



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS
WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS**

**NAASLN Membership News & Views
Issue Fourteen – January 2007**

***NAASLN Membership News & Views** is an outgrowth of the **NAASLN Vision** to offer our members a centralized hub of information, professional development, technical assistance, communication on issues and trends, and advocacy initiatives on behalf of adults with special learning needs.*

In this issue

- **Membership Notice —This may be the last newsletter you receive!**
- **Top 10 Reasons for a NAASLN Membership**
- **Website of the month: www.naasln.org/membership** (of course!)
- **Legislative Update**
- **Reading Corner — Don't Read Alone!**
- **Calendar of Events: NAASLN Road Trip Tracks and more**
- **We want to hear from you!**

Members Take Notice —This may be the last newsletter you receive!

Patricia M. Walsh, Membership Co-Chair

One of the central benefits of your membership is **NAASLN Membership News & Views**. When your membership expires, so does your subscription to this invaluable bimonthly resource with direct links to our ever expanding new web site. Soon you will receive your dues renewal statement. We ask you to make support of NAASLN one of your new year's resolutions. Your renewal is crucial for the sake of your own professional development and in support of the other members, who, like yourself, serve adults with special learning needs. And at \$35 per year, membership is a bargain. What are the top 10 benefits of membership? See below.

As you know, NAASLN is the only national association for those who serve adults with special learning needs. Members are people like you — educators, trainers, employers, human service providers, and adult learners — who are

committed to ensuring and expanding opportunities for adults with special learning needs to become successful and productive lifelong learners.

For only \$35 per year, you can join an e-community that offers members a centralized hub of information NAASLN provides its services through the use of technology, collaborative partnerships, dissemination of relevant information and research, circulation of best practices, national and regional conferences, and creative networking with organizations and individuals.

Don't be left out in the January cold. When you get your dues notice, please renew. And pass along a membership form to a colleague.

+++++

Top 10 Benefits of a NAASLN Membership

(with apologies to David Letterman)

- 10. Stay abreast of best practices in the education of special interest groups like ESOL, specific disabilities, and corrections
 - 9. Learn about LD assessments and test accommodations
 - 8. Get special rates for conferences and NAASLN road-trip sessions
 - 7. Influence legislators whose budgets affect adult education
 - 6. Get published in **NAASLN Membership News & Views**
 - 5. Organizational memberships have a link on the NAASLN website and a quarter-page ad in the national conference program
 - 4. Get in gear with hot transition topics and systemic program shifts
 - 3. Find out about adaptive technology
 - 2. Opportunities for networking abound
- ... and the Number 1 benefit of a NAASLN membership is to have a daily impact on the success of the adults whose lives you touch every day.

+++++

Website of the month

To learn more about the advantages of membership contact Membership Co-Chairs Debra Watkins (dwatkins@ccc.edu) or Patricia M. Walsh (pmwalsh@hotmail.com), or better still, visit our newly redesigned website www.naasln.org/membership (of course!)

+++++

Legislative Update

Anne Murr, Legislative Committee Chair

With new and newly re-elected members of Congress getting down to business, now is a good time to remind your Senators and Congressional Representatives

that as they craft legislation, determine budgets, and develop policies, you are an expert in your field. Remind them to contact you or our Board of Directors if they have any questions about issues affecting adults with special learning needs.

If you need suggestions on contacting them, contact Anne Murr, anne.murr@drake.edu

+++++

Reading Corner — Don't Read Alone!

Enhancing Our Lives Through Experiences of Others

Robyn Rennick, MS, Program Director, Dyslexia Research Institute, Tallahassee, FL and NAASLN President

My expertise is in teaching children and adults with dyslexic and attention deficit disorders. My perception of these two differences is that they are more related to language and communication differences than in either reading or behavior (although reading and behavior are, of course, concomitant issues).

Even though dyslexia and attention deficit disorders can create a handicapping condition for individuals due to improper teaching and training, they also can create individuals with a unique perspective on the world. If they are able to tap into this perspective, then their “difference” can become a positive, creative force.

That said, I want to shift to two books I have read this year concerning autism — Temple Grandin’s 1995 book *Thinking in Pictures and Other Reports from My Life with Autism* and the novel *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time* by Mark Haddon. Both of these books give a view of autism from the eyes of individuals with the disorder.

Grandin’s book is not just autobiographical, discussing her view of the world in pictures and presenting a great deal of well-research information concerning autism. However, it is her journey through a world she had to “learn language like a second language” that kept me fascinated.

Haddon’s novel follows 15-year-old Christopher, a boy with autism, as he attempts to solve the murder of his neighbor’s dog and as he sets out on a journey to London by himself. Haddon allows us to follow the thought processes of Christopher and to see the effects he has on others through the boy’s eyes and interpretation.

Both books gave me a wider understanding of some of the issues faced by individuals with autism, but also reinforced that, sometimes, disabilities may bring with them unique perspectives which can enhance our own lives if we will only try to look through their eyes.

Editor's Note; Have you read a good book lately that might be of interest to other professionals who work with adults with special learning needs? Send us your review and we'll include it in the newsletter. Remember, reading is an important adventure — Don't do it alone!

+++++

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NAASLN Road Trip Tracks

NAASLN conferences often are described as national in scope, but local in intimacy. Until we finalize the next national conference, check out these regional appearances and the **NAASLN web site Calendar** for more information on these and other upcoming events:

March 7-9, 2007

IACEA "Putting All the Pieces Together"

Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association, Inc. (IACEA) features a NAASLN strand with sessions presented by Laura Weisel, PhD, Richard Cooper, PhD, and Robyn Rennick, MS. The 28th Annual IACEA Conference will be held at the Hilton in Springfield, Illinois. For additional information contact Laura Bercovitz at libercovitz@thecenterweb.org or visit www.iacea.net.

The NAASLN tract for IACEA is as follows:

Wednesday, March 7

9:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

"The Brain, Emotions and Learning: Understanding the Key Prerequisites to Successful Instruction and Employment"

Laura Weisel, PhD, CEO, The TLP Group, Columbus, OH

3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

"Supporting Persons with Persistent Mental Illnesses in Education and Work"

Laura Weisel, PhD, CEO, The TLP Group, Columbus, OH

Thursday, March 8

10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

"Dyslexia: Not Just a Reading Problem; Attention Deficit Disorders: Not Just a Behavioral Problem"

Robyn Rennick, MS, Program Director, Dyslexia Research Institute, Tallahassee, FL

3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

"Don't Tell Me How to Study: Teach Me How"

Robyn Rennick, MS, Program Director, Dyslexia Research Institute, Tallahassee, FL

Friday, March 9

8:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

"Memory Tools for Forgetful Adults: Ways to Remember What You Learn"

Richard Cooper, PhD, Director, Center of Alternative Learning, Havertown, PA

March 25 - March 28, 2007

Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) presents "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Learning" in Philadelphia. NAASLN is proud to continue a 6-year track record of presenting pre-conference and strand sessions targeting educators who work with students with special learning needs. For more information go to www.coabe2007.org!

July 8-11, 2007

Correctional Education Association (CEA) presents its 62nd Conference, "Excellence in Education: Enhance, Enlighten, Enrich, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA. NAASLN will present a Pre Conference Symposium, Sunday, July 8, 2007. For more information contact CEA, 1-800-783-1232 or go to www.ceanational.org.

June 28-July 2, 2007

No Barriers Festival, No Barriers USA's FESTIVAL 2007 in Squaw Valley, CA, will share cutting-edge techniques and technologies that enable people with challenges to live as actively as possible. Not to be missed... Interactive clinics in adaptive rock climbing, scuba discovery, kayaking, cycling, mountain bike cycling, rope course, introductory Segway use, and trekking excursions, some using devices such as talking-GPS and walking poles. Other events include an equipment fair, speakers, and films. For more information, go to www.nobarriersusa.org/festival-2007.html

+++++

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NAASLN is devoted to enhancing the opportunities for life-long learning for adults with special learning needs by improving the efforts of adult educators working with these individuals in the full range of life-long learning programs, i.e., ABE, ESL, GED, volunteer-based and community-based literacy programs.

Future Newsletter Submissions

Help us meet your needs. Recommend or submit an article, event announcements, book reviews, and web sites links. Either E-mail newsletter@naasln.org or send to:

Joan Hudson-Miller, 14214 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066 or Fax to 310-354-2601.

All submissions will be reviewed for appropriateness for our readership and will be selected at the discretion of the newsletter editors.

Sharing information

Do you have ideas on how you would like to better network with other members? Are there other features you would like to see in this Newsletter and on our website? E-mail newsletter@naasln.org or leave a message on at 888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756)

+++++

Help Spread the Word

Please forward this newsletter to other educators and interested parties. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to become a member of NAASLN and a regular subscriber, send an email to info@naasln.org for membership information or visit our web site: www.naasln.org/membership.

We practice Permission Marketing. Go to our website to read our Privacy Policy.

If you ever want to stop receiving this e-newsletter, reply to newsletter@naasln.org and type 'Unsubscribe' in the body of the email.

Like what you've read?

You may share information in this newsletter and copy articles for professional sharing only, **AS LONG AS** the following statement is present:

Reprinted with the permission of _____(author)_____ and the National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs, www.naasln.org.

We ask that you send us a copy of the reprint with the correctly worded permission statement as a courtesy for our files. If you need more information please call 888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756), leave a message, and we will call you back. Or send an E-mail to newsletter@naasln.org.

Send comments or questions about this newsletter by email to newsletter@naasln.org.

NAASLN Membership News & Views Co-editors: Joan Hudson-Miller, Pat Walsh

NAASLN
(National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs)
c/o CEA
8182 Lark Brown Road, Suite 202
Elkridge , MD 21075
888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756)
info@naasln.org
www.naasln.org