

WISCONSIN CHAPTER
OF
NATIONAL AT-RISK EDUCATION NETWORK

Vol. 2, Issue 8 **NEWSLETTER** *February 2007*

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

From the President:

Dear friends,

Before I share with you my final thoughts as president of this wonderful organization I must apologize for anyone’s feelings I may have hurt with my Christmas wish in the last newsletter. I received one e-mail from a recipient of the newsletter who felt offended by my sharing of “my religious beliefs”. I want to assure you that, that was not my motive in the article, it was a message for remembering to share the joy we all have at that time with those we come in contact with. Once again I am sorry if this message offended anyone.

Next month at our 4th Annual Reclaiming the Dream Conference, Sally Schultz will take over as President of our organization. Sally is a wonderful person and a great leader and I am sure she will take this organization to a new level of accomplishment. I am looking forward to working with her as past-president and seeing how NARENWICH will continue to grow and the impact it will make in servicing at-risk students.

When I took over as President from Jill Gurtner, NARENWICH was still a relatively new organization. Jill had brought us through those beginning years and built a strong foundation. There were three goals that I shared with you, first was to continue to develop our voice as an organization. Our membership needed to continue to grow. I believe we have grown both in membership and as an organization. Secondly, we wanted to improve our communication to you. We have sent out five newsletters a year. We have developed a website, and we have done our best to respond to you when you have called or e-mailed. Yet there is always room for improvement in communication. Third, we wanted to become a more respected organization within our state, so we could better advocate for our students and programs. With the help of Beth Lewis (DPI Consultant) and our own political action committee, I think we have done that. However, like communication this is an on-going goal that we must strive to become more effective.

Over the past two years we have seen continuous growth at our conference and in our membership. The conference has grown each year under the thoughtful planning and leadership of Jennifer Varsik. The membership committee developed and released our first membership directory. They have also developed and announced our first scholarship winner. The political

action committee last year released a document with possible funding sources for at-risk programs. They continue to keep us updated on what is happening in Madison and Washington D.C. This past the Board of Directors has worked hard in leading us to an independent status as an organization. We are now incorporated and have filed for tax exempt status.

The Board of Directors of this organization has worked hard to develop NARENWICH into a strong and respected organization. We want NARENWICH to be an organization that you would be proud to say you are a member of and that you can support. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of this board and to serve this organization. I love NARENWICH and the work we do. I look forward to the next two year's under Sally's leadership and the opportunities that lie before us.

Peace,

Randy

It's Conference Time

Reclaiming the Dream, NARENWICH's Fourth Annual Conference

Keynote Speakers

David Perlman, Assistant Attorney General. He also serves as a consultant for Fox Valley Technical College: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Jerry Mills is an internationally acclaimed educator, singer/songwriter. As a child he experienced the "failures, fears and frustrations" of some nameless problems. You will want to hear his story.

Breakout Presenters

Take a look at the list:

Technology Alternatives Plus (TAPS) Program
Engaging Students as Allies in Creating Community Change to End Violence
How to Implement Successful At-risk Programs
Reclaiming Environments for Youth At-Risk
What Your Brain Needs: Creating a supportive environment for students and staff.
Project New Outlook-Hayward, WI.
Round Table Discussions
Plus many more

Meet Megan Ford (Scholarship Winner)

Megan Ford NARENWICH's first scholarship recipient will be sharing her story and her plans for her future.

NARENWICH Business

Meeting and Elections

Come and here what's going on in your organization.
Elections for this year include:

President-Elect
Secretary
Treasurer

- Region 1 – This covers CESA’s 10 and 11
- Region 2 – This covers CESA’s 9 and 12
- Region 4 – This covers CESA’s 3 and 4

We need you think seriously about running for one of these open positions. Without a strong board of directors it will be difficult to keep this organization moving forward. Plan to come to the meeting, plan to speak up, make your voice heard. NARENWICH will be better because you did. Don’t forget the door prizes and the tickets for drinks of your choice.

Exhibitors

There will be over ten different exhibitors at this year’s conference. Plan to come and spend time seeing and looking through what is new in instructional materials and technology.

Awards

Come and see who this year’s Anthony Dallman-Jones Award and the regional award winners are. This is a great opportunity to give praise to those who are making a difference in the at-risk field.

Regional Meetings

New at this year’s conference will be the opportunity to meet with your region. What a great time to get to know those close to you working with the same type of students, struggling with the same problems. This will be an opportunity to establish regional meeting times and dates so you will be able to meet and encourage each other more often.

Friends and Networking

What better place to come and see friends you don’t see everyday and have the opportunity to learn and share ideas. Where else can go be able to get caught up on new and best practices for working with at-risk students.

Come and join the fund at the NARENWICH 4th Annual Reclaiming the Dream Conference. Call me and I will send you a registration or go to www.narenwich.org to download one. See YOU in Wausau at the CONFERENCE.

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@gcsd.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.
- 4th Annual NAREN National Conference, February 19 – 22, 2007, Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City, Florida

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@aasd.k12.wi.us	(920) 997-1399
Shirley Jensen, Region 6	skidge47@hotmail.com	(414) 383-3172

Political Action Committee

