



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

## NAASLN Membership News & Views Issue Seventeen – August 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.

**NAASLN’s new Webinar Series: Making Sense of the complex challenges facing adults with special learning needs, their teachers and supporters** ---- The first August 7<sup>th</sup> Webinar was a great start and well attended. Don’t miss the second session on September 18. Find all the details below in the *President’s Thoughts* and *Event Highlight*.

### In this issue

- **President’s Thoughts:** Making Sense
- **Event Highlight:** NAASLN’s Webinar Series
- **Spotlight Topic of the Month:** Individuals in Adult Education, At-Risk Youth Programs, and One-Stop Centers, Part II by Laura Weisel, Ph.D.
- **Alert and Action Item:** The Fluorescent Lighting Crisis: Part II: Properties, Accommodations and Environmental Impact by Joan Hudson-Miller
- **Website of the month:** [www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com)
- **Calling All Success Stories!**
- **Support NAASLN** while you are shopping online at [www.giveline.org](http://www.giveline.org)
- **Calendar of Events:**
- **We want to hear from you!**

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### President’s Thoughts Making Sense

*It would be so nice if something made sense for a change...*

So said Alice, as she traveled *Through the Looking Glass*. And I have been thinking the same with our webinar series. In a world of budget constraints and travel restraints, it’s almost impossible to have access to top-notch professional development. But NAASLN is making sense of this situation with our webinar series.

It may seem strange to look to Lewis Carroll and his heroine as a vehicle for spotlighting our webinars. But stepping through the looking glass gives us an opportunity to see things in a different way and to make sense of what we perceive as daily incongruities. That is exactly what NAASLN is doing. We are making the most of our unique position as an e-community association that offers 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.

On September 18, we offer our second webinar, *Managing a Multiple Skill Level Adult ESOL Class — Curriculum, techniques, materials, and resources that work*. Presented by Robin L. Schwarz, M. Sp. Ed: LD, an ESOL teacher with 40 years experience, this webinar addresses the challenges faced by most ESOL teachers whose students have different skill levels. She will present three different approaches to managing such a class. You will even have the opportunity to create materials, plan your own class, and get feedback on design and implementation.

From its inception in 1989, NAASLN has identified the promotion of English as a Second Language as one of its primary purposes and now includes it as a special interest group. This webinar highlights this commitment. In this issue of **News and Views** we have also included the article *Screening ESOL Students for Special Learning Needs*. You may also want to review some of Robin Schwarz's work on our website. See [www.naasln.org/articles](http://www.naasln.org/articles) for access to *A Difficult Puzzle To Solve: Adult ESOL Students with Learning Disabilities* and *What's in a Label?*

As the Duchess told Alice, "Take care of the sense, and the sounds will take care of themselves." Indeed, NAASLN is taken care of the sense and the second webinar is taking care of the sounds.

Robyn Rennick, MS, NAASLN President  
Program Director, Dyslexia Research Institute, Tallahassee, Fla.

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## **Event Highlights: NAASLN's Webinar Series –**

### **Session 2 – Managing an Adult ESOL Class with Multiple Skill**

**Levels**—Curriculum, techniques, materials, and resources that work.

September 18, 2007: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT & 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT  
(Repeat Session)

**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!

### **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. Visit NAASLN website ([www.naasln.org](http://www.naasln.org)) and go to the Webinar pages, which have all the details and downloadable 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 2: The Impact of Visual Stress Syndrome**

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

This is the second 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](#).

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**Alert and Action Item:**

**The Fluorescent Lighting Crisis: Part II: Properties, Accommodations and Environmental Impact.**

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

In the June issue of the *NAASLN Membership News and Views*, Part I of this article provided an overview of the effect of fluorescent lighting and the brewing controversy emerging from the international move to eliminate incandescent lighting for the sake of our energy crisis. As with so many “crisis” issues like global warming, the short term quick fix is not the long term solution and can cause more problems in the long term than it solves. This is certainly true with the issue of fluorescent lighting. Beyond even the serious physiological effects, there are also serious environment concerns because of the toxic chemical components. To be prepared to respond to world-wide efforts to ban incandescent bulbs and protect our students and clients, we must understand more about the properties of fluorescent lighting and the new compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and their effects on individuals and the environment. This article starts you down the information highway with introductions and links to several experts and resources, including Elaine Kitchel, M.Ed., Research Scientist, The American Printing House for the Blind, Helen Irlen, MA, LFMT, Executive Director, Irlen Institute, and Dan Roberts, Founding Director, Macular Degeneration Support. [Click here to read complete article](#).

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**Website of the Month:** [www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com)

**The Irlen Institute website contains an array of information about light sensitivity issues, the symptoms, national and international research on the subject, as well successful accommodations using colored filers and overlays to alleviate the negative effects of fluorescent lighting. In addition in response to the fluorescent lighting controversy, this site also has information on the environment impact of this type of lighting.**

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## **Calling All Success Stories!**

Are you a success story? An adult who overcame a special learning need? If so, *NAASLN News and Views* is looking for you.

Our December newsletter will feature stories of individuals who not only have triumphed over a disability or other learning problem, but who have gone on to become successful role models who are sharing that success with others.

NAASLN is committed to ensuring and expanding opportunities for adults with special learning needs so that they can become successful and productive lifelong learners. So let us know who are and some of the details of your success.

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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 [www.giveline.org](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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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **The New NAASLN Webinar Series**

[www.naasln.org](http://www.naasln.org)

**#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.

**October 13, 2007**

**Division Fall Conference – “College Prepared, Career Ready”**

Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Adult and Career Education  
Los Angeles Convention Center

**NAASLN Session: Accommodations Prepared, Disability Ready**

Panel: NAASLN Board Members: Terry P. Wetzel, Specialist, LAUSD Disability Support Program; Julie Wetzel, Teacher Advisor, DSPT Director, LAUSD Disability Support Program; Joan Hudson-Miller, President, Library Reproduction Service. Kevin Termunde, NAASLN Web Master & Instructor with LAUSD Disability Support Programs

**November 15-17**

**World Congress and Expo on Disabilities**

Washington, DC

[www.wcdexpo.com/conference.cfm](http://www.wcdexpo.com/conference.cfm)

**NAASLN Session**

Assisting Students with Learning Disabilities & ADD in Achieving Academic Success-A Coaching Program, Presenter: Melissa Arnott-Cox, NAASLN Board Member, Director, Academic Success Center, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

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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).

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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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