

*In this issue ...*

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <a href="#">From the President</a>     | <a href="#">PAACE to host 2007 COABE</a>                           | <a href="#">Legislative Update</a>         | <a href="#">Division Report: Family Literacy</a>   |
| <a href="#">Division Report: AB/SE</a> | <a href="#">Division Report: CHE</a>                               | <a href="#">COABE 2006 Conference</a>      | <a href="#">Varacalli Receives Award</a>           |
| <a href="#">Volunteers Needed</a>      | <a href="#">Postcards from PAACE to Joan Leopold DVD available</a> | <a href="#">Conference handouts online</a> | <a href="#">Joan Leopold Endowment established</a> |
| <a href="#">Announcements</a>          | <a href="#">2006-07 PAACE Board</a>                                | <a href="#">Masthead</a>                   |  |

## **From the President**

by **Debbie Hrach, Stairways Behavioral Health, PAACE President**

### *Dear Fellow PAACE Members:*



Spring is here—at least in theory—and our 2006 Midwinter Conference is behind us. It's hard to believe that it has come and gone so quickly, but we have a lot of good memories and new ideas to sustain us through the coming year. I want to thank all of those who attended and hope that this conference met the challenge in terms of your needs and expectations.

The PAACE Board has already had its first meeting to plan for 2006. We have an ambitious agenda, driven by our strategic plan, which was rewritten in 2005. Barb Van Horn will lead a task force comprised of several other board members in revising our Operations Manual. It's been over ten years since a revision has been made, so Barb and her crew have quite a job ahead of them. Their goal is to update the manual so it aligns with the revised bylaws and includes sufficient information to guide the Board members in supporting PAACE activities. The task force has asked all division chairs to assist them by reviewing sections of the manual that pertain to their particular divisions and provide feedback to the task force. The current bylaws and strategic plan can be accessed on the [PAACE Resources web page](#).

Scot Mentzer, technology chair, and Destiny Myers, communications chair, have been working to update the PAACE website. The major focus over the past month has been on uploading all the handouts from the sessions at Midwinter Conference. As Scot receives the handouts from presenters, Destiny creates links on the website to the materials. At this point about a third of the presenters have forwarded their handouts, but we are looking for more. If you have not already done so, please send your presentation handouts to Scot at [scot@mentzers.us](mailto:scot@mentzers.us).

Scot is also in the process of creating a web-based membership database. This database will be password protected and contain the same basic information that is currently in the membership directory. It will have the ability to add multiple agencies, addresses, emails, etc. It will allow for easy input of information from membership applications, which, in turn, will help us track membership renewals. Our intention is that eventually PAACE will move to an online membership application with the ability to pay electronically as well.

The executive board is beginning the process of hiring a new executive director. Their first step is to develop an updated job description that will take into account the future needs of the organization. The committee plans to present this job description to the PAACE board at its June meeting and will then move on to the next step in the process.

Finally, the PAACE board welcomes two new board members. Lori Keefer from Greater Pittsburgh Literacy

Council will serve as board secretary, and Destiny Myers from Tuscarora IU #11 will serve as the communications chair. We are pleased to have the expertise of both these women and look forward to working with them in their new capacities.

[Back to Top](#)

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## PAACE to host 2007 COABE National Adult Education Conference

by Chuck Klinger, TIU 11 Community Education Services, PAACE First Vice President



In 2007, PAACE will host the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) National Conference at the Wyndham (soon to be Sheraton) Hotel in Center City Philadelphia. The conference will take place from March 26 - 28, 2007 and will replace the annual Midwinter Conference typically held during February in Hershey. While the COABE conference will be similar to the Midwinter Conference in many ways, there are several important differences based on it being a national conference.

One big difference involves the sessions. Hosting a national conference will allow PAACE members to network with colleagues from across the country. The usual array of quality workshops representing the best Pennsylvania has to offer will be supplemented by presenters representing innovative practice from other states as well. The COABE Conference will also feature several pre-conference sessions, which allow participants the opportunity to see three- or six-hour sessions that represent best practice, innovations, and national projects. In 2007, the pre-conference will be held March 25.

The location – Philadelphia – has several attractions. There will be off-site activities offered to allow participants the chance to see the sights, including the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross House, National Constitution Center, Franklin Institute, and numerous museums. As a bonus, the King Tut exhibit will be at the Franklin Institute during the conference. Because of the historical significance of Philadelphia, the theme of the conference will be Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Learning.

The last major difference to consider is the conference will be more expensive than the Midwinter Conference. Registration for PAACE members will be around \$250 and the room rate for the hotel will be \$149. Keep in mind, though that these rates are far below average for a national conference held in a city such as Philadelphia.

We are in the process of developing a conference website to allow people to see updates to our planning. To learn more about the conference, visit this website at: [www.coabe2007.org](http://www.coabe2007.org). Information about this year's COABE Conference (April 26 - 29) in Houston is available at: [coabe06.org](http://coabe06.org). To read more about COABE, visit: [www.coabe.org/](http://www.coabe.org/)

[Back to Top](#)

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## Legislative Update

### Watch out for the UPS truck!

by JoAnn Weinberger, Center for Literacy, PAACE Legislative Committee Chair



**Postcards**, neon green (for Pennsylvania legislators) and fuschia (for federal legislators), are being sent via UPS to each ABLE provider. **The message to legislators is: INCREASE FUNDING**

*For Federal Legislators:* increase funding for adult education and Even Start Family Literacy

*For State Legislators:* increase funding for adult education and family literacy

With the bundles of postcards is a rationale sheet as to why the fight for increased funding

should be waged! Each postcard has a place for the sender to fill in the importance of the programs to the community, to the person, and/or business and industry.

### Federal Appropriations Update

At the federal level, the budget/appropriations process began with President Bush introducing his budget in early February: level funding for adult education and zero funding for Even Start. Since then, the Senate has approved a budget resolution calling for an increase of \$7 billion for education, health, and job training. Now, the House has to pass its resolution and a conference committee will determine the final number. That amount will then go through the Appropriations Committee process in the Senate and House. Pennsylvania has key legislators in this process. In the Senate, both Senator Specter as chair of the Appropriations Committee and Senator Santorum as a candidate for re-election are critical. In the House, particular key legislators are Representatives Fattah, Peterson, Schwartz, Sherwood, and Murtha.

### State Appropriations Update

Governor Rendell announced his budget in early February. He recommended level funding for adult education and family literacy. Again, at the state level, PAACE members need to push for increased funding. Level funding is not "hold even funding." Increases in program costs each year for salaries, benefits, instructional materials, and transportation coupled with increased numbers of adults wanting our services represent the key arguments. Adult education and family literacy programs are both key to a competitive workforce development system in Pennsylvania as well as young children ready to learn. Increasing numbers of immigrants and out-of-school youth increase the need.

### Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

No news to report as there has been no action at the federal level.

### Immigration Reform

Regarding immigration legislation, the Sensenbrenner bill that passed the U. S. House is punitive to any relative, employer, coworker, co-congregant, or friend of an undocumented immigrant by making them an "alien smuggler" and a criminal. This could have an affect on classes and programs serving illegal immigrants. The Senate is taking up the immigration issues, and Senator Specter is key to the efforts.

[Back to Top](#)

## Division Reports

### Family Literacy

#### Family Literacy programs celebrate Week of the Young Child

by Susan Mansuetti, Penn State Beaver, Family Literacy Division Co-Director



While it may seem that once the PAACE Midwinter Conference is over and the grants have been submitted that things will start to slow down for Family Literacy Programs, nothing could be further from the truth! The first week of April marks the Week of the Young Child, and the launching of the PA Libraries "One Book, Every Young Child" campaign. Lindsay Barrett George, author of *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse* will be reading her book at many sites throughout the state beginning on April 5 and continuing through May 6. Anyone who had the opportunity to hear her at the Marketplace knows that the families in our programs will enjoy seeing her. Check with your library for her appearance in your neighborhood, and plan your field trip today.

On another note, don't forget to keep contacting your representatives in Congress. Although Even Start has suffered a great loss in the last budget, the battle is far from over. Take an opportunity to introduce basic citizenship to your students, teaching them some civics lessons and giving them the opportunity to have their voices heard by having a letter writing campaign. Make phone calls as the need arises, and invite your legislators to special events. Last year, I had the opportunity to look at some of work our agency had done in the advocacy area, and I was surprised at how much we did, especially since it seemed like so little at the time. Please, keep up the advocacy work...if Even Start disappears, the entire Family Literacy program in the state is in jeopardy.

[Back to Top](#)

## Adult Basic and Secondary Education (AB/SE)

### Lessons from APEX winners a valuable resource for instructors

by Libby Wilson, GECAC and Stairways Behavioral Health, ABSE Division Director



Attendees at the PAACE Conference AB/SE Ice Cream Social received a copy of the booklet, *Lessons from APEX Winners, 2000-2005*. It includes many creative ESL, PACT, ABE, and GED lessons, such as "Sentence Auction," "Models of Obligations and Possibility: Could You, Would you, Should you?," "Marshmallow Molecules," "Dictionary of Medical Terms," "Introduction to the Planets and the Solar System (Toilet Paper Solar System)," "Starburst Geometry," "Nerf Hoop Math," and "ESL Stand Up Game with Citizenship Review and Everyday English Questions." Copies of this booklet are also available online at the [PAACE site conference schedule](#); look for the hand-outs from the PAACE Conference.

We are looking for volunteers to put together a similar booklet of American history lessons to be given out at the COABE Conference in Philadelphia in March, 2007. If you are interested in either locating or designing American history lessons for this project, please contact Libby at [lwilson@ericareerlink.org](mailto:lwilson@ericareerlink.org). Thank you!

[Back to Top](#)

## Continuing Higher Education (CHE)

### PHEAA creates new nursing loan forgiveness program

by Mary Anne Varacalli, Delaware County Community College (ret.), CHE Division Director



In a January 2006 edition of the *Delaware County Daily Times*, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced the Loan Forgiveness Program for State Veterans Homes Nurses.

It indicated that the program provides loan forgiveness to eligible students over three years of qualified employment. A recently graduated nurse, who is employed in one of the six Pennsylvania State Veterans Homes, can have up to 50 percent, or a maximum of \$10,000, of their qualified student loan debt forgiven.

The article quotes state Representative Elinor Z. Taylor, R-156, chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors: "The board recognizes the tremendous sacrifice our members of the armed forces are making for our country. While also recognizing a serious shortage of nurses, we wanted to support our veterans by helping to ensure that they receive the quality care they deserve."

The program, in addition to our other nursing loan forgiveness program, helps address the critical nursing shortage affecting so many organizations and people in need of qualified health care professionals across Pennsylvania. The State Veterans Homes Nurses program is administered and self-funded by PHEAA's business earnings, with no taxpayer support.

For program applications and complete eligibility requirements, please visit [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org) or call (800) 233-0557 ext 5473.

[Back to Top](#)

## Of Professional Interest

### COABE Conference 2006 in Houston

#### An opportunity for national networking and professional development

by Carol Shefrin, TIU 11 Community Education Services, COABE Vice-President and PAACE Past President



COABE (the [Commission on Adult Basic Education](#)) is a national organization whose [mission](#) is to provide leadership, communication, professional development and advocacy for adult education and literacy practitioners in order to advance quality

services for all adult learners.

One of the [purposes of COABE](#) is to conduct and/or sponsor professional development conferences and activities that provide a forum to provide staff development and advance adult education and literacy. This includes the provision of a high quality national conference.

Each year in the spring, the COABE national conference is presented by a partnership of COABE and a state affiliate organization. The 2006 COABE National Conference will be held in Houston, Texas, hosted by the [Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education](#) (TALAE).

The 2007 COABE conference will be hosted by PAACE in Philadelphia.

Other national conferences in recent years were held in Anaheim, California (May 2005); Columbus, Ohio (April 2004); Portland, Oregon (April 2003); Charleston, South Carolina (May 2002); Memphis, Tennessee (April 2001); and Chicago, Illinois (March 2000).

The COABE 2006 National Conference will be held in the heart of uptown Houston, April 26-29, 2006. Experts in the education field will offer pre-conference and conference sessions in five special tracks: Improving Teaching and Learning Outcomes, Integrating Technology and Instruction, Linking Research to Practice, Promoting Adult Educators as Leaders, and Advancing Change through Adult Education. Other sessions in general adult education interest areas will present outstanding and innovative practices in basic literacy, basic numeracy, workforce development, family literacy, English as a Second Language, volunteer/community-based literacy, and correctional education.

Several PAACE members will be attending the Houston conference to promote our 2007 conference and to be presenters of PA's work in this national forum.

[Apply for COABE Membership online](#) (requires payment by credit card), or [download a copy of the membership application](#).

[Back to Top](#)

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## ***Of Interest to Members***

### **Mary Anne Varacalli receives award**

**by Jan Edward Orris, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University - New Kensington Campus**

At the 2006 PAACE Midwinter Conference, Mary Anne Varacalli was awarded the CEA/PA Excellence Award.



This award has only been presented a few times in the history of the organization. It is an award given to a member or members who have made a significant contribution to the organization. The CEA/PA Board voted unanimously to present this award for her exemplary service citing "CEA/PA officer, outstanding committee leadership, invaluable liaison with PAACE, outstanding board member to LERN, and 14 years as treasurer of CEA/PA." Even in retirement, she has made a commitment for three more years as treasurer. Dr. Kathleen Chrisman, current president of CEA/PA, presented the award. Congratulations, Mary Anne.

[Back to Top](#)

Mary Anne Varacalli

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### **Wanted: volunteers to share their expertise**

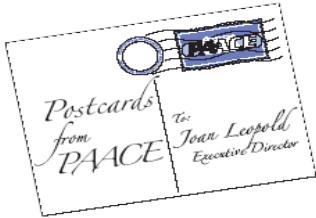
The PAACE Board is looking for volunteers willing to work on certain committees of the PAACE board. Each year the board embarks on new endeavors such as rewriting the strategic plan, increasing advocacy efforts, or expanding membership. Our Midwinter Conference could not go on if it weren't for the assistance of our volunteers, but we don't want to limit our use of volunteers to just one event a year. In order for our organization to grow and become a stronger support to Pennsylvania practitioners, we really do need to tap the expertise of our membership. You can visit our website to view the [list of our divisions and committees](#). If you see something of interest to you or you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hrach at


[dhrrach@stairwaysbh.org](mailto:dhrrach@stairwaysbh.org). She will be happy to talk with you about your interest in becoming a PAACE volunteer.

[Back to Top](#)

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## "Postcards from PAACE to Joan Leopold" DVD available



Our beloved executive director, Joan Leopold, passed away on February 3, 2006. We paid tribute to her at our PAACE Midwinter Conference. If you would like to have a copy of the DVD shown at the luncheon on Thursday, February 9, "Postcards from PAACE to Joan Leopold," [please download the order form](#) . Orders will be accepted until April 21, 2006.

[Back to Top](#)

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## PAACE 2006 Conference handouts available online

As a new service to our PAACE members and conference attendees, a session handouts from the 2006 PAACE Midwinter Conference on Adult Education are now available online. Handouts will be posted to the site as they are received. Check the [conference schedule](#) often to download the newest additions posted to the site.

[Back to Top](#)

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## Joan Y. Leopold Endowment Established

This past February, PAACE's beloved executive director Joan Leopold, passed away. Joan was very active in her community. One of her many contributions included serving on the Dauphin County Library's Board of Trustees. Her family has established an endowment in her memory to benefit the library.

Memorial contributions are being accepted for the Joan Y. Leopold Endowment. Donations can be made payable to to the "Dauphin County Library System" and sent to the attention of Karen Cullings at the address below:

Dauphin County Library System  
Administrative Office  
101 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

[Back to Top](#)

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## Announcements



### Commission on Adult Basic Education National Conference

Houston, Texas  
"Literacy: Another Mission in Texas!"

April 26, 2006 Pre-Conference Sessions  
April 27-29, 2006 Plenary and Breakout Sessions

More information at [www.coabe06.org](http://www.coabe06.org)

[Back to Top](#)

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## Virginia Association of Adult and Continuing Education (VAACE) Annual Conference

Virginia Beach, Virginia  
 "Sail into Spring"  
 May 3 - 5, 2006



More information at [www.vaace.org](http://www.vaace.org)

[Back to Top](#)

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## ProLiteracy Worldwide 2006 Annual Conference



Atlanta, Georgia  
 "Linking it All Together"  
 October 4 - 7, 2006

More information at [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org)

[Back to Top](#)

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## Comprehensive conference listing!




Whatever your interest in adult education may be, the LINCS conference calendar has something for you--actually, LOTS of things for you. Check out this thorough list of conferences and events related to adult education, technology, and affiliated topics at: [www.nifl.gov/cgi-bin/Calendar/calendar\\_world.cgi](http://www.nifl.gov/cgi-bin/Calendar/calendar_world.cgi)

[Back to Top](#)

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## PAACE News available in PDF

For those who like to print out *PAACE News*, you have the option of printing directly from your browser or downloading a PDF file of each issue.

 Download the current issue of *PAACE News* as PDF file here.

[Back to Top](#)

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## Are you subscribed to the PAACE members e-mail list?

If you are a PAACE member and are not subscribed to the members e-mail list, you may use the simple sign-up process by going to [www.paacesite.org](http://www.paacesite.org), clicking on the link on the main page for the PAACE lists, and following the link for the [members@paacesite.org](mailto:members@paacesite.org) list. Subscribers also may follow the link to change subscription information. Only subscribers may post to the list.

PAACE members are encouraged to be on the e-mail list in order to receive announcements and late-breaking legislative news, *especially now!*

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Our 2006-07 Officers, Regional Representatives, and Division Directors:

*President:* Debbie Hrach (Stairways Behavioral Health)  
*First Vice-President:* Chuck Klinger (Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11)  
*Second Vice-President:* Tana Reiff (Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13)  
*Secretary:* Lori Keefer (Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council)  
*Treasurer:* Mary Hohensee (Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon)  
*Immediate Past President:* Robert McNeill (Delaware Valley College)  
*Remote Past President:* Mary Kay Peterson  
*Western Regional Representative:* Emmett Baxendell (Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh)  
*Central Regional Representative:* Ruth Love-Schooley (Lycoming County Library System)  
*Eastern Regional Representative:* Joe Morales (Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13)  
*Adult Basic and Secondary Education Division Director:* Libby Wilson (Greater Erie Community Action Committee and Stairways Behavioral Health)  
*Continuing Higher Education Division Director:* Mary Anne Varacalli (Delaware County Community College)  
*Corrections Education Division Director:* Julie Manning (Delaware Co. Community College)  
*ESL Division:* Vacant  
*Family Literacy Division:* Susan Mansuetti (Penn State Beaver Adult Literacy Action), Julie Shumaker (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit)  
*Tutors of Literacy in the Commonwealth:* Kim Roush (Tutors of Literacy in the Commonwealth)  
*Workplace Education Division:* KayLynn Hamilton (Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy at Penn State)

Committee Chairs/Full Board list: [See the PAACE website.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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## PAACE News Editorial Board

[Destiny Myers](#), Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Community Education Services, Editor  
[Debbie Hrach](#), Stairways Behavioral Health  
[Karen Mundie](#), Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council  
[Ruth Love-Schooley](#), Lycoming County Library System  
[Tana Reiff](#), Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13  
[Carol Shefrin](#), Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Community Education Services  
[Mary Anne Varacalli](#), Delaware County Community College (ret.)

The purpose of *PAACE News* is to inform members of PAACE about the activities and plans of the Association and how they can participate in them. Remaining consistent with the mission of the organization, the newsletter connects a diverse audience of adult education practitioners, researchers, and students throughout Pennsylvania.

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To submit material for *PAACE News*, please e-mail the [editor](#).

[Back to Top](#)

[Back to PAACEsite home page](#)