

WVASFAA NEWS

Volume I, Issue I

February 21, 2005

IN THE NEWS...

- SPRING CONFERENCE
- MASFAA'S COMING TO WV
- ELECTION RESULTS
- CHARITY PROJECT
- SUMMER FA WORKSHOP

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SPRING FORWARD TO MASFAA

The WVASFAA Spring Conference will be held at the Charleston Marriott from **March 30 through April 1, 2005**.

Surely one of the hottest topics at this conference will be the upcoming **MASFAA conference in Charleston October 16 through 19, 2005**.

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Howard Thomas is the current President for MASFAA. He will speak at our Spring Conference to encourage everyone's participation in **BUILDING BETTER TOMORROW**. As the MASFAA Conference starts the

same weekend as Bridge Day, it is the perfect title for the MASFAA conference.

This year's Spring Conference will have multiple sessions with Greg Martin updating us what's happening in Washington.

John Pack and Ron Marcinko will do sessions on VA Benefits for both beginners and more advanced financial aid administrators.

Diann Clothier will host a session for the Vo-Tech folks on March 31. Please contact her with any issues/concerns you would like to have covered. Her e-mail address is diannclothier@hotmail.com.

A MASFAA planning committee meeting will be held on Friday, 4/1, after the close of the Spring Conference.

We'll be playing some games on Thursday night! Have a game in mind? If so, contact Jan at janetruge@ucwv.edu

Jan Ruge, President Elect, and the Program Chair for this year's Spring Conference, has told us to be watching the mail for our conference packets!

Rooms at the Marriott for our Spring Conference are \$94 (Single/Double), but March 8, 2005 is the cutoff date for this rate. Please mention WVASFAA to get this special rate.

FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

Elaine Chiles is our Awareness Chairperson, and she has done a fabulous job.

Governor Manchin had declared 02/07—03/07 as FA Awareness Month 2005.

Packets were sent to High School Guidance Counselors, which included a copy of the proclamation signed by the Governor and a letter from Karen Lay, WVASFAA President. Her letter encouraged counselors to help make sure students don't miss the deadline for applying for state aid, as well as thanking them for their invaluable service to stu-

dents, their families, and to postsecondary schools. Packets also included the 2005-2006 FAFSA CD, Quick Ref. Guide, Tip Sheet, and Checklist.

Financial Aid Apply Sunday was February 13, and 6 schools participated: Glenville State College, New River C&T College, WV Northern Community College, Huntington Junior College, University of Charleston, and WVU Tech.

More to come in the next newsletter!

Covenant House Designated as MASFAA Local Charity Project

Every year, as part of the MASFAA Conference, a local charity is selected for assistance from conference attendees.

This year, the charity is the Covenant House in Charleston, which is a haven for families in need.

While fundraising is in the works, Covenant House has also expressed a need for small toiletry items (such as samples or what you might collect from hotel rooms) for emergency use. These items will be collected at MASFAA, so start collecting now!

If you have items you would like to

bring to the Spring Conference, we'll be glad to see that they find their way into the right hands!



Covenant House is dedicated to working for justice by offering direct services for people in need while creating social change through education.

The Covenant House is located at 600 Shrewsbury Street, Charleston, WV 25301-1211. The telephone number is (304)344-8053.

The e-mail address is:

information@wvcovenanthouse.org

To learn more about the Covenant House, visit their website at www.wvcovenanthouse.org. Their vision, history, photographs, etc. are very interesting.

We have chosen a very worthy charity as our 2005 MASFAA Project!

2005 MASFAA SUMMER INSTITUTE

MASFAA's Fundamental's Workshop is targeted toward new financial aid professionals or those with limited experience (two years or less).

If you are looking for a nuts and bolts training, guidance on legislative changes, or the opportunity to share ideas with your peers, then plan to join us in Berea!

Watch your MASFAA and State Email for more information and electronic registration in mid March!

Workshop topics:

- Application processing
- Student Eligibility
- Verification
- Pell and campus-based funds
- Professional Judgment
- And much more!

MASFAA member costs:

Mark your calendar!

June 4-9, 2005

Baldwin Wallace College

Berea, OH

\$550.00 resident

\$450.00 commuter

Add \$65 for non-members

Fees include meals, room, registration and all materials.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The WVASFAA Archives Committee is missing some information!

Kathy Fair is the Archives Chair this year, and she has been working very hard to get our history in order!

It appears that we are missing information from the 1990's.

If any of you have any pictures, bro-

chures, agendas, etc. from WVASFAA activities that occurred in the 1990's, please get that information to Kathy Fair or Donna Smith Stanley.

Kathy Fair can be reached at (304)469-2911.

Donna Stanley Smith can be reached at (304)865-6077.



Many happy wishes to Donna!

She is WVASFAA's most recent newlywed!

CONGRATULATIONS!

WVASFAA CLOSE-UP: Mary Blizzard



I recently celebrated a milestone birthday, which was heralded across our campus by a loving staff; the same staff who made me wear a funny hat and who bought gag gifts which referenced various maladies I could expect now that I have passed the half century mark. In all seriousness, I have a wonderful group of people who work in my office, and I wouldn't trade them for anything... no matter how many funny hats they make me wear.

I have had the pleasure of working at West Virginia State University for the past 9 years. I attended West Virginia State College and graduated with a degree in pre-med. I had every intention of going to medical school after I completed my studies but, a growing family and other priorities made med school take second place. I never regretted that decision. I have had a varied and interesting career with lots of great hobbies that the strains of the medical profession probably would not have allowed.

I have been married for the past thirty years to my college sweetheart, Jack; and we have two grown children, one son, Jason and one daughter, Ursala. Our house is home to a menagerie of animals

that is subject to change and grow at any given moment. Right now we are home to 2 dogs and 3 cats, but at various times we have housed or fostered as many as 10 dogs at one time. Our zoo even housed my favorite companion of all time, a pot-bellied pig we named Buttercup. He was an amazing guy with a wonderful disposition. For those who don't know, pigs are actually very clean and smell really nice. They roll in mud to stay cool because they don't sweat. They don't get fleas either!

My interest in science and all things medical has never abated, and I continue to be interested in health issues. If I were to go back to school right now, I would probably study epidemiology. I am interested in the causes and sources of disease outbreaks and the great detective work that folks in this field get to do. I am also interested in nutrition which is partly responsible for my commitment to a vegan diet and a cruelty-free life style.

I attend a vegetarian conference yearly, which hosts doctors, nutritionists, ethicists, and others who are interested in the effects of a vegan diet on the health of people and our planet. I come away from this conference with my batteries

recharged. Each year the conference is held just before our school's fall registration so it provides an opportunity to de-stress before the challenges of a new year.

The conference gives me great recipe ideas and the opportunity to add to my growing collection of cookbooks. I love to cook and host parties. It is amazing to serve a meal to folks who never ask "where's the beef?".

I have had many hobbies over the years, including hiking, camping, rapelling, once down the New River Gorge, canoeing, as well as sewing & baking. I also enjoy my latest hobby, watercolor painting. It is a soothing way to unwind from a hectic day at work.

I feel truly blessed to have met so many great friends and colleagues through WVASFAA. I am fortunate to have wonderful people to work with and a wonderful husband who enjoys life the same as I do. The next fifty years will be a wonderful adventure!

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Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the newsletter!