

PDI (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)
An Opportunity to Network, Energize, and Develop Leadership Skills
Sponsored by WBEA and your state association

The health and relevancy of professional associations at the local, regional, and national levels rely on the involvement of teachers and administrators who will share their talents and time for the betterment of our profession. The challenge to continually train new leaders and reinvigorate the veterans is ongoing. In 1999-2000 the WBEA Board, under the leadership of President Mary Ann Lammers voted to institute a professional development opportunity at the annual conference and support this endeavor by paying for ½ of the registration fee for two participants from each S/T/P. The S/T/Ps were encouraged to pay the other half of the fee. The first conference was held at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in February 2000.

The PDI has traditionally met for five to six hours on Friday before the annual conference begins. The participants attend part of the WBEA Executive Board meeting to see the regional board in action. Recently, they have been introduced and honored at a general function by sitting in a reserved area and being awarded a certification of completion by the PDI Director.

The original intent was to encourage new or veteran teachers who had not previously been involved in their professional associations to gain the skills and confidence to accept offices and committee assignments in their S/T/Ps. Some S/T/Ps have supported veteran teachers who are continuing to provide inspiration to members and want a “refresher” opportunity. Having a registration fee paid has also provided financial support for those teachers who do not have the support of their districts or colleges.

Agenda Topics

The agenda has included leadership qualities, communication styles, organizational structures of the regional and national Executive Boards, Programs of Work, Bylaws, team building, goal setting, meeting management, convention planning, personal visits from regional and national officers, etc.

The backgrounds of the participants have varied widely from new professionals to veterans who are returning to glean leadership activities for their students or S/T/Ps or just to rejuvenate themselves. Because of the wide range of interests and needs and the relatively short time frame, the topics are covered at a cursory level. However, feedback has been positive that everyone received something of value for their time spent.

How to Apply

If you are interested in taking advantage of this professional development opportunity, visit the Web site at www.wbea.info and apply today. Look under the Conference and Professional Development link. Your S/T/P will notify you of your acceptance. Hope to see you in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where “Innovation, Collaboration, Integration—Hidden Treasures at the Lake” convenes on February 13, 2009!