



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

www.maineadulted.org

June 1, 2023

Dear MAEA Members,

It hardly seems possible that it was a year ago that I addressed members at the annual meeting to formally begin my term as MAEA president.

In reviewing my remarks from last June, I am pleased to report that many of my hopes have been realized or that we have at least taken some positive steps toward achieving those goals.

Last spring, I mentioned that MAEA was hiring a new lobbyist just as we also had a new State Director of Adult Education coming aboard. These changes provided an opportunity to “move the needle” about how Adult Education is perceived and funded.

Thanks to the guidance of our new lobbyist, Clara McConnell—as well as the concerted efforts of our Advocacy Committee and our Executive Director, Shirley Wright—MAEA helped draft Representative Michael Brennan’s bill, LD 1367, “An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education.” In her role as State Director, Megan Dichter was also very helpful in providing us with the data we required to make the case for increased subsidy.

As of this writing, the ultimate outcome of this legislation is uncertain. In a best-case scenario, it will inject much needed financial support into local programs that have not seen an increase in ten years.

Even if the bill stalls, we have certainly raised awareness among members of the legislature. By testifying before the Education Committee on three separate occasions, Shirley and I, along with President-elect Kayla Sikora, were able to help lawmakers understand the nature of what we do and the profound impact our programming can have on our learners. Moreover, we helped legislators better understand the complex funding formula and to acknowledge that, unlike K-12 education, we have *not* received additional funding in recent years. There were many others who submitted compelling written testimony to support our request for additional State subsidy, including educational and business partners, adult education directors and staff, as well as adult education students. These stories had a discernible impact.

Another huge triumph this year has been the initiation of MAEA’s statewide marketing campaign. This effort was years in the making, so I certainly can take no credit. That said, it was exciting and gratifying to help oversee the final development of many assets that will benefit programs for months and possibly years to come, including a revamped landing page for the MAEA website that will more effectively allow learners to find the nearest program. Pulse also developed a social media guide and many graphics, photos and videos that can be added to websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other platforms.

I am optimistic that as the campaign continues to unfold, we will see an uptick in inquiries and in numbers of participants. Thank you to all the Hubs that have contributed to support the marketing effort.

I also remarked in June of 2022 that this would be the year we returned to an in-person conference, and—as you all know by now—we have a humdinger of an event planned. Again, I can take little credit. The Professional Development committee, led by incoming President Lisa Robertson, worked diligently to pull together the details. I am confident that we will all be nourished and continue to flourish in the wake of what looks to be a wonderful two days this June.

It has been my honor to serve as MAEA president this past year and—as I said to the other Board members at our final FY23 meeting—I have benefited immensely from being able to network with and learn from such passionate and talented educators from across the state. In adult education, we are in many respects separated and disconnected from the K-12 system. I am thankful for the opportunity MAEA has given me to join the broader community of like minded professionals across Maine.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lehan
MSAD 54 Director of Adult Education
MAEA President 22-23

MAEA Board Members – 2022-2023 (Term Expires)

President : Jeremy Lehan, Director, MSAD 54 Adult Education (2024)

RSU 54/MSAD 54 Adult & Community Education

61 Academy Circle

Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Tel: (207) 474-7553

jlehan@msad54.org

Past President: Josh Farr, Director, Winthrop/Monmouth and Gardiner Adult Education (2023)

39 Highland Ave.

Winthrop, ME 04364

(207) 377-2265

jfarr@winthropschools.org

Treasurer: Nancy Allen, Director, Franklin County Adult Education (2023)

129 Seamon Road, Suite A

Farmington, ME 04938

(207) 778-3460

nallen@mtbluersd.org

President Elect: Lisa Robertson, Director, York Adult Education (2025)

30 Organug Rd.

York, ME 03909

(207) 363-7922

lrobertson@yorkschoools.org

Secretary: Executive Director may fill the function of Board Secretary.

2022-2023 Elected Board Members:

Hub One: Anne Patterson, MDI Adult Education (2023)

1081 Eagle Lake Road

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

(207) 288-4703

apatterson@mdirss.org

Hub Two: Joe Fagnant, Director Houlton Hodgdon Adult Education (2023)

18 Military Street

Houlton, ME 04730

(207) 521-3100

Joe.fagnant@rsu29.org

Hub Three: Rebecca Cross, Riverside Adult Education Partnership (Orono, Old Town, Hampden) (2024)

14 Goodridge Drive

Orono, Maine 04473

(207) 866-4119

rcross@rsu26.org

Hub Four: Courtney Michaud, RSU 73 Spruce Mountain Adult Education (2023)

9 Cedar Street

Livermore Falls, ME 04254

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Hub Five: Josh Farr, Director, Winthrop/Monmouth and Gardiner Adult Education (2023)

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Hub Six: Razell Ward, Lewiston and Auburn Adult Education (2023)

156 East Ave.

Lewiston, ME 04240

rward@lewistonpublicschools.org

(207) 795-4141

Hub Seven: Heidi Nolan, Midcoast School of Technology Region 8 Adult Education (2023)

1 Main Street

Rockland, ME 04841

(207) 594-2161

hnolan@mcst8.org

Hub Eight: Shelli Pride, Director, Gorham and Westbrook Adult Education (2024)

106 Weeks Road

Gorham, ME 04038

(207) 222-1095

Shelli.pride@gorhamschools.org

Hub Nine: Adam Goad, Massabesic Adult Education (2023)

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Waterboro, ME 04087

(207) 247-2022

adamgoad@rsu57.org

Appointed Members (2022-2023)

Allen Lampert, Director, Merrymeeting Adult Education, (2023)

35 Republic Avenue

Topsham, ME 04086

lamperta@link75.org

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Tom Nash, Director, Windham/Raymond Adult Education (2023)

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Ander Thebaud, Director, RSU 24 Adult Education (2023)

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Sullivan, ME 04664

(207) 422-4794

athebaud@rsu24.org

Jose Rodriquez, Merrymeeting Adult Education (2023)

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rodriquezj@link75.org

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Kayla Sikora, RSU 40 and RSU 12 (2023)

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Waldoboro, ME

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Jen Tiner, Director Lewiston and Auburn Adult Education (2023)

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Lewiston, ME 04240

jtiner@lewistonpublicschools.org

(207) 795-4141

Staff

Shirley Wright, Executive Director

841 North Road, Dover Foxcroft, ME 04426

(207) 343-2157

swright345@gmail.com or info@maineadulted.org

Ex Officio

Megan Dichter, State Director of Adult Education

State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

megan.dichter@maine.gov

May 2023

Dear MAEA Members:

MAEA has been very busy working for adult education programs this year. It seems the year has flown by and now we are closing things up for FY 2023.

This year, MAEA's Professional Development Committee offered several online webinars. These were all well attended and it was nice to listen to all of the questions and see all of the learning take place. I think programs can learn lots of new ideas from each other in Maine. The year will end with the first in-person MAEA Conference in three years! This is so exciting. The conference will be held on June 21 and 22 at the Augusta Civic Center. The planning team is hoping this location will bring conference attendees what they often ask for - everything in one spot and air conditioning along with good food and old and new friends. We are hopeful that this venue will offer all of that to each attendee. The theme this year is Nourish to Flourish so along with lots of learning, we hope to have lots of relaxation opportunities and a little fun too! Be on the lookout when you arrive for some games and other things.

MAEA's Advocacy Committee has been very busy this year with LD 1367. This bill was sponsored by Representative Michael Brennan of Portland and it asks for two major outcomes:

1. Add 1.5 million to the adult education subsidy this year and then an additional \$500,000 per year after that until the formula is studied and assured to be equitable.
2. Develop a study group to investigate subsidy and be sure it's fair and reasonable.

Given that programs are getting less than half the actual dollars that they qualify for, MAEA felt it was time to make sure that those at the state government level know this and act on it. For over ten years, subsidy has been relatively stagnant while we've watched other systems get huge boosts in income. It's time that adult education was given the funding and recognition it's due. MAEA is working hard on this but will also need your support at the local level when this bill moves to appropriations. Just because it's needed that doesn't make it a given that the money will be added. We have lots more advocacy to concentrate on!

The Corrections Committee has also been very busy with their work. This year, they tried to figure out what is happening in corrections education since much of it stopped or slowed tremendously during the pandemic. Now that safety precautions are being relaxed some, corrections education should be starting to build back to previous levels. The committee will continue to reach out and figure out what is out there and what is needed to make sure that some level of support is offered in each county jail. The committee also worked on sharing information for all of the digital equity work being done in Maine. Much of this is being done at the county level and the committee wants to be sure programs are included as budgets are being built for all levels of digital equity resources.

And last, but not least, MAEA's Marketing Committee launched a statewide marketing campaign - on Facebook, Google, YouTube and more! The initial results have been very good and the committee will continue to work with Pulse Marketing to refine the key words and groups that

are being marketed. Maine Adult Education now has a video available for all programs to use in a longer format or in shorter cuts, depending on the audience, and marketing images across many sectors. We are hopeful that the statewide campaign and local level marketing will get the message out there to those adults in need of services.

I hope that you all have a restful and fun summer and come back revived and ready to start the good work again in the fall.

Sincerely,

Shirley Wright, MAEA Executive Director

Action Team Chairs and Members 2022-2023:

Awards: Nancy Allen and Heidi Nolan

Advocacy, Communication, and Legislative: Tom Nash, Kayla Sikora, Adam Goad, Anne Patterson

Conference 2023: Lisa Robertson, Nancy Allen, Heidi Nolan, Jen Tiner

Corrections: Ander Thebaud, Allen Lampert, Rebecca Cross, Joe Fagnant

Director Support and Professional Development: Nancy Allen, Heidi Nolan, Jen Tiner, Lisa Robertson

Elections: Lisa Robertson

Finance: Nancy Allen

Marketing – Josh Farr, Shelli Pride, Razell Ward, Jose Rodriguez, Courtney Michaud

Scholarships: Nancy Allen and Heidi Nolan

ACTION TEAM REPORTS

Awards

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For more information and to view legislative documents, visit

<https://maineadulted.org/legislative-2/>

Conference 2023: Lisa Robertson, Nancy Allen, Heidi Nolan, Jen Tiner

This year will offer the first in-person conference in three years! This year's details are below:

June 21 & 22, Augusta Civic Center - Nourish to Flourish, Understanding the Importance of Mazlow before Bloom for Self and Others

64 relevant and inspiring workshops
2 keynote speakers
State awards ceremony

On the first day, Dr. Arabella Perez from the University of New England will be the keynote speaker and workshop presenter diving into the details on trauma informed instruction and tools for mindfulness in self-care, for both the student and the teacher. Digital Promise brings us the keynote on day two with learning innovations to support well-being, equity, and access. Two days of awesomeness: learning, connecting, and recharging.

Thanks to Razell, and her relationships with people at Dollar General, we were able to secure a \$10,000 donation to sponsor the conference. Shirley Wright wrote, and we received a Maine Humanities grant, for \$6850 which will help provide books to each participant on trauma informed instruction, sensory calming strips, and 5 MH speakers.

Corrections: Ander Thebaud, Rebecca Cross, Allen Lampert, Joe Fagnant

2023 is a rebuilding year for many Corrections programs. Academic, career planning, and enrichment programs are still being delivered despite dealing with the challenges of COVID and

access to incarcerated learners. Our committee met with Laura Rodda from ME DOC to brainstorm strategies to build connections with county jail education and state correctional facilities, as well as maintain support from county sheriff associations. One of our goals, which is also an element in Maine's Digital Inclusion Initiative, is to gain consistent, safe access to technology in educational programming.

Rebecca Cross has promoted both Opportunity Ready and PACE (Purpose Awareness Connection Education) programs for Corrections programming across the state. Both programs help learners prepare and plan for further education and re-entry; they can be replicated at numerous sites with a common framework.

It's important to note that the pandemic has created a serious disruption in services in many facilities, and we are still trying to work around constant starts and stops at the local level. Impacts from the pandemic (COVID closures, as well as staffing shortages) have been a common thread in all our meetings. We are looking forward to more regular access in the coming year.

Director Support and Professional Development - Nancy Allen, Heidi Nolan, Jen Tiner

Aside from the conference, the team offered a monthly new directors PLC, and free live-streamed webinars, also monthly, some were also recorded for later viewing.

Intro to Bendables and NDEC (Dec 13, 2022) Two partners shared what they have to offer the adult education community.

Elementor training through NDEC (Dec 16, 2022) Teaching program staff how to keep up their websites using elementor. This was so popular we added 5 additional sessions.

Marketing: Everyone's Doing It (Jan 13, 2023) A local program director shared how marketing is not just one person's job, but a mindset to cultivate.

CDL: How to Start a Program (Feb 8, 2023) Two local programs described their start ups, successes and challenges.

Lunch and Learn: Marketing (Mar 3, 2023) MAEA's new marketing toolkit was shared and how to use it.

Reading Resource Library & ReadLife Bookshelf (Mar 16, 2023) Barbara Bush Family Literacy resources

Better Together (Apr 27, 2023) Sharing courses to increase participation.

ALL IN –The Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network (May 5, 2023)

Elections: Lisa Robertson

MAEA voted at the regular May meeting to present Kayla Sikora as the president elect for FY 24 and Jeremy Lehan as the treasurer for FY 24. Lisa Robertson is the incoming president and Jeremy Lehan will move to the role of past president. Ballots will be sent to Hubs for elections after May 15th. Voting must be completed the day before the Annual Meeting which will be held on June 14th at 10 a.m. Deadline for votes will be June 13, 2023 at Noon. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Finance: Nancy Allen

MAEA has continued to remain solvent through the pandemic and after. The board approved a budget for FY 24 that was similar to FY 23. Right now, one of the largest costs is marketing and hubs are supporting this effort. It is hoped that all hubs will buy into this project as all will benefit from the statewide campaign.

Marketing – Josh Farr, Shelli Pride, Razell Ward, Jose Rodriguez, Courtney Michaud

MAEA's Marketing Committee launched a statewide marketing campaign - on Facebook, Google, YouTube and more! The initial results have been very good and the committee will continue to work with Pulse Marketing to refine the key words and groups that are being marketed. Maine Adult Education now has a video available for all programs to use in a longer format or in shorter cuts, depending on the audience, and marketing images across many sectors. We are hopeful that the statewide campaign and local level marketing will get the message out there to those adults in need of services.

Scholarship: Nancy Allen and Heidi Nolan

Scholarships and awards for 2023 have been scored and will be announced at the MAEA Conference. Student scholarships may be announced at program graduations and will be decided by those programs.

Maine Adult Educators Association (1965-1967)

Maine Association for Public School Adult Education (1967-1990)

Maine Adult Education Association (1990-present)

Years of Service	President	Location
1965-1967	Dick Mayo*	Bangor
1967-1969	Jim Flanagan*	Portland
1969-1970	Bob Curran	Camden
1970-1971	Gerry LeVasseur	Van Buren
1971-1972	Len McGinnis	Waterville
1972-1973	Duke Martin	Presque Isle
1973-1974	John Simpson	Biddeford
1974-1975	Clayton Blood	Searsport
1975-1976	Jack Webb	Sanford
1976-1979	Doug McGowan*	Presque Isle
1979-1981	Gaille Heseltine*	Portland
1981-1982	Ray Bussiere	Bangor
1982-1983	Ervin MacDonald	Houlton
	Loren Ritchie	Sherman Station
1983-1984	Paul Dulac(resigned)	Gardiner
	Patrick O'Reagan	Augusta
1984-1985	Dick Madore	Bangor
1985-1986	Sharon Martin	Westbrook
1986-1987	Dick Madore	Bangor
1987-1988	Don Berry	Belfast & DECS
1988-1989	Cathy Newell	Bethel
1989-1990	Anne Niemiec	Lewiston

1990-1991	Conrad Walton	Caribou
1991-1992	Andy McMahan	Fairfield
1992-1993	John Forester	Augusta
1993-1994	Larinda Meade	Portland
1994-1995	Janet Kalman	Sanford
1995-1996	Lin Hallowell	Waterville
1996-1997	Becky Dyer	Biddeford
1997-1998	Anne Kemper	Lewiston
1998-1999	Diann Bailey	Gardiner
1999-2000	Diana McCain	Bath
2000-2001	Tom Nash	Sanford
2001-2002	Judy Green	South Paris
2002-2003	Rob Wood	Portland
2003-2004	Barbara Goodwin	Waterboro
2004-2005	Gail Senese	Portland
2005-2006	Patte Bowman	Skowhegan
2006-2007	Otis Smith	Houlton
2007-2008	Kathi Medcalf	Sanford
2008-2009	Suzanne Rojas	Newport
2009-2010	Zane Clement	Bridgton
2010-2011	Rob Wood	Portland
2011-2012	Carrie Castonguay	Bridgton
2012-2013	Tim Dresser	Camden
2013-2014	Bill Grant	Auburn
2014-2015	Thelma Regan	PVAEC
2015-2016	Razell Ward	RSU 52

2016-2017	Nancy Allen	Region 9
2017-2018	Lorraine Robida	Kittery and Marshwood
2018-2019	Ann Sargent	Ellsworth
2019-2020	Suzanne Nowinski*	RSU 19, Newport
2020-2021	Allen Lampert	Merrymeeting Adult Education
2021 - 2022	Josh Farr	Gardiner and Winthrop
2022-2023	Jeremy Lehan	RSU 54 Adult Education

MAEA Members

Auburn	Augusta	Bangor	Belfast
Biddeford	Bonny Eagle	Boothbay	Central Lincoln County
Deer Isle	Eastern Aroostook	Ellsworth	Five Towns
Franklin County	Freeport	Gorham	Gray/New Gloucester
Greenville	Houlton	Kittery	Lake Region
Lawrence	Lewiston	Lisbon	Marshwood
Dept. of Corrections	Dept. of Education AE	Maranacook	Masabesic
Merrymeeting	Mid Coast	Mid Maine	Midcoast School of Applied Tech Region 8

MSAD 1	MSAD 11	MSAD 37	MSAD 53
Mt. Desert	Noble	Oak Hill	Old Orchard/Saco
Oxford Hills/Nezinscot	Piscataquis Valley PVAEC	Portland	Region 4 - UTC Bangor
Region 2	Region 9	Riverside	Rockland
RSU 3	RSU 16	RSU 25	RSU 52
RSU 54	RSU 67	RSU 89	Sacopee Valley
Sanford	Scarborough	So. Portland	Spruce Mountain
Telestar	Valley Unified	Van Buren	Washington County
Wells	Westbrook	Windham Raymond	Winthrop
York			

Individual Members

- Patrick O'Regan
- Anne Niemiec
- Larinda Meade
- Judy Green

Becky Dyer

Ingrid Bailey

Cathy Newell

Rob Wood