



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

NAASLN Membership News & Views Issue Ten – April 2006

NAASLN Membership News & Views is an outgrowth of the NAASLN Vision to offer our members a centralized hub of information, professional development, technical assistance, communication on issues and trends, and advocacy initiatives on behalf of adults with special learning needs.

April events not to be missed:

- **NAASLN @ COABE** (Houston, April 26-29) Don't miss the NAASLN pre-conference sessions and Disabilities Track. (Details below)
- Call for **NAASLN Board** nominations – due by April 15.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP? It still is not too late!

If you have not already done so, it is now time to renew your membership in the **ONLY National Association exclusively for Adults with Special Learning Needs**. So I challenge you this month to become involved, professionally or personally. Perhaps you want to become more vigorous in advocating for a specific population – the disabled, the working poor, ESOL students, incarcerated youth, etc. Perhaps you need to implement adaptive technology in your literacy program, or maybe you can offer technical assistance to those who need to implement new initiatives. Or maybe you have set a personal goal for yourself this year – improve your professional visibility, or get a new job. Whatever brought you to **NAASLN** in the first place needs a little attention now.

So let's make it a win-win situation.

For \$35 annually, you have full access to a unique field of professionals and adult learners, and links to resources (people and products) for adults with special learning needs, as well as our newsletter, membership roster, international networking, advance notice of professional development programs, FYI bulletins on national issues and trends in adult education, discounted rates to our conferences, and opportunities for leadership.

Don't think of **NAASLN** as just membership dues. Think of **NAASLN** as a chance to build leadership and buy into your future.

Joan Hudson-Miller
NAASLN President

P.S: For membership forms go to NAASLN web site or you can copy and paste this link into your browser.

http://www.naasln.org/membership/Membership_form.html

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View this newsletter in PDF format on the NAASLN web site or you can copy and paste this link into your browser.

<http://www.naasln.org/pages/Newsletter.html>

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In this issue:

- **Becoming Passionate & Empowered Professions – Call for NAASLN Board Nominations now open for July 2006 – June 2008 term**
- **NAASLN @ COABE**
- **NAASLN 2006 Conference Session Spotlight: Strategic Dialogue on ESOL Issues, hosted by Robin Schwarz, M.Sp.Ed.**
- **Website of the Month:**
http://daminnnesota.org/programs/educational_products.html
- **Ordering Conference session Audio Tapes and CD's**

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Call for NAASLN Board Nominations

***Into Action –
Becoming Passionate and Empowered Professionals***

In her keynote speech that opened the 2005 NAASLN Conference in Denver, National Disabilities Advocate Dale Brown urged attendees to become passionate and empowered professionals. This month NAASLN offers you a chance to do just.

The Nomination Committee of NAASLN is now accepting nominations for the association's Board of Directors for a two-year term, starting in July 2006 and ending June 2008. Nominations close April 15, 2006.

Ours is a working Board with bi-monthly conference call meetings. The next several months will be an exciting time for NAASLN as we grow our association to better meet members' needs and plan our 2007 conference. We need fresh perspectives and unbridled enthusiasm. To be eligible, the nominating person and the nominee must be members in good standing of NAASLN and willing to actively serve on the Board for a 2-year term. Nominate yourself or contact your potential nominee and determine if he or she is eligible and willing to accept the Board responsibilities. If the individual is not a current NAASLN member, he/she may become one and then be eligible for the Board.

Board responsibilities include:

1. Attendance at an annual Board of Directors meeting, usually held in conjunction with the NAASLN National Conference.
2. Attendance at the National Conference
3. Active participation in Full Board Conference Calls, approximately six per year.
4. Active participation on the Conference Committee
5. Chair, co-chair or at least active participation on at least one other committee.
6. Ability and willingness to assume all financial responsibilities for Board-related expenses, including but not limited to paid membership in NAASLN, conference calls, and participation in the National Conference.

You do not need to be a Board member to take an active role in one of our standing committees, which include:

1. Conference
2. Fiscal
3. Legislative & Advocacy
4. Membership/Recruitment
5. Partnerships
6. Policy and Procedures
7. Communications (Newsletter and Web site).

Board nominations are now being accepted.

Go to <http://www.naasln.org/pages/membership.html> and download a nomination form and return to NAASLN before April 15. E-mail to naasln@naasln.org or fax to 310-354-2601. To join a committee, simply send an email to NAASLN@naasln.org to indicate which one you would like to join.

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Upcoming event not to be missed.....

**NAASLN @ COABE National Conference 2006 –
Houston, Texas, April 26-29**

(Go to www.COABE.org for conference details)

NAASLN Pre-Conference Sessions: April 26

- 9:00 am – Noon: **Minding your Ps and Qs: Updates on State Initiatives, Policies, Practices, and Professional Development for Serving Persons with Special Learning Needs**, *Laura Weisel and Richard Cooper*
- 1:00 – 4:00 pm: **Evaluating The Struggling Adult ESOL Learner: Is it LD or Something Else?** *Robin Schwarz*

NAASLN Conference Track -Thursday, April 27

- 11:00 am – 12:15 pm: **Alternative Math Techniques**, *Richard Cooper*
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm: **Creating Systemic Change – Learner Success Through Positive Focus**, *Sherry Nash*
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm: **Supporting Persons with Persistent Mental Illnesses in Education and Work**, *Laura Weisel*
- 3:45 – 5:00 pm: **Adults with Memory Difficulties: Ways to Remember What You Learn**, *Richard Cooper*

NAASLN Conference Track - Friday, April 28

- 1:45 – 3:00 pm: **Update on Accessible Tests for Adults with Special Learning Needs**, *Joan Hudson-Miller, Debra Watkins, Robyn Rennick*
- 3:30 – 4:45 pm: **Corrections – Special Needs Update**, *Alan Toops*

NAASLN Conference Track - Saturday, April 29

- 8:00 – 11:00 am: **The Brain, Emotions and Learning: Understanding the Key Perquisites to Successful Instruction & Employment**, *Laura Weisel*
- 11:30 am – 12:45 pm: **Don't Tell Me How to Study: Teach Me How**, *Robyn A. Rennick*

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NAASLN 2005 Conference Session Spotlight

NAASLN Strategic Dialogue on ESOL Issues

Dialogue hosted by Robin Schwarz, M. Sp. Ed: LD, Partner, The TLP Group, Columbus, Ohio and NAASLN Board Member

Judging by the reaction of participants at the Saturday morning Pre-Conference, attendance at ESOL-related sessions, and the presence of Colorado ESOL personnel, special needs issues are a hot topic which NAASLN needs to continue to address.

Some of the issues the dialogue group would like to see addressed in future NAASLN conferences and on the website are:

1. Increasing the visibility of ESOL in special needs conversations
Suggestions to accomplish this include:
 - Identify ways to fund increased awareness of special needs in ESOL population.
 - Have more representation of ESOL special needs at NAASLN.

2. Culture: Since cultural attitudes towards learning needs differ widely, and since approaches used by the vast majority of teachers are grounded in US/western concepts of special needs and how they are identified and accommodated, the group is eager for ways to increase teachers/others' cultural awareness about ESOL learners.

Suggestions to accomplish this include:
 - Sessions at conferences.
 - A place on the NAASLN website for this topic with links to other resources, especially those who can provide related training.
 - A database with links on specific populations and cultural information about these populations.
 - A compendium of 'best practices' for raising cultural awareness or for increasing knowledge of cultural differences in approaches to special needs.

3. Specific issues and approaches to special needs within the ESOL population: Suggestions/requests for future sessions at the conferences and for more information on the NAASLN website included:
 - A session on using Lindamood-Bell techniques to improve phonological awareness of ESOL learners (Colorado is doing this).
 - More information on what accommodations look like for struggling ESOL learners—the usual approaches either don't work or do not address the issues at hand or are culturally inappropriate.
 - Information on best practices for working with ESOL learners who are
 - Elderly
 - Have emotional/mental health issues
 - Low/non literate

4. Bibliography on ESOL/special needs should be on the NAASLN website.

5. Testing issues:
 - More information on appropriate testing of ESOL learners for
 - Placement
 - Special needs
 - Testing accommodations—especially GED (see above for appropriate accommodations for ESOL learners)
 - Feedback on
 - TABE—new ESOL edition being field tested

- BEST-Oral
- CASAS and special needs
- Other tests used in Canada and elsewhere

A reminder: If you missed a session or could not attend the conference, never fear. Throughout the coming year, on our Website and E-newsletter, ***Membership News & Views***, you will be able to download highlights and/or purchase the audio recordings of entire presentations and sessions. (See below for information on ordering audio recordings.)

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Web Site of the Month:

http://ldaminnnesota.org/programs/educational_products.html

The Learning Disabilities Association of Minneapolis, the Twin Cities' leading nonprofit educational agency specializing in learning disabilities for people of all ages, publishes "Taking Action," a 100+ page resource guide for instructors serving ESL adults with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. It covers ESL trends, LD definitions and applications, language acquisition, other factors that impact learning, best practice strategies for ESL learners, and the influence of pre-literacy. It also includes a screening interview for ESL adults, a reading assessment for preliterate adults, and an LDA pilot model for LD/ESL assessment. To learn more, click on or cut and paste the above web site.

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Ordering Conference Session Audio Tapes and CDs: For sale on the NAASLN website.

Maybe you attended NAASLN 2005, but couldn't make it to every session. Or maybe you couldn't join us at all. Here's your chance to experience what you missed. Go to the NAASLN web site for the full list of over 60 sessions available on audio tape and CD. A downloadable order form is also available.

Sessions and presenters mentioned in the newsletter include:

*Pre-Conference – **Evaluating the Struggling ESOL Learner: Is it LD or Something Else?*** Robin Schwarz (Session #3, 3 tapes or 3 CDs)

Adult ESOL Learners and Special Learning Needs: What are some of the Key Issues? Robin Schwarz (Session #30, 2 tapes or 2 CDs)

IDing Specific Learning Needs for native Spanish Speakers and Culturally Linguistically Different, Robin Schwarz & Susan Geary (Session #46, 1 tape or 1 CD)

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NAASLN is devoted to enhancing the opportunities for life-long learning for adults with special learning needs by improving the efforts of adult educators working with these individuals in the full range of life-long learning programs, i.e., ABE, ESL, GED, volunteer-based and community-based literacy programs.

Future Newsletter Submissions

Help us meet your needs. Recommend or submit an article, event announcements, book reviews, and web sites links.

- E-mail newsletter@naasln.org
- Mail to:
Joan Hudson-Miller, 14214 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066 or
- Fax to 310-354-2601.

All submissions will be reviewed for appropriateness for our readership and will be selected at the discretion of the newsletter editors.

Sharing information

Do you have ideas on how you would like to better network with other members? Are there other features you would like to see in this Newsletter and on our website?

E-mail newsletter@naasln.org or leave a message on at 800-496-9222

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Help Spread the Word

Please forward this newsletter to other educators and interested parties. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to become a member of NAASLN and a regular subscriber, send an email to naasln@aol.com for membership information or visit our web site: www.naasln.org.

We practice Permission Marketing. Go to <http://www.naasln.org/pages/privacypolicy.html> to read our Privacy Policy. If you ever want to stop receiving this e-newsletter, reply to newsletter@naasln.org and type 'Unsubscribe' in the body of the email.

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NAASLN

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