The summer months are the hardest for us folks in financial aid as we prepare for the incoming students for our fall terms. I work at Mesa Community College and on August 11 we had 17,000+ students enrolled and within a two week period, our enrollment shot up by 6000+ students. The start of school was August 23rd. Of course out of 6000 students, 5998 also came in at that time and applied for financial aid. The other two paid out of pocket. Ok, I am joking, but it sure felt that we handled all 6000 students within a two week period. On top of that, we are implementing a new computer system.

This was the time to really reflect, “Why am I doing this?” At the end of each day I had my answer. Even though we had long lines and our lobby was hot (Phoenix, AZ). The students were very understanding. To see the first time students excited to start school or the returning single mother who has been out of school for 12 years coming back and looking forward to homework again made it all worthwhile. We even had several students ask “Are you hiring because I would like to help you guys out?” Their stories and their enthusiasm took away all the doubts and stress of why I am doing this. I am doing this for them and it is very rewarding.

I am pretty sure that you can write your name instead of mine in the situation that I just described. That is why we are the best Financial Aid folks around.

WASFAA volunteers also do what they do for YOU! And believe me they have been working very hard behind the scenes to prepare for this year, besides doing their real job.

Colleen MacDonald and Ted Malone have been working very hard on the WASFAA Conference. You want to miss it. Mark your calendars for April 26-29 and come to Anchorage, AK.

Laura Hughes and Kay Soltis are getting ready to provide you with growth opportunities at the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Institute, October 22-24 in Lake Tahoe, NV. If you applied for a scholarship, you should be notified pretty soon. Karla Gonzalez and her Awards and Scholarship Committee are reviewing and finalizing their decisions.

Susan Shogren and Cindy Pollard have secured the majority of the sites for the NASFAA Fall training. The topic is “Aspects of Student Eligibility.”

You can get more information on all these events on our web page at www.wasfaa.org. There is also a calendar there that lists the dates and locations of events. The calendar also includes information on conferences in your area. Another feature we added this year is when the scholarship applications will be available for you to apply for the WASFAA Conference and Summer Institute.
Jean Russell and Scott Nielsen are busy soliciting funds for WASFAA. This is a tough assignment as we all know some of our lenders had to leave the business.

Tracey Lehman and Edgardo Cornejo are working on this Newsletter; gathering articles and pictures to give you tons of wonderful information.

This is just an example of what is happening behind the scenes.

In the summer, the WASFAA Executive Council (EC) met in Reno. We finalized our assignments and created a planning calendar for the rest of the year. One of our goals is to communicate and inform you in a more timely manner about all our trainings, workshops, and our conferences. The next Executive Council meeting will be in November when our consultant will be back to review our Strategic Plans that were created 4 years ago. We want to make sure we are still on the right track and are serving the needs of our members.

Next month I will start traveling to the different states to attend their state conferences. I am looking forward to participating in them and also getting to meet and listen to all of you. Also, in November there will be several of us from the WASFAA EC attending the NASFAA Board of Directors meeting in Georgia.

Once again, don’t forget to visit our website for updates at www.wasfaa.org.

Best of luck this semester and let’s get ready for the new regulations that are coming out next year.
Who are the 40+ folks that attend the meetings and how does one get there?

Regional Representatives - A perk of being elected President of your regional association is serving as a voting member on the NASFAA Board. There are six other regions and they sometimes meet separately to discuss common issues or problems and it's also a chance to share good ideas.

Trio of National Chairs – The NASFAA Chair is a college or institutional member that is elected on a NASFAA ballot. At each meeting you will have the Chair-Elect, the Chair, and the Past Chair.

NASFAA Staff - Dr. Day, the NASFAA President is in attendance and gives a comprehensive report. Joan Crissman is the Executive VP and serves as the board Secretary. Jim May is the VP for Finance and Administration and serves as the board Treasurer.

Representatives-at-Large – Each region has a Representative-at-Large that is elected on a NASFAA ballot and serves a multiple year term.

Regional Observers – Each region’s President-Elect serves as a NASFAA observer to experience how the board works before they serve as a voting member. They sit at a separate table that has sometimes been called the “peanut gallery.” Yes, they might toss peanuts to us but we can also give input during the meeting.

Commission Directors – There are three appointed each year by the National Chair. Each one is responsible for three to five NASFAA Committees; they attend the committee meetings and present their report to the board.

Finance Chair – The appointed NASFAA Finance Committee Chair also attends board meetings.

So what goes on during the meeting?

There is the usual approval of the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. Sometime we do a round of introductions with added information like stating what the latest book we read was to get to know each other better.

Whichever region the meeting site is held gives a welcoming and informational presentation. SASFAA President, Lisanne Masterson gave us a sample of NASA astronaut ice cream when we met in Orlando before the annual conference.

Of course everyone gives their reports and many times we have substantial discussion on a particular issue. If you have served on a state or regional association council or board you know what I mean.

NASFAA facilitates an exchange program where the regional representatives get an opportunity to attend another region’s council meeting or conference and these participants later report on their experience.

There are guest speakers, and we usually have Jeff Baker attend and provide a Department of Education update. The opportunity to give input and ask questions directly to Jeff is very beneficial.

When you rotate off the board you receive a coveted NASFAA pin and get to participate in a roast or skit of the outgoing National Chair. This is always fun and you really get to learn a lot more about this person.

In summary, this is a great learning experience because you meet and learn from your colleagues from all over the nation. You get an insight on how NASFAA functions and the great work they do. You also get your voice heard at our national association and have a direct communication line to the DC movers and shakers.
How America pays for college also varies across income levels. Higher-income families paid much more from savings and income, and generally substantially more for college. Lower-income families received the most “gift aid,” such as scholarships and grants, while middle-income families borrowed the most, both in real dollars and as a percentage of their total college costs. The study suggests that middle-income families tend to borrow more to afford a higher-cost post-secondary institution.

Among other findings, the “How America Pays for College” study revealed:

While nearly nine out of 10 families (89 percent) with annual income below $35,000 filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), this number drops off considerably to only 76 percent for families with annual incomes between $35,000 and $50,000, and continues to fall as income rises. Overall one in four families did not complete a FAFSA.

While credit card use for college expenses is relatively low in total (3 percent of students and 3 percent of parents charged part of their expenses) those who used credit cards to pay for college cited emergency cash flow problems as the No. 1 reason.

Three percent of all families reported tapping home equity to contribute nearly $11,000 toward their child’s college education last year. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of these parents plan to borrow against home equity again to fund their child’s education for the coming school year. Slightly less than half (47 percent) of all families borrowed money to pay for college, and federal student loans were the top source for both students and parents.

In addition, while more than nine in 10 parents (94%) and students (96%) agreed that college is an investment in the future, parents of college students were worried about the cost of college and how the economy will affect their ability to pay for college. According to the study, the top concern, shared by 60 percent of parents, is that institutions will raise tuition, followed by 51 percent of parents expressing concern that loan rates will increase.

While 58 percent of families reported ruling out institutions because of cost at some point during the application process, another 42 percent of families did not limit their search based on cost—often after reviewing financial aid packages. Even more surprising, 70 percent of students and parents said a student’s expected post-graduation income either was not considered or did not make a difference on their borrowing decisions. The study also revealed that 49 percent of families limit their school options even before applying for admission and receiving a financial aid package.

This study was conducted to help families make more informed decisions about how to pay for college. It was found that too few parents and students are focusing on the total cost of college, too many are ruling out college choices either too early or too late in the application process, not enough are using available college savings tools, and too many are borrowing without considering how they will pay. It is also troubling that one in four families do not complete the form, leaving grants, scholarships and low-cost loans on the table. Families need to be aware that decisions about college should not be made before understanding exactly how much financial aid is available.

Gallup and Sallie Mae plan to conduct the “How America Pays for College” study on an annual basis. The study will continue to help all stakeholders better understand how public policy, economic conditions and attitudes about the pursuit of a higher education evolve over time, and show how this evolution impacts the American family’s ability to pay for college.
Financial aid professionals have long realized that a key component of their jobs is to provide students with the money management skills needed to make it through school and beyond.

However, new research shows that instituting financial literacy counseling programs on campuses is critically important because a vast number of today’s high school graduates are heading to college with very little concept, if any, of how to manage money.

The latest test administered to high school seniors by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy actually showed a worsening problem. In the most recent test administered in 2007 to more than 6,800 high school seniors in 40 states, only 48 percent responded correctly to basic financial questions. In 1997, when the test was first administered, 57 percent answered correctly.

The Jump$tart Coalition test showed that the majority of high school seniors fail to grasp even the most basic of financial concepts. For example, only 42 percent understood that sales tax actually adds to the cost of a purchase. Less than 49 percent correctly said that someone who pays the minimum amount on a credit card will pay more in finance charges than someone who pays the entire balance.

Laura Levine, executive director of Jump$tart, said that research shows that the young age of those surveyed is but one factor in their inability to grasp basic money management concepts. She said that problem-solving skills are also important in their ability to understand and apply financial information.

The data poses a serious concern for financial aid professionals who are scrambling to establish or expand on-campus financial literacy programs. Financial aid offices regularly field questions on a variety of rudimentary financial skills, including how to budget or how to build good credit. And a growing number of financial aid officers have begun connecting financial literacy with a student’s long-term ability to thrive in college and in a career.

Paul Goebel, director of the Student Money Management Center at the University of North Texas, said the majority of college students carry loan debt that will extend for years after graduation. Learning to properly manage that debt also prepares students for life’s important long-term decisions.

"Research has shown that as debt from the college years increases, graduates postpone major life milestones including marriage, home ownership, even children," he said.

The most effective financial literacy counseling involves assessing an individual student’s financial skills. The key is to remind students that there must be a commitment — whether in time, money, or lifestyle change — to succeed financially.

More colleges are now offering financial counseling services to students, or even requiring mandatory courses on academic skills and money management. These services are very timely, considering that student loan debt has doubled over the last decade.

Many incoming freshmen quickly realize that financial aid usually does not cover all of their college and living expenses, and that working part time may not necessarily offset extra costs. That’s the point where students can take the first step to becoming independent money managers, especially if helped along by financial literacy counseling services on campus.
This year Arizona will celebrate the 40th year anniversary of AASFAA. You are all invited to attend our annual conference and celebration October 29-30 in the Phoenix area. (See AASFAA.org)

All of our state associations will also undergo some uncertainty as to funding and membership attrition due to intersects of economy, financial markets, and legislation underlying the lending programs - all changes that will challenge our profession. We will have new, major challenges in understanding and implementing new state (AZ) and federal programs.

And these things are certain in Arizona:

- We will have the best conference ever, probably the largest. Do not miss it!
- We will undertake new, inclusive, membership initiatives.
- We will improve our profession and help each other.

Somebody once said, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” After 30 years in this profession, I’m seeing some things come around that look a lot like the way they were, and guess what? Way back then we made changes; we became important, and trusted, members of the education community; and we improved ourselves and our profession. So it goes.
The WFAA Summer Workshops were successful trainings that offered a very well received Understanding Your Leadership session by Dr. Joe Albert from Gonzaga University. In addition there were updates from the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Board and TEACH Grant training. The workshops were held at Whitworth in Spokane and at Seattle Pacific University in Seattle.

It's not too late to register for the WFAA Conference! Come join us at the fabulous Marcus Whittman Hotel in Walla Walla October 22-24. The theme is A New Vintage, A New Landscape. We invite you to join us in a great location for excellent sessions and networking opportunities!

WFAA's Early Awareness Committee, headed up by co-chairs Marie Rynning and Carol Moyer, will be hosting financial aid workshops. The workshops will cover FAFSA 101, EFC, award letters, deadlines, helpful web pages and more at the NACAC College Fairs held on 9/28-29 in Seattle and October 1 in Spokane.

WFAA would like to acknowledge two dedicated people who have helped our financial aid industry immensely. We salute Betty Gebhardt from the Higher Education Coordinating Board who retired recently and Linda Burhardt from the Department of Education who will retire at the end of the year. They both have contributed greatly to our field and they will be missed, but we wish them well as they explore new adventures.

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Kathleen Koch
Assistant Dean for Student Financial Services Seattle, University School of Law, WFAA President

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Site Selection—Where WASFAA’s been and where WASFAA’s going!

Leonard Walker
University of Nevada Reno
Chair Site Selection Committee

It’s not all fun and games! It’s BEO’s, room blocks, cutoff dates, concessions, walk policy, attrition clauses, F&B, indemnification, force majeure, arbitration, claims and disputes, jurisdiction.

Yes, you do get to travel to see the sites, just to make sure the place does in fact look the same as the pictures on the website! But, before you get on that plane a number of things take place.

First you must provide a written report for the WASFAA Executive Council to review. This requires at least three different proposals from hotels in the same city. Idaho has only two hotels that could hold us, The Grove in Boise (2002- $99 per night) and The Resort in Coeur d’Alene (2010- $119-$159). WASFAA, at one time would have a conference in California every other year. That changed in 1998 (Red Lion Hotel-$98). That is when the EC voted to have a conference in each WASFAA state. That EC included 4 voting members from Idaho, which had never hosted a WASFAA Conference before so, you had an idea of how the vote was going to turn out! It was the information provided by Paul Phillips that helped win my vote.

His data showed that the number of attendees were about the same when WASFAA was held outside of California. Locations and room rates of past and future conferences are listed above.

Room rates that are listed on contracts are based on the year the contract is signed. However, the hotel will state that they can increase the rate by a certain % per year (normally, 3-6 %). WASFAA does not want to pay those increases so; this is when the fun starts. We want to go low on rates and the hotels want to go high. Then you compare and haggle, compare and disagree, compare and agree, and then you get a proposal. Then you compare the proposal and then you go back to the hotels and bargain some more. Then you take the information from the final proposals and you present to the EC for a vote. That’s how conference locations are determined.

In looking through information in the site selection history files, Jeff Baker, Paul Phillips, Jim White and myself have been site selection chairs. Site selection normally has been a one man committee however; Jim White and Frank Green have been on the committee the last few years. David Levy has also helped the committee out in the past because of all of the experience he has had being chair of site selection in California.

Because of the hotel contacts that you make as site selection chair, the planning of the EC meetings became a part of the duties of the site selection committee. At least that’s what Kate Peterson told me when she was WASFAA President and my boss while I was working at Oregon State University! We normally have our meetings at locations that we have used before for conferences or past EC meetings. We do this because the hotels, in most cases, will keep the room rates close to prior year rates and I can answer the WASFAA Presidents and other EC member questions. Questions range from, where to eat, how is the room setup, does it has a phone hookup in the room, will we have internet access, what’s the weather like during that time of year....
Leonard Walker
University of Nevada, Reno Chair Site Selection Committee

You also get to know the hotel staff, you will know if they will come to the meeting room to turn the heat up, then turn the heat down, then back up again. Meetings are held in locations that allow for quick and easy access from airports or places that have light rail (Portland-Benson or San Fran Villa Florance-$99-$119) or free shuttles.

Our meeting rooms are normally free and we always go to places like Lake Tahoe or Coeur d'Alene during the “shoulder seasons” and not during the peak times. Room rates double during the summer months. Peter Miller still does what we call the Travel Request Form (TRF) because he is so good at it and he pays the bills shortly after each meeting with the WASFAA credit card! The WASFAA credit card when used gets us airline miles that are used to help with travel costs for conference presenters or keynote speakers. The TRF is sent to EC members about 6 weeks before the meeting date. The TRF will ask what nights do you need a room and what airline are you flying and what time will you arrive. This will allow for people to share cab rides if needed to save money.

It’s all in a day’s work. If you have any questions or suggestions on great meeting locations, send me an email at lrwalker@unr.edu.

Marilyn Howard
Financial Aid Administrator

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Karla Gonzalez
Financial Aid Tech, Mesa Community College
Chair Awards and Scholarships Committee

The Awards and Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce WASFAA’s 40th Annual Conference Scholarship, which will become available on November 3, 2008 online at www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/Scholarship_app.html. Each scholarship provides free registration and, in some cases, travel assistance.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide access to members interested in attending WASFAA’s 40th Annual Conference in Anchorage, AK from April 26-28, 2009. The scholarship application will close February 25, 2009.

Please contact Karla Gonzalez for questions regarding scholarships at karla.gonzalez@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

BIG Wild 40 WASFAA CONFERENCE 2009

Ted Malone
University of Alaska Anchorage, WASFAA Annual Conference Co-Chair

Now that September has rolled around you should know that summer is over in Alaska. We started the High School football season in mid August, the earliest in the country. We do that so that it is over before it is way too cold in the interior of Alaska.

In the Anchorage area we look for the signs of the end of summer. The first is the changing of the wildfire. We have this lovely plant that is brilliantly colored, and then suddenly it changes to a fluffy white seed head (think dandelion). I noticed this about a week ago. The next thing that happens is the leaves turn and start falling. This started in earnest last weekend.

The state fair is over, and the only sign missing is the last—Termination Dust on the Chugach Mountains. Termination Dust is really a euphemism for that four letter word that starts with an “S” and ends with a “W.” I can’t say it or it will happen, but I think you know what I mean.

There are some incredibly beautiful drives that can be taken this time of year. One of my favorites is to drive to the Matanuska Glacier. You travel out of Anchorage and through Palmer and through deciduous woods that are lovely. The autumn colors come early and are short lived, but they are beautiful. The Glacier is about 100 miles from Anchorage with some very interesting little towns on the way. At 24 miles long by 4 miles wide it is the largest glacier in Alaska that is accessible by car.

In order for conference participants to get a better sense of Alaska, we have secured keynote speakers from the area. Mr. Whitekeys, the famed humorist entertainer from The Fly By Night Club in Anchorage, will delight us with facts and tales of Alaska.

Recognized as an “Elder” by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Fr. Michael Oleksa will share his stories that foster greater understanding across boundaries of race and culture - as he said, "to make The Great Land even greater." For more information on our speakers, see our website www.wasfaa.org/docs/toc_conference_s.html.

We look forward to seeing you in Alaska at “BIG Wild 40” WASFAA Conference, April 26-28, 2009.
Greetings from Oregon to all of our WASFAA colleagues! I hope you have had a good summer and found time to relax and renew. As I think about this newsletter article and the happenings of the past couple of months there are a few items I would like to share: WASFAA membership currently stands at 286, 36 of which are brand new members. In order to insure an accurate listing of those in our membership database an email was sent to the list serve. The message encouraged all schools to review their profiles and identify anyone who is no longer at their institution. Our Membership chair said we are having a good response to this request!

A successful Summer Drive-In workshop was attended by 64 on August 7 at Multnomah University (formerly Multnomah Bible College & Seminary). Co-chairs Jennifer Knight and Mary McLoethian, along with their committee, did a super job in facilitating informative breakout sessions. Good food (as we know how financial aid folks like to eat), along with comfortable accommodations, created an atmosphere conducive to meeting new financial aid colleagues as well as connecting with old friends. The Training and Mentor Survey results were shared along with a special recognition in honor of Linda Burkhardt, who will be retiring soon.

An email was sent to the list serve advising everyone about the Jerry R. Sims Management and Leadership Training along with an announcement regarding scholarship opportunities. WASFAA Fall Training is scheduled for October 14th at Chemeketa Community College. Specific details will follow.

Training committees have been meeting. The Support Staff Workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 7 at Clackamas Community College. This committee, co-chaired by Terri Crawford and Gayne Griffiths, is working hard planning a special day. Our Annual Conference committee, co-chaired by Melinda Dunnick and Anna Manley, met again recently and is making great progress for a very exciting time at Salishan on February 1-3, 2009.

Conversations and planning continue toward developing a strategic plan for training, mentoring and outreach.

The next WASFAA Executive Council meeting is scheduled for October 16.
Perhaps one of our many challenges is helping international students that attend our institutions. Not only do they run into some financial barriers but there are also cultural differences.

WASFAA would like to know what resources are provided for international students at the institutions of its members as well as find out what members would like to know or have as resources, etc. in regard to international students. We will attempt to compile the information and share it via the newsletter and/or the website.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would be thinking about these questions as a survey will be done by early November.

What types of financial assistance do you provide for your international students?
What services do you provide to your international students to help them better understand our culture?
How do you handle lack of funds situations with international students?
Do you have an institutional loan program for international students?
Are you familiar with the various visa types? What visas allow a student to work on campus?
What other types of information would be helpful for you in assisting your international student population?

Please contact me by the end of October with any other tidbits or items of interest you would like to learn. I may be reached at catherine.king-todd@thunderbird.edu.

To say that California has been busy lately would be quite the understatement. Without a signed State budget, with lenders dropping out of the Federal Student Loan business, writing letters to the Governor to save crucial state grant funding for the competitive pool of Cal Grant recipients, making a visit to the State capital and providing testimony at the “Impact of Credit Crisis on Student Loans” joint informational hearing by the Assembly Committee on Banking & Finance and the Assembly Higher Education Committee, we have been quite active these last few months. In addition to record enrollment growth in a number of our segments and looming budget cuts, we find ourselves as well as our students scrambling for answers, options and most critically funding.

We are in the final stages of our election of officers for 2009. By the time this newsletter comes out I will be that much closer to being the Immediate Past-President of CASFAA yet again. Time is also fast approaching for our annual conference with the most appropriate theme “The Adventure Continues.” Conference information is posted on our website for anyone who may wish to attend, vend or sponsor as the case may be. Our conference will be held in Anaheim, CA on Dec. 7 - 9, 2008. We are looking forward to a great training event, even amidst the numerous financial woes being felt throughout the state.

I hope that all is going well with you and yours, in your state and at your institutions. May you continue to keep up the good work that is changing lives on a daily basis. There is a rainbow after the rain.............but boy how I wish there was really a pot of gold at the bottom too. We could sure use it.
UNBELIEVABLE….seems to be the word I am using more and more these days! WASFAA members, do you ever remember so many changes and so much going on for such a consecutive amount of time? We now have the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorized when the “Higher Education Opportunity Act” passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law (P.L. 110-315) by the President on August 14, 2008. Due to all that is happening – especially the financial market crisis – the passage of this bill seems almost anti-climatic given the fact that it took several years of multiple extensions to the HEA since reauthorization should have occurred in 2004! Obviously we now turn our attention to the careful analysis of the provisions and what this means to students, schools, lenders/servicers and guarantors.

This also means we will now start gearing up for negotiated rulemaking (neg reg) in early 2009 as many of these provisions will be subject to neg reg. The Department has already started to prepare for this process by having six public meetings around the country between September 19th and October 15th to provide the community with the opportunity to suggest issues that should be considered for action by the negotiated rulemaking committees along with requesting nominations for individual negotiators. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in the federal rulemaking process.

We have also seen Congress act very quickly in response to the financial market turmoil. Specific to student loans, Congress responded in record time in early May by passing the “Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008” (ECASLA), P.L. 110-227 to ensure continued and timely access to federal student loans for all eligible student and parent borrowers. Unfortunately, the financial market turmoil has not subsided and the distressed market conditions have continued and Congress has responded. Specific to student loans, Congress once again moved quickly in late September to extend the ECASLA provisions that provides the authority for the Department of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year (through June 30, 2010). This bipartisan bill (H.R. 6889) will provide stability and certainly to students, families and schools as they make their decisions about financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year. By the time you read this article, the president will have already signed this bill that provides the important one year extension to ensure that no student or parent have uninterrupted access to a federal student loan.

Following passage of the ECASLA extension, House Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman Miller stated in a press release, “Our rough economy is already dealing a huge blow to American families and we can’t allow trouble in the credit markets to further price students out of a college degree.”

In the same joint press release, Ranking Member McKeon said, “This measure offers a degree of certainty for the coming school year, and will help stabilize the student loan marketplace as we continue to explore what other steps are needed to ensure long-term financial aid access.”

And there’s more….will there be a potential Pell Grant shortfall for next year? Reports appeared in late September that due to the dramatic increase in the number of students applying for federal grants there may be a funding shortfall that will reduce the size of the Pell Grant awards for the 2009/10 academic year. It’s not clear how this will play out and by the time you read this article we may or may not have a FY 2009 spending bill. Congress has yet to pass a FY 2009 spending bill and is expected to flat fund programs beyond the end of the federal fiscal year (September 30th) by way of a continuing resolution (CR). At this point, no one knows whether the CR will be short term or otherwise. What we do know is that the Senate Appropriations Committee passed their FY 2009 education spending bill in June and would include a $4,800 Pell Grant maximum for 2009/10. The House Appropriations has yet to pass their education spending bill but it included a $4,900 Pell Grant maximum in the bill that failed last June. Obviously, we are not done with this issue.

Stay tuned for more……many, many important issues are still swirling – hang in there everyone and do what you do best – remain nimble, flexible and ready for even more changes while continuing to help students and families recognize their dreams. THANK YOU for what you do……you are an amazing and UNBELIEVABLE group of professionals!
Fall 2008 has kicked off to a busy start! As the dust of registration settles, we now embark on our busy outreach season. Planning for Financial Aid Nights has begun with over 47 sessions already scheduled. We expect to serve a total of 65 schools statewide. Our biggest news is the expansion of our College Goal Sunday (CGS) program. For 2009, we plan to have a live presenter on the island of Molokai who will be broadcasting via interactive television with students in Hana and Lanai. This brings us to a total of 11 CGS sites in the state of Hawaii.

Federal Training Issues - We are still working diligently to keep federal training opportunities alive and well in the islands. Our congressional representatives sent a letter to the Dept. of Education to show their support. We’ll continue to keep you posted.

Training - WASFAA fall training has been scheduled for November 14 at Honolulu Community College. Thank you, Jannine, for hosting! Marianna won’t be coming to Hawaii this fall, but she will be conducting a Federal Update for us via webinar on October 3. Due to her absence, Frank Green and Jeff Scofield will be conducting a series of High School Counselor’s Financial Aid Workshops throughout the islands. Much mahalo to our two trainers for stepping up to the plate! Dates are listed on the calendar below.

Grant Proposals - Big mahalo to Frank Green, who successfully attained several grants to support our Financial Aid Nights, College Goal Sunday, and High School Counselor’s Workshops across the islands. Mahalo to our partners, USA Funds, Lumina Foundation, Gear Up Hawaii, Hawaii Community Foundation, and American Savings.

Fund Development - Partnership materials to our vendors will be going out in mid-October. We’re excited to report several new vendors that have indicated interest in partnering with us this year.

PacFAA Conference - Preliminary planning for the conference begins with the first official meeting in late September. This year’s conference, on the beautiful island of Kauai, will be co-chaired by Frances Dinnan (Kauai CC) and Kilohana Miller (Maui CC). The conference committee is also happy to have on board Paula Purdy (Kamehameha Schools), Haleaka Juarez (Liko A’E Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program), Jannine Oyama (Honolulu CC), and Ron Lee (USA Funds).

Communications - We’d like to welcome aboard new member Kilohana Miller from Maui CC to our Communications Committee. Kilohana will be assisting Frances (Kauai CC) and Sung Hyop Ha (Heald) with the newsletter and website. One of our strategic goals this year is to improve communication with our membership via the newsletter and website. Look for the next issue to come out on October 15.
JOIN WASFAA TODAY!
Low $40 membership.

WASFAA Members Benefit From...

- Staying current on financial aid issues.
- Receiving information on advocacy for financial aid at the regional and federal levels.
- Attending valuable training opportunities.
- Networking with colleagues from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- Attending the annual conference.
- Gaining a regional perspective in administering financial aid.
- Developing new skills, including leadership skills, through volunteering for WASFAA.
- Accessing scholarship opportunities for WASFAA training and conference events.
- Accessing funded research opportunities.
- Accessing the WASFAA directory.
- Receiving the WASFAA newsletter.
- Receiving listserv notices and alerts.
- Accessing employment listings.

The Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (WASFAA) encourages you to become a member. If you would like to join, visit WASFAA’s website at www.wasfaa.org and click on “Member Services” to access the membership application.

For more information visit our website at www.WASFAA.ORG.
Ad Dimensions and Cost:

**Full page**
- 7 1/2" x 10"
- $1000

**Half page**
- 7 1/2" x 4 3/4" (horizontal only)
- $800

**Quarter page**
- 3 1/2" x 4 3/4"
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Preferred format is high quality PDF

Go to "http://wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memPVED_AlaCarte08.html" \t "_blank"
http://wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memPVED_AlaCarte08.html to purchase newsletter advertising.
# Calendar of Events WASFAA

## October
- **October 21**: WASFAA Fall Training, Idaho
- **October 22-24th**: Washington Association State Conference
- **October 22-24th**: WASFAA Jerry Sims MLI
- **October 24th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Southern CA
- **October 30-31st**: Arizona Association State Conference
- **October 30th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Nevada

## November
- **November 12-13th**: Nevada Association State Conference
- **November 12th -13th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Washington
- **November 14th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Hawaii
- **November 19th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Northern California
- **November 20-21st**: WASFAA Executive Council Meeting

## December
- **December 7-9th**: California State Association Conference
- **December 10th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Arizona
- **December 11th**: WASFAA Fall Training, Arizona