



MO-AHEAD Newsletter

Missouri Association on Higher Education and Disability

November 2003

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*New President
and a wealth of
experience on
the Board*

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*Nominations for VP
open until
December 12, 2003.*



Changes in Executive Board Positions

Claudia Felsen, President of MO-AHEAD, officially resigned at the November 14th Executive Board Meeting. Claudia will remain on the Executive Board as an appointed, Program Co-Chair. Claudia reports that there were many reasons she made this decision and will remain as supportive as ever to the MO-AHEAD organization.



Maureen Ottenlips, elected as Vice President in January 2003, stepped into the **President** position at the November 14th meeting. Maureen has been a member of MO-AHEAD for 6 years and has been working with students with disabilities for over 10 years. Maureen currently works at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley as Counselor, Access Office. Her background includes extensive work with deaf and hard-of-hearing students including experience as an interpreter. Maureen shares, "I feel very much in awe to come in as President and follow those who have worked so hard to establish this group and to make it such a viable and productive organization." Maureen is ready to take the lead and has already identified some goals, "I want this organization to be a resource to all who are out in the trenches everyday trying to serve students." Maureen also wants to encourage more members to get involved.

The November Executive Meeting also established two new members on the Board. Kim Fernandes, **Program Co-Chair** and Tammy Pratt, **Newsletter Editor**. Kim comes to us from Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City where she is the Access Resource Educator. Kim has been a member of MO-AHEAD for two years and enjoys the networking opportunities at the conferences. She especially likes hearing Jane Jarrow speak! Tammy works at the University of Missouri-Rolla as the Assistant Director, Academic Support Programs. She has been a member of MO-AHEAD for three years which she believes has been the most resourceful and supportive organization of people with which she has ever been involved.

All Board members names, positions and contact information are listed on the web at: <http://ahead.org/affiliates/missouri/index.html> click 'Board' on the left menu

VP Position-Call for Nominations

With the changes to the Executive Board, the VP position remains open. Our goal is to fill this position before the next Executive Board meeting in January. The office of VP requires a commitment for four – six years. The Vice President serves two years as VP, two years as President and then remains on the Board for two years as immediate Past President. The nominee must be a current MO-AHEAD member and must be contacted and agree to serve if elected by the person making the nomination. Nominations can be emailed to Ellen Smither (smither@mwsc.edu). Nominations will close December 15, 2003.

Ballots will be made available via electronic voting by December 15th. We are sorting out

*Voting for the VP
for MO-AHEAD will
close December 23,
2003.*

how we will provide this service, however, we plan to have the votes collected by December 23rd. Please look for this opportunity to vote and more information about the process on the MO-AHEAD listserv. If you have questions about the process, contact Suelaine Matthews at smatthews@stlcc.edu.

Prior to nominating a person for office, you must call that person and insure that s/he will agree to serve, if elected. Please nominate persons who are current members, but this will be checked by Ellen Smither when she receives your nomination.

Please put on your thinking caps and consider nominating someone.

National News

The **National AHEAD Conference** was held in Dallas, Texas, July 8 – 12. MO-AHEAD members Claudia Felsen, Suelaine Matthews and Julie Edwards were featured in a Friday afternoon break-out session "Transition Training: A Statewide Initiative". The session featured the transition training sponsored by MO-AHEAD, and provided participants with both written materials and a CD to replicate the training in their states. The session received high remarks from participants. Special thanks to MO-AHEAD members Dr. Joanie Friend and Katheryne Staeger-Wilson and National President-Elect, Grady Landrum for attending the session in support of the MO-AHEAD team. As a result of feedback from participants, the team has submitted a proposal for the 2004 conference in Miami Beach, Florida.



Membership Benefits

- Professional Development opportunities
- Tall Oaks visit
- Legislative collaborations
- Networking and professional community support
- And so much more.....

MO-AHEAD
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Regional Highlights

Jim Russell as Presenter

On October 9th, MO-AHEAD co-sponsored a workshop along with the Center for Teaching and Learning at St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley featuring Dr. Jim Russell. Dr. Russell, a well-known psychologist in St. Louis, presented on the WAIS III and new Woodcock Johnson III. Approximately 40 people attended representing 2 and 4 year colleges and universities and community groups. This workshop is a continuing effort on the part of MO-AHEAD to educate service providers.

Transition Training

Members of MO-AHEAD are on the move. Two sessions for Transition Training have occurred at SLCC-Florissant Valley and at the Missouri Area Career and Technical Association Conference. Transitional Training sessions are directed towards secondary special education teachers, and offer a wealth of information about how to better assist students with disabilities transition into higher education. There are two sessions planned for February 24th. This is a GREAT opportunity to observe and get involved! These sessions are well planned out and very well received. Anyone is invited to join us in this effort. The information is below. Email the presenter and tell them you are coming!

February 24, 2004

- At Louisburg, MO, time will be announced, presenter Julia Edwards (edwardsj@otc.edu) & Maureen Ottenlips (mottenlips@stlcc.edu)
- At St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, time 9am- 3pm, presenter Claudia Felsen (cfelsen@stlcc.edu) & [your name could be here!] For more information, check out the announcement online: <http://ahead.org/affiliates/missouri/index.html> select 'Announcements' in the left menu

Membership Renewal

It is time to start thinking about renewing your membership. Now the renewal form is online at the website <http://ahead.org/affiliates/missouri/index.html> select 'Membership', print the form (or you can email Ellen too but she wants your money too) and send to Ellen Smither (smither@mWSC.edu). MO-AHEAD welcomes anyone who is professionally involved in programs for students with disabilities in higher education.

Regional Conference

The Great Plains Regional Conference will be April 14 – 16, 2004 at Tall Oaks Conference Center in Kansas. For more information about the conference see the website <http://ahead.org/affiliates/missouri/index.html> 'Announcements'

As we are planning for the conference we want to hear from YOU suggestions for topics at the Conference. Please email Claudia Felsen (cfelsen@stlcc.edu) with your ideas. The more we know what you need, the more we can make the conference most effective for YOU!

Watch for conference registration material in early February.

