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# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

[www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org)

June 1, 2022

Dear MAEA Members,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President this past year. The Board of the Maine Adult Education Association has been working hard on behalf of students and programs through committees on Advocacy, Corrections, Professional Development, and Marketing. These committees are led by board members but are open to all members. These teams face significant issues and tasks and it is my hope that those reading this now will consider lending time and efforts to this work - through upcoming elections or by committee participation. As you think about getting involved, here is some of what this Board has accomplished over this past year.

- This year MAEA launched an improved logo and related marketing resources for our programs.
- This year MAEA secured funding and initiated a state-wide marketing effort with Pulse Marketing. This effort will encourage targeted populations to connect with our individual programs, it will provide video assets in digital marketing outlets for each program, and it will make adult education known across multiple markets in the state. Moving forward this work will be important in strengthening awareness of adult education
- The year MAEA successfully advocated for access to funding for navigators and success coordinators across portions of the state. While shifting expectations, understandings, and intentions have made this a major challenge at times, it has given us additional resources in adult education.
- This year MAEA provided multiple professional development efforts. We offered an online conference, professional book clubs, and multiple workshops. In person conferences remained a casualty of the pandemic, yet the Board has high hopes for us to see each other in the same place in our next school year.
- This year MAEA prepared for change in our lobbyist as Bob Howe will be retiring. Bob has provided excellent support to us for 40 years and will be missed. While it is impossible to replace his valuable experience, we will shortly select a replacement to bring renewed energy and perspective to ongoing emphasis on effective advocacy work.
- This year MAEA worked to re-establish pandemic damaged relationships with corrections facilities and personnel, continuing our support for education to incarcerated learners.
- This year MAEA maintained our contract and support for statewide websites and the course registration system .
- This year MAEA successfully modified the organizational bylaws to better represent programs across the state, to help spark greater investment in our work, and to bring greater consistency in our practices.
- This year MAEA successfully advocated for our involvement in the search for a new State Director. A Board member was invited and is currently participating in this search process with the state.

Those are highlights of efforts and accomplishments the Board can celebrate. And, as we look forward, many challenges still remain. They are not new challenges but I believe they more pertinent given the “unprecedented times” we have all experienced.

- MAEA needs an improved and sustained relationship with our state leadership team. We will have a crucial and delicate opportunity with a new state director coming, with the shifting organizational charts at Maine DOE, and with upcoming state elections.
- MAEA needs to ensure organization policies, practices, and relevant historical contexts are captured to ensure organizational sustainability. We will need to keep examining how our finances, compensation, and expectations align for the effective operation and support our mission in the coming years.
- MAEA needs broad and ongoing investment from regional membership to appropriately set priorities for our advocacy and leadership activities. Members need to continue to participate with and see real outcomes from the organization.

Fortunately, we are in good hands going forward. MAEA welcomes Jeremy Lehan, Director of Adult Education for RSU 54 (Skowhegan), into the Presidency for this upcoming year. Jeremy has provided insightful and diligent leadership in our conference work, bylaws amendments, and many other efforts this past year. I am excited that he will continue to lead us beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and I look forward to supporting Jeremy and MAEA with the challenges ahead.

Lastly, my thanks to all you do in support of adults across the state, our communities are stronger for your efforts. As always, MAEA strives to be a positive, representative, and professional organization in support of your efforts. Have a great summer, I hope to see you all in the new year!

Sincerely,

Josh Farr

President, Maine Adult Education Association 2021-2022

## **MAEA Board Members – 2021-2022 (Term Expires)**

President: Josh Farr, Director, MSAD#11 and Winthrop Adult Education (2023)

40 West Hill Road

Gardiner, ME 04345

[jfarr@msad11.org](mailto:jfarr@msad11.org)

(207) 582-3774

Past President: Allen Lampert, Director, Merrymeeting Adult Education, (2022)

35 Republic Avenue

Topsham, ME 04086

[lamperta@link75.org](mailto:lamperta@link75.org)

(207) 739-7323

President Elect: 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](mailto:jlehan@msad54.org)

Treasurer: Nancy Allen, Director, Franklin County Adult Education (2022)

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Farmington, ME 04938

(207) 778-3460

[nallen@mtbluersd.org](mailto:nallen@mtbluersd.org)

Secretary: Executive Director fills the function of Board Secretary.

**2021-2022 Elected Board Members:**

Razell Ward, Lewison Adult Education (2023)

156 East Ave.

Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 795-4141

[rward@lewistonpublicschools.org](mailto:rward@lewistonpublicschools.org)

Kayla Sikora, RSU 40 and RSU 12 (2023)

320 Manktown Road

Waldoboro, ME

[kayla\\_sikora@msad40.org](mailto:kayla_sikora@msad40.org)

(207) 832-5205

Monique Roy, Augusta Adult Education (2023)

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Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 626-2470

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Jeremy Lehan, Director, MSAD 54 Adult Education (2022)

RSU 54/MSAD 54 Adult & Community Education

61 Academy Circle

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Tel: (207) 474-7553

[jlehan@msad54.org](mailto:jlehan@msad54.org)

Lisa Robertson, Director, York Adult Education (2022)

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Stacey Cyr, Director, Valley Unified Adult Education (2022)

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(207) 834-3536

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#### **Appointed Members (2021-2022)**

Shelli Pride, Director, Gorham and Westbrook Adult Education (2022)

106 Weeks Road

Gorham, ME 04038

(207) 222-1095

[Shelli.pride@gorhamschools.org](mailto:Shelli.pride@gorhamschools.org)

Tom Nash, Director, Windham/Raymond Adult Education (2022)

406 Gray Road

Windham, ME 04062

(207) 892-1819

[tnash@rsu14.org](mailto:tnash@rsu14.org)

Ander Thebaud, Director, RSU 24 Adult Education (2022)

1888 US Highway 1

Sullivan, ME 04664

(207) 422-4794

[athebaud@rsu24.org](mailto:athebaud@rsu24.org)

Rebecca Cross, Riverside Adult Education Partnership (Orono, Old Town, Hampden) (2022)

14 Goodridge Drive

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Jen Tiner, Lewiston and Auburn Adult Education (2022)

156 East Ave.

Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 795-4141

[jtiner@lewistonpublicschools.org](mailto:jtiner@lewistonpublicschools.org)

Heidi Nolan, Midcoast School of Technology Region 8 Adult Education

1 Main Street

Rockland, ME 04841

(207) 594-2161

[hnolan@mcst8.org](mailto:hnolan@mcst8.org)

### **Staff**

Shirley Wright, Executive Director

841 North Road, Dover Foxcroft, ME 04426

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[swright345@gmail.com](mailto:swright345@gmail.com) or [info@maineadulted.org](mailto:info@maineadulted.org)

May 2022

Dear MAEA Members:

Another tough year is in the books. We all have a bit of Zoom fatigue, that's for sure. I know you have all had to rise above the usual and create new and powerful adult learning programs. It has also been the year of more partnerships. Work has been done creating better working relationships with the community colleges and the university system. All of that work can only help our adult learners.

Because of the pandemic, the traditional MAEA Conference has been put on hold. This has been hard to do, knowing that all of you would like to get together and learn. We are hopeful that there will be an in-person conference during the 2022-2023 school year.

Please be sure to look at <https://maineadulted.org/> This page is loaded with information for anyone searching for adult education. Individual program web pages were also moved to Word Press sites. Please be sure to check out the help pages for Word Press / Elementor at [maineadulted.org/word-press-help](https://maineadulted.org/word-press-help)

Also on the website, you can find information about legislative matters, links to past conferences, a toolkit to use for program marketing and so much more. It is a great page to look at and click on all of the tabs! Next year is going to be a big one for marketing adult education across the state. Stay tuned! Emphasis will be put on helping programs increase enrollment.

MAEA will continue to be the advocate for adult education in Maine. Take care and be well.

Shirley Wright, Executive Director



**Action Team Chairs and Members 2021-2022:**

Awards: No Awards

Advocacy, Communication, and Legislative: Tom Nash, Monique Roy, Kayla Sikora, Lisa Robertson

Conference 2022: Jeremy Lehan

Corrections: Ander Thebaud, Allen Lampert, Rebecca Cross

Director Support and Professional Development: Nancy Allen, Stacey Cyr, Jeremy Lehan

Elections: Jeremy Lehan

Finance: Nancy Allen

Marketing – Shelli Pride, Heidi Nolan, Razell Ward, Jen Tiner

Scholarships: Nancy Allen

## **ACTION TEAM REPORTS**

### **Awards**

Due to the fact that there was no in-person MAEA Conference this year, the team decided to hold off on awards until the next full in-person conference.

### **Advocacy, Communication, and Legislative: Tom Nash, Monique Roy, Kayla Sikora, Lisa Robertson**

For more information and to view legislative documents, visit <https://maineadulted.org/legislative-2/>

This has been a busy year for the Advocacy Committee. The Governor's Office has been working on a plan to distribute federal funds and MAEA wanted to be a strong advocate. Some of the goals have been achieved and some are still in process. Money has come to Adult Education because of MAEA's advocacy work in this area. Bob Howe, long-time lobbyist for MAEA, is retiring at the end of the legislative session this year. The Advocacy Committee is working to interview new applicants to fill Bob's role. Bob leaves big shoes to fill! The goal is to have a new lobbyist hired by August 1. The Advocacy Committee will continue to advocate for the field and make adult education known across the state.

### **Conference 2022: Jeremy Lehan**

With the help of Shirley (mostly) and the PD committee, MAEA presented a virtual conference on December 3, 2021, entitled, "Leveling the Playing Field: Context, Diversity and Education." Yellow Light Breen from the Maine Development Foundation provided the keynote, which was followed by four dynamic presenters: Libby Bishof, Wendy Smith, Samara Cole Doyon, and Judith Rosenbaum. Conference feedback was extremely positive. Because COVID continued to present challenges, we canceled the planned in-person spring conference. However, we have scheduled another virtual event on May 6, 2022; Pulse Marketing will provide marketing tips for local programs and will provide an update of MAEA's overall marketing campaign.

### **Corrections: Ander Thebaud, Rebecca Cross, Allen Lampert**

This has been a building year for the Corrections Committee. Correctional facilities have had strict restrictions on letting outside personnel in, so the year has been a tough one to provide services. The committee will continue to survey the field and share best practice. The committee is scheduled to meet with administrators of Maine's county jails to determine if there is potential for statewide, county correction education initiatives.

### **Director Support and Professional Development - Nancy Allen, Jeremy Lehan, Stacey Cyr**

In addition to the PD detailed in the conference section, the PD committee provided a budget planning workshop for directors in December 2021. This was followed by monthly "Budget

Mania” discussions, in which new and experienced directors alike could ask questions and share insights about the Adult Education budgeting process.

### **Elections: Jeremy Lehan**

MAEA is proposing a by-law change that will affect elections. This section of the annual report will be updated as new information is known. If the by-law change does not take effect as planned, a new slate of officers will be presented by May 15, 2022. Voting on new board seats and officers for MAEA will be held virtually this year. Ballots will be sent out in May and voting will take place until June 14, 2022 at Noon.

### **Finance: Nancy Allen**

MAEA has held on financially through another tough year without a conference and will end the year with a positive fund balance. Portal fees increased from \$357 to \$550 for programs given that MAEA spends more time and money on the portal than is raised by programs. Membership and portal bills went to programs in April. Programs can opt to pay their bills early or by the due date of Sept. 1, 2022. We are lucky that MAEA has been able to stay solvent through these rough years of COVID. Grants have been helpful to keep things moving.

### **Marketing – Shelli Pride, Heidi Nolan, Razell Ward, Jen Tiner**

The Marketing Committee has been busy this year working on a plan to market adult education across the state. Over the summer, MAEA will work with Pulse Marketing to design a new microsite for a marketing campaign and simplify the process of those searching online to find programs easily. There will also be a new marketing toolkit developed that all programs can use. This will all use the new logo. It will be a busy time as programs enter the fall and MAEA hopes to have a marketing initiative started to increase enrollment. Hubs will be asked to invest in this process.

### **Scholarship: Nancy Allen**

As we became more aware of student needs and changing career options, the board decided to take time and evaluate our scholarship program. The scholarship committee will take the next year and review potential options for broadening the scope of the awards. In doing this, we have decided to take a year off from awarding scholarships. A new scholarship, in memory of Patricia Hughes, will be added to those scholarships awarded at the next in-person MAEA Conference and at the request of the family, MAEA may choose to award that this year before June 30.

**Maine Adult Educators Association (1965-1967)**

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

**Maine Adult Education Association (1990-present)**

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Location</b>
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

\*served more than one year

### MAEA Members

<b>Auburn</b>	<b>Augusta</b>	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Belfast</b>
<b>Bliddeford</b>	<b>Bonny Eagle</b>	<b>Boothbay</b>	<b>Central Lincoln County</b>
<b>Deer Isle</b>	<b>Eastern Aroostook</b>	<b>Ellsworth</b>	<b>Five Towns</b>
<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>Freeport</b>	<b>Gorham</b>	<b>Gray/New Gloucester</b>
<b>Greenville</b>	<b>Houlton</b>	<b>Kittery</b>	<b>Lake Region</b>
<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>Lewiston</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>Marshwood</b>
<b>Dept. of Corrections</b>	<b>Dept. of Education AE</b>	<b>Maranacook</b>	<b>Masabesic</b>
<b>Merrymeeting</b>	<b>Mid Coast</b>	<b>Mid Maine</b>	<b>Midcoast School of Applied Tech Region 8</b>
<b>MSAD 1</b>	<b>MSAD 11</b>	<b>MSAD 37</b>	<b>MSAD 53</b>
<b>Mt. Desert</b>	<b>Noble</b>	<b>Oak Hill</b>	<b>Old Orchard/Saco</b>
<b>Oxford Hills/Nezinscot</b>	<b>Piscataquis Valley PVAEC</b>	<b>Portland</b>	<b>Region 4 - UTC Bangor</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Riverside</b>	<b>Rockland</b>
<b>RSU 3</b>	<b>RSU 16</b>	<b>RSU 25</b>	<b>RSU 52</b>
<b>RSU 54</b>	<b>RSU 67</b>	<b>RSU 89</b>	<b>Sacopee Valley</b>
<b>Sanford</b>	<b>Scarborough</b>	<b>So. Portland</b>	<b>Spruce Mountain</b>
<b>Telestar</b>	<b>Valley Unified</b>	<b>Van Buren</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
<b>Wells</b>	<b>Westbrook</b>	<b>Windham Raymond</b>	<b>Winthrop</b>
<b>York</b>			

**Individual Members**

Patrick O'Regan

Anne Niemiec

Larinda Meade

Judy Green

Becky Dyer

Ingrid Bailey

Cathy Newell

Rob Wood