



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

NAASLN Membership News & Views Issue Eleven – June 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.

June - August events not to be missed:

- **Election of the 2006 - 2008 NAASLN Board of Directors. *Don't forget to cast your vote by June 9!*** Only paid members are eligible to vote, and by now should have received the Election E-mail with voting instruction and the Board recommended slate. You can also go the NAASLN web site www.naasln.org, and click on the [Vote for the Board members link](#). Questions? 800-469-9222 or email us at votefortheboard@naasln.com.
- **Become a Passionate and Empowered Professional** - that's what NAASLN is all about. (See membership information below.)
- **Federal Legislative Alert.** The House Appropriation Subcommittee will meet on June 7 to address adult education funding level for FY 07. (See Legislative Bulletin below.)
- **NAASLN @ CEA International Conference** (Anaheim, California, July 30-August 2) Don't miss the NAASLN pre-conference sessions and Disabilities Track. (Spotlighted topic, website, and supplementary information below.)
- **Online Classes** from the Center for Literacy Studies – starting June 6
- **August – National Disability Employment Awareness Month** (Details below)

Membership -

WELCOME TO ALL THE 2006 NEW AND RENEWING NAASLN MEMBERS!

Welcome to the **ONLY** National Association exclusively dedicated to improving the educational experience for Adults with Special Learning Needs. Whether you are a renewing member, a new member, or an introductory member, a teacher, learner, or policymaker, you have joined a like-minded group of professionally and personally committed individuals whose camaraderie is based on lifelong learning for diverse populations with specific needs – the disabled, working poor, ESOL learners, high school dropouts, postsecondary students, incarcerated youth, etc.

As a **NAASLN** member, you have full access to this unique arena, including resources (people and products), 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.

Becoming Passionate and Empowered Professionals – that’s what NAASLN is all about. Networking and leadership opportunities are limited only by your passion and imagination. Get involved. Join a committee (Conference, Fiscal, Legislative & Advocacy, Membership/Recruitment, Partnerships, Policy & Procedures, and Communications (E-newsletter/website). Become a recognized leader in your field. Or if you are already there and have a great presentation ready to go, put your expertise to work as a NAASLN presenter at the many conferences where we have pre-conference sessions and tracts focusing on adults with special learning needs.

Joan Hudson-Miller
NAASLN President

P.S: It is never too late to join or invite a friend to join NAASLN. For membership forms go to NAASLN web site or you can copy and paste this link into your browser. <http://www.naasln.org/pages/membership.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:

- **Federal Legislative Alert: The House Appropriations Subcommittee meets June 7 to address adult education funding level for FY 07.**
- **NAASLN @ CEA International Conference – Anaheim, CA July 30-Aug.2**

- **Spotlight Topic of the Month: *Understanding The Complexities of Offenders' Learning Needs***
- **Website of the Month: <http://www.ceanational.org>**
- **NAASLN 2005 Conference Session Audio Tapes and CD's** related to Correctional Education issues
- **Online classes** from the Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee & the Ohio Literacy Resource Center at Kent State – sign up starting June 5.
- **August is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

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Legislative Bulletin: *(submitted by Anne Murre, NAASLN Legislative and Advocacy Committee Chair)*

The House Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for funding adult education will be meeting June 7, 2006 to mark-up the Appropriations Bill for FY 07.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee, Congressman Regula-Ohio, has received the "Dear Colleague" letter signed by 43 members of the House asking for at least level funding for adult education.

NAASLN agrees with COABE's recommendation that interested parties should contact committee members to stress that level funding is not adequate. Not only will it not allow for extending services to those currently in need, but as a result of inflation, it will mean reducing the numbers who can be served with existing funds. Calls or faxed letter should focus on the overall need in the community for increased adult education funding and how many additional adults could be served by more federal funding.

The key members of Congress that need to be contacted by adult educators from their Congressional Districts are:

Republicans: Chair-Ralph Regula-Ohio, Ernest Istook-OK, Roger Wicker-MS, Anne Northup- Kentucky, Kay Granger-TX, John Peterson-PA, Don Sherwood-PA, Dave Weldon-FL, James Walsh-NY

Democrats: David Obey-WI, Steny Hoyer-MD, Nina Lowey-NY, Rosa DeLauro-Conn, Jesse Jackson-ILL, Patrick Kennedy-RI, Lucille Roybal-Allard-CA.

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NAASLN @ Correctional Educational Association International Conference- Anaheim, California – July 30 – August 2, 2006

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

NAASLN Pre-Conference Sessions

- *Special Learning Needs in Correction – Issues, Challenges, and Research-Based Intervention*, Al Toops, Laura Weisel, Ph.D.
- *Evaluating The Struggling Adult ESOL Learner: Is it LD or Something Else?*, Robin Schwarz

NAASLN Track of Concurrent Session: (tentative list, confirmations pending)

- *The Brain, Emotions and Learning: Understanding the Key Perquisites to Successful Learning and Re-Entry*, Laura Weisel, Ph.D.
- *Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Chemical Dependency: Danger and Opportunities*, Ron Hume
- *Adult ESOL Learners and Special Learning Needs: What are some of the Key Issues?* Robin Schwarz
- *Structured learning for the Unstructured*, Richard Cooper, Ph.D.
- *Alternative Math Techniques*, Richard Cooper. Ph.D.
- *Test Accommodations – What you Need to Know To Support Students to ‘Show What They Know’ on Standardized Tests*, Joan Hudson-Miller and Panel of test publishers.

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Spotlight Topic of the Month

Understanding the Complexities of Offenders’ Learning Needs

Laura Weisel, Ph.D., The TLP Group and NAASLN Board Past President; Robin Schwarz, M.Sp. Ed: LD, The TLP Group, and NAASLN Board Member; Alan Toops, Executive Director of the Ohio Literacy Network, Correction Education Specialist with The TLP Group

When compared to the general population, the offender population is known to have lower-than-average academic skills, with the vast majority not having completed high school. Worse, the offender population has a significantly higher incidence of disabilities, including learning disabilities (LD). Estimates of those in corrections facilities needing special education hover near 40% of juveniles and at least 50% of adult prisoners. Added to these challenges are high incidences of mental illness, poverty, and substance abuse.

Missouri and Ohio collected interview and screening data on 510 offenders from 2003 through 2004 who met their states' criteria for screening for special learning needs. These data reveal the complexity of the issues faced by these struggling learners. As a result, new approaches are being tried to

address the systemic factors that have kept struggling learners struggling. As these two states continue in their efforts, more offenders who have not been successful with learning will be able to find success and ultimately have a better chance at sustaining employment after their release from prison

Read the complete article on the NAASLN web site, or copy and paste into your browser: <http://www.naasln.org/pages/Articles.html>

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Web Site of the Month: <http://www.ceanational.org>

The Correctional Education Association (CEA), founded in 1945, is a non-profit, professional association serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings. The CEA is the largest affiliate of the American Correctional Association. Explore this site for information on events, networking connections, links, and professional development resources on topics such as:

- Fundamental of Correctional Education
- Terminology
- Acronyms
- Correctional Educators and Their Programs
- The Ex-Inmate as Correctional Educator
- Institutional Security and the Correctional Education Staff
- Prison Culture
- Sanity in an Insane Workplace
- Directory of State Prison Libraries

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.

Tapes related to this issue's focus topic include:

Corrections Special Needs Update! With Alan Toops, Laura Weisel, Lynda Roberts & Russell Smith (Session #35, 1tape/1 CD)

Transitional Times – Transitional Lives: Incarcerated Special Education Students, Kathleen White & Bonnie Meyer (Session #38, 1 tape/1CD)

Deviance or Disability: Learning Disabilities and the Criminal Justice System, Ron Hume (Session #23, 1 tape/1 CD)

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

Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Chemical Dependency: Danger and Opportunities, Ron Hume (Session #14, 1 tape/1CD)

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Online classes from the Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee and the Ohio Literacy Resource Center at Kent State -

These inexpensive online classes are great for new and old AE practitioners.

The Center for Literacy Studies at the University of TN and the Ohio Literacy Resource Center at Kent State are presenting a series of on-line trainings for AE practitioners starting on June 5, 2006. The EProfessional project (www.aeprofessional.org) has a variety of topics available for all levels of practitioner. Each of our trainings has been piloted and is facilitated by trainers experienced in the field and with many, many hours experience in on-line facilitation. But class slots are filling up, and the registration deadline is getting close. If you want to participate, you will need to get your registration in soon.

The summer offerings are:

Adult Education - Teaching Tools

Cost - \$149/person

CEUs: 1 (optional)

Delivered via the Internet, this six-week course focuses on familiarizing instructors with teaching tools that will enhance teaching practices leading to greater learning, retention, and success for adult students. It offers a wealth of resources and teaching strategies on topics such as reflective teaching, cooperative/collaborative learning, multiple intelligences, and contextual instruction. The course will help participants draw their own connections between current research and teacher practice; it provides opportunities for practical classroom application, online collaboration, and sharing best practices with other adult educators-and much more!

ESOL Basics

Cost - \$149/person

CEUs: 1 (optional)

Do you need to know the basics of ESOL instruction? Through this online course,

you will learn how to identify characteristics of adult ESOL learners, effective methods of teaching languages, the four language skills, and how adults learn another language. Online activities, discussion boards and assessments will keep you engaged.

Comprehensive Reading and Strategies Help

Cost - \$149/person

CEUs: 1 (optional)

This web-based training will provide you with information and resources that will help you help your students be better readers. If you want to be effective in helping your students achieve their goals, it is important that you know about a variety of aspects regarding the adult student and strategies to enhance reading skills.

Topics within this training include: The Adult Learner and Brain Compatible Classrooms, Essentials of Reading for Adult Learners, Comprehension Strategies Helping ESOL Students and Students with Learning Disabilities, and Helping the Adult to Help the Child.

Integration of Technology into the Adult Education Classroom

Cost - \$149/person

CEUs: 1 (optional)

Have you ever tried to blindly put a puzzle together without knowing what the final picture will look like? This may be what is happening to you when you are trying to integrate computer technology into your classroom. This course will provide quick access to educational resources, lesson plans, activities, tools for evaluating educational software, information about purchasing educational software, and knowledge to help you utilize a variety of software applications and web-based activities in the classroom. Online activities, discussion boards and assessments will keep you engaged.

All participants must have their own e-mail address to participate in the course. ALL online course participants will complete a "Tech Check" one week before course start date to ensure their computer equipment and internet connection are sufficient for effective course participation. Please come take advantage of this professional development opportunity.

To register, please come to <http://www.aeprofessional.org>

Bill McNutt

CTO, AEProfessional Project
University of Tennessee, Center for Literacy Studies
<http://www.aeprofessional.org>

Submitted by the National Institute for Literacy
Adult Literacy Professional Development

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"Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce" is the August 2006 National Disability Employment Awareness Month Theme

In Washington, D.C. earlier this month, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced that "Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce" will be the official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"The 2006 theme highlights the fact that workers with disabilities are an underutilized and ambitious group of Americans eager to pursue their career dreams," said Secretary Chao. "This theme echoes the President's New Freedom Initiative which has been out in front in recognizing the need to promote greater job opportunities for workers with disabilities."

The private sector, federal, state and local governments, and advocacy organizations can now use the theme to plan events and programs that showcase the abilities and skills of employees and job candidates who have disabilities.

"This year's theme reflects the fact that increasing the opportunities for Americans with disabilities in the workforce can produce far-reaching, positive results for employers," said Roy Grizzard, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

ODEP is the nation's first assistant secretary-led office that specifically addresses

policies that impact the employment of people with disabilities. For example, ODEP has developed methods for the 3,500 One-Stop Career Centers nationwide to serve people with barriers to employment, including people with disabilities. Collaborating with sister DOL agencies - the Employment and Training Administration and the Civil Rights Center -- ODEP developed a disability checklist to assist with implementation of Section 188 of the Workforce Investment Act at the local level.

From: ODEP News Release: [05/04/2006] No. 06-0804-NAT
For more information go to
<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20060804.htm>

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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 our temporary number 614-430-9311. We are setting up a new 800 number soon.

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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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If you need more information please call 614-430-9311. Leave a message and we will call you back. Send comments or questions about this newsletter by email to newsletter@naasln.org.

NAASLN Membership News & Views Co-editors: Joan Hudson-Miller and Pat Walsh with technical assistance from Tracey Hale and Alan Toops.

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