

WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AT-RISK EDUCATION NETWORK

Vol. 2, Issue 6 **NEWSLETTER** *October*
2006

“We must capture a student’s heart, before we can capture their mind”.

From the President:

WELCOME BACK! It seems like it has already been a long time since we have been back to school. However, it is still my hope that you had a restful and enjoyable summer. I hope you had some quality time with your family and friends and just yourself.

I am sure if your start of the school year has been anything like mine, summer seems like a distant past. It is hard to believe we are almost to the end of October already. Please for give me for being soooooo late with getting you this newsletter. I hope that after reading this issue you will be once again caught up with the news and activities of your state organization.

NAREN CHANGES PROCEDURES FOR STATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Four years ago Wisconsin became the first state organization of the National At-Risk Education Network. (NAREN) When NARENWICH became an organization it did so as a state organization of NAREN. “The original purpose of NAREN did not include creating a typical membership organizations, or state chapters of membership. This was done in 2002 as a temporary measure to assist Wisconsin educators in working cohesively to unite teachers and administrators of at-risk Wisconsin youth. We have watched Wisconsin educators pouring their hearts into growing what once was a coffee shop ad hoc committee grow into a strong organization. After three years and holding three state conferences, working on initiatives together, establishing a network with the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin population of teachers, it is time for independence”. Therefore NAREN is no longer going to have Individual state chapters. Instead organizations like NARENWICH will have to apply to be an associate member of NAREN. It should be noted that both organizations (NAREN and NARENWICH) see this not as a negative or a step backward, but as a positive step forward for the future of both organizations.

This change will mean that NARENWICH will need to become its own organization. It is like moving from a child to an adult. We will now need to be incorporated and we will need to apply for a not-for-profit-status. NARENWICH has retained an attorney who is helping us through this

process. It is our hope that by convention time we will become incorporated and will have a non-profit status. We are also taking steps to have our financial books audited each year.

It is NARENWICH's plan to apply to be an associate member of NAREN. In order to do this, there is a fee which must be paid we need to assure NAREN we will continue to practice the guidelines stipulated by the National At-Risk Education Network. We continue to see our relationship with NAREN as strong one. It is our hope that NARENWICH will continue to be a model to future state associate members.

NARENWICH ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Diedra Florez-Serda is NARENWICH's first scholarship winner. She has won \$500.00 to go towards her secondary education plans. Diedra attended Crossroads Academy in Wautoma Wisconsin. Her teacher was Cheryl Wuyts. Diedra's plans are to attend Mid-State Technical College. Diedra was chosen from several fine applications. Please encourage your seniors to take advantage of this fine scholarship offer. For an application and more information please go to the NARENWICH website.

NEWS TO KNOW!

- Take a look at the new NARENWICH website at: www.narenwich.org.
- **The 2007 NARENWICH State Conference will be March 8 – 9, 2007, at the Plaza in Wausau, Wisconsin.**
- **ALERT** – if you or someone else you know of have not been getting your newsletter, or you have moved and/or your email has changed, please contact Betsy Haltinner at haltibet@gscd.k12.wi.us or call (715) 265-4266 ext. 6220.
- **We are asking for members to not renew their memberships until you register for the conference.** Please register and renew your membership at the same time.
- **Survive Outside: Stop HIV** – The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in partnership with Education, Training and Research Associates (ETR) and the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS) invite you to attend a *MAKING PROUD CHOICES!* training for juvenile corrections and alternative school staff. Participates of the two-day training will be provided with knowledge, skills and materials to effectively implement the Making Proud Choices! HIV prevention curriculum with youth in their facilities.
Dates and Times: November 8, 2006 – 8:30 to 4:30
 November 9, 2006 – 9:00 to 4:30
Location: Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha, WI.
Registration Questions Contact: Linda Carey (608) 267-9354
There is no registration fee for this conference.
- 4th Annual NAREN National Conference, February 19 – 22, 2007, Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City, Florida

- NAREN Seminar Dates and Locations – Check out the NAREN Website for more information
- The Big Deal Book is a free publication for educators of struggling students in middle school and high school. It has listings for funding opportunities, free and inexpensive resources and interactive websites. For more information go to www.bigdealbook.com/agsglobe

NARENWICH Call for Presentations:

Reclaiming The Dream Conference, NARENWICH's 4th annual conference is March 8th and 9th at the Plaza in Wausau, Wisconsin. The themes for this year conference are: Brain-Based Learning, AODA/Mental Health Issues for Students, Parent and Community Involvement and Project/Community Based Models. We need presenters that can focus on both high school and middle school programs. If you are interested in becoming one of our presenters, please go to our website at <http://www.narenwiche.org>

Proposals are due by November 30, 2006. Selection and notification of presentations accepted will be completed by December 30, 2006.

NARENWICH NEEDS YOU!

Currently Region 4 (CESA 3 and 4) are without representation on the NARENWICH Board. If you or if you know of someone who would be interested in serving on the board (two-year term) please contact Jill Gurtner at jillbg@mcpasd.k12.wi.us. Your help in filling these positions would be greatly appreciated.

Committee Work – We can sure use some help! We have three standing committees that are need of some people that are willing to lend a hand in making our organization even better then it is.

1. **Conference Committee** – if you're interested in helping to plan for the annual NARENWICH Reclaiming the Dream Conference please talk with Jennifer Varsik at jrvarsik@yahoo.com. She is always looking for individuals who are creative and interested in helping make our conference even better.
2. **Member Services Committee** – please contact Betsy Haltinner at haltibet@gcsd.k12.wi.us. The membership committee has been busy updating and publishing the membership directory and is looking to expand its role this coming year to better serve our members.
3. **Political Action Committee** – is it your feeling the state and federal government ought to be doing more to support at-risk programs and children? Do you have a special interest in issues that are affecting our students and their families? Then this committee is for you. Please contact, Shirley Jensen at skidge47@hotmail.com if you're interested.

Don't forget to share your ideas and news with us. If you have young people who have been honored or you have victories to share please send them to me. E-mail Randy Hughes. hughesr@kaukauna.k12.wi.us.

Come on; get involved after all it is your organization.

Welcome to Two New Board Members:

Please help us welcome Marty Gholston and Kim Parrott. Marty has accepted the role as treasurer. Marty is with the Generac Second Chance Youth Apprenticeship Program. Kim is the CESA 7 Alternative High School Director in Green Bay. Kim is our new representative for region 3.

Here is an update list of your Board of Directors.

Randy Hughes, President	hughesr@kaukauna.k12.wi.us	(920) 766-6100
Sally Schulz, President Elect	sschultz@madison.k12.wi.us	(608) 204-2440
Heidi Thuli, Secretary	hthuli@cesa1.k12.wi.us	(262) 787-9545
Marty Gholston, Treasurer	mgholston@generac.com	(262) 544-4811
Jill Gurtner, Past-President	jillbg@mcpasd.k12.wi.us	(608) 829-9641
Elizabeth Haltinner, Region 1 Member Services Committee	haltibet@gcsd.k12.wi.us	(715) 265-4266
Jennifer Varsik, Region 2 Conference Committee	jrvarsik@yahoo.com	(715) 476-0100
Kim Parrott, Region 3 Conference Committee	kparrott@cesa7.k12.wi.us	(920) 436-0500
VACANT Region 4 Political Action Committee		
Meg Zabel, Region 5 Member Services Committee	zabelmeg@asds.k12.wi.us	(920) 997-1399
Shirley Jensen, Region 6 Political Action Committee	skidge47@hotmail.com	(414) 383-3172

