



# N.E.W. Times

**North Dakota Eligibility Workers Association**

**Volume 22, Issue 3**

**December 2008**

## 2007 – 2008 OFFICERS

Nancy Dukart.....President  
Beverly Fuhrman.....Past President  
Meroe Haug.....President Elect  
Catherine Howery.....Secretary/Treasurer

## BOARD MEMBERS

Wanda Guenthner.....CREW  
VACANT.....JAM/FAR  
VACANT.....JAM/FAR  
Lois Janke.....SWIM  
Leisha Peterson.....TOWER  
Robyn Huggins.....TWIN  
Edy Lorenz.....TWIN

Submit articles to **Suzanne Kilichowski**,  
Grand Forks County Social Services

E-mail: .....**skilichowski@nd.gov**

FAX:.....701-772-1426

Phone: .....701-787-8508

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes  
to **Catherine Howery**, Renville County Social  
Services, PO Box 305, Mohall, ND 58761.

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## **Letter from the President**

As NDEWA begins yet another year and as I start my year as President, I am sad to see the difficulty this organization, as well as the regional organizations, have in filling Board positions and enticing workers to take a little time to get involved. NDEWA acknowledges that you are all very busy, but we also know you need to stay involved and find time to get away from your demanding jobs to interact with other workers across the State. The only way you can do this is to 'allow' yourself to get involved by being a board member for your region, running for a board office, or by simply attending your regional meetings on a regular basis. You will find comfort and energy by interacting with other workers; you will learn new skills; you get the opportunity to explore your hidden talents, provide your insight into issues, and the best thing is you get to meet new people you might never otherwise have the opportunity to meet, and develop long lasting friendships.

NDEWA needs you, your regional groups need you, so I challenge each of you to think about getting involved, think about saying 'yes' when asked to run for a position, or better yet, to volunteer to fill an open position because you 'want' to be involved. I guarantee the rewards will be well worth the efforts! I also guarantee your work will still get done because that is what we do, but you will do your work with a little more enthusiasm and joy because you let yourself deviate away from it for a day occasionally and experienced something different. Get Involved – Be Involved – You Make A Difference – We Need You All!

One last note I would like to make is that NDEWA invites you to let us know your concerns, your thoughts and your ideas by emailing us anytime. You can either email me as President, or your Region Board Member. NDEWA would also like to encourage all workers to take the time to read the quarterly EW Work Group minutes, which are emailed out, to all of you by your representatives. The list of these individuals can be found on the EW Tech Site ([www.ewtechteam.com](http://www.ewtechteam.com)). You can also read the ETC Task Force minutes, which are posted on the EW Tech Site. This will keep you informed of matters being discussed and assure you that county and state staff are working together on changes to make our jobs better.

Nancy Dukart  
NDEWA President

### **Raffle Winners**

Cindy Dahl – Grand Forks 1st prize \$200.00  
Mark Genre – Towner 2nd prize \$100.00  
Diane Bubel – Center 3rd prize \$50.00

Congratulations to all of them!

### **Scholarship Award**

Congratulation to Joan Jochim, Morton County! She was the winner of the 2009 \$500 NDEWA Scholarship to the National Conference to be held in New Orleans in 2009. Five names were drawn from NDEWA members who were interested in attending the National Conference.

The first runner up was Carolyn Schrenk, Stutsman County. Second runner up was Suzanne Kilichowski, Grand Forks County. Jane Dube from Williams County was third runner up. Robyn Huggins, Ramsey County was the fourth runner up. If Joan chooses not to accept the scholarship, runner-ups will be given the chance to accept the scholarship.

Attending a National Conference is a great experience no matter where the conference is held. I am sure New Orleans in 2009 will be an opportunity for whoever accepts the scholarship to learn and mingle with eligibility workers from across the nation.

Submitted by Cindy M. Dahl

### **Eligibility Professional Of the Year:**

#### **Donette Klever of LaMoure County**

Donette Klever was named 2008 Eligibility Professional of the Year at the NDEWA Annual Meeting in Dickinson. Donette has been employed by LaMoure County Social Services for over 35 years. She is an eligibility worker and is a current and active member of NDEWA and NEW Paths. She is President of the JAMFAR Region.

Donette has been a valued employee to LaMoure County Social Services for over 35 years and is very deserving of the Eligibility Professional of the Year award. Donette was nominated by a co-worker for this award. She received an engraved plaque and \$100 cash as her award.

#### **The following were also nominated as Eligibility Professional of the Year for 2008:**

Peggy Bosch, Emmons County  
Dorothy Goodall, Mountrail County  
Darlene Cook, Dunn County  
Valerie Burchill, Barnes County  
Carolyn Schlenvogt, Barnes County  
Cynthia Unger, Barnes County  
Connie Pederson, Regional Rep  
Judy Marty, Cass County  
Deborah Weigel, Morton County.

**Congratulations to Donette Klever  
of LaMoure County for being  
nominated and chosen to be the  
Eligibility Professional of the Year!**

### **Drawing for one year free membership or a renewal for next year:**

***Val Burchill***

Barnes County

# NDEWA Board Meeting Minutes

July 24-25, 2008

Present: Bev Fuhrman, Sue Satterthwaite, Cathy Howery, Cindy Dahl, Wanda Guenther, Nancy Dukart, Carolyn Schrenk, Cathy Meyer, Lois Janke

Guest: Robyn Huggins

Absent: Ronda Nicolai, Leisha Peterson

President Bev Fuhrman called the meeting order at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes, Wanda seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented and reviewed. No corrections. Explanations were made for the different monies and where they go and why. The drawing for the scholarship will be done for those who have an interest of going to the National Conference. Nancy made a motion to accept the report, Cindy seconded. Motion carried. Bills were presented and checks for reimbursement written.

## **Other Business:**

Board member bio for the newsletter. Lois' bio will be going into the newsletter in August. The deadline for the August newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business:**

TWIN Board member – Robyn Huggins. Robyn's position will begin with the November meeting, which is the first one of the fiscal year. Robyn came to this July meeting as a guest.

TOWER region would like to do a raffle at the annual meeting for TOWER. The pros and cons of this were discussed and it was decided that one region should not be doing a fund raising that only benefits the region. If a region wants to advertise a fundraiser on the web site they could do that.

## **Committee updates:**

Cindy needs to know who wants to take on the Sunshine Awards since she and Carolyn will both be leaving the board and it needs to be at a point of being able to go on without a break. Wanda volunteered to take on the project.

## **Annual meeting duties:**

There is a request from NDCSW that we have a booth at the conference. We will have to pay a membership to be able to have a booth for NDEWA. The cost of the membership is \$30. Catherine made a motion that we pay the membership, Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Local arrangement for NDCSW is asking NDEWA to make a donation of \$250 and the conference would pick up the cost of the food and coffee for the annual meeting. Larry said he would have a good spread. Nancy made a motion that NDEWA make a donation to NDCSW for coffee break. Cathy M seconded. Motion carried.

There was discussion on the number of tables needed for display, registration, board, door prizes, and auction.

We should all be in Dickinson by 10:00 MDT to stuff folders and get the room set up.

Regions each do a door prize. Each board member also donates an item for the live auction and a door prize. There was discussion on how regions know they are requested to give \$50 for the annual raffle, and \$100 for the annual scholarship. It should be part of the regional board member duties and in the President duties to remind the regional members to take the information to the regional meetings. To date only TOWER has paid their raffle and scholarship monies.

Sue has purchased the folders. Cindy will make nametags. Cindy has already sent a letter to the Governor for the Proclamation.

There was discussion of other duties for the annual meeting. Board members were assigned or volunteered for each activity or item that needs to be done.

The drawing for the member will be for one membership either a new one or a renewal. The individuals who have been to at least one regional meeting will have their name in the drawing, so could have up to 5 chances at the drawing – 4 regional and 1 annual meeting.

Annual reports need to be in the packet. Each committee chair and regional board member writes the reports and makes 80 copies for the packets. Bring them the morning of the annual meeting where we will stuff the packets.

There was discussion regarding the cost of extra bags when flying. It would be too costly to send the display to a National Conference, so not sure we should even have sunflower seeds. Instead of the display it was discussed that we should give 5 or 6 coolers and tape measures for door prizes and skip the sunflower seeds. Another suggestion would be buffalo jerky or some other North Dakota products to put in the coolers to promote North Dakota. Nancy will take care of this and getting it to the National conference.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Audit – no report
- Awards – see previous discussion
- Historian – Cathy M would like a copy of the video of the skit that was done at the Spring Showcase and keep it for History
- Legislative – no report
- Membership – Sue handed out the membership list by region to each member. Membership continues to drop. Several have expressed they don't feel they should be a member because they can never get to a regional or annual meeting.
- Newsletter/Recognition/Communications – Cindy reported on the sunshine awards since the last meeting. Report attached.
- Nominations – Nancy reported that Meroe Haug has agreed to run for President elect. She is excited to run for the office. If the number of nominations is equal to the number of positions, they are nominated by acclamation.
- Program – Bev will get this ready
- Ways and Means – no report
- National – no report
- ETC Task Force – Nancy reported. There was discussion on some of the information regarding notices and redetermination changes being made.

Cindy gave us the nominees for Eligibility Professional of the year to read this evening. We will vote in the morning.

Meeting adjourned for the day. We will reconvene 8:30.  
July 25 meeting reconvened at 8:30. Lois was unable to attend today.

Sue handed out the updated committee duties. As they are updated now just the new one will be redone and dated. This way we will always know the latest update.

The board voted for Eligibility Professional of the year.

**Regional Reports:**

CREW – see attached

Jam/Far – see attached

SWIM – no meeting to report. They are having trouble getting people to attend so are working on getting them interested. It is a small area with many one and two person counties.

TOWER – there were two meetings to report. Reports attached.

TWIN - report attached

Next meeting is the annual meeting. Be in Dickinson at 9:00 MDT for preparation for the meeting.

Next board meeting is November 6-7.

Cathy M made a motion to adjourn, Cindy seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Satterthwaite  
Secretary/Treasurer

NDEWA  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
November 21, 2008  
8:30 AM-4:00PM  
Comfort Inn- Meeting

**Sunshine Awards/Recognition**

To nominate someone for this award, please contact Wanda Guenthner at [30quew@nd.gov](mailto:30quew@nd.gov).

Present Bev Fuhrman, Nancy Dukart, Cathy Meyer, Sue Satterthwaite, Lois Janke, Cindy Dahl, Meroe Haug, Leisha Peterson, Wanda Guenthner, and Cathy Howery

Bev Fuhrman called the meeting to order. Bev passed out gifts to the board members for all their help during the past year. Bev then turned the meeting over to Nancy Dukart, president.

Nancy welcomed everyone. Our new board members Robyn Huggins and Edythe Lorenz were not present. The new member from JAM /FAR has not been named. Meroe Haug, president elect was introduced.

Sue Satterthwaite submitted secretary's Report for July 2008. Bev Fuhrman made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Wanda Guenthner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sue Satterthwaite gave treasurer's Report for the period of 7/24-11/19/08. Bev Fuhrman made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Cindy Dahl seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sue asked for an audit of the books before turning them over to the new secretary/treasurer. Lois Janke, Wanda Guenther and Meroe Haug will do the audit.

Ronda Nicolai regrettfully submitted a resignation via phone. The board is responsible to find someone to fill out the rest of her term of 1 year if her region doesn't appoint someone. Discussion was held on changing the By-Laws to allow board members who can only serve 3 years and then have to a year break before they can serve again to be able to bypass the year wait. Any changes to the by-laws would have to wait until the annual meeting when the members could vote it on.

Newsletter bios will be sent in for Meroe, Edythe & Robyn.

2009 Meeting Dates: January 8 & 9 at Comfort Inn; April 23 & 24 at Seven Seas; July 23 & 24 at Comfort Suites; September 23, Mandan; November 12 & 13, at the Comfort Suites.

#### Regional Reports - Attached

Crew- Wanda Guenther  
Swim-Lois Janke  
Tower-Leisha Peterson  
Twin-Cindy Dahl  
JAM/FAR-not present

Sue Satterthwaite requested approval for the redesignation request for Janice Luidahl who has moved to Bismarck but wishes to remain in Tower Region, request approved. Validation of the ballots cast for President-Elect was requested and done by Leisha Peterson and Bev Fuhrman. Audit committee of Meroe Haug, Wanda Guenther, and Lois Janke conducted the audit of treasurer's book. A correction was done and no errors were cited, audit report signed and filed.

A thank you note for baby gift from the board to Suzanne Kilichowski was passed around.

#### Committee Reports

Awards – Cindy Dahl – report attached

New award members: Meroe Haug, Lois Janke, & new 3 year representative to be named from Jam/Far.

#### Historian-Cathy Meyer

Asked if we needed to keep paper copies of items and discussion on how long the secretary/treasurer minutes need to be kept. Past minutes will be gone over and condensed and only relevant info will be hard copy kept. Bev Fuhrman will help with this task. All new minutes and treasurers reports will be put into file folders and down loaded on data stick. Secretary/treasurer will create folders for minutes and financial records during the year and download each year to the permanent data memory stick. Secretary/treasurer authorized to pick up wireless mouse and memory stick.

New historian: Bev Fuhrman

Legislative- Leisha Peterson – nothing to report.

New legislative members: Leisha Peterson and Robyn Huggins.

Membership-Sue Satterthwaite

We have 195 members at present and new listings were given to all board members.

New membership member: Cathy Howery

Newsletter/Recognition/Communication-Wanda Guenthner

Sunshine award was given to Susan Fay Crockett at the national convention in Anaheim. She indicated the sympathy cards and retirement cards she had mailed.

New members: Wanda Guenthner, Suzanne Kilichowski, and 1 year representative to be named from Jam/Far.

Nominations-Nancy Dukart -nothing to report

New members: Bev Fuhrman, Meroe Haug, and 3 year representative to be named from Jam/Far.

Program-Nancy Dukart-annual meeting –nothing to report

Ways and Means – no report

National –Meroe Haug

Meroe reported on the national convention in Anaheim and stressed the benefits members can obtain by attending a national convention.

ETC Task Force-Nancy Dukart

NEW can have two spots on ETC Force and Nancy asked if anyone from the board would like to join. Leisha expressed an interest and will check with her county. Meroe will be on it as president elect from NEW Board as Nancy is on from eligibility workers group.

Old Business

We need to get the nametag engraved for our display board of EW Worker of the year. We need to get the word out that anyone can nominate anyone for the award and that better emphasis needs to be placed on the award. The completed forms are to be sent to Lois Janke.

We need to encourage attendance at regional meetings so members will have more chances for the scholarship drawing at our annual meeting.

Bev presented an improved clearer redesignation form for consideration and board approved the changes. The new form will be put on the website.

New Business

Board has plenty of money and the regions are struggling. A motion was made to request the regions to contribute \$100 for the scholarship and nothing for the raffle. It will continue to be up to the regions to decide if they want to donate a door prize for the annual meeting. Leisha Peterson made the motion and Lois Janke seconded. Motion carried. The scholarship money needs to be sent to the secretary/treasure by July 23rd meeting.

We will discuss money-making ideas at our January meeting.

E-mail voting was discussed. We need more information from tech support as to how it would work. Mailing is very expensive. Web site would be secure. We will talk to our regions to get their input so that if we want to get a by-law change to accomplish e-mail voting it will be in place for our 2010 elections. Nancy will check to see if we need to have permission to be using the state e-mail system for our business.

NDEWA goals and the role of our organization were discussed. We need to define how NDEWA helps our membership and how it helps us especially since national gets \$35 of our dues. Lois will talk to Larry Bernhart for an answer.

Info was shared on the proposed Pers Insurance resolution that was brought up at the annual meeting. They are not requesting our support at this time. Nancy will get more information from Leone and contact Bev to contact Pers for information so we have information from both sides before we endorse a resolution as a group.

A suggestion was made to get information sent out to our membership on the national conventions via a special newsletter. Nancy will bring a copy of the newsletter that Wyoming sent out before their convention.

Our NDEWA display board was discussed. It is huge and heavy. We need a new carrying case as it doesn't fit in all cars. The case will be brought to January meeting and we will decide whether to get a new case or possibly a new board display.

Bev Fuhrman made a motion to adjourn and Leisha Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Catherine Howery

**Past President's Pampering Winner:**

**Susan VanAsperen**

**Upcoming Events:**

April 21-23	Spring Showcase, Mandan
June 18-19	West River Conference, Medora
August 16-19	NEW PATHS National Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
September 23-35	NDCSW, Seven Seas Inn, Mandan
September 23	NDEWA Annual Meeting

Here is what the nominee had to say about Donette Klever: Eligibility Professional Of the Year recipient.

**Professional Participation:**

Not only has this nominee been a member of NDEWA, she is the president of her NEW region chapter, and has been an employee of county social services for over 35 years. She is an asset to our county and a wonderful role model. She is currently an Eligibility Worker I.

**Reason the nominee deserves this award:**

To make this plain and simple, this nominee is my role model. She is the reason why I am where I am today.

To start off, this nominee was my eligibility worker. She was always very kind, inquisitive, prompt, and wonderful to work with. She made reporting monthly information fun and not so much of a burden. Not only did she make a person feel good about being on services but she helped guide me in my current line of work.

As a single parent, I looked at my life and saw no future for my kids. I told myself that I wanted more than working horrible jobs and never seeing my kids. I knew I wanted a job that would help provide benefits so that my children and I did not have to be on assistance for the rest of our lives. When I looked at what she did, how she treated me, and how much she helped me through tough times I realized that is what I wanted to do for others. This nominee's professionalism helped guide me through my education and on to my current position.

Currently, I work at County Social Services with this nominee. I started out as the Administrative Assistant and now am an Eligibility Technician. In that time, not only did I get to view her as a person, but as an eligibility worker to all other clients. I see her clients liking her, needing her, and appreciative to her for all that she does for them. I have never heard one of her clients get upset with her because of her actions.

Now that I am an Eligibility Technician, I find myself going to her for any questions or concerns that I have. She is a bank of knowledge. She goes above and beyond her own duties to help others out. She also takes time to help others search for the right policy. Not only does she guide me when I feel unconfident but she lifts me up and reassures me that I too can do a great job.

# Regional Reports

## TWIN REGION

Walsh, Benson and Nelson Counties hosted the TWIN region eligibility professionals meeting on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the Nelson County Courthouse in Lakota, ND. 17 members were present and there was 1 guest.

Present: Carolyn Solseth, Robyn Huggins, Pat Fix and Cindy Quam, Ramsey County; Mary Dvorak and Josie Lopez, Walsh County; Barbara Arndt, Benson County; Suzanne Kilichowski and Cindy Dahl, Grand Forks County; Donna Jones and Steven Starr, Rolette County; Emily Tumey and Cyndy Thomas, Pierce County; Susan Fay Crockett, Cavalier County; Charity Stegman, Pembina; Lenore Houdek and Edy Lorenz, Nelson County. Guest was Cyndi Bennington of Towner County who has now joined NEW.

We met at 9:00 at the Nelson County Courthouse at 210 B Ave West for coffee and rolls.

9:30 Speaker: Kristi Matejcek with Restorative Justice was our morning speaker.

This is a program where the victim and offender come face to face as a vital step in healing for all parties involved. The offender is referred by Juvenile Court and there is a moderator present from the Restorative Justice program. This program has been implemented since 1998 and is a statewide program. This offers the offender a way to understand how their behavior affected other human beings and acknowledge that their behavior resulted from a choice that could have been made differently. The offender can then take action to repair the harm when possible. They are very careful through this program not to revictimize the victim and both parties must agree to the meetings.

The Restorative Justice program has given 2,148 juvenile offenders and almost 2,400 victims the opportunity to participate in Juvenile Accountability Conferencing. The primary offenses involved are criminal mischief, theft, disorderly conduct, simple assault, shoplifting and burglary. Most are 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders.

Lunch was at the Sunlac Inn.

The afternoon speaker was Tammy Bouluc, EMT. She gave us very useful tips on how to help with choking victims. Her son Levi was used to demonstrate for us. Tammy gave us the A-B-C's – they are Airway, Breathing and CPR. CPR doubles a person's chance of survival from sudden cardiac arrest. If CPR is started within 4 minutes of collapse and defibrillation provided within 10 minutes a person has a 40% chance of survival. Tammy also talked about lacerations and stated that most bleeding can be stopped with direct pressure and it's best to elevation the wound above the heart if possible.

Tammy talked about her bloodhound and how she is involved with search and rescue efforts. She said there is a way to help rescue efforts if we have young children or an elderly person who may be vulnerable or inclined to get lost. We should take sterile 4x4 gauze and place this next to the persons skin. She demonstrated on Levi by placing the gauze next to his skin inside the back of his pants. She said to leave it there for several hours to absorb the scent as well as sweat. Be sure to wear gloves while you're doing this so as not to contaminate the gauze with your own scent. Then when the gauze is removed it is to be placed in a Ziploc bag and placed in the freezer. This can then be used by the bloodhound as a way to finding these individuals if rescue is needed.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Call To order**

Steve Starr called the business meeting to order.

### **Secretary Report**

The secretary's report was presented and read by Cindy Dahl. The minutes were approved by Susan Fay and motioned with a second by Suzanne. All voted to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer Report**

Cindy Dahl presented a treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was approved by Barb and motioned with a second by Edy. All voted to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

### **Other Reports**

**\*NDEWA State Board Report** This report was presented by Cindy Dahl,

- NDEWA Executive Board met on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- New members are: Catherine Howery took the place of Deb Weigel as secretary/Treasurer Elect as Deb stepped down from the position because of other commitments.

**The 2008 NDEWA Raffle tickets** are now available for sale in your regions. The drawing will be held October 1, 2008 and the prizes are: 1st prize-\$200 cash; 2nd prize-\$100; and 3rd prize-\$50. Tickets will also be sold during the Annual Meeting.

**Win a Free one-year NDEWA Membership.** The NDEWA Executive Board has decided to offer a free one-year membership valued at \$40. Your name will go into a drawing for each NEW regional meeting you attend between September 20, 2007 and September 20, 2008. Plus your name will be included again if you are in attendance at the 2008 Annual Meeting to be held in Dickinson. The lucky winner will be drawn during the Annual Meeting held in September. Attend all your regional meetings for more chances to win!

**EW of the Year** Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Eligibility Professional of the Year.

Criteria for Eligibility Professional of the Year is:

1. Must be a current participating member of NDEWA/NEW PATHS
2. Has demonstrated outstanding job performance
3. Strives to improve job skills and does outstanding work

Submit letters of nomination by July 15th to: Cindy Dahl, Awards Committee Chair, Grand Forks County Social Services, PO Box 5846, Grand Forks ND 58206-5846 Phone (701) 787-8530 FAX (701) 772-1426

**NDEWA items for sale** - - Items for sale as a fund raiser for the board are: 6 pack coolers (red, blue and lime green) \$5 each; 6' Tape measures with belt clip, level, pen and post it note pad \$4 each or 3 for \$10; and NDEWA Lapel Pins \$3 each.

**33rd Annual NEW/PATHS Training Conference** August 17-20, 2008 Anaheim Resort in Garden Grove, California. You can still receive the Early Bird discount if you register by August 1st.

Congratulations to Meroe Haug from Burleigh County who has received a \$500 scholarship from the Board and will be attending the conference.

**Position available on the NDEWA Executive Board** An eligibility professional is needed from one of the following counties in the TWIN Region: Bottineau, Rolette, Towner, Pierce, Benson, Ramsey or Eddy counties. The term on the board is a three-year commitment. The Board meets four times per year plus the annual meeting.

The next NDEWA board meeting will be held in Bismarck on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
The annual meeting will be held in Dickinson on September 24<sup>th</sup>

**\*National Board Report** This report was presented by Susan Fay Crockett

- Thirty-five new members were added to the membership rolls for NDEWA through the incentive contest recently held by NEW PATHS. Everyone had the chance to win a free Anaheim Conference Registration and \$723 in spending money by recruiting new or re-newed members. Melody Hodges from New Mexico was the winner of the contest.

- Anaheim Conference – at the bottom of the minutes there is a list rec'd from Susan Fay regarding the benefits of attending conference.
- Susan Fay's term on the National Board expires fiscal this year and she has not submitted for reelection so her position is open on the board. She states it has been a joy to serve.

**\*ETC Task Force Report** This report was presented by Cindy Dahl in Deb Goodman's absence.

- The EW group discussed the many restriction that workers have in the system, which prohibits them from doing their jobs well.
- The group will be looking at various program notices that they would like to see changes made to the contents of the notices to help clarify information in some notices that currently are very confusing to households.
- EW's want to impose penalty against HH's that are reporting late every month for TANF.
- CCA workers would like to be able to change their review dates to match other programs.
- Foster Care workers are concerned that there has been infrequent training regarding foster care and yet workers are now being held responsible.
- There continues to be confusion regarding the policies of child support vs. MA regarding cooperation/non cooperation, absent parent information.
- Counties are still having trouble accessing "Vision Lotus Notices and narratives" from other counties before the case is owned by the county trying to access the information.

### **Old Business**

**\* We still need to have a volunteer from the Devils Lake area to take Robyn's position on the State Board as her term has expired.** A second position for the Grand Forks area of TWIN will be open in November.

### **New Business**

\*Set date for next meeting. Cavalier & Pembina Counties will be our hosts.  
Meeting will be in August.

\* EW of the Year nominations are now being accepted

\* Earn chances to win a free NDEWA membership from the board by attending your regional meetings

\* New members who have joined TWIN. Since our last meeting Lisa Sidles, Vicki Lovell and Katie Boespflug from Grand Forks County have become NEW members. And today Cyndi Bennington of Towner County has joined. Josie Lopez also re-newed her membership as did Joan Fering.

\* TWIN region has been asked to donate \$50 toward the raffle prize drawings at the Annual Meeting. The donation was approved by Suzanne and motioned with a second by Susan Fay. All voted to approve the donation. Motion carried.

\* 33rd Annual NEW PATHS training in Anaheim, CA from August 17-20. Early bird registration rates still apply if you register by August 1st.

Suzanne discussed a Directors letter regarding Regional Reps. Many issues were discussed but the group felt that not enough information was available but the consensus was that the Regional Reps are very respected and have an invested interest in us and we would like things to remain the same. More to come...

**\* Other**

Membership Dues / Expiration Dates – passed around the list so everyone could check their expiration dates.

- Emily Tumey and Cindy Dahl won door prizes.

- Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Edy Lorenz and seconded by Lenore Houdek. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Dahl  
Twin Secretary/Treasurer

**ALERT! ALERT! COMING SOON!**

**Read N.E.W. Times to Win Prizes!  
Watch for more information in the March edition.**

Pembina and Cavalier Counties hosted the TWIN region eligibility professionals meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 in Langdon, ND.

Nine members were present and one guest attended. Present: Robyn Huggins, Leslie Elfman, Susan Fay Crockett, Jeannette Schefter, Charity Stegman, Cyndy Thomas, Valerie Pederson, Steven Starr, Kelly Buckingham. Guest: Amanda Arens.

Met at 9:30 at the Langdon/NDSU Extension Research Center

In the morning, we had several very interesting speakers.

**Presentation by Brenna Swanson, Dietician – " Nutrition/Diet Tips to Counteract Effects of Stress"**

First, Brenna Swanson gave a very interesting presentation on Nutrition Presentation. She had many displays of test tubes with the amount of fat in various fast food items. She also had displays on how much the average serving size has increased in the last few years, how much weight you can gain just from the increased portion size, and how much housework, yard work, or exercise you need to do to work off the increased portion size.

**Presentation by Beth Delabarre, Certified Personal Fitness Trainer – "Fitness Tips to Counteract Stress"**

Beth is a newly wed, new mother, graduate of NDSU who is working as a personal trainer in the Langdon area. She demonstrated several exercises that are easy to fit into your daily routine and not too hard on us old folks.

12:00 noon - Lunch

**Presentation by Macine Lukach, NDSU Extension Office - "Magic of Human/Power of Attitude"**

The final speaker was Macine Lukach. Her topic was "Jest for the Health of It-Laugh aerobics" and stressed the benefits of humor in stress reduction and in having the right attitude to cope with stress.

The presentations given by these ladies were wonderful.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Call To order**

Steve Starr called the business meeting to order. Steve took the minutes in Cindy's absence.

**Secretaries Report**

The secretary's report, which had been sent to everyone, was approved.

**Treasurers Report**

The treasurer's report was discussed and, on a motion from Cyndy Thomas, was "Pended" until the treasurer could be present to explain it. The discrepancies listed included: \$200.00 was transferred from checking to savings, but the math showed a \$300.00 decrease in checking and the savings account showed no \$200.00 deposit, unless it was in the "Beginning Balance".

**\*NDEWA State Board Report**

Annual Meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Dickinson.

\* Donette Klever of LaMoure County was selected as Eligibility Professional of the Year

\* Raffle tickets winners were Cindy Dahl – Grand Forks won first prize of \$200.00, Mark Genre – Towner won second prize of \$100.00, and Diane Bubel – Center won third prize of \$50.00

\* Cindy Dahl has three years of services on the Executive Board will be completed in November. There are two seats from the TWIN Region open and Edy Lorenz and Robyn Huggins have agreed to accept these seats for the next three years.

Next meeting of the NDEWA Executive Board is Nov 20 and 21 in Bismarck.

There are two seats open on the NDEWA State Board; Edy Lorenz and Robin Huggins were offered congratulations for agreeing to accept these seats for the next 3 years.

**\*National Board Report**

From Suzanne - Please encourage everyone to consider running for a seat on the national board. They are two positions short for this upcoming year as these spots were not filled (based on last information I received.). I believe there will be seven seats up for re-election in the 2009 year. It is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference for your fellow eligibility professionals. It was a great learning experience for me and I have made many friends throughout the US. It is a great opportunity to network and learn how this business is done differently throughout the US. I certainly gained a whole new appreciation for the work that we do in ND. Other states have much worse working conditions, caseloads and relationships with their state office personnel. I think we are very fortunate here in ND with the caseloads that we are able to manage and the relationships that we have with other agencies including regional reps & state office personnel.....

**There was no report on the ETC Task Force.**

**Old Business**

Old Business consisted of NDEWA Executive Board Positions and National NEW Paths Positions; both of which have already been discussed.

### **New Business**

New Business consisted of setting the date for the next meeting. Grand Forks is the host county and it was decided to let them pick the day as long as it was early in December and they let us know, preferably by Halloween.

It was mentioned that Jan Stein of Cavalier County has withdrawn her membership

Cyndy Thoms won the door prize.

Also, gifts and certificates had been given to all of the speakers.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Steven Starr, EWI  
Rolette County Social Services

### **JAM-FAR REGION**

The JAM-FAR Chapter of ND NEW PATHS met at the Ottertail Building – Community Meeting Room on November 21, 2008. There were 18 members and one guest present, representing the 7 counties of: Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Stutsman & Wells.

Jean Lang, with Senior Medicare Patrol, spoke to us about helping seniors protect themselves from Medicare fraud, detect Medicare fraud and report Medicare fraud. She had several handouts for us and she provided us with valuable and interesting information. Jean is willing to speak to anyone who will listen about this subject. She can be reached by e-mailed at [rights@bektel.com](mailto:rights@bektel.com) or phone 701-754-2480.

Joyce Newton, with FM HERO (Fargo Moorhead Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization) spoke to our group. This is a wonderful organization that helps people get needed equipment at reduced rates (or in some instances free). They can use most types of equipment, hospital beds and of course money. Call 218-284-6111 or e-mail [joyce@fmhero.com](mailto:joyce@fmhero.com)

President Donette Klever called the meeting to order at 11:30. She asked that everyone introduce themselves and tell if they were a member, new member or guest. We have one guest today: Melissa Nelson from Stutsman, and a new member: Joanne Geffre from Stutsman, who joined today. The minutes of the last meeting were read. M/S/C to approve the minutes, Wolkenhauer/Brossart.

The Treasurer's Report was given with a beginning balance of \$388.76, Income of \$165.17, Expense of \$200.00 and an ending balance of \$353.93 M/S/C to approve the treasurer's report, Steele/Schrenk. Bills for today were presented. FM HERO asked for \$25 to defray travel costs. M/S/C to pay this bill, Wolkenhauer/Carr. M/S/C to pay our afternoon speaker, Pastor Dave Thomas \$25 as well, Wolkenhauer/Johnson.

Dora was asked to send a thank you to Ottertail for the meeting room. Thank yous were sent to all the speakers as well.

Carolyn Schrenk reported on the State NEW Meeting. Most of the time this meeting, was used preparing for the annual meeting. Nancy Dukart is the new president. Ronda Nicolai has had to resign her position as

the Fargo Representative, so now JAM-FAR needs a Representative for Fargo for a 1-year term to finish Ronda's term, and a representative for Jamestown to serve a three-year term for the opening left by Carolyn Schrenk – who recently completed her term. Dora was asked to send out an e-mail to all members concerning this matter.

Carolyn would like to thank everyone for letting her serve on the state board. She has met a lot of terrific people and she continues to assist the citizens of ND. She thanks everyone for all the service to help those clients who have very little.

The meeting recessed for lunch from 12:00 – 1:00.

Pastor Dave Thompson spoke to us about "Keeping the Spark", help dealing with stress and burnout. He was wonderfully interesting and had many good ideas to keep it fresh. We played a couple games that taught us a few lessons and had a great time.

We had a stretch and snack break at 2:30

The business meeting reconvened at 2:40. There was no National Report or Task Force or Main Task Force Report.

Luann Johnson is retiring from Eddy County December 31<sup>st</sup>. We all signed a card and wished her a fond farewell. Luann has been at Eddy 18 years.

We discussed fund raising for the treasury. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of each year is supposed to be the White Elephant sale – to fund two memberships – one new and one current member. M/S/C to suspend the free membership motion made in August of 2006 for the time being; but keeps the White Elephant exchange in place to build up our treasury. This is where we bring a white elephant item and pay \$5 to receive another. Melissa Nelson, who swore to become a member because she liked all of us so much, suggested food for thought: award the money used for new and existing membership to the person who volunteer to become representatives to the state board from the Jamestown and Fargo Regions. So think about that one!

Door prizes were drawn with Diane Nygaard, Melissa Nelson, Char Mickelson, and Judy Brossart being the lucky winners.

Donette thanked Foster, Wells, Eddy, Griggs & Kidder Counties for a great meeting. The next host county is Barnes.

With no further business, M/S/C to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 PM; Steele/Carr.

**Respectfully Submitted:**  
**Dora Colton, Secretary**

## **CREW REGION**

No report at this time.

## **TOWER REGION**

The Tower Region's 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting was held at the Royal Fork in Minot on October 24, 2008, with 26 members present.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Paula Sidener, Ward County, called the meeting to order. A motion was made to accept the secretary and treasurer's report as written.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- There was no old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- There was no new business.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting will be held in Mountrail County.

Meeting Adjourned.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Kecia Fagerlund from the Trinity Cath Lab gave a presentation on recognizing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and how to react to save a life. We were each given a CD entitled "Time is Muscle."
- Richard LeMay of Legal Services of North Dakota gave a talk on the services available and information on the Minot office. He also informed us we could access "The Legal Services Sentinel" on line, which is their newsletter.
- We went to Margie's Art Glass Studio on Main Street and were given a tour of her shop and information on various art forms including stain glass, ceramics, and mosaics.

## **SWIM REGION**

**The SWIM Business Meeting was called order on October 23, 2008 by President Jane Heiser. The meeting was held at Stark County Social Services in Dickinson hosted by Stark County. Nine members were present: Jane Heiser, Karen Weisz, Leone Linseth, Noreen Olson, Nancy Dukart, Nancy Hanel, Marcy Decker, Jim Brines and Deni Lorenz.**

**MINUTES** of the last meeting were previously e-mailed to members. Marcy made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Noreen seconded and motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT** had previously been e-mailed to members. Nancy D. made a motion to approve the treasurers report, Marcy seconded, motion carried. Deni advised the members that the expenditures of SWIM exceed the income at this time so changes may have to be made in the future. Discussion followed regarding whether money should be raised by donations or fundraisers. It was decided that Deni would e-mail members and ask if they would rather donate or participate in a fundraiser. Nancy D. also stated she would check with NDEWA and ask if NDEWA would consider funding their scholarship rather than getting the \$100 donation from each region. If NDEWA funds their scholarship there would be no need for SWIM to raise more funds.

**EW TASK FORCE REPORT** was given by Nancy D. One of the items the Task Force is working on is to change or improve things that are not working well in VISION and TECS. Nancy asked workers to let her know if they were having problems while working in VISION and TECS and she will bring that information

to the Task Force. Nancy encouraged everyone to read the Task Force minutes as they are sent by e-mail to everyone and are very informative.

**NDEWA REPORT** was given by Nancy D. as Lois had to leave the meeting for a short time. Nancy asked that the names of SWIM members attending meetings be entered in the minutes of each meeting, making it easier to determine how many meetings each member attended. Nancy D. will be President of NDEWA effective with the 11-08 meeting. She stated she is going to work for better communication between NDEWA and the regional groups.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT** was to be given by Leone but she had to leave the meeting for a short time so it was decided to continue with the meeting and do the Legislative Report when Leone returned.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Again it was decided to address Old Business when Leone returned to the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Jane Heiser read an e-mail from Sue Satterthwaite stating there is no longer a 30-day grace period for renewal of National memberships. The renewal must be done by the last day of the current membership or it will be considered a new membership and therefore, lose continuous membership status.

Deni and Noreen counted the ballots for Sec. Treas. Elect and Nancy Hanel won the election. Nancy's term is from January, 2010 thru December, 2011. Congratulations Nancy!

President Jane Heiser handed out 15, 20 and 25-year continuous SWIM membership certificates. Jim received a 15-year certificate, Deni received a 15-year certificate, Marcy received at 20-year certificate, Jane received a 20-year certificate, Cindy (not in attendance) received a 20-year certificate and Marlene (note in attendance) received a 25-year certificate.

Meeting dates for 2009 were scheduled. They are as follows:

January 8, 2009 - Stark County host  
April 9, 2009 - Adams/Dunn Counties host  
July 23, 2009 - Hettinger County host  
October 22, 2009 - Stark County host

Christmas donation was discussed. SWIM donates \$100 every December. Each member is asked to donate \$5 and the remainder to equal the \$100 comes out of the treasury. SWIM counties take turns receiving the donation. This year the donation goes to Stark County for a charity of their choice. Nancy H. suggested the donation go to Domestic Violence Center. Noreen made a motion to give a Christmas donation of \$100 with each member donating \$5 and the amount needed to bring the total to \$100 be taken out of the treasury. Nancy H. second, motion approved. The Christmas donation has gone to the following counties in recent years: Adams County in December, 2004, Golden Valley County in December, 2005, Dunn County in December, 2006, Hettinger County in December, 2007 and Stark County in December, 2008. It was decided that Deni would e-mail all SWIM members and ask for the \$5 donation from each.

Acting Sec. Treas. Deni Lorenz asked members how to handle \$5 dues paid by Sheila Krebs. Sheila paid her SWIM dues and then later informed the group that she had to decline membership. Deni spoke with Sheila and was going to return the \$5 to Sheila but Sheila stated she wanted the money to stay with SWIM. Members agreed to leave the \$5 in the treasury.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Linda purchased the door prize for the July, 2008 meeting, Deni will purchase the door prize for the October, 2008 meeting and Loran will purchase the door prize for the January, 2009 meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Leone returned to the meeting and gave the legislative report. She stated the upcoming legislative session will begin in January, 2009. Leone also informed members of the measures that will be on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Leone and Deni discussed with the members the progress being made on changes they are trying to get implemented regarding state employee's health credits.

Nancy D. made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Karen seconded, motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

After lunch Sherrie Forsch from PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) gave a very informative presentation on PACE. This is a new program to North Dakota and fills the gaps between community services and nursing home services.

After Sherrie's presentation, Brenda Holzworth, Director of Quality Control, gave an excellent presentation on Quality Control procedures and explained the budgeting steps required by federal regulation.

Submitted by:  
Deni Lorenz, Acting Sec/Treas SWIM

## **NEW: PATHS 2 NEW ORLEANS AND ALL THAT JAZZ**

AUGUST 16TH – AUGUST 19TH, 2009

The 34th annual training conference for NEW: PATHS will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Look forward to a welcoming reception Sunday evening, keynote presenters, workshops, Town Hall featuring representatives from Washington, D.C.

More information will be on the website and the newsletter as the planning progresses.

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

## Spotlight on YOU!

### Julie Ell

I started employment with Kidder County Social Services in October 2006 as an Eligibility Tech. I work a caseload in Food Stamps/Medicaid/TANF. I am a member of NDEWA/NEW. Prior to working at Kidder County I worked for the ND Dept of Transportation in payroll and accounts payable for 11 years. I am married to my husband of 26 years, Randy. We have two grown children, Travis and Tara, a great son-in-law Kale and 2 beautiful granddaughters Myka and Camryn. We live northeast of Steele on a small lake. In my spare time I like to do scrap booking (mostly of my granddaughters) and quilting.

### Edy Lorenz

Happy New Year to all NDEWA members and prospective members! I have worked for Nelson County Social Services for the past 7 years. Prior to that I worked for Ramsey County, now known as Lakes Social Service District. I served on the NDEWA State Board previously and consider it a privilege to be able to do so again. I am married to Stewart (Skip) Lorenz and we live on a farm near Lawton, ND. We have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. We both love to golf and my summertime passion is the lakes of Minnesota.

I read an article a few days ago about the happiest people in the world. It states, "They love what they are doing". I may not completely agree with this some days, but I do love my job. Our office just finished delivering Christmas packages to families in the area and it reminds me that our programs are also that important. We may not always hear the thank you's or the expression of appreciation that we did this Christmas season but I know for many of our families it is so very important and necessary for their daily living. I know the times and the policy are frustrating and confusing at times but I do consider it a privilege to be able to administer these programs and be a part of North Dakota Social Services.

If you are not a member of NDEWA\NEW please give it some consideration. Our local region, as do all of the other regions, has had some fantastic presentations. It's been fun and rewarding to be able to meet and become friends with co-eligibility workers throughout this great state of North Dakota. If you have questions or concerns please contact your NDEWA Board representative and we'll do the best we can to help.

### Catherine Howerly

I have been employed by Renville County Social Services since January of 1990. I began my employment as a full-time clerk with the added duty of doing all the Fuel Assistance caseload. In 2000 I was promoted to an Eligibility Tech. I now do all the bookkeeping, Fuel Assistance, some Food Stamp and some Medicaid cases. As we are a small county and do not have a super large caseload, several years ago I opted to go to half time.

I was born in Minot and grew up on a farm south of Berthold. After graduating from Berthold High School I attended one year at the Minot Business College and graduated with a secretarial degree. I have been married to my husband David for 36 years and we have one daughter DeAnn and one granddaughter Catherine "Sharee". Trust me, grandchildren are much more fun. I am active in my church and a proud member of the Flaming Femme Fatales a local Red Hat group. We are the Hatters for Hope each spring for the Relay for Life walk for the American Cancer Society. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> year for attending the relay in Minot and our little group of 10 brought in the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest donation amount of all the teams. I was honored with a potted plant for being the top individual fundraiser. In my spare time I enjoy gardening, camping and especially visiting with the seniors at NCGSH in Mohall. I have several very special friends there and get just as much enjoyment from visiting them as they do in having company.

Prior to working for Renville County Social Services, I was the secretary/bookkeeper for Bergstrom Construction, Antler Grain Elevator, and Ask Inc. Realty. I also set up and keep the books for my husband's excavating business. I have enjoyed all my jobs but especially enjoy working with my elderly clients. They have a rich history and I learn many things from them.