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Regional News

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Refresh, Recharge, Renew

We've had the State of the Union - not good. Then it was the State of the State - even worse. The Super Bowl has been played - the underdogs won. Now it's time for the State of the Michigan Business Education Association - strong.

The 2009 year was a productive year for MBEA. The association ended the year with a small surplus, keeping our finances sound, and ensuring our ability to cover general expenses for 2010. We filled vacancies on the MBEA board - we started with eight. We partnered with the Michigan Joint Education Conference in June, and offered SB-CEUs and/or grad credit opportunities at our professional development events.

Thanks to the leadership of VP of Publications, Tom Knight, the website was completely revised and brought current. It now provides up to date information and links as well as online and email communication with members.



Joyce K. Hansen
President

Region I Representative, Linda Schwake, worked with Ric Wiltse of MACUL to hold an excellent business and technology conference in May for our upper Michigan members.

Over 50 members participated in the summer academy coordinated by Pam Miller. The fall convention at Crystal was smaller than usual, but successful with "some of the best speakers ever" according to one evaluation.

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Region 1 Ed Tech Conference

The Upper Peninsula Educational Technology and Business Conference will be held at Munising High School on May 7, 2010. The call for speakers is out as well as the call for exhibitors. The conference is held in conjunction with the MBEA Region 1 and MACUL. Last year there were over 20 sessions to choose from. The conference is a one day event

which starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The conference is open to not only Business Educators but anyone in all grade levels using technology or wanting to use technology in their classrooms. There will be updates on CTE as well as a variety of sessions from digital imaging to using Promethean boards in your classroom. If you are interested in presenting a session related to

technology please go to the MACUL website (<http://www.macul.org>) and choose Other Events from the pull down menu. Mark the date on your calendar for this rewarding event. There will be door prizes as well as lunch provided.

Region 3

At the Region 3 Roundtable during the MBEA Annual Conference at Crystal Mountain, members discussed the Region 3 Spring Event. The consensus was that May is a tough time for teachers to be taking time off from school and what we really wanted as a group was time for collaboration. Those present came up with an alternate plan of meeting prior to the Michigan Career Education Conference scheduled for Feb. 1-2 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. So, on Sunday, January 31, Region 3 members had their first "Winter Workshop". We split into groups based on curriculum area, with both BMA and Finance represented. Great ideas were shared and one member who was planning on attending the remainder of the Career Conference stated, "Even if I learn nothing else in the next two days, this meeting has made my conference attendance worthwhile." We may try to

make this a quarterly event. Note that there will not be a Region 3 Spring Event in May because of this change.

There will be an MBEA Summer Academy again, but details are not available at this time. Watch for an email later in the year about that. If you haven't attended before, it is a great time for working on curriculum with your peers in a relaxed atmosphere – and since it is in the summer, you don't have to make sub plans!!! (

I encourage you to plan on attending the MBEA Annual Conference in Frankenmuth in October. With a theme like "Refresh, Recharge, Renew", how can you go wrong? If you want input on what is offered at the conference, please complete the Zoomerang survey sent out in February. Alternately, you can email me directly with your ideas, as I am a member of the planning committee.

As always, if you have questions/concerns that I can address, email me at tgeorge@hassk12.org.

Tracy George, MBEA Region 3 Rep.



Even with the successes of 2009, events in the nation and the state have made education, particularly business education or CTE, the “underdog” for 2010. Many of you are experiencing mid-year cuts or changes in your programs and staffing due to the state funding cuts. It is projected to get even worse for next school year. Business programs are also competing with the increased core academic requirements as well as dealing with ever-changing technologies. Even colleges are seeing cuts due to the loss of the Promise scholarships and cuts in state funding. It certainly is not “business as usual,” but more like “business under pressure.”

Where does MBEA fit into all this? Is there anything MBEA can do? What is your role in MBEA and business education promotion?

MBEA wants to help you Recharge, Refresh, Renew in 2010, but it is up to you. For the association to help, you need to be an active member of MBEA and NBEA which includes NCBEA. Jamie Hess, the state BMMT consultant, has frequently referred to MBEA as a “strong” professional association. The association gets that strength from our members. The more members we have and the more involved they are, the stronger the association is and the more influence we have with state officials and legislators.

First, don't just pay your dues and attend the fall conference. Get involved. Encourage your fellow business educators,

secondary and post-secondary, to become members. Participate in the regional events and summer academy. Contact your officers with ideas, volunteer to present or facilitate at academy or conference, get involved with planning, write an article for MBEA Today, the association newsletter. Each member has talent and ideas to share. The every day things you do are great new ideas to someone else. Complete any survey or questionnaire requested by MBEA. There is a conference survey now at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22A5T6TCKRG>. Check the website at www.mbea-online.org often for new information and new links.



Go to Represent MBEA at MiJEC, the Michigan Joint Education Conference, with both your attendance and by giving a presentation. Here is the MiJEC website: <http://mijec.org/> and the call for speakers has been issued and information is available at: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDB3QVZad3N2X2ZSSEZqQUxySDVqN0E6MA>.

Second, become a leader in your profession and in your association; serve on the board of directors of MBEA. We

currently have two vacancies on the board to be filled by appointment. The first is Region IV representative which covers the counties in the thumb and southeastern part of the state. See the regional map at www.mbea-online.org to identify the counties in Region IV. The primary duties of a regional representative are to represent the region at board meetings and the conference, and to organize a professional development event within the region.

We also need an NCBEA representative. This is someone who is able to promote NBEA and NCBEA membership within Michigan, attend MBEA, NCBEA, and NBEA conferences, and attend MBEA board meetings. If you already attend NBEA and NCBEA conferences, this could be for you. If you haven't attended the regional and national conferences, this would be an opportunity to start. The networking opportunities are fantastic, and the conferences are great,

If you have thought of getting involved in MBEA leadership, now is the time. We have a cohesive board that works well together. Consider joining us. If you are interested or know someone we should consider, email me at jkhansen@surfmagnus.com. Help keep MBEA strong.

Joyce K Hansen, President

Summer Academy 2010

Plans are underway for MBEA's third annual Summer Academy, to be held at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, July 13-15. Davenport's new campus, located near the Gerald R. Ford airport, has been the venue for the Summer Academy's first two years. The site's accessibility, tremendous space, computer labs, and Internet connectivity for wireless users has made it a desirable location for the Academy.

The Summer Academy is a unique and extremely positive experience. In fact, previous attendees have stated: "This is by far the best MBEA event I

have attended. I feel like I'm leaving with something I can take back to my classroom." Other attendees have asked: "Why can't school districts offer professional development that is as useful in our classroom as this Academy has been?"

The Summer Academy offers a relaxed atmosphere, allowing business education teachers from throughout the state a place to meet and interact, sharing information, ideas, and concerns. Because of its summer offering, teachers can attend the Summer Academy with an uncluttered mind, not having to develop lesson plans

for substitute teachers or wondering what awaits them as they return to the classroom.

You can come to the Summer Academy expecting to network with others, develop usable curriculum, and glean innovative ideas for your classroom. You'll leave the Academy feeling a fresh energy and a heightened enthusiasm. Watch your MBEA web site at www.mbea-online.org for Summer Academy updates. Plan now to attend!

Membership - Connecting

In this time of shrinking elective areas in our schools, it is easy to feel alone as business educators. We all know that business education provides skills students need for careers and prepares them for their work lives ahead. As teachers of these valuable skills, we need to maintain support networks to assist us in providing the best possible education for our students.

Membership in the Michigan Business Education Association offers more than just a membership card and an addition to the resume. MBEA membership affords you the opportunity to remain at the forefront of your profession by networking with other business educators and joining a community of teachers who are involved in the same trials, and successes, of business education under Michigan's MME model.

In today's rapidly changing educational climate, your connection with other business educators through MBEA can provide a source for sharing the latest information on innovations in business strategies and technologies. MBEA is one credential you cannot afford to miss! While you reap many personal benefits through membership, your involvement will help advance our profession as a whole and help us to advocate for business programs in our schools and communities.

As a part of your membership, you may receive member discounts on MBEA-sponsored professional development opportunities, many of which offer college credit or State Board CEUs.

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MBEA Is Now On Facebook!

Why create a Facebook account when most school districts and businesses block access to the site? Life is changing. The face of education is changing. The need for greater ease in increased communication and networking among our membership is becoming essential. The MBEA Board recognizes Facebook as a tool in fostering the exchange of information, ideas, questions, concerns, and developments.

Facebook allows us to blend our business and social lives. It is a space that creates the opportunity to build stronger relationships, both personal and professional. So be sure to search for us on Facebook and become a fan!



Hall of Fame Nominations

The 2010 Business Education National Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in Fall 2010 at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Committee members are now accepting nominations for inductees into the Hall of Fame.

The primary purpose of the Hall of Fame is to pay tribute to those men and women who have made significant contributions to the field of business education. To be nominated, a candidate must have been an active business educator (teacher, lecturer, author, supervisor, publisher, or inventor) and have been deceased at least three years prior to the May 1 deadline. Please use the nomination form at <http://www.mbea-online.org/forms> to provide information regarding your nominee.

The Business Education National Hall of Fame was located at Rider College in Trenton, New Jersey, from 1977 to 1994. It was relocated to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus in 1995. Some of the previous inductees include Christopher L. Sholes, Hamden L. Forkner, John Robert Gregg, Paul A. Carlson, Russell J. Hosler, and Cortez Peters. An induction ceremony is held on the campus of UW-Whitewater in the fall of even-numbered years. Friends, relatives, nominators, and business educators are invited to participate in the induction activities.

Tax-deductible contributions for the Business Education National Hall of Fame may be made to the UW-Whitewater Foundation. Contributors of

\$1,000 or more will have their names prominently displayed on a center plaque in the Hall of Fame at UW-Whitewater.

Send nominations and contributions to Lila Waldman, Department of Information Technology and Business Education, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Hyland 3402, Whitewater, WI 53190. Fax: 262-472-5499. E-Mail: waldmanl@uww.edu.

Nominations must be postmarked by May 1, 2010, for consideration for induction in the 2010 ceremony.

Membership (continued from page 4)

Check MBEA's website at www.mbea-online.org for information on these opportunities, including the Upper Peninsula Educational Technology and Business Conference, the Third Annual Summer Academy, and the 72nd Annual MBEA State Conference in October in Frankenmuth.

As a member of MBEA, you are also eligible for any of our professional educator awards. Consider nominating a colleague who is a leader in business education for one of the many awards granted by MBEA at our State Conference in October. Those award nomination forms will be released on our website at www.mbea-online.org in the near future.

The most important member benefit, however, is the opportunity to connect and belong to an organization of people who are dedicated to maintaining and showcasing the vitality and relevance of business education in

today's schools. Our soon-to-be-released Facebook page will allow networking among members on any number of topics, including TRAC requirements, academic integration, articulation, legislative action affecting our programs, and any other areas of interest to our members. As a member, you will be invited to join this social community of business educators to share and learn from each other our best practices.

If you are not a member, continue to stay connected by renewing your membership at www.mbea-online.org/membership. This online newsletter is typically sent to members only, so stay in touch by renewing your membership today!

Ronalyn Arseneau
Vice President for Membership
Westwood HS, Ishpeming, MI

Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee of your MBEA is excited to announce plans for the 72nd Annual Convention – Refresh...Recharge...Renew!

A modified convention schedule, timely breakout sessions, and hands-on opportunities await you in lovely downtown Frankenmuth

this fall. Your great ideas are needed – watch your email for an important survey to help us plan the best convention yet.

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, October 28th & Friday, October 29th – we can hardly wait!

Upcoming Event Dates

BPA State Leadership Conference, Grand Rapids, MI – March 18 – 21, 2010

NBEA Annual Convention – March 30 – April 3, 2010
San Diego, CA

BPA National Leadership Conference, Anaheim, CA – May 5 – 9, 2010

MIJEC Conference, Redford, MI – June 23, 2010

MBEA Summer Academy – July 13 – 15, 2010

MBEA Fall Conference – October 28 – 29, 2010