



January 2011  
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Where student success is everyone's business.



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## State Director's Corner:

### Valerie Fischer Director of Adult Education

Each January brings new resolutions to old habits; losing a few pounds, giving up chocolate, cigarettes or other vices rarely happen, despite the best of intentions. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have had a conversation with a young man who stopped at our office last week to inquire where he could test for his GED. His resolution has since become my resolution. As we so well know, 'our' students have often been put to the test in many aspects of their lives and have endured stressors beyond normal. His name is Bobby and he is 19 years old. He described that he had been an average student who had a knack for math. He cares for a younger brother who just turned 14. Curiosity took over as I probed further about his situation. He explained his parents divorced years ago; his father lives down south and is an over the road trucker and they have minimal contact. His mother was diagnosed with cancer as Bobby turned 15; following multiple surgeries and treatment, she was no longer able to maintain employment. Just shy of his 16th birthday, Bobby quit school under the auspices of being home-schooled (an agreement made between he and his mom) when in fact he became the head of the household. He worked two fulltime entry-level minimum wage jobs. Additionally he learned how to cook, clean, do laundry and pay bills as well as lend emotional support to his younger brother. Little was made available via way of social program support mostly because the family didn't want attention drawn to them and worked hard to stay 'under the radar' so as

not to create a situation of the brother's possible separate disposition in the event of death, which did happen while Bobby was still in his 16th year. Bobby and his brother have created a routine for themselves that seems to work with no support, no interference. Still working two jobs – one part time and one full time, his resolution to secure his GED is his promise to his mom. This entire story was shared in a 4 minute conversation that took me by such surprise, I couldn't cry until now. I have a feeling this is one resolution that will be kept. This is one resolution that we all must keep. We must continue to create opportunities for individuals to earn their GED and increase their chance at success. There are many 'Bobby's' who have been tested beyond their years and in the midst of it all, education still has its place at the core of what's right, what's best.

Happy New Year Bobby.

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### Wellness Wishes

Sandy LaRocque has been diagnosed with cancer Please keep Sandy and her family in your thoughts and prayers. If you so choose to do so, cards, emails or letters can be sent to her through the ALC. Thank you for your support and friendship to Sandy.

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## Nox Press Information

Your older struggling readers will LOVE the new 8-book **LEADER** series from Nox Press...

- 8 full-length novels, each about 100 pages long.
- Designed *specifically* for your **older struggling readers**.
- All 8 books are *exactly* on a 1.0 Flesch-Kincaid reading level.
- Each book is a stand-alone book.
- These do NOT have to be read in order.
- Each book is dedicated to and features a cool story about a different arm of the service.

**Honor** is dedicated to the **Marines**.

**Courage** is dedicated to the **Navy**.

**Respect** is dedicated to the **Patriot Guard Riders**.

**Service** is dedicated to the **National Guard**.

**Integrity** is dedicated to the **Air Force**.

**Commitment** is dedicated to the **Army**.

**Loyalty** is dedicated to the family and friends of our service members.

**Duty** is dedicated to the **Coast Guard**.

To see these books, please go to:

<http://www.noxpress.com>

To see the Flesch-Kincaid reading levels of all of our books, please go to:

<http://www.noxpress.com/reading-levels-of-nox-press-books.html>

And don't forget to download the comprehension tests for **all** of our books. (Our treat!)

You can find the answer keys at the following hidden page:

<http://noxpress.com/comprehension-tests-answer-keys.html>

[www.NoxPress.com](http://www.NoxPress.com)

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## Cultural Diversity Day Williston Adult Learning Center



On December 13<sup>th</sup> the Williston Adult Learning Center held a Cultural Diversity Day with the theme "A Taste of Culture". This was a way to

showcase the Adult Learning Center's faculty and students' different cultures and backgrounds. This was the first year and it was a success!! There were foods which represented what is eaten in different countries along with some decorations, recipes, and books representing different cultures. The foods included: Turkish Baklava, Lebanese Stuffed Cabbage Rolls, Krumkaka (made right in the classroom so people were able to watch and eat!) Lefsa, meat patties, Wheat Chili, Danish Junket, an African (very spicy) rice dish, Flat Bread, different cheeses from different countries, Wassail, fortune cookies, and much more. The wonderful food could be smelled all over Williston State. Staff, faculty, students, and advisory members were invited to attend.

A Cultural Diversity Manual has been started. This will make each year's event to go smoothly. Next year's event is already in the making! We want



to add more than just food the next Cultural Day. We hope that this will continue year after year with new ideas each year.

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## Word Up Game for ELL

Word Up is a great game which has 5 different educational levels from beginners to advanced to be used with English Language Learners.

This is supposedly the world's best played game for ELL. The ELL students at the Williston ALC really enjoy the learning that takes place while playing the game!

This link shows how the game is played:  
<http://www.teflgames.com/wu-tour1.htm>

For more information:  
<http://www.esldepot.com/product.php/8/4/>  
<http://www.teflgames.com/about.html>




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### Edutainment Games

<http://www2.gol.com/users/language/games.html>

### ESL Quizzes, Lesson Plans, Activities, and More

<http://www.5minuteenglish.com/resources/esl-quizzes-lesson-plans-activities.html>

Contributed by Katya Marandino Irish, Great Falls, MT

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## Secretary Duncan

To see Secretary Duncan's commitment to GED go to:

<http://www2.ed.gov/news/newsletters/ovaeconnection/2010/12152010.html>

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## VersePerfect

This can be downloaded to a computer or can be a portable app and downloaded on a USB jumpdrive.

VersePerfect has the McGill English Dictionary of Rhyme which is the world's most extensive rhyming reference ever created in the history of the English language. Musicians, poets, creative writers use this to help with writing.

VersePerfect will help the writer by finding rhyming words, synonyms and it will even search for words online. Syllable counters and poetry templates are also included in VersePerfect.

<http://verseperfect.en.softonic.com/>

[http://download.cnet.com/McGill-English-Dictionary-of-Rhyme-with-VersePerfect/3000-2279\\_4-10347028.html](http://download.cnet.com/McGill-English-Dictionary-of-Rhyme-with-VersePerfect/3000-2279_4-10347028.html)

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## Apps for Ipad

USA Facebook  
Expoplanet  
Math fractions lite

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## Minutes North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning-Board

Thursday, December 9, 2010  
Edgewood Vista Village, Bismarck, ND

CALL TO ORDER: President, Deb Sisco, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The Board members present were: Deb Sisco, Terry Bohan, John Lynch, Sandy Wollan, Nola Storm, Margaret Olheiser. Others present were Valerie Fischer, G. David Massey and Rose Kreitingner. Deb asked John Lynch to be the parliamentarian. Margaret volunteered to be the substitute secretary—Sandy LaRocque resigned because of health reasons.

Copies of the September meeting minutes were given to Board members to review. Terry Bohan made a motion to accept the minutes, Margaret seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John distributed the financial report. He also provided the fall conference income and expenditure report—Following balances were reported as of December 7, 2010  
Checking account: \$3,014.20,  
Money market \$10,103.55 and  
Money market (Scholarship account) \$2,152.65.  
All NDALL members have paid their conference fees. After all the bills were paid the conference budget balance was \$3,158.42

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee—Nola Storm (Chair): Deb will set up a listserv for NDALL. Nola will use it to distribute membership information to the members. Deb and Nola will manage the account and when Deb's term as president ends, Terry will take her place. Those managing the account need to have a sendit e-mail. David suggested having one person in charge of the account. Valerie commented that members could use the listserv to ask questions and get help from other members—John made a motion and Margaret seconded it for Deb to set up the listserv to distribute information

to the membership. The NDALL President and Membership Chair will maintain the account. Motion carried.

Legislative/Bylaws Committee—Sandy Wollan (Chair): The Bismarck ALC is moving to the Bismarck State College campus over Christmas break and will be ready to help with legislative activities.

Valerie and David commented on the talking points members should have with their area legislators. These talking points include:

- ✓ Sharing information with legislators
- ✓ Infrastructure concerns
- ✓ Distances some adults have to travel to access adult education services—
- ✓ there is support from school districts for night-time adult education classes

Centers should include local statistics and local needs when visiting with their legislators. A timeline for contacting them depends on if they're new or "seasoned" legislators. David feels the best place to contact legislators is at local informational meetings. The key is to share with them the information they need to know—bill number, bill status, what it says and action requested. Put this information on paper and give it to the legislators at the meeting. When there is a hearing on a bill, the action is posted overnight on the Legislative Council's home page. Hearings are scheduled the Friday before; hearings for education bills are usually held Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings. At the last session, \$1.8 million was requested for adult education; about \$900,000 was awarded.

Funding Goals: 1) improve infrastructure, 2) add satellite sites, 3) stay open 12 months, 4) enhance professional development and 5) prepare for the new GED test series

David explained the budget building process. The governor's office issues the guidelines for the agencies to follow in building their budgets. There are 12 items in DPI's budget and adult education is ranked number 3 in priority. Valerie provided justification for the adult ed. Budget priority. However, it was not included in the new

governor's budget. Now the challenge is to get it back into the budget through the legislative process.

Discussion followed about a proposed change in the school dropout age and definition of truancy. An interesting statistic is how many 16-18-year-olds earn GED diplomas as well as how many 16-21-year-olds earn GED diplomas. We are supportive of students staying in school. However, it is better that they're at an ALC if they're not in a k-12 school.

Awards and Scholarship Committee—Margaret Olheiser (Chair): Nothing to report. When the listserv is setup, award nomination forms will be posted.

MVAEA Rep—Rose Kreitinger: MVAEA Leadership Academy will be held April 7-8 in South Sioux City. The registration fee is \$75/person \$60 for 3 or more from same organization. It will be held at the Marina Inn. Room rates are \$67 per night.

Valerie suggested that NDALL pay registration fees to help with costs for Board members interested in attending the training. This will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of new Secretary: David Massey volunteered to fill in as secretary until the general membership meeting in the fall when a new secretary can be elected. Rose Kreitinger made a motion to appoint David Massey as acting secretary, Nola Storm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New organizations joining NDALL:

- ✓ Alternative high schools
- ✓ Job Corps
- ✓ Community Education

The GED instructors at the Burdick Job Corps in Minot are interested in joining NDALL. Deb has invited them and provided them with information about the Association. There are about 5 or 6

instructors.

Terry is an alternative high school administrator in Grand Forks and shared the interest that group has in becoming part of NDALL. They've been looking to form a group to provide networking opportunities for them. They're also interested in joining NDALL. There could be 50 to 100 potential members. The next meeting of alternative high school principals is in Minot in late April. Terry will follow-up on this effort. Nola will generate a membership form to be used for new members.

2010 Fall Conference Evaluations: Overall, conference evaluation results were very good. A goal for the 2011 conference is to provide conference information early.

2011 Fall Conference Planning:

**Next Fall conference will be held at Bismarck Radisson/Ramkota on September 21-23. ???**

Rose reported that MVAEA would like to hold a joint conference next Fall with ND. Further information is needed to consider this proposal. Rose will bring more info. for next meeting. Rose also informed the board members that ND needs to nominate a person for MVAEA President elect position. Action deferred until next meeting.

2011 Conference Planning: David reported that a professional Development Committee has been established. The Committee members are:

Jennifer Kraft- Minot  
Mary Schaefer-Fargo  
Laurel Kaae-Williston  
Tammy Barstad- Bismarck  
Sandy LaRocque- Belcourt

The committee has met via conference call. Fall conference 2010 survey suggested possible topics for next year. They are

1. generational differences
2. ESL/ELL needs to be an emphasis along with instruction.
3. A directors' breakout session was also requested.

The committee is studying possible topics. Their goal is to have planning completed by May. David observed that many things went well last year. We will build on those and improve those that need

attention.

NDALL 2010 Committees:

Deb Sisco suggested that each committee should select their committee members.

The goals and duties of each committee are spelled out in the bylaws and tie in with membership booklet. Each committee should identify their committee outcomes.

Preparation for Legislative Session:

Legislative Committee Sandy Wollan (Chair). David volunteered to work with Sandy and assist during the legislative session. Additional information about the legislative planning will be sent to members when available.

NDALL and goals/activities for 2011:

Deb asked the Committee chairs to set up time lines for their committees and submit to her. 2011

NDALL board meeting dates—Deb proposed having quarterly Board meetings. An IVN meeting will be tried for March 2011.

NDALL Board meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the website.

State Office Report:

Valerie has completed ALC monitoring except for one site—weather has been an issue. The Wahpeton ALC has moved to NDSCS; the k-12 district is still the fiscal agent. The annual report for SIMS will be submitted soon—December 10<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for Centers to submit final follow-up data. Next year SIMS will be replaced with a new data collection system. Possibly LACES. It has been approved by the “Feds”. It is scheduled to be up by July 1, 2011 and will include the NRS changes announced earlier this year and distributed to all Centers. March/April is targeted for training.

Board meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. CST

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