



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

## NAASLN Membership News & Views Issue Sixteen – June 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.

The NAASLN Vision expands----- **Bringing Wonderland to Your Desktop: NAASLN's new Webinar Series.** Read all about this exciting new offering below.

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*"Doorknob: Read the directions and directly you will be directed in the right direction."*

*"Contrariwise," continued Tweedledee, "if it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic."*

*"I am real!" said Alice, and began to cry.*

*"You won't make yourself a bit realler by crying," Tweedledee remarked: "there's nothing to cry about."*

*Lewis Carroll, "Through the Looking Glass"*

## Bringing Wonderland to Your Desktop

“*Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast,*” said the Queen of Hearts to Alice in Wonderland.

And just what impossible things are we to believe in the adult education world of limited funding? We are expected to become experts in all the areas of special learning needs—accommodations, ESL, emotions, learning disabilities, hearing impaired, blind, etc. But there are few funds to provide the training we need. What to do...what to do?

We all know that NAASLN national conferences show practitioners how to accomplish six impossible things before breakfast. But we also know that many programs don't have the resources to send their teachers to national conferences. Many now limit professional development to local conferences. While these conferences present great information, they often miss the expertise that comes from a national scope.

“*What to do...what to do...*”

NAASLN is inviting you to step through the looking glass and join us in our endeavor to bring national workshops straight to your laptop.

The Mock Turtle may have asked for, “*Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with, and then the different branches of arithmetic--Ambition, Distraction, Uglification, and Derision.*” But the experts with NAASLN are going to be a little more specific in a series of one-hour web-based seminars (webinars) that will be presented in both live time and recorded formats. These webinars will address topics that you, as members, have asked for.

Our nationally recognized speakers will cover topics such as:

- GED Accommodations: When do you need documentation; when do you NOT need documentation? (Conni Leading, GEDT)
- ESL: Managing an adult ESOL class with multiple skill levels (Robin Schwarz, M.Sp.ED:LD, ESOL teacher for 40 years and specialist in LD)
- Emotions and Learning (Laura Weisel, Ph.D., Clinical Director, The TLP Group)

So walk through the looking glass with us. Find the details on the first two Webinars below and read through this entire edition of ***News and Views***, and learn how you can better serve your students or clients.

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### Event Highlights: NAASLN's new Webinar Series

**The NAASLN Board has found a way to bring the renowned expertise and celebrated networking of a national conference to you in the convenience of your home or office.** Now, instead of hoping that you can come to us, we have a way to come to you. No travel, no hotel expenses. Just pull a chair up to your computer, dial in the conference number on your phone, join in, and learn!

**What's a webinar?** A webinar is an on-line conference that uses both your computer and telephone to bring information to you both visually and aurally so you are not just reading but actually having a live workshop experience. If you participate in “real-time”

you even have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. Webinars will be recorded and placed on the NAASLN website, so if you miss the real-time presentation, you may watch the webinar at your convenience.

Each **NAASLN Webinar** will bring one of the highly acclaimed NAASLN professional development sessions to your own desk. Up close and personal. Here is what we have for our first two webinars.

**#1 Date/Time: August 7 at 11:00 a.m. EST and repeated at 2:00 p.m. EST.**

***GED Testing Accommodations and Adaptations:*** What's the difference? AND How do we level the playing field for adults with special learning needs?

**Presenter:** Conni Leading, GED Testing Accommodations Manager & Chief Examiner for Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools in Groveport, Ohio, brings 28 years of professional and personal experience to her position. As a mother of two sons with special learning needs, she has developed a unique understanding of the emotional and physical aspects of learning with accommodations and adaptations, and because of this serves as a strong advocate for the needs of special students.

**Description:** Adults with special learning needs taking the GED fall into two categories: (1) Those adults with documented ADA disabilities, who require accommodations such as extended time, supervised breaks, scribes, audiocassettes. (2) Those adults, for whom teachers have identified learning needs requiring adaptations or modifications such as magnifiers, colored overlays, straight edges, rooms without fluorescent lighting, etc. These latter adaptations do not require prior approval by the GED state offices

**#2 Date/Time: September 18, at 11:00 a.m. EST and repeated at 4:00 p.m. EST.**

***"Managing an Adult ESOL Class with Multiple Skill Levels"***—Curriculum, techniques, materials, and resources that work.

**Presenter:** Robin Lovrien Schwarz, M. Sp. Ed: LD has been an ESOL teacher with 40 years experience and a specialist in LD. Ms. Schwarz is currently a consultant to numerous school districts around the country. She has participated in numerous state and national initiatives on adult ESOL, has authored numerous articles and book chapters, and is currently doing contract writing for the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL).

**Description:** One of the greatest challenges facing many ESOL teachers is a class where students have many different skill levels. In this "Webinar," Robin Lovrien Schwarz will teach you three different approaches to managing such a class. After each approach is discussed online, you will have the opportunity to create materials and plans for your own class and get feedback on design and implementation. Handouts will be available to download, and unlike in a one-time, live session, you will get to ask those questions you think of the next day!

#### **BONUS FEATURES:**

1) You may send in questions before the webinar, as well as during the presentation. The speakers will incorporate the answers during the webinar and post answers the week after the webinar on the NAASLN website.

2) You will receive a Certificate of Attendance which you may use for proof of professional development.

**COST:**

Webinar fee for members: \$20

Webinar fee for non-members: \$30 (Join NAASLN and save on future webinars.)

Watch for more announcements and registration forms coming to you in the next few weeks. By mid July the new “Webinar Series” page will up on the NAASLN website ([www.NAASLN.org](http://www.NAASLN.org)) with all the details and registration forms. In the meantime, if you have any question or want more information contact us at [info@naasln.org](mailto:info@naasln.org).

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**Spotlight Topic of the month:**

**An In-depth Discussion of Special Learning Needs of Individuals in Adult Education, At-Risk Youth Programs, and One-Stop Centers, Part I: Inadequacies of LD-Only Diagnosis**

By Laura Weisel, Ph.D., Clinical Director, The TLP Group, Columbus, Ohio, NAASLN Past-President and current Board Member

This is the first in a series of educator-driven articles that summarize the current status of struggling learners who have left the K-12 system and have come to adult basic education, literacy, and workforce development services. Dr. Weisel conducted the study on which this article is based. This article and the \*data related to the study, Special Learning Needs of individuals in Adult Basic and Literacy Education, At-Risk Youth Programs, and One-Stop Centers© (PowerPath to Education and Employment, the TLP Group, Columbus, OH) can be found on the NAASLN website: [Click here for complete article](#) or go to [www.naasln.org/articles](http://www.naasln.org/articles) and select this article.

*\*Please note that the NIFLL data summary will be available on the NAASLN web site’s “Articles” page by July 15, 2007.*

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**Alert and Action Item:**

**The Fluorescent Lighting Crisis: Part I: Background, Overview and Action**

By Joan Hudson-Miller, President, LRS Large Print and NAASLN Board Member

A coalition of industrialists, environmentalists, and energy specialists is banding together to try to eliminate the incandescent light bulb. Legislation that has been proposed in California, Canada, and Australia focuses solely on energy and environmental concerns. And while arguments are being made that mercury content in fluorescent lighting may cause even more environmental problems, few are addressing this issue as it affects persons with visual concerns that are exacerbated by fluorescent lighting. No doubt about it, this legislation will hurt people.

Fluorescent sensitivity can greatly exaggerate pre-existing conditions and interfere with treatment. If the fluorescent problem is considered, addressed, and treated first, then the primary problem can be treated. Too often, however, because of a lack of awareness, the effects of fluorescent lighting are not taken into consideration in IEPs or clinical diagnoses. Too often, especially in the classroom and work environment, children and adults put up with or accept as “normal” headaches, stress, weariness, squinting, and even blurred print. The remedy is often “take two aspirin and get more sleep”.

According to Helen L. Irlen, executive director of The Irlen Institute, nearly one-quarter of the world's population will suffer negative physical effects if this legislation is allowed to pass. For this portion of the population, fluorescent light triggers headaches, migraines, stomach aches, fatigue, eye strain, anxiety, and irritability. Fluorescent lights can also negatively impact the immune system, literally making people sick. Energy conservation is an important goal that we should strive to achieve, but there are ways to conserve energy that do not hurt 25% of the population.

Because immediate action needs to be taken, Part I provides some background on the effects of fluorescent lighting and an overview of the current issues that are being introduced to legislators in several countries and states in this country. Within this article are actions steps you can take if you live in a state that might immediately be affected. Part II in the next issue of *News & Views*, will provide a more technical explanation of fluorescent lighting and its effects on ocular health. It will include reports from Elaine Kitchel, M.Ed., American Printing House for the Blind and Helen Irlen, Executive Director, Irlen Institute. Click here to read the complete Part I: [Click here for complete article](#) or go to [www.naasln.org/articles](http://www.naasln.org/articles) and select this article.

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**Website of the Month: <http://www.learningthroughlistening.org>  
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic Launches Support Website For Educators**

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), the nation's educational audiobook library, announces the launch of a new, fully accessible, educator support website at <http://www.learningthroughlistening.org/> in an innovative collaboration with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST).

RFB&D serves students of all ages who cannot read standard print effectively because of a learning disability, visual impairment, or other physical disability.

The free service, *Learning Through Listening*, is offered 24 hours, 7 days a week, as a powerful resource to assist all educators seeking to integrate listening skills into their classrooms, and is not limited to educators whose schools have RFB&D institutional memberships or whose students are enrolled as RFB&D individual members.

CAST is a research and development organization that has earned international recognition for its innovative, technology-based educational resources, and strategies based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). CAST's staff includes specialists in education research and policy, neuropsychology, clinical/school psychology, technology, engineering, curriculum development and K-12 professional development.

The new web site provides easy-to-use, research-based information developed by educators, targeted to the K-12 inclusive classroom. Lesson plans and other downloadable materials are grouped by subject and grade level based on feedback from educators during RFB&D's two year development process. By design, the intended audience has varying degrees of knowledge, comfort, and proficiency with print disabilities, technology, and RFB&D as an organization and service.

"The Learning Through Listening website was created to support and build the skills of educators so they will be even more successful in teaching students with different

learning styles," says John Kelly, RFB&D's president and chief executive officer. "This new website will provide greater access to helpful educational materials developed by and for educators."

"As multimedia technologies bring listening back to a central role in literacy, this website provides educators with the practical ideas and resources they need to prepare diverse learners for success in a multimedia world," says David Rose, founder and chief education officer of CAST.

RFB&D serves nearly 180,000 students from kindergarten through graduate school and beyond with its one-of-a-kind collection of educational titles. RFB&D's AudioPlus digitally recorded textbooks on CD provide unprecedented navigation, ease of use, and proven effectiveness as learning tools for students with print disabilities. Students rely on RFB&D's unique accommodation to access the printed page and to achieve educational success. All of RFB&D's accessible titles are recorded by volunteers working in 29 RFB&D recording studios nationwide.

For more information, contact Mark Zustovich, RFB&D Media Relations Associate, 609-520-7993, [mzustovich@rfd.org](mailto:mzustovich@rfd.org). Or visit RFB&D's accessible website at <http://www.rfd.org>.

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**Support NAASLN while you are shopping online at [www.Giveline.org](http://www.Giveline.org)**

**Giveline.com** is an online store created for the community-minded shopper. Every transaction generates a financial contribution to your favorite charity, which we hope will be **NAASLN**. Giveline.com contributes between 7 and 33 percent of product sales, with a store-wide average of nearly 16 percent per transaction. The amount to be donated to **NAASLN** varies by product. Their "open book" policy includes displaying the exact amount on every product page, as well as throughout the checkout process.

So click on <http://www.giveline.org> and go directly the NAASLN page and for every item you order NAASLN receives a financial contribution.

This is the first time our association has worked with Giveline.org and so we would appreciate your feedback on your experience using this site, the quality of their products and service. Let us know at [info@naasln.org](mailto:info@naasln.org). Thanks you

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**Membership Update**

Debra Watkins & Pat Walsh, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Occasions like birthday, graduations, and staff changes are always popping up. One-size-fits-all gifts are not always appropriate or personal. How about a NAASLN membership as a personal way to congratulate a graduate, thank a professional, or get your staff up to a new level of professionalism. Memberships come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Pick one that fits.

For the individual  
• \$35 per year

- Receives all membership benefits
- Receives discounted conference fees
- May serve as a board member or committee chair
- May serve on one or more Committees

For the lifelong dedicated professional

- \$500 one-time fee
- Receives all membership benefits
- Receives discounted conference fees
- May serve as a board member or committee chair
- May serve on one or more committees

Organization Member

- \$ 250 per year
- Up to 10 staff may serve on one or more committees
- May designate one staff member to serve as a board member or committee chair
- May designate one staff member to have voting rights
- Receives all membership benefits •
- Receives discounted conference fees for up to 10 staff

Student/Learner

- \$15 per year
- Receives all membership benefits • Receives student conference fees
- May serve as a board member or committee chair
- May serve on one or more committees

(Note: include documentation of enrollment in a basic skill, post secondary, or graduate level program)

(Go to [www.naasln.org/membership](http://www.naasln.org/membership) to learn more about our membership benefits and applications)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### The New NAASLN Webinar Series

**#1 August 7, 11:00 a.m. EDT and repeated at 2:00 p.m. EDT**

***GED Testing Accommodations and Adaptations: What's the difference? AND How do we level the playing field for adults with special learning needs?*** Conni Leading, GED Testing Accommodations Manager & Chief Examiner for Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical School

**#2 September 18, 11:00 a.m. EDT and repeated at 2:00 p.m. EDT**

***Managing an Adult ESOL Class with Multiple Skill Levels***—Curriculum, techniques, materials, and resources that work. Robin Lovrien Schwarz, M. Sp. Ed: LD

### NAASLN Road Trip Tracks

NAASLN conferences often are described as national in scope, but local in intimacy.

Until our 2008 national conference, which will be announced shortly, check out the following events, which will be featuring NAASLN tracks. And watch the **NAASLN web site Calendar** for more information on these and other upcoming events.

## **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 and a Disabilities Track of five sessions. For more information contact CEA, 1-800-783-1232 or go to [www.ceanational.org](http://www.ceanational.org).

## **July 8 - The NAASLN Pre-Conference Session: Literacy and Special Learning Needs**

Morning Strategic Dialogue: ***Asking the Right Questions to Improve Correction Literacy Services***. Facilitated by Alan Toops

Morning Session I: ***The Incidence of Special Learning Needs in Prison Education Programs***, Laura Weisel, Pd.D.

Morning Session II: ***It Just Didn't Go Away Because They Grew Older: Dyslexia/ADD/SLN Affects Adults in Many Different Ways***, Patricia K. Hardman, Pd.D.

Afternoon Session I: ***Adults with Serious Reading Difficulties: Research and Implications for Literacy Instruction***, Daphne Greenberg, Ph.D.

Afternoon Session II: ***Teaching Writing to Reluctant Writers***, Richard Cooper, Ph.D.

Afternoon Strategic Dialogue: ***Research and Evidence-Based Practices: Improving Practice***. Facilitated by Alan Toops.

## **July 9-11 NAASLN Track at the CEA Conference**

1. ***Structured Learning for the Unstructured***, Richard Cooper, Ph.D.
2. ***Dyslexia/ADD/SLD Doesn't Go Away Just Because They Grew Older***, Patricia Hardman, Ph.D.
3. ***Mental Health Issues: What are they and how can I handle them in my education program?*** Laura Weisel, Ph.D.
4. ***Serving Offenders with Special Learning Needs: A Look at the Problem and New Solutions***, Alan Toops
5. ***Understanding and Meeting the Emotional Needs of Basic Skill Participants: What can an instructor do?*** Laura Weisel, Ph.D.

**Other upcoming events related to helping adults with special learning needs:**

## **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](http://www.nobarriersusa.org/festival-2007.html).

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### ***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,

#### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@naasln.org) or leave a message on at 888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756).

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#### ***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](mailto:info@naasln.org) for membership information or visit our web site: [www.naasln.org/membership](http://www.naasln.org/membership).

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

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Send comments or questions about this newsletter by email to [newsletter@naasln.org](mailto:newsletter@naasln.org).

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