



WASFAA Highlights is a bi-monthly electronic news update provided by the WASFAA President for the benefit of the WASFAA membership. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to WASFAA activities and newsworthy items of interest to the WASFAA community. Past issues are archived on the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org>. Additional information regarding any given issue may be obtained by emailing the current WASFAA President, Mindy Bergeron at bergeron@jfk.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of June, 2009 - (Vol. 5, No. 1)

- The annual WASFAA conference was held this past April 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska. The turnout was tiny but mighty. There were only 202 attendees but the interest sessions, speakers and entertainment were all a hit! As a point of reference most state, regional and national -ASFAA's have seen their attendance numbers for conferences and training drop dramatically from previous years. Kudos to our 2009 Conference Co-Chairs, Colleen MacDonald and Ted Malone, for spinning thread into gold. WASFAA almost broke even by only going over budget by \$1500.
- If anyone has pictures from the Alaska conference please email them to the WASFAA Newsletter Chair, Tracey Lehman at tracey.lehman@oit.edu
- Lori Tiede, from Western Nevada College, won one of the conference raffle prizes from Alaska which included a handmade Native American basket, sun-catcher and mask.
- WASFAA needs you! Please consider volunteering and remember that WASFAA's good work is dependent on its members. Any amount of time you give will be greatly appreciated by your organization. Log into the WASFAA website at <http://wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memVolunteer.html> If you have questions you can contact the Volunteer Chair, Kay Soltis at soltiskw@plu.edu.
- Did you know that WASFAA has 21 committees? They include Awards, Bylaws, Conference, Electronic Services, Ethnic Diversity Action, Federal Relations, Fiscal Planning, Fund Development, Graduate/Professional, Historical Archives, Membership, Newsletter, Nominations & Elections, Policies & Procedures, Research, Jerry R. Sims Management & Leadership Institute, Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute, Site Selection, Strategic Planning, Training, and Volunteer Development. Please consider volunteering for service on one of these committees. You can find descriptions of these committees at <http://wasfaa.org/docs/about/PnP.pdf>
- The 2010 WASFAA Conference Committee had their first meeting on March 11, 2009, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The 41st annual WASFAA Conference will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort from April 18 through 20, 2010. The theme of next year's conference is "Reflections on Student Success." Keep current by viewing the conference link at: http://wasfaa.org/docs/toc_conferences.html The conference committee chair is Wendy Olson, wolson@whitworth.edu, from Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. If you have any suggestions for interest sessions or would like to present or moderate contact Ron Lee, from USA Funds at ron.lee@usafunds.org, the 2010 Conference Program Chair.
- The new interest rates for Federal Stafford, PLUS, SLS and Federal Consolidation rate calculations for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 can be found at the following link - <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/052709NewInterestRatesAttach.pdf>
- The Income Based Repayment (IBR) is a new repayment program that will be available after July 1, 2009. To qualify, the borrower must have partial financial hardship. You can go to <http://ibrinfo.org>

for more information including a calculator. Eligibility is calculated by taking the standard repayment amount that exceeds 15% of the difference between the borrower's AGI and 150% of the poverty line for the borrower's family size. You can look up the 2009 poverty levels by going to - <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>

- Members of the 2009-10 WASFAA Executive Council and Committee Chairs will be meeting at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, NV, June 11-12, 2009. On the morning of June 11 members of the **Strategic Planning Committee** will meet to continue working on the analysis of the outcomes from the WASFAA 2005-10 Strategic Plan (SP). After five years of executing, monitoring, and tracking the data from this plan we are in the phase of analyzing the outcomes. With all of the changes in our industry the past couple of years the analysis of this data is very timely. Immediately following the SP meeting, the **Fiscal Planning Committee** will meet to review the WASFAA FY 2009 Committee/Activity Budget Revision Request forms submitted by the various Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs. The FP Committee needs to determine the impact of the requests on the WASFAA FY 2009 budget in order to make appropriate recommendations to Executive Council. A discussion regarding WASFAA's "core activities" began in the February 2009 Executive Council meeting. WASFAA needs to determine what "core activities" are needed to stay relevant and solvent. Meetings of the WASFAA Executive Council are open to all members of the Association.
- The membership is advised that WASFAA operates with a balanced fiscal year budget. For the purpose of budget planning, approved income and expenses must be equal. Because the Association maintains its accounting system on a "cash" rather than an "accrual" basis, the WASFAA fiscal year corresponds to the annual year which is from January 1 through December 31. The Fiscal Planning Committee develops recommendations for Executive Council approval for each income and expense item in the budget, taking into account information received from committees and other sources. WASFAA's 2009 fiscal year balanced budget is \$355,400. As a comparison WASFAA's 2008 fiscal year budget was \$530,875. This is a reduction of \$175,475
- The 2009 Jerry R. Simms Management & Leadership Institute will not be held this year as a result of the declining economy. The number of attendees at the JRSMLI has been dropping significantly the last couple of years. The Executive Council recently agreed that this training would be more cost-effective if held every other year.
- The 2008-09 WASFAA award recipients were announced at the Alaska conference. The winners are: Catherine King-Todd, Distinguished Service Award; Sandra Guidry, Distinguished Service Award; Leonard Walker, Meritorious Achievement Award; Cynthia Pollard and Susan Shogren, Training Co-Chairs, Committee of the Year; and Tami Sato, President's Award. You can find current and previous WASFAA award recipients by going to <http://wasfaa.org/docs/about/awards.html>
- The WASFAA Newsletter Committee Chair for 2009-10 is Tracey Lehman. She is in the process of collecting articles, pictures and items of interest for the summer newsletter. Please email any submissions that you might have to Tracey at tracey.lehman@oit.edu The newsletter is printed four times per year. The submission deadlines are: June 15, 2009, September 15, 2009 and December 15, 2009.
- The WASFAA geographic region is defined as Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Palau, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and any other United States territory or possession in the Pacific.
- In its 40 years of existence, WASFAA will have its first President from the State of Nevada. Sandi Guidry, from University of Nevada, Reno, will be the WASFAA President in 2010-2011. And it's about time!

I hope your summer gets off to a fun and safe start.

Mindy Bergeron
2009-10 WASFAA President