



# MAFAA Matters

A Newsletter for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators

April/May 2019

## Contributors this issue:

- Anne Dahlen
- Cathy Schuster & Sheila Krause
- Pam Engebretson
- Bridget Johnson
- Mike Uran & Mike Barnaby
- Jacquelynn Mol Sletten
- Annie Lee
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## Inside this issue:

President's Column	1
Spring Conference — Are You Ready?!	2
Calendar of Events	2
Professional Development—A New Twist	3
Business Partners at the Spring Conference	4
Legislative Taskforce	5
Beyond the Booth	6
Living With Passion	7

## President's Message

Anne Dahlen, 2018-19 MAFAA President, St. Olaf College

Greetings!

As I wrote my last MAFAA article as President, it was April 11th ... and IT WAS SNOWING outside. Only in Minnesota would it snow in April. Fortunately, the snow was short-lived as now we're experiencing green grass and buds on the trees. As I come to the end of my presidency, one of the things that stands out to me is the number of people that assisted me this year. Just as Spring is constant, so is MAFAA members' willingness to help when needed. That's what I love about MAFAA and what makes it such a great organization. Your assistance has not gone unnoticed. I appreciate each one of you.

I am looking forward to a great Spring Conference. I'm confident the snow will be gone and we will have some sunshine to enjoy. I hope that each of you will walk away from the conference with newly acquired knowledge to perform your jobs. But more importantly, I hope that each of you will meet a new MAFAA colleague. Our theme this year is "Together we can" and I believe that. We are better together. As Clark Wold (former MAFAA Member) is fond of saying, "All of us are smarter than any of us!"

The core work of our association has again been completed by our committees. The Outreach and Early Awareness committee established additional financial aid awareness activities. MAFAA's Business Partners worked with our Associate members and Leadership Masters committee planning for another MAFAA leadership symposium this coming year. Professional Development providing education and training to meet the needs of our members. Our Legislative taskforce provided MAFAA members updates from each sector on state legislative issues. I hope everyone has noticed the commitment and excitement that these committees brought to our organization throughout the year.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who served on the MAFAA Executive Council this year. We had a great team that worked well together. I thank each of you for your leadership.

Here's hoping for a wonderful Spring and ice out on Gull Lake!

## Spring Conference 2019—Here we Come!

By Cathy Schuster, Conference Planning Co-Chair

April showers bring May flowers AND three days of training and networking at the MAFAA Spring Conference at Madden's on Gull Lake in Brainerd, MN from May 8-10. Details can be found on the [Spring Conference Event Page on the MAFAA website](#). Presentations will be posted on the website one week prior to the event for those who wish to view or print them in advance.

This year's charity organization, Believet™ Canine Service Partners, is located in Northfield, MN. Believet provides highly skilled service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans. How can you help? Purchase lots of tickets for the silent auction - cash or check accepted for a bunch of tickets "the length of Dick Battig's arm span!" There is something for everyone in the silent auction: game baskets, jewelry, wine baskets, purses, theatre tickets, event and restaurant gift certificates, the list goes on! In addition to buying tickets you are encouraged to bring an item or basket to donate. All proceeds from the silent auction go to charity — the more tickets we sell, the larger our donation to Believet!

While we'll have a full schedule of informative training sessions, there is fun to be had at the complimentary networking events on Wednesday evening. Join us after dinner for BINGO and Glow-in-the-Dark golf after the sun sets on beautiful Gull Lake (weather permitting). No skills or equipment needed, lots of laughs and prizes to be won. (Please note: [registration](#) is required for Glow in the Dark Golf. Details are on the conference page on the MAFAA website.)

Finally, we want to know what *you* want to know! Send your questions for the Federal Q & A and OHE State Summary to [conferenceplanning@mafaa.org](mailto:conferenceplanning@mafaa.org). We'll be sure to get them to Zack Goodwin and Meghan Flores!

See you at Madden's in a couple of weeks!

## MAFAA 2018-19 Calendar of Events

### 2019

May 8-10	MAFAA Spring Conference	Madden's Resort, Brainerd MN
Summer tbd	MAFAA Exec Council Planning Retreat	Madden's Resort, Brainerd MN
Oct 6-9	MASFAA Regional conference	Chicago IL
October tbd	MAFAA Fall Training Day	tbd
Dec 3-6	FSA Conference	Reno NV

## A New Twist on a Familiar Theme

By Pam Engebretson, Professional Development chair

**MAFAA University** was a new twist on the old MAFAA 201 training. The goal of this training was learning, hence the “University” theme. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities hosted the event on March 19 for over 70 MAFAA participants. The day was broken into two sections with the morning segment hosting Dr. Arnoldo Curiel helping us better understand our privileges and unconscious biases through our cultural background. The group did many interactive activities to help us better understand ourselves and how that may impact our interactions with others from different cultures.

Our own MAFAA experts provided NASFAA credential training on R2T4 and Consumer Information for the afternoon session. MAFAA wants to thank our credentialed experts for sharing their time and talents on this topics. Jeanie Peck from Concordia University and Jodi Knott from Bemidji State University/Northwest Technical College covered the R2T4 training and had rave reviews from the participants. Bridget Johnson from Anoka Ramsey Community College/Anoka Technical College and Brynn Juranek from Rasmussen College were the experts for the Consumer Disclosure section and had audience members on the edges of their seats, excited to learn about all these requirements.



One hundred plus guests from across the state joined an experienced panel of presenters for the MAFAA sponsored **FUNDamentals of Financial Aid for Other Professionals** on April 3 at Dakota County Technical College. Attendees represented many staff from the K-12 secondary school systems, scholarship foundations, College Possible, TRIO offices and many Student Affairs departments like One Stop, Records, Transfer and Advising to name just a few. High level information on the basics of applying for financial aid including how an EFC is calculated, the whys and whats of verification including professional judgments, why the Cost of Attendance will differ from school to school and why that matters to the financial aid that a student receives as well as SAP, R2T4, loan repayment, etc.

The MAFAA Professional Development Committee did extensive marketing of this refreshed training opportunity to include a wide variety of audience members. This was the final training event hosted by MAFAA and the Professional Development Committee.

Your 2018-19 MAFAA Professional Development Committee is: Susan Ant, Kim Kolar, Scott Roelke, Michelle Curtis, Taleya Hamilton, Bao Yang-Moua, Monica Ehalt, Tyler Heu, Anita Ostercamp, Gayle Yamry, and Pam Engebretson.



## Business Partners —What's New for the Conference?

By Bridget Johnson, Business Partners Committee Chair

Hello MAFAA, we currently have 18 exhibitors who are so excited to meet you at spring conference! The Business Partners committee has been working hard over the past two years to develop a list of contacts that offer a variety of products/services for your schools. In addition, we have some exciting new things planned for the conference that we want you to get pumped up for.

If you ever watched Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as a kid (who hasn't) then you know the feeling of wanting to open up a Wonka bar of your own to find a golden ticket. Now's your chance...minus the chocolate. This year, in addition to BINGO, there will be a few golden tickets held by some of our exhibitors. If you are the one speaking with that exhibitor when a bell rings then you are put into a special drawing for larger prizes. There aren't many so you will want to make sure you are hanging in the exhibitor area during breaks.

Also, you will notice some themed tables in the ballroom. Each exhibitor will have their own table to decorate as they please. Make sure to sit down, relax and look at what they have to offer. See something interesting or have questions? Visit with them during breaks. It's a win win! You get the information you need PLUS a chance to win a bigger prize!

And while you are there.....support this year's charity! Enjoy the Minnesota State Fair? Be sure to check out the gift basket donated by members of the Business Partners committee to the charity raffle. Basket includes four tickets to the Minnesota State Fair along with a variety of Minnesota foods.

Here's a snapshot of all the exhibitors who will be present at the MAFAA Spring Conference:



## A Legislative Taskforce Resurgence

By Mike Uran and Mike Barnaby, Taskforce Co-chairs

The Legislative Taskforce has been actively working to fulfill its established vision.

*The Legislative Taskforce is responsible for supporting a foundation of learning about MN State legislative procedures and activities for all MAFAA members. The taskforce is committed to providing various mediums of learning to cultivate an environment where MAFAA members feel encouraged and confident to learn and participate. The Legislative Taskforce does not advance a political agenda. Instead, the goal of the taskforce is to increase accessibility to the MN State Legislature for financial aid administrators.*

The Taskforce has hosted a series of webinars featuring speakers from the various sectors who work in the legislative arena. These individuals provided valuable insight into the 2018 election results, the legislative process, specific pieces of legislation, and ideas on how individual members can best interact with legislators and influence outcomes. As many as 72 MAFAA members have joined in one of these webinars and participated with excellent questions.

In addition to the webinars, the Taskforce has provided weekly updates on legislation that is making its way through the process. This is a great way for members to identify and follow specific items of interest.

And finally, don't forget to log in to the MAFAA website and take a moment to check out the BLOG under the NEWS section. Bridget Johnson does a great job of adding items of interest from time to time and we would love to see some other comments and opinions shared in that space.

The Taskforce members hope this work has sparked interest in the legislative process for some MAFAA members. There are many opportunities for members to impact financial aid here in Minnesota.

The 2018-19 MAFAA Legislative Taskforce Members are Mike Barnaby, Cappy Breuer, Bridget Johnson, Jacquelyn Mol Sletten, Jeff Olson, Deb Pusari, Brad Riebel, and Mike Uran.

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Spring



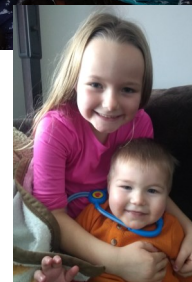
## Beyond the Booth

Compiled by Jacquelynn Mol Sletten, Associate Member Sector Representative



Hi fellow MAFAA members! My name is Annie Lee and I recently joined the OHE team as a Program Reviewer in September 2018. I've had the great opportunity to be a member of the MAFAA community for the past 5 years representing two wonderful institutions and now the State of Minnesota. Currently residing in the southern suburb of Lakeville, I am a country

girl at heart claiming Round Lake, MN, population 264, my hometown. I am a proud wife to my husband, Joshua, and mom to two beautiful peanuts, Grace (6) and Eli (22 months). As you can imagine, we are living the crazy, wonderful life of a family with little ones! Constantly running to after-school events and trying to keep up with my husband as he embarks on his newest adventure as a Lakeville City Councilman. I am excited for warm getaway in the near future as my family heads to the Caribbean to celebrate our 10 year wedding anniversary on my first ever cruise! I've enjoyed so much being part of this MAFAA community and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for financial aid and Minnesota!



Hello MAFAA! I'm Carol Swenson, a steadfast MAFAA member for 35+ years, having served as a Financial Aid Director the first part of my financial aid life. The last 17 years I've been at the same marketing position though the company name has changed. The parent corporation of Great Lakes changed its name to Ascendium Education and I am the Regional Marketing Director covering the western United States marketing our Attigo suite of products. The great thing is I was able to retain Minnesota as one of the states I serve because there is nothing stronger and better than the MAFAA friendships I have made over the years.



I have three terrific kids – well, they're all grown up now. Erik (back row red shirt) will graduate from Century College in May, then he's going on to Grand View University in Des Moines to complete his 4-year degree, all while playing baseball, the sport he loves to play and I love to watch. My two daughters are each married and, lucky for me, live close by in the Cities. Sarah (Augustana '16) (b/w plaid) and husband Ben

live in St Paul, while Anna (Truman State Univ '13) (center) and husband David live in Bloomington. I happily get to be grandma to Sam, a delightful 2 year old, who also will be big brother to his new sibling due in May.



A wonderful new chapter in my life began last September when I married Jim Moe. We are living our best life as we strive to live each day to its fullest. We share a love for golf, travel, and live concerts, and we revel in being grandparents. It doesn't get much better than that! I can't wait to say hello if you'll be at Madden's.

## MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

MAFAA Matters is published online six times per year. Submission deadline for the next issue is **5/31/19**. Please email contributions to MAFAA Matters Editor, Carol Swenson [cswenson@ascendiumeducation.org](mailto:cswenson@ascendiumeducation.org)

### MAFAA's Statement of Purpose

*The Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) is an association of professionals committed to the principle that no one should be denied access to higher education for financial reasons. MAFAA is dedicated to working with students, educators, policy makers, and others to ensure that adequate programs of financial assistance are available to every student attending a Minnesota institution of higher education.*

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

## Living With Passion

### PEOPLE and PLACES

**Anne Dahlen** (formerly St. Olaf College) began her new duties on March 11 as Director of Financial Aid & Registrar at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science.

### RETIREES

**Barb Charboneau** (Dunwoody College of Technology) is retiring May 17th after 31 years at Dunwoody. She is looking forward to traveling with her husband, four dogs, and a cat in their new fifth-wheel. As a big celebration, Barb is taking the whole family to Disney World in October.

June 21 is the day **Char Kreuzer** (Winona State University) will retire after 28 years in Financial Aid at WSU. Her plans for retirement are to dust off some old hobbies and get some new ones, all while enjoying the simple pleasures of life and spending more time with children and grandchildren.

**Dianne Pike** (University of Northwestern-St. Paul) retired in January after many years in financial aid.

### NEW BABIES

Jessica Crotty and her husband welcomed baby boy, Jayce Michael, to the world on April 4. He was 8lbs, 21.5 inches and all are doing fine.



### SYMPATHY

Condolences to Jayne Dinse on the passing of her father, Merle Hamilton, age 92, on April 4.

Sympathy is also extended to Anne Dahlen whose father, Irvin Feine, age 88 passed away on March 13.

### BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all MAFAA members celebrating birthdays in May including those listed here.

May 1	Lindsay Adams	May 18	Angela Lofgren
	Sue Jensen	May 19	Connie Kastens
May 2	Jim Stiner		Benjamin Pooladian
May 4	Marla Friederichs	May 20	Jarod Paulson
May 6	Cheryl Maplethorpe	May 22	Soledad Kern
May 7	Sandy Goman	May 23	Carla Goetz
	Youa Yang	May 26	Tracy Drechsler
May 8	Gene Slettedahl	May 27	Carol Barta
May 11	John Wiberg	May 28	Melissa Aune
May 12	Andrew Escobedo	May 29	Bailey Staben
May 15	Mary Sorensen		Bonnie Dahring
May 16	Brenda Trafton	May 31	Diane Borchardt
	Nancy Maki		Mee Vang

**Live With Passion!**