



ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please join me in thanking outgoing President Philip Suriano for making so much happen for AALL during his tenure. He's promised to continue to support us and will be serving as President Elect of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). Thank you, Philip! And Congratulations!

This year is shaping up to be one of the most active years in AALL's recent history. Partnering with COABE to bring a national conference with an expected attendance of 2,000 adult educators and adult learners to Arizona is momentous. And exciting. And just a little intimidating. Plans are well under way with Conference Chair Kelly Stewart at the helm.

Hosting COABE 2018 in Phoenix offers unparalleled access to national-level professional development in our own back yard. This might also be the year for AALL to accomplish several medium and long-term goals. As the local hosts of COABE 2018, AALL should be able to increase its visibility locally and nationally. Arizona has some marvelously innovative and effective adult education programs which will be highlighted on a national stage. Our own Ambassador Program has been named COABE 2018 Outstanding State Innovator of the Year! Nominated by ADE Adult Education Services State Director Sheryl Hart, this prestigious national award will add to our positive exposure.

COABE 2018 offers an opportunity for AALL to expand our membership, and to begin to seriously explore other ways to raise funds to support AALL's initiatives as the conference will help us to strengthen relationships, and make new friends, allies, and champions.

I encourage all members to please nominate students, staff, volunteers, and champions of adult education (outside the field) so that they may be recognized at our annual awards ceremony to be held during COABE 2018. We are also hoping every member and as many adult learners as possible will attend COABE 2018.

Looking forward to a pivotal and exciting year!

Diane



Diane Jackson, AALL President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---|
| Message from the Philip Suriano, Outgoing President..... | 2 |
| A New Store for AALL | 2 |
| COABE's Capitol Hill Day | 3 |
| Not So Boring Statistics..... | 4 |
| Information for Programs Attending the 2018 COABE Conference .. | 5 |

IMPORTANT DATES

- COABE 2018—March 25-28 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Phoenix

www.az-aall.org





A NEW STORE FOR AALL!

It seems like every conference someone will ask if there are any items to be had with the AALL logo or something related to adult education. As it happens, AALL was also wondering about how to better get its name and message out to the field and state in general so, AALL has opened a store at CafePress where anyone can order merchandise. T shirts, caps, mugs, tote bags are some of the items that can be purchased bearing the AALL logo. Other categories to shop from are Adult Education, Ambassadors, and COABE 2018. All items have a small markup, and profit from all sales goes into the AALL scholarship fund. Visit cafepress.com/aall and support the AALL scholarships fund and show your support of AALL and Adult Education in Arizona.—Philip Suriano

Cafepress.com/aall

Sample of items available for purchase.



Thanks to AALL!

by Philip Suriano

Hello AALL members!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is well rested as we start the New Year!

It has been a very busy year so far as your state association works hard to help bring COABE 2018 to Phoenix in March. A special thanks to Kelly Stewart of the AALL Board and Miriam Kroeger for leading this effort and making great progress! More information about COABE 2018 can be found in this newsletter.

I hope to see you all there March 25th!



Another great piece of news to share is the recognition of the Ambassadors Program this year through COABE! Thank you to our Awareness Committee Chair, Laura Porfirio, for working hard to promote and help give this program the national recognition it deserves. COABE is now promoting the Ambassadors Program on their own web site as well as offering related student scholarships. Arizona and AALL leading the way! I would also like to thank the AALL Board which is now staffed at 16 members from 9 adult education programs from around the state. A lot of talent and professionals ready to lead the association forward!

Another advancement made this year to AALL is in our member base. A membership total which had stayed about 150 members has grown to about 300 this year, thanks in part to the membership drive at the Adult Education Institute. Thank you to AES for your support!

Another change that also recently took place was with the AALL Executive Board. I recently accepted the position of President-Elect for the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association and due to the added responsibility to this association and continuing with AALL through a third term, I have stepped down as President of AALL effective January 1st. I would like to welcome Diane Jackson, who was our President-Elect to the position of AALL President. Diane Jackson has been on the AALL Board for several years and I know will do a great job representing the association.

On behalf of AALL as we start this New Year, I would like to thank all our members again for the work they do in supporting adult education students in Arizona. Please remember to also continue sharing your ideas and thoughts with AALL as we move forward so we can better serve you in the future.

Thank you!

Philip Suriano
AALL Past-President

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ARIZONA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS COABE'S CAPITOL HILL DAY

BY MARIA ALVIDREZ

The trip to 2017 COABE Capitol Hill Day is going to go down as one of the most exciting events in my life.

Let me just tell you about some of the experiences I had there.

1. I had a chance to work with Regina Suitt of Pima Community College. Together, Regina Suitt and I visited Senator Flake's office and met with his aide.
2. We also met with Representative Tom O'Halleran. Congressman O'Halleran is committed to education. He told us that these are tough times, but he believes adult education is important, and he hopes that adult education will stay in the budget.
3. I went alone to meet with Representative Kyrsten Sinema. I was so nervous to go by myself, but she and her aide were awesome. The Congresswoman knows a lot about WIOA and she also says she can see the value of adult education. She said she hopes we will contact her if we need anything.

It was also so fantastic to be in and tour some of the buildings, like the Library of Congress, that I had learned about in our Adult Ed Civics classes. Being in the buildings of the Capitol that I've only seen in books and in the news was incredible.

Networking with other student leaders from other states was exciting.

I also want to say that Arizona Student Ambassadors are really well-prepared to go to Washington. We are trained so well in everything—from how to dress to exactly what to say.

Having had the opportunity to go to Congress and meet with legislators gave me an idea of the great difference we can make if we continue to advocate for better opportunities for adult education. Now I understand that there are still people who do not know the great difference our communities could have if we invest in education for adults who want to return to school and improve their lives.

Thank you for giving me this great opportunity. Now I feel more hopeful that if we share the good things that come from adult education, people will know how important it is that everyone support us.

Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity.



COACH OF THE YEAR KEEPS PLAYERS UP-TO-DATE ON VITAL STATISTICS by Diane Mobley

Educator conferences are exciting--okay, granted, it's not college bowl or NFL post-season, but spending time around people with the same goals, cheering new ideas, and taking time out for a good cup of coffee with fellow team members builds our enthusiasm that can carry on through months of daily grind.

So why is it such a buzz-kill when statistics, charts, and graphs show up on the podium screen? A banquet room audience of glazed eyes and suppressed yawns all around? Even though we know that program data--we've been a part of collecting it year 'round--is driving major funding decisions, these report sessions tend to lose their audiences faster than a third-quarter home team blowout. But if we don't know our stats, how can we, as team players, keep up with the score?

Fortunately for the Adult Education staff at Rio Salado, almost like a star-quarterback running a 99-yard touch-down, Associate Dean Blair Liddicoat knows the strategies that keep all eyes on the ball and he demonstrated those skills presenting the annual report highlights during the first hour of Rio's annual training day. What is his secret?

Granted, the home-field advantage, including the concessions--hot coffee and breakfast rolls, were like having the wind in his favor, but it was attention to old-school fundamentals--minding **P's & Q's**, and sometimes **R's**--that gave him dominance over his opponent--**Boring Statistics**. Just back to the basics: **prepare** as a team leader, **question** as a team player, and **respond** as a coach--all worked together to wow the audience and send us all home with the full-field message.

To **prepare**, predicting pertinent points is prerequisite. A good team leader can state the perspective of the team--voicing questions we didn't even know we had. We were hooked right from the first play.

Pre-game preparation included launching through dense fields of data so each spreadsheet displayed could secure the necessary yardage during playing time. Much like effective preemptive tackling, the skillful work of data manager, Philip Suriano, received kudos again and again for mowing down those boring stats.

All **questions** rang true to the team players' curiosity, kicking off with "Why should we care?" Advancing through "What does this mean?" and prognosticating, "What do you predict will happen next?" Then the wrap-up: "What are we going to do now?" all solidified the team atmosphere. Peppered with quizzes and punctuated with quips, presentations of the hard-core charts sounded more like team banter with rapid-fire puns landing on top of one another--sometimes half the room needed a moment or two to catch their breath and catch up! And yes, it is true--there was even a t-shirt launch!

Whether you call it coaching or coaxing, by reading the **response** of the room;--body language, expressions, tone of responses, and reflecting back what was gathered, we were guided to the resounding conclusions of the data--and barely even noticed that we had witnessed the historic defeat of boring statistics.

Unlikely to be honored in parades, hardly ever winning trophies, but the high-quality work it takes to keep the team members all on the same page, deserves a bit of reflection, agree?



**EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS
AND SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS**

March 25-28, 2018 at the Sheraton
Phoenix Downtown Hotel

COABE
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

2018 COABE CONFERENCE

AALL is very excited to host the COABE
Conference in Phoenix this March.

We need volunteers to make Arizona
shine at the conference.

Contact your AALL board to see how
you can get involved!



INFORMATION FOR ARIZONA PROGRAMS ATTENDING THE 2018 COABE CONFERENCE

Spring into the 2018 COABE Conference in Downtown Phoenix Arizona

Conference Dates: March 25th – 28th, 2018

Local Conference Chair: Kelly Stewart

AALL PD Chair: Katie Brown

Local Conference Coordinator: Miriam Kroeger

Contact Information: aall4az@gmail.com

The word is out...this spring, the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) is the local host for the 2018 COABE Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This is the first national conference that AALL has hosted in Arizona since 2010 when we hosted the MPAEA (Mountain Plains Adult Education Association) Conference. AALL Board members have been planning this conference since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2015. Three years later, the Board is making final plans to host more than 2000 conference attendees from around the country at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix. As the local host, AALL and its membership have the opportunity to showcase not only our local culture and the desert in spring, but also the great work that adult basic education programs are accomplishing in Arizona. AALL has worked with the [Phoenix Visitors Bureau](#) and [Across Arizona Tours](#) to coordinate admissions to featured museums, restaurants, and Arizona tours at special rates for our guests. The COABE President's Reception will take place at the beautiful Desert Botanical Gardens, and an additional dinner event for attendees is scheduled at Rustler's Rooste which offers panoramic views of the Phoenix Metropolitan Valley at sunset. Local musicians will provide entertainment at each event. Both are ticketed events that can be purchased at registration.

AALL is pleased to announce that our 2018 AALL Awards Ceremony will take place during the COABE conference on Tuesday, March 27th, in collaboration with the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). The AALL/MPAEA Awards Luncheon is a ticketed event that Arizona and MPAEA region attendees can select as part of their conference registration. Ticket cost is \$15.

AALL is also pleased to support a unique Student Engagement Strand at the conference. This content area was proposed by AALL during the conference planning stage to highlight the Student Ambassador Training, student leadership and other student activities that Arizona has become known for at the state and national level. This strand is led by AALL Awareness Committee Chair, Laura Porfirio, and new AALL President/Awareness Committee member, Diane Jackson, who have been instrumental in coordinating student leadership initiatives throughout the state and at the national level. Session proposals were accepted from a number of programs in Arizona and from states around the country. The Student Engagement Strand has introduced a student-centered tone to the 2018 COABE Conference featuring student digital stories, student attendees from around the country, and a pre-conference Student Ambassadors Training.

So, what is our advice to our local Arizona programs attending this national conference in our own backyard?

1. Remember that AALL members have the added benefit of being COABE members since AALL pays large group membership each year on behalf of our membership. This means AALL members can register at the COABE member rate!
2. Local volunteers are needed! Select your volunteer preferences on your COABE registration form to show your support of AALL.
3. Nominate your colleagues and students for an AALL award by February 2nd.
4. Register for the AALL/MPAEA Awards Luncheon when you register for the conference.
5. The Sheraton Grand Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center are on the light rail. Consider using the Park-and-Rides along the light rail as an alternative to parking at the hotel, or car pool. Hotel parking is approximately \$22 per day.
6. A 50% off vendor booth registration rate is available for local vendors who would like to participate in the conference Exhibition Hall.
7. Early Bird Registration ends on February 14th, so register now!

Thank you for helping our state to host a great conference!



ABOUT AALL

Our Mission:

AALL strives to improve opportunities for educational growth by promoting and inspiring lifelong learning and adult literacy in Arizona.

Our Vision:

Arizona will have an empowered adult population and a dynamic workforce.

Our Motto:

Empowering Learners for Life

PROTECT FUNDING FOR ADULT EDUCATION



Working together we can ensure that the voices of our students from across the country will be heard throughout the halls of Congress.

Follow the link at az-aall.org to make your voice heard!

About AALL
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

