166**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_