

JANUARY 2007

Welcome to *KAIRS Today* 2006-07.

This is the monthly electronic newsletter of the Kansas Association of Religious and Independent Schools (KAIRS). *KAIRS Today* is sent as a service to KAIRS members across Kansas. Each issue will also be available on the KAIRS Web site at <http://www.kairs.org/>.

Our goal is to keep you informed about legislative, regulatory and national news, and educational issues. Please look for this between the 20th and 26th of each month. Contact Corey Reese, editor, with questions or concerns – crkairs@yahoo.com.

JANUARY ISSUE:

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ANNUAL MEETING TWO WEEKS FROM MONDAY

In slightly more than two weeks, KAIRS members will gather for our two-day Annual Meeting. *KAIRS - Schools of Transformation*, is our 2007 theme. The Executive Committee once again has invited informative speakers who will present innovative ideas to our membership.

Plan to attend. The annual meeting is a wonderful time to gather with fellow administrators for educational updates and professional fellowship.

Check-in will be Monday, February 12, 9 - 10 a.m., with the opening session beginning at 10 a.m. Please call the Topeka Ramada Inn at 800-432-2424 today (!) to make your reservation. In addition, please return the meeting registration form to Shelli Kadel asap – address listed below.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Tentative Agenda:

February 12, 2007

9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits

10:00 Morning Addresses –

Dr. Nick Compagnone, KAIRS President: *State of KAIRS Address*

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Philip Kerstetter, President, Kansas Wesleyan University:
The Mission of Faith Based Organizations

11:15 Visit exhibits

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Afternoon Addresses-

Dr. Mary Cohen, U.S. Dept of Education
Staci Warren, KSDE, Liaison for Non-public Schools.

2:00 Snack break in atrium with exhibitors

2:30 Break-out sessions (1 hour)

I: Technology Infusion in Curriculum:

Bob D'Andrea, Technology Coordinator, Sacred Heart High School and St.
Mary's Grade School, Salina

II: Teacher Preparation and Expectations from the College Viewpoint (TBA)

3:30 Break

3:45 Break-out sessions (1 hour)

I: Technology Infusion in Curriculum: Bob D'Andrea

II: Distinguished Teacher's Tips of the Trade (TBA)

4:45 Dismiss for evening banquet

6:30 Hall of Fame Banquet and Distinguished Teacher Awards

February 13, 2007

8:00 a.m. Breakfast (with own groups-Diocese, Lutheran, etc.)

9:00 Accreditation models and discussion

10:30 Check out

11:00 Business Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS

Philip Kerstetter, Ph.D

Dr. Kerstetter was appointed the seventeenth president of Kansas Wesleyan University in 2002. His career in public and private higher education spans more than 30 years. His previous appointments include the Executive Associate to the President at Thiel College – located in rural northwestern Pennsylvania, and several positions at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania including Director of Institutional Research and Planning and Dean of Education.

He received his bachelor's degree in religion from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; his Master of Education in college counseling from the University of Delaware, and his Doctor of Philosophy in special education administration from Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C.

Mary Elizabeth Davidson Cohen, Ed.D,

As the Secretary of Education's Regional Representative for Region VII, Dr. Cohen serves as the Secretary's liaison to state and local education agencies, public and private schools, colleges and universities, and elected representatives of local and state government organizations. Dr. Cohen was previously the vice president for adult and continuing education, and Dean of the graduate school at St. Mary College in Leavenworth. She received her doctorate in education administration from the University of Kansas in 1977. Her master's degree in science education for elementary teachers was from Columbia University in 1962, and she earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1958.

Staci Warren

Ms Warren became the Coordinator of Educational Alternatives for the KSDE and Kansas Liaison for Non-public schools in the summer of 2006. Ms. Warren holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in elementary education and reading from Pittsburg State University. She also completed an Administration Certification from Washburn University.

Bob D'Andrea

Originally from New Jersey, Mr. D'Andrea attended Bethany College in Lindsborg where he graduated in 1971. He obtained his master's degree in elementary education and social science from William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey (1976) and went to work as an educator in the East Rutherford School District. During his tenure, he spent many years as a sixth grade science and also social study teacher. He moved into the realm of technology and by the time he retired, he was a Technology Coordinator for the East Rutherford Board of Education. Upon retirement, Mr. D'Andrea moved his family to Salina where he not only works for the two Salina schools, but also teaches "Technology in Education" at Bethany College.

REGISTER TODAY FOR KAIRS ANNUAL MEETING

You should have received your registration form via email. The forms need to be to Shelli Kadel asap. Please contact Shelli at kadelshelli@juno.com with questions.

Confirmation of checks and registrations will be sent by snail mail in the next week. If you don't see yours by Monday, February 5, please contact Shelli.

2007 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

KAIRS is proud to announce its 2007 inductee to the KAIRS Hall of Fame. The new member is Edward Bierbaum, Principal of Linn Lutheran School. The Hall of Fame resides at the KAIRS website: kairs.org. Ed will be honored at the KAIRS Hall of Fame Banquet at the 2007 Annual Meeting, Monday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

KAIRS DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS 2007

Congratulations to our KAIRS Distinguished Teachers 2007! The six outstanding educators are a blessing to their students, their schools and to our organization. We are pleased to have the opportunity to honor them. They will be recognized at Annual Meeting's Hall of Fame Dinner on Monday evening, February 12. Please plan to attend.

The winners will also be featured in the KAIRS 2007 Annual Report and on our website, www.kairs.org.

Christian Schools: **Dennis Burd**, Maranatha Academy, Shawnee;
Diocese of Dodge City: **Inga Atkinson**, Holy Family School, Great Bend;
Independent Schools: **Gale Farmer**, Wichita Collegiate School;
Lutheran Schools: **Donna Longhauser**, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita;
Diocese of Salina: **Laura Reif Foss**, Sacred Heart Grade School, Plainville;
Diocese of Wichita: **Roxanne Goehring**, St. Anne's Catholic School, Wichita.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2007 Annual Report will be available to all members at the February Annual Meeting. Copies will be made available to those who cannot attend the meeting.

Public Policy Update

From the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), Wednesday, January 24, 2007:

The U.S. Department of Education today unveiled key components of the Bush Administration's plan to improve the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), which is up for reauthorization this year. Several pieces of the plan relate to private schools.

Promise Scholarships: Parents of children in public schools that go into restructuring status would be offered Promise Scholarships, worth approximately \$4,000, to allow students to attend a private school or an out-of-district public school. According to a USDE briefing document, students using the scholarships to attend a private school would "take their state's assessment or a standard national assessment in the same grades and subjects assessed in their original school."

Opportunity Scholarships: The federal government would establish a competitive grant program to enable willing local communities to provide Opportunity Scholarships, similar to those offered in the D.C. choice program currently funded by the federal government. Low-income families whose children are assigned to schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring could use the scholarships to attend private schools.

Flexibility in the Use of Federal Funds: School districts would be given greater latitude to transfer funds from one federal education program to another. What's more, "the transferability provisions will be revised to make it easier for local education agencies (LEAs), in consultation with private schools, to consolidate and transfer funds reserved for private school students and teachers."

Equitable Services to Private School Students and Teachers: The USDE briefing document describes the equitable services proposal this way: "At-risk students should have access to academic services regardless of where they attend school. We propose extending the longstanding requirements for equitable participation by private school students and teachers to new programs and initiatives where appropriate, as well as to existing programs such as Striving Readers and Troops-to-Teachers. Service providers affiliated with a religious organization should not be restricted from providing services so long as those services are secular, neutral and non-ideological, as required under NCLB. Additionally, we support greater private school flexibility in the use of federal funds and improved communication between private and public schools."

IMPORTANT 2006-07 KAIRS DATES

Feb 12-13: Annual Meeting, Topeka

April 12: General Meeting – Andy Tompkins, Topeka

KAIRS 2006-07 OFFICERS

President: Nick Compagnone, Salina Catholic Diocese

Vice President: Pam Nummela, Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park

Secretary: Bill Dieckhoff, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita

Treasurer: David Swank, Trinity Academy, Wichita

Annual Meeting Secretary: Shelli Kadel, Wichita Friends School

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