
MnACTE VIEWPOINTS

A Newsletter of the Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education
Affiliated with the Association for Career and Technical Education

FALL 2004

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President's Thoughts

By Pamela Koenen

ACTE Restructuring

By now most of you have heard about, if not seen, the proposal to restructure ACTE. The Board of Directors of MnACTE discussed the proposal at length at the August board meeting in Park Rapids. At that time we discussed the concerns shared by many in attendance that the restructuring plan does not address the financial woes and declining membership issues that plague the association. There is also alarm over the proposed changes to regional and affiliate representation to the ACTE Board. As a part of this discussion, the board reviewed comments from the Missouri ACTE that had been forwarded to Region III Representative, Bryan Albrecht. Minnesota has drafted a similar response, which is included on page 5 of this newsletter. If you have not had an opportunity to examine the ACTE Restructuring Proposal, I would encourage you to do so at www.acteonline.org. Your comments and concerns regarding this issue will be valuable to our delegates at the annual convention in Las Vegas.

Carl Perkins

ACTE is continuing to monitor the progress of the Perkins Re-Authorization legislation on the federal level. Please contact your senator and representatives explaining the importance of Perkins funding to your local programs and students. Many representatives are unaware of the specific impact this funding has to schools and member of their districts. Now is the time to give our elected officials local information that they can understand when discussing the Re-Authorization.

Joint Efforts with MACTA

MnACTE will once again be working with the Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Administrators (MACTA) on a number of issues. The first will be legislation on the state level. Bob Lindgren (VP, Park Rapids) has been working with MACTA representative Arlin Melgaard on producing a joint legislative brochure for use with members and elected officials.

Second, MnACTE will once again hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the MACTA conference in February. Dates are February 17 and 18. At this time, ACTE Executive Director Jan Bray and Minnesota Commissioner of Education Alice Seegren are confirmed as speakers. More information about the conference and annual meeting will be included in the January newsletter.

("THOUGHTS", continued on page 5)

Fall 2004 MDE Update

By Daniel Smith, Education Supervisor, Adult & Career Education, Minnesota Department of Education

Learning in the Context of Careers

At the Department we are working with a new descriptor for career & technical education, "*Learning in the Context of Careers*." It is our hope that this descriptor will show two things about our career & technical education programs:

- 1) Career & technical education is, first and foremost, learning. Too often people consider core academic instruction as the only learning that must take place in schools. We need to help people realize that career & technical education is a significant part of the learning environment for students.
- 2) Career & technical education is contextual learning. Much research, most notably the work done for the SCANS reports in the early 1990's, show that many students learn best when the learning is in context. We use careers as the contextual basis for learning in career & technical education.

Participation statistics

Just how big an enterprise is career & technical education in Minnesota? The Department of Education has put great effort in the past several years developing a data collection system to show how many students are participating in career & technical education in our secondary schools, in what programs, and for how long. 2003 data show that 161,435 students participated in secondary CTE courses (unduplicated count). This amounts to 77.2% of Minnesota students in grades 10 through 12. Of these students, 59,625 are listed as members of special populations – students with disabilities, students who are economically disadvantaged, pregnant teens/single parents, students for whom English is not the primary language, and students who are participating in career & technical education programs that are not traditional for their gender. 36.9% of secondary career & technical education students are among the special populations.



Legislative requirement for local standards & assessments in CTE

The 2003 Minnesota Legislature set a requirement that each school district must establish its own standards and assessments in career & technical education.

120B.022 Elective standards. Subdivision 1. Elective standards. A district must establish its own standards in the following subject areas:

- (1) health and physical education;
- (2) vocational and technical education; and
- (3) world languages.

A school district must offer courses in all elective subject areas.

Subd. 2. Local assessments. A district must use a locally selected assessment to determine if a student has achieved an elective standard.

We have been told that districts must have these standards and assessments determined by 2005. Because of this requirement, we anticipate a lot of school districts will be working this year to identify standards and assessments for career & technical education programs. As such, much of the Department's work has been to create a process for local standards development, and to clarify what local standards might look like in career & technical education.

Three types of CTE Standards

Part of our standards-development process outlines that there are really three kinds of standards for career & technical education programs in Minnesota: state standards and measures, district standards, and program standards.

State Standards and Measures were developed to meet federal requirements of the Carl Perkins Act and are the basis for career & technical education program approval at the state level. State standards define what should be in place for a program to be successful:

1. The district will provide learners with opportunities to gain employability and career skills.

("MDE UPDATE", continued on page 3)

2. The district will involve volunteer community members/partnerships, including parents/guardians, in an advisory capacity.
3. The district will encourage learners to develop long-range plans and personal portfolios or plans.
4. The district will support the development of career & technical education curriculum and teaching/learning techniques.
5. The district will develop and maintain teaching/learning environments that will maximize learning for students in career & technical education programs.
6. The district supports a coordinated program of school-, work-, and service-based learning opportunities (including connecting activities).
7. The district will provide equal access and necessary support to diverse and special populations to ensure participation in all career & technical education components.
8. The district will use appropriately licensed teachers and will have an approved career & technical education proposal on file at the Department of Education.
9. The district will assess the degree of implementation of standards 1 – 8.

District Standards define how a career & technical education program operates in a district and clarify the common components of all career & technical education offerings. In the model developed by the Department, district standards show how each class will address career development, technological literacy, and workplace skills, and how the district will address work-based learning, as well as identify the extent of its career & technical education program – what courses will be offered and how does this array reflect both the needs of the community and the individual needs of the district's students for career development.

Lastly, *program standards* define the content of each career & technical education program as well as what students will learn and how they will demonstrate their attainment of the course content. We suggest that program standards follow the same format as standards being developed in other curricular areas: strand (course), sub-strand (unit within a course), standard (content to be addressed), and benchmark (measurement of attainment of the content).

CTE Curriculum Frameworks

To assist districts with the development of career & technical education standards and assessments, the Department has recently completed a multi-year effort in the development and release of curriculum frameworks for career & technical education. These frameworks have been designed to link the state's academic standards with nationally recognized curriculum standards and, where available, industry skill standards. More than 100 teachers from throughout the state and representing all major areas of career & technical education were involved in the development of these curriculum frameworks. The frameworks, encompassing more than 700 pages of information, are available on the MDE web site, http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_adult_frame.htm, and one CD copy will be made to each school district in the coming weeks.

CTE-QTN

Another tool to assist school district in the development of standards is the identification and training of the Career & Technical Education Quality Teaching Network (CTE-QTN). The CTE-QTN is a group of 24 career & technical educators who participated in a 3-day training session earlier this summer and are now available to work with districts in their development of standards. Please contact Debra Blahosky at the Department (651-582-8334) for more information or to link to one of the CTE-QTN members.

CTE Licensure

Discussion continues in the Department regarding the delivery of academic content standards in career & technical education. There is likely to be much more discussion as the year progresses. For now, the word to school districts is not to make hasty staffing decisions, but to let the process work. Highly Qualified Teacher provisions under the federal No Child Left Behind amendments do not take effect for most Minnesota school districts until the 2006-07 school year, and for rural Minnesota school districts until the 2007-08 school year.

Paraprofessionals in CTE

A recent change in Minnesota law allows school districts to use paraprofessionals in career & technical education programs for learners with disabilities. Previously districts needed to hire licensed technical tutors– a non-teaching license that is no longer available – to receive funding for these positions.

If a district decides to use paraprofessionals in its career & technical education programs, those individuals must meet the paraprofessional requirements under No Child Left Behind – generally 2 years of postsecondary education or its equivalent, or passing a test demonstrating proficiency in reading and mathematics at the level of two years of college.

EDRS changes

The state data collection system for career & technical education programs for students with disabilities has been completely redesigned. This EDRS (electronic data reporting) system collects necessary information to make aid payments to school districts that operate career & technical education programs that are specifically designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The old EDRS system was dying and caused many headaches for districts. We are confident that all will appreciate the new system's flexibility and accuracy.

Work-Based Learning Q/A Coming Soon

In recent years the Department has been answering many questions about work-based learning programs, especially around teacher loads, credit assignment, and labor laws/regulations. The Department produced the "Connecting Youth to Work-Based Learning" document and CD a few years ago, and this publication remains the most definitive guide to work-based learning programs in Minnesota. This fall, however, we plan to release a Q/A sheet outlining some of the frequently asked questions and our responses to those sticky issues that seem to arise when districts extend their learning environments into the community. Watch for this Q/A this fall.

CTE/Special Education Clarification

Discussion continues in the Department to clarify when a district is operating a transition-disabled program (career & technical education program for students with disabilities), and when a district may offer transition services to students with disabilities as a part of its special education programming. As a general rule, if the student is in an employment relationship and/or child labor laws apply, the student should be in an approved transition-disabled (CTE) program. Watch for a clarifying document to come out this fall.

GWDC

The Governor's Workforce Development Council (GWDC) is a group that provides advice to the Governor and state agencies on workforce and education issues. Leah Schwachtgen, agriculture educator from Montevideo High School, serves as a member of this 31-person council. The GWDC has been particularly active over the past two years, and is soon to release its Investment Inventory, an advisory document for the Governor and Legislature around education and workforce development. The Inventory makes some general recommendations pertaining to support for career & technical education as part of the state's workforce development inventory. Watch for the final copy of the Investment Inventory soon on the web site of the Governor's Workforce Development Council at <http://www.gwdc.org/>.

Perkins Reauthorization and new State Plan

Congress continues to make slow, but steady, progress toward the reauthorization of the federal Carl Perkins Act, but Minnesota is not waiting for Congress before it starts the process of developing a new State Plan for Career & Technical Education. The last State Plan was developed six or seven years ago with the involvement of thousands of citizen stakeholders throughout the state.

The new State Plan will probably involve nearly as many as we redefine career & technical education and how the state will use both state and federal resources to promote quality programming at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

We will undoubtedly involve MnACTE in this process, so I encourage your active participation with your state career & technical education organization as the new State Plan takes shape.

MnACTE Dates to Remember

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|-----------------------------|--|
| February 17-18, 2005 | MACTE/MnACTE Winter Conference, Radisson– City Center, St. Paul |
| March 6-8, 2005 | National Policy Seminar Washington, D.C. |
| July 10-12, 2005 | ACTE Region III Leadership Conference, Indianapolis, IN |

Greetings From Your ACTE Region III Representative

By Lloyd A. Petri
Office of the Chancellor
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Program Director, Perkins

First, a reminder to all our members! When you become an ACTE member, you are automatically a member of one of five geographic regions within the United States. Minnesota, along with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin make up Region III. I have had the privilege of being Minnesota's Region III Representative over the past few years. And for that, I thank each and every one of you.

I'd like to thank our very own Dan Smith for his leadership over the past three years as he retires the title of Region III Vice President. As our Region III VP from 2001 – 2003, Dan added an extremely strong voice to our ACTE National Board of Directors. Believe me when I say that he took visionary and at times unpopular positions with the Board, however, he always supported his ideas with input and conviction from our Region III membership.

I'd also like to welcome and introduce to you our new Region III Vice President, Bryan Albrecht. Bryan is deeply involved with representing our Region as the

ACTE under goes a new reorganization at the national level. Bryan will be our VP from 2004- 2007.

On Monday, August 23, 2004, Region III Reps. from the other five states and I evaluated and rated the Region III nominees for 2004 in the following categories:

- ◆ Outstanding Teacher in Community Service
- ◆ Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Outstanding Career and Technical Educator
- ◆ Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher

I would like to remind you that in 2003-2004, Minnesota nominees captured ALL the Region III awards!!

I would like to remind and encourage you to attend the 2004 ACTE National Convention and Career Tech Expo. It will be held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada from December 9-11. To find out more information about this, visit the ACTE website at: www.acteonline.org.

("THOUGHTS", continued from page 1)

Minnesota Response to ACTE Restructuring (Drafted 8/2/04)

Minnesota ACTE agrees with Missouri that there are other ways to resolve the financial problems being experience by ACTE. We believe that it is essential to gauge the impact of the additional \$30 requested of members before making hasty decisions.

Minnesota ACTE emphatically supports the sentiment that is necessary to see the results of the 2004 Conference in Las Vegas. Given that this is a two-year commitment with NAAE to host a joint conference in 2004 and 2005, time is needed to allow the scenario to play out. This would give a more accurate assessment as to the success of the venture, or the need for changes. It will also allow for more member input.

Minnesota ACTE does not agree with selling the ACTE building. While this building is not our identity as an association, it is the one remaining capital asset.

Minnesota ACTE agrees that Regions should stay as they are. We believe this issue has been addressed in the modified restructuring plan.

Minnesota ACTE believes that the Divisions are a critical part of ACTE and provide the association with a distinction from Tech Prep. We further believe that the reorganization plan does significant damage to the divisions, and we are respectfully in opposition to Jan Bray's opinion on this issue.

Minnesota ACTE agrees with Missouri that big business can be a part of our organizations, but not at the expense of members. We also agree that declining membership is not just an ACTE problem, but a problem that is being experienced by most professional organizations due to teacher retirements.

We are greatly concerned that ACTE as a professional association is moving away from being a representative body of its members.

Submitted to Region III Rep. Bryan Albrecht (9/04)

MTEA: Who We Are and What We Do

By Steve Ullrich, MTEA Past President

The Minnesota Technology Education Association works cooperatively with the Department of Education to develop teacher's licensure, program standards and other matters of mutual concern. We were also instrumental in passing legislation to have state universities review their entrance requirements regarding technology.

MTEA networks with organizations like SciMath Minnesota, MnACTE, the Minnesota High Technology Association and the Minnesota Tooling and Machining Association to promote teaching about technology. We also sponsor student competitions and workshops for technology teachers and student organizations.

The MTEA was instrumental in advocating for inclusion of technology as a Minnesota graduation outcome in the Profile of Learning and continues to work for the inclusion of Standards for Technological Literacy within Minnesota's Academic Standards.

MTEA provides up to date information through our web site at www.mtea.net, and publishes a top-flight journal packed with articles, resources and all the latest news in Minnesota education. The MTEA Journal is distributed three times a year to all MTEA members. A registration form is posted on the web.

The MTEA sponsors a fall conference – the single best place to find out what is going on in teaching technology with presentations, demonstrations and commercial vendors. Our next conference will be held October 1 & 2, 2004. Registration information is posted on our web site.

We recognize teachers for their accomplishments with awards for outstanding teachers, programs, 25-year awards and retiree awards.

In 1992, MTEA hosted the ITEA International Conference.

The Minnesota Technology Education Association focuses on what is of value to students. We support teachers in the field. We are dedicated to local and national technology organizations. We make a difference in the quality of education and the future of our students.



Busy Year for FACSEd

By Mary Levinski, FACSEd President-Elect

Members of FACSEd (Family and Consumer Sciences in Education) have been busy this past year getting ready for their state conference as well as planning for the national conference to be held in Minneapolis in June of 2005. We had a very successful conference this year. A new change in the date of the conference from October to August allowed for many more teachers to participate. Keynote speaker, Linda Matson started the conference by updating us on the "No Child Left Behind" and how FACS can support these new standards. Felicia Bush also addressed the group on nutrition related issues and Marlys Bucher shared legislative updates from the Department of Education. Overall, the conference was very successful with the most attendees since 1998. Other happenings for FACS:

- ◆ Held networking meetings for FACS teachers upon request throughout the year and will be looking to host again this fall when school starts. For information on hosting a networking meeting contact a member on the FACSEd board or email me at mary.levinski@isd.47.org.
- ◆ In April the state association held their annual meeting in Mankato, where our President Karen Smith was honored as MN FACS Teacher of the Year.
- ◆ New officers began in June. Karen Smith, President; Mary Levinski, President-Elect; Maxine Peterson, Past President; Heidi Johnson, Secretary; Marsha Chizek, Treasurer; Beth Smith, Program Chair; Christy Larson and Betty Brandt, Program-Elect; Sara Jane Strecker and Jane O'Connell, Membership; Norma Baker and Marianne Rana, Newsletter; and Julene Swenson, Legislative Contact.
- ◆ In June, a number of members attended the national meeting in San Diego, California. What an incredible experience. The tour of homes in Tijuana, Mexico was fabulous and probably the highlight for the trip. Also, Karen Smith was honored as one of the nation's Top Ten teachers of the year.
- ◆ The summer months had us preparing for the conference in Sauk Rapids and planning for the state fair booth.
- ◆ Anyone interested in participating in FACSEd, contact me at the email address above.

MnACTE/SNP Activities

By Lu Ann Tauer

MnACTE/SNP (Special Needs Personnel) has been very busy in 2004. We changed our membership renewal system to twice a year, March and October. This is to try to prevent a lapse in membership on years when we are not hosting our winter conference. The new schedule looks like it will help a lot.

In April, Diane Miller from MDE attended our board meeting and updated us on what is happening at the state level. In May, we held our monthly meeting in Faribault to include more of our members who are coming in from the southern part of the state. Once a year, MnACTE/SNP tries to hold an out state board meeting to encourage members to attend who may not usually be able to travel to the metro area.



Each year MnACTE/SNP sponsors up to six student grants which are given to applicants who have demonstrated exceptional determination to overcome barriers due to a disability. This year there are four recipients: Sarah Berg from District 287 VECTOR Program, nominated by Kathy Lettas-Cornwall; Danny Collier from Richfield Transition Plus Program, nominated by Lu Ann Tauer; Anthony Holker from District 882 Monticello, nominated by Kim Landecker and Blong Yang from St. Paul Transition Plus Program, nominated by Karin Tomervick. We are all very proud of our winners!

MACTA News

By Arlin Melgaard, MACTA President

MACTA and MNACTE members made CTE funding presentations with both the house/senate K-12 Education Finance Committees in March. These presentations were very successful, and MACTA plans to seek state funding for CTE programs during the 2005 legislative session. This would be in addition to the current CTE levy.

Our Spring Conference was held in Duluth in late April. The membership adopted a revised constitution and by-laws, and Chris Miller, Oakland Vocational Center, Cambridge, MN was elected President.

Our Fall Conference 2004 is scheduled for September 23-24 at Kavanaugh's Resort, Gull Lake. Alisha Hyslop, ACTE, Washington, D.C. will be presenting information regarding reauthorization of Perkins / Tech Prep. This conference is a great professional development opportunity for Perkins Coordinators, Tech Prep Coordinators, and MnACTE members.

We are in the process of planning a joint Winter Conference in March 2005 with MnACTE. This will be another professional development opportunity for both MACTA and MnACTE members. Plans are to invite our new Education Commissioner, Alice Seagren as our banquet speaker for a joint MACTA / MnACTE awards ceremony.

High School students from Independent District 287 recently designed a new MACTA website. Check it out at www.macta.net. On our site you will find membership information, conference information, a membership directory, and other news for Minnesota's CTE community.

2005 MACTE/MnACTE Winter Conference

By Robert Lindgren

Mark your calendars for February 17 & 18, 2005 to attend this year's joint conference for teachers and administrators of career and technical education at the Radisson-City Center, St. Paul. We are planning four breakout sessions of hot topics for each group. One session for the educators will be an opportunity to hear Cliff Vrieze, ACTE's 2004 Teacher of the Year. ACTE Executive Director, Jan Bray, will present the afternoon keynote address by taking a look at the national picture of career and technical education. That evening, the awards banquet will be held, which will include Alice Seagren, Minnesota Commissioner of Education, as the speaker. Friday will include legislative reports and remarks. There will also be the annual membership meeting during the conference. Attendees interested in visiting the Capitol and meeting with legislators are encouraged to do so on Friday.

The registration materials will be coming out shortly with more details, including information on lodging at the Radisson-City Center.

MBEI Notes

Dr. Jeanette Karjala, MBEI Representative

FALL MBEI CONVENTION

Northern Region members are preparing for the 2004 Minnesota Business Educators Incorporated (MBEI) Fall Convention around the theme, “*The ‘Northern Experience’—Adventures in Business and Technology.*”

The Convention is slated for October 7-9, 2004, at the Northern Inn in Bemidji, Minnesota.

For information about the convention, check the MBEI web site: <http://mbei.gen.mn.us>.



Break-out session topics include E-Folio, E-Learning, Technology Integration and Applications in the Classroom, Articulation Agreements, Service Learning, Introduction to Website Development with Macromedia Dreamweaver, Tablet Computer Technology, E-BIZ, iMovie 4, Licensure Issues, Retirement Planning, Creative Teaching Ideas, and Round Table Networking by Subject Area.

Speakers at the convention include Larry Scheiderich, a comedic, motivational presenter; Past Delta Pi Epsilon National President, Dr. Marcia Anderson; and Larry Aitken, an educator and a motivational speaker from Bemidji, MN.

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA

Thirty-six Minnesota Secondary BPA Members placed in the top ten in their events at the 2004 BPA National Leadership Conference.

MINNESOTA AWARD RECIPIENTS IN 2003

Among the MBEI award recipients in 2003 are the following individuals: Jean Kyle, MN State Director of Business Education, for Distinguished Service – MBEI Member; William Richards, a high school principal, for Distinguished Service – Other; Mary Flesberg,

Outstanding Business Educator – Secondary; Dr. Ann Peterson, Outstanding Business Educator – Post-Secondary; Kristin Cherveney, University of Minnesota student, for Teaching Major Awards (Scholarships).

Serving as student representative on the MBEI Executive Board is Scott Wojtanowski, Winona State University student - a business teaching major.

NORTH CENTRAL BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

For information about and registration forms for the North Central business Education Association (NCBEA) convention, check the following site: <http://www.iowatelecom.net/~elwoods/>. The theme for the convention is “*All Roads Lead to Business Education.*” Among the NCBEA states are Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The NCBEA Convention break-out sessions include topics such as Office XP—Mix, Mingle, & Integrate, Soft Skills in the Classroom, Don’t Get Voted Off the Island, Smoother Sailing with Business Etiquette & Professional Dress, Talking and Tapping, Tips for Success and Assessment, A Virtual Activity for Entrepreneurship Curriculum, Captioning—Bringing the Word to the Hearing Impaired, Online Keyboarding, Leadership and Legislation, Ethics, Digital communication, and Surviving the Challenge.

The Keynote Speaker is Patricia McGill, an adjunct College and University Professor, speaker, and trainer. An energizing and engaging person, she motivates those to whom she presents.

HOE Happenings

- ◆ The HOSA Board held a successful summer workshop on July 27th. We set new goals and objectives for next year.
- ◆ Candy Rice, State HOSA advisor, is now on the National HOSA board. HOSA board members are anxious to support new and seasoned Health Occupations teachers.
- ◆ The Fall Health Occupations Educators’ Conference will be held October 7-8 at Cragun’s Resort. A full agenda is planned, so it’s important for all teachers to attend.
- ◆ The HOSA Fall Delegate Assembly, again sponsored by Allina, will be held at the Airport Hilton on November 1-2.
- ◆ The HOSA Spring Leadership conference is April 13-15, 2005.



OFFER TO MENTOR A NEW TEACHER



Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE)

2004-05 Membership Application *(can be filled in on the computer and printed out)*

 Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. New Member? Yes No

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Last 4 Digits Social Security Number _____

Home Telephone Number

Daytime Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-Mail

Membership Plans

Check all that apply

MnACTE/ACTE	\$100.00	_____
MnACTE	\$ 40.00	_____
Business/Community Partnership	\$ 50.00	_____
Retired MnACTE	\$ 10.00	_____
Retired MnACTE/ACTE	\$ 26.00	_____
Student MnACTE	\$ 10.00	_____
Student ACTE	\$ 10.00	_____
State Division Dues (see below)	\$ _____	_____
TOTAL (Make check to MnACTE)	\$ _____	

State division membership:	
Business - \$20.00	
FACS - \$20.00	
Health - \$20.00	
Special Needs - \$40.00	
Technical Education - \$25.00	

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MnACTE Website

<http://www.acteonline.org/about/states/MN.cfm>

This newsletter will be available at that site along with periodic update information from MnACTE.

Visit the site periodically.

Our plan is to distribute the next newsletter electronically via E-mail to each of the members. It will also be available on the website. Therefore we need to be sure we have your current E-mail address.

Please send an E-mail to Cliff Vrieze at

vrieze@frontiernet.net

so he can add your name to a listserv that we will be assembling for the membership.