



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

**NAASLN Membership News & Views
Issue Twenty-Two – September 2008**

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.

Stay tuned in and connected by renewing your membership.
Go to <http://www.NAASLN.org/membership>

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President’s Message— Back to School

Joan Hudson-Miller, Acting NAASLN President

While NAASLN President Robyn Rennick is on a leave of absence, I have assumed the role of acting president.

So here we are. September, back to school. For adults with special learning needs, that means adult education, GED, and transition to postsecondary education. And don’t you know, NAASLN’s got it covered.

The GED test is the focus of two articles in this issue with an update from a recent report on the GED presented to the National Coalition for Literacy and an overview our upcoming September 25th webinar session, ***Strategies for Passing the GED Mathematics Test***. There is also good news for all of you, who have been waiting for another NAASLN conference. The NAASLN Board is pleased to announce our upcoming regional conference in February '09, which will explore postsecondary options for students with AD/HD and Asperger's Syndrome. Do you have any adult students with dyslexia, who would be interested in participating in a project of the Dyslexia Research Institute in partnership with the East Carolina University?

So polish an apple for the teacher that you are, and take a bite into what NAASLN has to offer in this issue of *News and Views*.

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Save the Date!

NAASLN Announces 2009 Regional Conference

Pat Walsh, NAASLN Board Member and Conference Co-Chair

Access to the New Economy for Adult Learners with AD/HD and Aspergers Syndrome is the theme of NAASLN's Mid-Atlantic Conference that will be held Feb. 22-23, 2009, at the Bon Secour Conference Center (BSCC) in Marriottsville, Md., about 30 minutes by car from Baltimore. Convenient shuttles are available from BWI Airport and Amtrak.

According to Richard Cooper, Ph.D., NAASLN board member and co-chair of the conference, this two-day concentrated format directly responds to membership calls for more of what NAASLN does best—intimate, practical, hands-on conferences. Registration is limited to 70 full overnight registrants and 80 day-only registrants.

Access to the New Economy for Adult Learners with AD/HD and Aspergers will feature three plenary sessions:

- *ADD and Entrepreneurism...Links that Work!*
presented by Richard Cooper, Ph.D., Learning Specialist
- *Asperger's Syndrome, Part I: The Adult Education Class*
presented by Bevan Gibson, M.S. Sp. Ed., Director of the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center
- *Asperger's Syndrome, Part II: Transitioning to Postsecondary Education*
presented by Melissa Arnott-Cox, Ed.D., L.P.C., C.A.C., Director, Academic Success Center, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

There will also be ample time for small-group discussions of how these breakthrough strategies apply to the evolving economy; issues affecting the new workforce; transition to postsecondary education and the workforce; advocacy issues and techniques; Webinars; leadership options; and more.

BSCC is a beautiful, self-contained, countyside facility surrounded by rolling hills and woods with comfortable meeting facilities, customized meals, on-site gym, and acres of walking trails. Full registration of \$250 covers a day and a half of program activities, overnight accommodations, all meals, and 24-hour access to a fully-stocked hospitality suite. The day-only registration of \$135 covers one day of sessions and all meals.

“By bundling the fees, we are able to offer the most services for the least amount of money in a tight schedule that provides easy accessibility and low cost,” Rich said. “Slots are expected to fill up fast.”

Registration forms will be available soon, but don't wait for them to reserve your space. If you think you might attend, send an email to info@naasln.org or call 888-5-NAASLN (888-562-2756). You will be notified as soon as registration opens.

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2008 Webinars – An Internet-Based Seminar Series

The **2008 NAASLN Webinar Series** has been a great success, with high praises and many requests for repeats. We have recently added some new features, including [online registration](#), availability of [videos of the live sessions](#), and for the first time in the upcoming September 25 seminar [live interaction](#) between attendees and presenter.

Upcoming sessions are described below. For those of you who are not familiar with what a “webinar” really is, and are wondering if it is for you, here's a quick overview.

Why should I attendee? Are you looking for a high-impact, low-cost, pertinent national conference in a convenient, comfortable, cost-effective, and local venue? Like, really local and really affordable? 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, join in, and learn! All you need is a computer and a telephone.

Why should I attend a NAASLN Webinar? NAASLN's Webinar Series of Internet-based seminars offers topics that directly impact your students or clients. Many of the sessions have companion handouts and video versions available after the live session. To review past topics go to the NAASLN website's [webinars archives](#). Each session allows you to ask question and get immediate answers. It's easy—you type in the question and the presenter responds.

How do I participate? You have two ways to participate—attend the live on-line session or purchase an archived version to replay or share with your colleagues. You can even do both.

How do I register or order a video? We have made registration very easy. You can either use the downloadable [registration form](#) or our new [secure online registration with](#)

[an easy-to-use shopping cart.](#)

Find more answers to your questions in the FAQ's section of the [webinar page](#) on the **NAASLN website**.

September 25, 4:00 – 5:00 ET

Strategies for Passing the GED Mathematics Test

by Caren Van Slyke of Learning Unlimited, GED Instructor (30 years), edited and developed GED materials for Contemporary/McGraw-Hill, Steck-Vaughn, KET, New Readers Press

How can we help students pass the GED Math Test? In this workshop, participants will focus on problem-solving strategies that their students can master to pass the GED. Participants will analyze GED math questions, learn how they can engage different learning styles to help students succeed with GED math, and discuss a variety of interactive strategies that they can apply to Pre-GED and GED math classes. They will also preview published materials that incorporate these strategies.

October (date & time tba*)

Structured Learning

by Richard Cooper, Ph.D., Director and Founder of the Center for Alternative Learning, and NAASLN Life Member. He has 25 years of experience as an adult educator, provides staff development training nation wide, and presents at many state and national conferences each year.

Many adult students who have learning or attention problems manifest poor organizational skills and appear to lack structure. While most learners are able to structure their studying to master the course material, students who have learning problems seem to “spin their wheels trying this and that” and make little progress. Their lack of structure often results in inefficiencies and ineffectiveness when learning and studying. This presentation will provide participants with techniques to help adult learners who have problems with organization and structure.

November (date & time tba*)

Brain-Based Natural Human Learning

by Rita Smilkstein, Ph.D., Woodring College of Education, Western Washington University

Dr. Smilkstein's area of expertise is teaching-learning theory based on both classroom/field and brain research and how to teach according to the brain's natural learning process. A frequent speaker nationally and internationally, her publications include textbooks for teaching study skills and grammar and articles on how to apply the brain's natural learning process to curriculum development and instructional methods across

the disciplines.

*So remember, all you need is a computer and a telephone. Keep checking the NAASLN website for confirmation of dates and times for the October and November Webinars. To learn more, please call 888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756) and leave a message, we will call you back. Or send an e-mail to info@naasln.org

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Spotlight Topic of the Month—*GED Testing*

GED Powers “Second Chance”

Pat Walsh, M.Ed., NAASLN Board Member

Emphasizing the message that the GED offers “a powerful second chance,” Sylvia E. Robinson, assistant vice president and executive director of the General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS), and Bob MacGillivray, deputy executive director, presented a update of its history and current profile at a recent meeting of the National Coalition for Literacy, of which NAASLN is a member.

Although the first GED tests were developed in 1942 by the American Council on Education (ACE) to help returning World War II veterans finish their studies and re-enter civilian life, GEDTS is still an ACE program whose primary mission to provide a reliable vehicle through which adults can certify that they possess the major and lasting outcomes of a traditional high school education.

Since its inception, this “powerful second chance,” has recognized 16,810,708 graduates. In 2007 alone, 728,930 persons took the test and 451,759 passed. It is now recognized throughout North America, as a bridge to education and employment. According to the 2007 College Board Annual Survey of Colleges 98 percent of colleges and universities that require a high school diploma accept the GED credential. Other studies indicate that 96 percent of companies accept applicants with a GED credential for jobs requiring a high school diploma. [Click here to read the complete article.](#)

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Website of the Month

www.acenet.edu/cill/ged/

Among the volumes of information available on the official site for the GED, hosted by General Educational Development Testing Service, is the recently released *2007 GED Testing Program Statistical Report*, other research studies, information about the 2012 version, GED news and stories, and information for both education professionals and students.

The GED tests offer a powerful second chance. This site cautions that it cannot be taken online. It is a challenging series of tests that measures high school-level knowledge and requires preparation.

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Advocacy Update—

NAASLN Supports Recommendations of NCAL Report, Advocates for Inclusion of Special Learning Needs Adults in all Policy and Legislative Decisions.

Anne Murr, NAASLN Board Member, Legislation and Advocacy Committee Chair

In its June 2008 report "Reach Higher, AMERICA: Overcoming Crisis in the U.S. Workforce," the National Commission on Adult Literacy (NCAL) calls on Congress to transform the adult education and literacy system into an adult education and workforce skills system with the capacity to effectively serve 20 million adults annually by 2020. In addition the NCAL's Executive Summary makes the strong case for the need to improve adult basic education.

NAASLN supports NCAL's recommendations in "Reach Higher, AMERICA" because this report can be the basis for education, workforce and government partners to be proactive in addressing both the critical education and workforce needs of adults in need of basic education.

In addition **NAASLN strongly recommends**, on behalf of all adult learners, to always include the special learning challenges (vision, hearing, physical, emotional, learning disabilities, etc.) in all policy and legislative decisions.

To read the complete report and the Executive Summary, visit <http://www.nationalcommissiononadultliteracy.org/report.html>

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Dyslexia Research Institute Seeks Adults with Dyslexia for Study

Robyn A. Rennick, Dyslexia Research Institute

Dyslexia Research Institute has been working with several researchers at East Carolina University on a project concerning adults with dyslexia.

The goal of the project is to understand ways that dyslexia affects adults in other areas of their lives besides academics. We have held two focus groups to talk about this topic, now we need a number of adults with dyslexia who will agree to participate in a rating and sorting activity of statements from the focus group. They can do this at their home.

We are looking for a variety of adults. Some may be your students, some may be your colleagues. Some may have a formal diagnosis of dyslexia—others may be more self diagnosed.

For more information about the study, please contact Dr. Blace Nalavany at 252-737-2053 (e-mail nalavanyb@ecu.edu) or Dr. Lena Carawan at 252-328-4381 (e-mail carawanl@ecu.edu).

[Click here to download a flyer about the study](#). Please distribute it to anyone who might be interested. The link below is to the NAASLN March edition of the newsletter and a longer article on the research project.

http://www.naasln.org/documents/newsletters/2008/naasln_newsletter_2008_03.pdf

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NAASLN Road Trip Tracks

Watch the NAASLN Website Calendar for more information on other upcoming events and events where NAASLN will be presenting special tracks, pre-conferences, or sessions. As they are confirmed, they will be posted on our website:

<http://www.naasln.org/calendar.htm>.

If your state organization wants to feature a NAASLN-on-the-Road track, please contact Bevan Gibson (<mailto:bgibson@siue.edu>) or Laura P. Weisel (powerpath@aol.com). It's a great way to add a national angle to your local professional development conferences.

NAASLN conferences often are described as national in scope, but local in intimacy. Along with our 2009 regional conference, the **NAASLN Webinar Series** of Internet-based seminars brings our conference sessions to the comfort of your own office or home. For more information read the article in this newsletter or go to the Webinar page on the NAASLN web site: <http://www.naasln.org/webinars.htm>.

Upcoming Events

ProLiteracy Worldwide Annual Conference

October 1-4, 2008

Peabody Little Rock Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas

<http://www.proliteracy.org/conference>

National Even Start Association Annual Conference

Oct. 19-21, 2008

Radisson Hotel & Suites, Austin, Texas

http://www.evenstart.org/p_development/conference.shtml

Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education National Conference

Nov. 1-2, 2008
Hampton Inn & Suites, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
<http://www.readwriteact.org/rwa/rwaconference.html>

AAACE 2008 Conference

Nov. 10-14, 2008
Sheraton Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado
<http://www.aaace.org/>

**National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium
National Training Institute**

Nov. 12-15, 2008
Hotel Monaco, Seattle, Washington
<http://www.naepdc.org/>

NAASLN 2009 Regional Conference

Access to the New Economy for Adult Learners with AD/HD and Aspergers Syndrome

Feb. 22-23, 2009
Bon Secour Conference Center, Marriottsville, Maryland

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Membership Update

Did you enjoy this issue? Continue to be a part of NAASLN's dynamic e-community. If you have not yet done so, please by send in your \$35 annual membership fee today. 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 a complete listing of all of the membership benefits and a 2008 Membership Form, go to www.naasln.org/membership.htm. You may pay with credit card or check, by fax or by mail. Secure online registration will soon be available.

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*****Calling All Success Stories!***

*Are you a success story? An adult who overcame a special learning need? If so, **NAASLN Membership News and Views** is looking for you? **Send us your stories.** A look back in your life can be an inspiration for others to look ahead. Throughout our 2008 newsletters we will be featuring 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.*

Join in NAASLN's commitment by sharing your own story or one about someone else. Send your stories to newsletter@naasln.org or info@naasln.org.

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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 <mailto:newsletter@naasln.org> or send to:

Joan Hudson-Miller, 3849 Albright Avenue, 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 <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 for membership information or visit our web site: <http://www.naasln.org/membership.htm>.

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