



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

www.maineadulted.org

Letter to Membership from President Lisa Robertson

Dear MAEA Members,

As we come to the end of another impactful year at the Maine Adult Education Association (MAEA), I want to take a moment to reflect on the collective achievements and progress we've made in advancing adult education across the state.

Throughout the past year, MAEA has remained committed to enhancing the competencies and skills of educators and administrators. We've provided numerous professional development opportunities, ranging from workshops to seminars, aimed at equipping our members with the latest methodologies and best practices in adult education.

Our advocacy efforts have been instrumental in driving positive legislative changes to support and promote adult education. By actively engaging with policymakers and stakeholders, we've successfully advocated for reforms that benefit our learners and educators alike, ensuring that adult education remains a priority on the state agenda.

Enhancing outreach and visibility has been a key focus area for MAEA this year. Through a comprehensive advertising strategy, we've amplified our presence among adults seeking educational opportunities. From a revamped website to captivating marketing images and engaging digital campaigns, we've utilized various channels to connect with learners and stakeholders across Maine.

In line with our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, MAEA has worked tirelessly to streamline adult education services in correctional facilities statewide. By providing justice-involved individuals with access to high-quality educational opportunities and support for successful reentry, we've made significant strides in breaking down barriers to education within correctional settings.

In addition to our strategic goals, MAEA has launched several tangible initiatives aimed at showcasing the work of our members and enhancing accessibility to resources. Our newly established MAEA magazine serves as a platform to celebrate the achievements of our community, while our revamped website continues to be a hub for information and support.

Looking ahead, our upcoming retreat conference, scheduled for October 24 and 25, 2024, at Sunday River in Newry, ME, promises to be an enriching experience for all attendees. This retreat will serve as an opportunity for us to come together, share insights, and chart the course for the future of adult education in Maine.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the dedicated individuals who have contributed their time and expertise to MAEA throughout the year. Your unwavering commitment has been the driving force behind our success, and I am truly grateful for your continued support.

In closing, I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished together this year. As we look towards the future, let us remain steadfast in our mission to empower learners, support educators, and advocate for the transformative power of adult education.

Warm regards,

Lisa Robertson, President

Maine Adult Education Association

MAEA Board Members – 2023-2024 (Term Expires)

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

30 Organug Rd.

York, ME 03909

(207) 363-7922

lrobertson@yorkschoos.org

Past President and Treasurer: 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

President Elect: Kayla Sikora, Augusta Adult Education (2026)

22 Armory Street, North Wing, Buker Community Center

Augusta, Maine 04330

(207) 626-2470

Kayla.sikora@augustaschools.org

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

2023-2024 Elected Board Members:

Hub One: Ander Thebaud, Director, RSU 24 Adult Education (2024)

1888 US Highway 1

Sullivan, ME 04664

(207) 422-4794

athebaud@rsu24.org

Hub Two: Shara Page, MSAD 1 Adult Education (2024)

79 Blake Street

Presque Isle, Maine 04769

(207) 764-4776

pages@sad1.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 (2025)

9 Cedar Street

Livermore Falls, ME 04254

(207) 897-6406

cmichaud@rsu73.com

Hub Five: Kenlyn Clark, Augusta Adult Education (2025)

22 Armory Street, North Wing, Buker Community Center

Augusta, Maine 04330

(207) 626-2470

Kenlyn.clark@augustaschools.org

Hub Six: Razell Ward, Lewiston and Auburn Adult Education (2025)

156 East Ave.

Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 795-4141

rward@lewistonpublicschools.org

Hub Seven: Dawn Wheeler, Merrymeeting Adult Education (2025)

35 Republic Ave.

Topsham, ME 04086

(207) 729-7323

wheelerd@link75.org

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

106 Weeks Road

Gorham, ME 04038

(207) 222-1095

Shelli.pride@gorhamschools.org

Hub Nine: Jeanne MacDonald Johnson, Noble Adult Education (2024)

100 Noble Way

North Berwick, ME 03906

(207) 676-3223

Jeanne.macdonald-johnson@msad60.org

Appointed Board Members

Tina Christophersen, Oxford Hills/Nezinscot Adult Education (2024)

256 Main Street

Norway, ME 04268

(207) 743-8842

t.christophersen@msad17.org

Josh McNaughton, PVAEC Adult Education (2024)

50 Mayo Street

Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

(207) 564-6525

jmcnaughton@pvaec.org

Rachelle Leonard, Midcoast Adult Education and Boothbay Harbor

320 Manktown Road

Waldoboro, ME 04572

(207) 832-5205

Raye_leonard@msad40.org

Tom Nash, Windham Raymond Adult Education

406 Gray Road

Windham, ME 04062

(207) 892-1819

tnash@rsu14.org

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

June 2024

MAEA Members:

It has been another very busy year in the MAEA office. Many initiatives have kept things moving and the work being done will help promote all programs.

It has been nice to hear from programs that they have received higher projected subsidy amounts for the 24-25 school year due to MAEA's work with the legislature with the final outcome of a 1.5 million dollar subsidy increase. MAEA will continue to share the funding needs of the field in the future.

Although there was no conference this fiscal year, there will be one early in 2024-2025. Planning for that conference has been underway since December of 2023. It takes much time and effort to plan an effective conference. We hope for great attendance and participation in October at Sunday River.

MAEA's Marketing Committee has worked hard to develop marketing images and videos for programs to use. The MAEA website at maineadulted.org has been completely redesigned and set up to show up faster in Google searches. The intent of the MAEA site is to get potential learners to your program sites as quickly as possible. The committee has offered some lunch and learn workshops and hopes to offer more in the near future. This year also marked the publication of the first adult education statewide magazine! The first distribution of copies started in February. More copies are set to be delivered to hubs in May.

MAEA's Advocacy group has also been very active this year. The Legislative Breakfast was very well attended in February. The group has also worked on ideas to present to superintendents and ways to continue to get the word out. This group will begin to brainstorm around AEFL Week soon. This week is always the third week in September and will be the 15th to the 21st.

MAEA's Corrections Committee worked on gathering information and investigating services at county jails. The corrections educational system functions within two levels - state and county. It is the goal of this committee to work towards a more aligned county educational level for all corrections facilities.

Thank you all for your hard work this year. Maine is lucky to have each and every one of you!

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Wright, MAEA Executive Director

Action Team Chairs and Members 2023-2024:

Awards: Dawn Wheeler

Advocacy, Communication, and Legislative: Tom Nash, Shara Page, Mike Emery, Kayla Sikora, Lisa Robertson, Cassidy Marsh

Conference 2024: Kayla Sikora

Corrections: Ander Thebaud, Rebecca Cross

Director Support and Professional Development: Kayla Sikora, Josh McNaughton, Razell Ward, Dawn Wheeler, Raye Leonard, Lisa Robertson

Elections: Kayla Sikora

Finance: Jeremy Lehan

Marketing – Shelli Pride, Jose Rodriguez, Courtney Michaud, Jeremy Lehan, Lisa Robertson

Scholarships: Dawn Wheeler

ACTION TEAM REPORTS

Awards

Award forms will be sent out in May and then returned in early September. Award will be presented at the MAEA Conference in October.

Advocacy, Communication, and Legislative:

Projected subsidy amounts have been released for the 2024-2025 school year and reflect an increase of 1.5 million dollars to the total state subsidy. This is a huge victory for Maine Adult Education since a substantial increase to subsidy has not been seen in over ten years. MAEA will continue to work on subsidy equity in the upcoming year. There has also been work on funding for Workforce Navigators and College and Career Success Coordinators. This work will continue over the summer and into the fall. The Legislative Breakfast in February was very successful and had a great turnout. The committee wants to urge local directors to contact and invite in their local legislators.

Conference 2024:

Planning for the first fall conference in many years is underway! There was no conference in the 2023-2024 school year. The next conference will be held on October 24 and 25, 2024 at Sunday River in Newry, ME.

Corrections:

The Corrections Committee met on a monthly basis to gain support from around the state and assess what is currently offered in county facilities to inmates for educational purposes. The group hosted a meet and greet (via Zoom) for educators and corrections staff in January. The committee is working to define what is offered in each county jail and then compare that to a more standardized minimum offering for each facility. This work will continue into the next year.

Director Support and Professional Development:

This committee offered a book study using the book Trauma Stewardship as a follow up to the June conference. Eleven people completed the requirements of the book study. The committee will assess the desire for an additional group. Also offered were lunch and learn opportunities for marketing.

Elections:

MAEA members in Hubs 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 will elect board members this year. Ballots were sent to all MAEA members in May and were returned before the Annual Meeting. In FY 25, board members for Hubs 4, 5, 6, and 7 will be elected.

Finance:

MAEA's conference in June of 2023 was a financial success which made the year a bit easier in terms of expending funds. MAEA continues to responsibly invest money as is possible and expend frugally each year. At this time, the financial state of MAEA is very good and initiatives will continue as planned.

Marketing:

The Marketing Committee released a video to summarize the goal the committee has and is working on. The link to the video is here: <https://youtu.be/-M4Lry7p3n0>

MAEA has invested in a Google Ads campaign to help lead prospective learners to program websites as quickly and as efficiently as possible. The committee has also developed many video and image assets for programs to use. They will continue this work and additional professional development opportunities in the upcoming year.

Scholarship:

Dawn Wheeler from Merrymeeting Adult Education has taken the lead for awards and scholarships. Student and teacher scholarship applications were sent out in February and were scored in April and May. Scholarship winners will be announced by June 1, 2024

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
2023 – 2024	Lisa Robertson	York Adult Education

MAEA Members

Auburn	Augusta	Bangor	Belfast
Bliddeford	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 19	RSU 25
RSU 52	RSU 54	RSU 67	RSU 89
Sacopee Valley	Sanford	Scarborough	South Portland
Spruce Montain	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