

Maryland



Voice of the Chesapeake

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President's Message

I just looked over some of my past President's Messages, and I seem to always talk about the weather. But I can't help it! Finally, Spring is truly in the air. The trees and flowers are blooming, the weather is perfect, and it feels great!

Spring also is the season of conferences, large and small, in IAWP. Nancy Fink has just returned from sharing "Give 'Em the Pickle" at the Virginia Spring Educational Institute in Virginia Beach. Sharon Mike attended the West Virginia Spring Institute.



Coming up in a few short weeks is the Maryland Educational Institute. As always, we have prepared an interesting, informative agenda.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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workforce knowledge at the same time.

See the flyer and registration form attached to this newsletter for details, and get your registration in today! Don't miss this opportunity to network with your workforce development peers from across the State, and broaden your

Next month, IAWP will hold its annual International Conference in Richmond, VA. With our own Sharon Mike leading the Educational Committee to plan the conference, many names familiar to Marylanders are on the agenda. Check out the details in the article on page 4.

Enjoy the weather, and I hope to see you on May 22 at Maryland's Spring Educational Institute!

Suzette Snyder, President, MD IAWP

Workforce Development Legislative Day

On March 4, 2008, the Workforce Investment Network of Maryland (WIN) and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) hosted a legislative breakfast in Annapolis. Attendees included Maryland State legislators, local elected officials, Sub-cabinet members, GWIB members, local Workforce Investment Board members, and Workforce Investment Area Directors. Over 100 people attended. The purpose of the event was to increase awareness of Maryland's workforce development system and highlight the State's network of one-stop workforce centers.

Karen Sitnick, Baltimore City WIA Director and President of WIN, explained that the workforce system in Maryland provides tools and resources to job seekers and businesses to ensure a strong workforce in Maryland. Services are delivered across the state via 34 locally-

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Workforce Development Legislative Day (continued from page 1) driven one-stop workforce centers. WIN promotes regional solutions to workforce issues, shares best practices, and stays current on workforce issues and legislation, working in partnership with economic development, the school systems, community colleges, Corrections, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), and businesses.

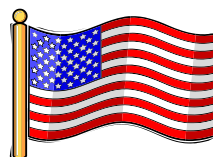
After remarks by Eric Seleznow, Executive Director of the GWIB, Andrew Moser, Assistant Secretary of DLLR, and DLLR's Secretary Thomas Perez, Governor O'Malley stepped up to the podium.

Governor O'Malley thanked the workforce development system in Maryland for its commitment to building human capital. Maryland is on the right track: the economy is strong, with the highest median income and degree attainment level in the county, and is home to world-class educational institutions. However, Maryland faces challenges in the form of 750,000 people needing adult education, including literacy and English as a second language. Over one-half million people live below the poverty line. At the same time, low unemployment insurance rates translate to workforce shortages. We have experienced a 32% decrease in federal workforce funding since 2000.

Governor O'Malley's priorities are public safety, sustainability of resources, and workforce creation. In the past year, Maryland has made strides to improve collaboration between DLLR and other State agencies. DLLR and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) are leveraging funding for job training opportunities for public assistance recipients and foster children. This results in coordination at the local level between DSS and the One-Stops. DLLR and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services are augmenting their coordination of reentry programs. In Frederick, the agencies are working on a construction pre-apprenticeship program for juvenile offenders.

The Governor concluded his remarks by saying that workforce development has to be locally driven because collaborations occur locally. He urged the attendees to tell their colleagues about the one-stop system. Our most critical product is our workforce. We must develop it to its full potential. "There is no such thing as a spare Marylander."

Submitted by Sue Gallagher, Awards Chair



Veteran Update

National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues

The State of Maryland Women Veteran Forum has been granted permission to attend the National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues. The summit will be held in Washington DC from June 20-22, 2008. This summit will address new and breaking issues, offer attendees an opportunity to shape a plan for future progress on women veterans' issues, and provide information for women veterans of all eras, including National Guard, Reserves, and active duty. The Department of Veterans Affairs places great importance on providing women veterans access to information. The summit provides an opportunity for women veteran service resources, federal and state agency representatives, legislative staff, and women veteran activists to come together and discuss the issues and concerns of the women veteran community, and to develop recommendations to address and improve legislation, programs, and outreach. As of September 2007 the population of women veterans in the United States is 1,744,580, with 44,330 living in Maryland.

Submitted by Zella Brown, Veterans Chair

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) News

Maryland continues its preparation for the influx of workers, primarily to the Aberdeen and Fort Meade areas, resulting from BRAC 2005. While the Fort Meade activity will revolve around the relocation of DISA (the Defense Information System Agency) from Northern Virginia in 2011, the movement of Fort Monmouth operations from New Jersey to Aberdeen Proving Ground will begin sooner. Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation has taken a major step in its involvement in the move by opening the Fort Monmouth Transition Career Centers in New Jersey. The two Centers, one on base and one off base, opened for business on March 17, 2008 and are staffed by Maryland Transition Coordinator Elizabeth Theisen. While the focus is on assisting families with the employment transition to Maryland, Ms. Theisen has fielded inquiries on topics ranging from perc tests to transportation issues.

On April 25, the Center hosted a kick-off event featuring an open house and reception for Maryland legislators, BRAC sub-cabinet, and WIA Directors.

Submitted by Sue Gallagher, Awards Chair



Legislative Update

With the close of the 2008 Legislative session in Annapolis, several new initiatives were passed and signed into law affecting Unemployment Insurance and Workforce Development. These bills were part of the 747 receiving final approval during the legislative session, out of 2,641 bills introduced.

Unemployment Insurance

Effective June 1, 2008, legislation (HB 749) allows an individual who voluntarily leaves employment to follow a spouse - whose employer requires a transfer to a new location - to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

The spouse has to be a member of the U.S. military or a civilian employee of the military or a related federal agency.

The General Assembly did not agree on a bill that would have allowed part-time workers to collect unemployment benefits (SB 553, failed).

Consolidation of Workforce Development Functions

The legislature approved Administration-sponsored legislation consolidating adult education, literacy services, and correctional institutions' education programs in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, effective July 1, 2009. The legislation also establishes a Workforce and Adult Education Transition Council to make recommendations for the integration of these programs (SB 203, passed).

BRAC

The Administration's "BRAC Community Enhancement Act" (SB 206, passed) authorizes BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zones and establishes eligibility criteria, the factors the state is to consider when approving BRAC Zones, and the procedures that local subdivisions must follow to apply for the zones. The Act authorizes tax-related financial incentives for Zones and payment in lieu of taxes for facilities on federal land.

A related BRAC measure, HB 704 (passed), includes BRAC-related initiatives as an allowable use of the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF). *For details see page 6 of the Legislative Wrapup Issue 08-14 at www.mlis.state.md.us.*

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One of the chief accomplishments of the legislative session included the passage of a bundle of 6 laws relating to Foreclosure and Mortgage Lending practices. This legislation was signed into law by Gov. O'Malley on April 3, 2008. Designated emergency legislation, these changes in the law became effective April 3, 2008. *For specific details, see page 13 of Legislative Wrapup Issue 08-14 at*

www.mlis.state.md.us.

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Legislative Update (continued from page 3)

For a discussion on the status of federal legislation, see Lee Foley's detailed article on the omnibus spending bill on pages 4 and 13 of the Jan/Feb issue of IAWP Workforce Professional and Foley's March 2008 Washington Update on page 4 of Mar/April 2008 issue of Workforce Professional
Submitted by Cindy Quail, Legislative Chair

Retiree News



After 30 years I'm free at last, free at last, thank God, I'm free at last! It has been a great career, but it is time. The past couple of years I have been talking to my older brother who has been retired for seven years, beginning at age 54. On two prior occasions I visited my brother to take an advance course in retirement – I flunked each time. During my latest visit, he told me I'd just wake up one morning and know it was time. During the period last October when I was very ill I had time to think and decided I was ready to retire. That decision changed when I got better and went back to work. In November I volunteered for National Guard (my other full time job) duty to assist with the forest fires in California. After a mentally and physically (long hours) challenging tour of duty, I knew it was enough. First, I was going to wait until June to retire and then I decided to make Christmas Eve my last working day. I used some of my comp leave to bring my official retirement day to January 31, 2008 which amounted to 35 years, 11 months of service and I was good to go for retirement. Those of you who retired before me told me that you were so busy you didn't know how you ever had time for work. Two months into retirement and I agree! I haven't looked back and I haven't missed getting up to go to work and that's very hard for me to believe since I loved my job. I'm glad to have been able to leave feeling I was still at the top of my game – I never wanted to be a "hang'er on'er."
I'm busy now with the National Guard, church and other organizations to which I enjoy

contributing my time. My next big project will be planning a mission's trip with my church. I would really appreciate hearing words of wisdom from anyone who is enjoying retirement. I have let it be known at work that after retirement, the water is fine and to jump in! Love to hear from you!

Ron Pitts, IAWP Retiree

Coming Soon – To Richmond, VA....

The 95th IAWP International Conference has a decidedly Maryland flavor. This year the conference will take place from June 8-12 in our own District IV, just a quick drive down 95 in Richmond, VA. A review of the agenda reveals quite a few names familiar to Marylanders: Julie Gaver, a professional trainer from Maryland, will kick off the conference with a keynote address designed to help the audience "Bring More Fun and Enthusiasm in Your Life and Work," and later in the week will share her "Secrets of Savvy Networkers." POAC's Steve Gallison and Nancy Fink will co-facilitate two workshops, "Preparing Your Customers for the Changing Federal Workforce" and "How to Serve the Needs of Professionals in Transition." Drs. Jonathan Hartiens and Michael McCarty, featured at Maryland's 2006 Fall Institute, will bring their presentation on the prison mindset to Richmond. Marion Vessels, Director of the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, will offer "Everything You Need to Know about Customers with Disabilities." Lee Foley will provide his ever-popular Washington legislative update, and Stan Seidel, DOL's Assistant Director for Veteran Employment and Training Services in Maryland, will co-present "Reintegrating Returning Warriors."

In addition to the Maryland connection, the conference will feature national and international leaders in workforce development providing workshops on a broad spectrum of issues related to customer service, unemployment insurance, and general professional development.

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Coming Soon to Richmond, VA (continued from page 4)

It's not often that the International Conference takes place in our own backyard, relatively speaking. Consider attending the conference - take advantage of this opportunity to broaden your workforce knowledge and network with your peers from across the country! Check out the details of the International Conference at www.iawponline.org.

International Elections

Recently there was information sent out about the candidates running for IAWP International office in a special election edition of the SD Messenger newsletter. If you would like to review the entire article it can be found at www.iawp-sd.com/SPECIAL_EDITION_FINAL_2_1_.pdf. There are contested races for officers for the first time in several years so this is a great opportunity for our members to have a choice in their association's leadership.

May 13 - May 27 Please Vote!

Opportunity Builders, Inc. – Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Opportunity Builders, Inc. (OBI), now in its 46th year of operation, seeks “to provide adults with developmental disabilities vocational training, employment opportunities, recreational activities and support services, all in a motivational environment.”

OBI, formerly the Sheltered Workshop of Anne Arundel County, was founded in 1962 by a group of parents and advocates who wanted more for their children than going to a day care program. The founders had envisioned people with and without disabilities coming together to form a partnership that would generate new vocational training and employment opportunities.

Opportunity Builders, Inc. tailors its training and services to address the needs, interests and abilities of the adults it serves. OBI supplements its vocational and employment training programs with classes in reading, math, and computers.

At OBI, clients can participate in meaningful work and earn wages for the work they complete, no matter what their level of ability.

Originally a work center was established in an old firehouse in Severna Park and then re-located to a warehouse facility in Glen Burnie. Then in 1990, due to space limitations, the program moved to its current location in Hanover, MD.

Over the years, OBI has strived to have its own home. This dream is becoming a reality with the purchase of a 14.5 acre lot of land in Millersville and the construction of its own facility due to open in early 2009.

Today the organization, with a fleet of 33 vans, serves over 300 adults with developmental disabilities. Over 170 individuals work in OBI's warehouse fulfilling contracts for 28 companies in the Baltimore/Washington Area. Another 140 are employed by businesses throughout Anne Arundel County. With its new building, OBI will be able to serve a growing population which is anticipated to increase by 37% within the next five years, equating to an additional 100 adults to be served by OBI.

At OBI smiles are worth more than words. These smiles exude the confidence, self-satisfaction and personal fulfillment from the adults with developmental disabilities that OBI serves. These adults, with OBI's assistance, are productive, contributing citizens to the community and business in Anne Arundel County.

Submitted by: Leslie Prewitt, Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator, OBI

Montgomery County Welcomes New WIA Director

The Montgomery County Workforce Investment Area recently welcomed a new WIA Director.

Barbara Kaufmann was appointed Director of the Montgomery County (MD) Workforce Investment Board and Manager of Workforce Services in January 2008. She has more than 20 years of experience working to improve the nation's workforce.

Prior to joining Montgomery County, Ms. Kaufmann was a consultant to the American Association of Community Colleges' Center for Workforce and Economic Development. She has also served as a senior staff to the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth, a technical assistance effort managed by the Institute for Educational Leadership's Center for Workforce Development (CWD). She spent 13 years with the Institute for Educational Leadership working on youth employment issues.

Ms. Kaufmann has worked with the National Association of Manufacturers and other industry groups to develop more coherent roles and mechanisms for employer-based organizations to work with education and training providers at the national, state and local levels. She also has been part of efforts that brought together national associations and organizations, representing states and local entities and other stakeholders, to promote the development of strategies for sustaining and promoting successful school to work transition for all youth.

Her prior work experience includes Program Director at the National Alliance of Business working both in the programmatic and policy legislation areas. She researched and wrote on skill standards, school-to-work, dislocated workers, and second-chance systems. She has extensive State government experience having served as Director of Policy for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services; and Director,

Strategic Issues Management, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. She staffed the Ohio Governor's Education Commission and served on the Governor's strategic planning staff.

Businesses and job seekers in Montgomery County will benefit from Ms. Kaufmann's strong background in workforce development programs as she enthusiastically takes the helm.

"Montgomery County's workforce services programs have an excellent national reputation. I look forward to building on that reputation."

Submitted by Bob Pelletier, District IV Director



Cook's Corner

Here's another addition to your IAWP recipe file. If you don't already have a copy of the Maryland IAWP's cookbook "*Munchies, Morsels and Main Courses,*" contact Faye Gossert at fgossert@dllr.state.md.us.

Very Easy Zucchini Side Dish

Zucchini (sliced thick or thin, cubed, whatever)
Ragú (Thick and Hearty or Robusto or whatever they call it)
Shredded mozzarella cheese

Pre-heat oven to 350°.

Option A: Arrange zucchini in a baking dish. Cover with Ragu, top with shredded mozzarella cheese, and bake until zucchini is tender and cheese is melted and lightly browned. (Don't know how long that is, because I usually use option B below).

Option B: Arrange zucchini in a glass baking dish. Cover and microwave until zucchini is tender. Cover with Ragu, top with mozzarella cheese, and bake in 350° oven until Ragu is hot and cheese is melted.

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Cook's Corner (continued from page 6)

This is great because you can make as little or as much as you need – it's easy to make for yourself if you're the only one there, or for a crowd if you're going to a pot-luck. It only uses 3 ingredients, and it's delicious.

19th Annual Rotary International World Curling Championship Brantford, Ontario, Canada March 31 – April 4, 2008

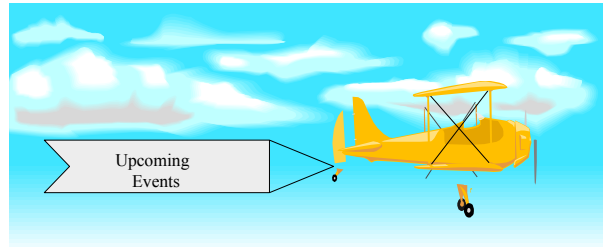
Robert "Bob" Pelletier, District IV Director, was a participant in this prestigious curling event and curled as Vice Skip or Third on the Clarksville, MD Rotary Club team, one of three American teams in the tournament.

The Clarksville team, made up of Wayne Garman, Bob, Lincoln Cathers and Bob Hanna, recorded a 3 – 6 record defeating teams from Berwick Upon Tweed, England; Forfar, Scotland; and Stratford, Ontario, Canada. Ten teams from the U.S.A., Canada, Scotland and England competed for the Rotary Silver Bell

Trophy and the Gold Medals. Madison, Wisconsin Rotary Club won the event.

The host club, Brantford Sunrise Rotary Club, which sponsored the Championship held at the Brantford Golf and Country Club, ensured that all the visitors were afforded a wonderful week of curling, friendship and fellowship.

Submitted by: Robert Pelletier, District IV Director



**Elections for International
Online Voting – May 13 – 27, 2008**
www.iawponline.org

**Maryland IAWP Spring Institute
Crownsville, MD
May 22, 2008**

**International IAWP Conference
Richmond, VA
June 8-12, 2008**

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Voice of the Chesapeake is the newsletter of the Maryland Chapter of International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). Denise Carey edits ***Voice of the Chesapeake***. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month to Denise Carey, ***Voice of the Chesapeake*** Editor, DLLR, Anne Arundel One-Stop Career Center, 7480 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, Suite 100, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 or dcarey@dllr.state.md.us.

Maryland IAWP website - www.iawpmaryland.org