

October 2009

## *Collaboratively Speaking*

### ***Writer's Cramp or Writer's Block***

I am not sure from which I suffer, but here it is late October and I am finally writing to you. Perhaps it's neither but merely the incredible rush of events and demands that flow through our offices from mid-August to mid-October. Nevertheless, I have been remiss in not keeping you posted through my occasional messages. So, here we go!

**Legislation** Julie Cox and I continue to monitor closely and advocate for helpful legislation. In June, Dorsey Yearley, John Fletcher, and Joan Schuman testified on behalf of our bill filed by Representative Paul Donato to clarify your authority to hire and fire Collaborative staff. They also testified at that time against the bill filed by Representative Lida Harkins to grant professional teacher status to licensed Collaborative employees. Neither bill has been reported out of the Joint Committee on Education as of this date. Julie and I have developed a good working relationship with House Chair Marty Walz and Senate Chair Robert O'Leary. I recently had the opportunity to attend a reception for Representative Walz hosted by Speaker DeLeo. Hopefully, we are gradually gaining some visibility with legislative leaders.

**Regional Gathering** I was pleased with our meeting this week with our colleagues from throughout New England. I found the presentations and discussions informative and helpful. I appreciate your willingness to travel to West Springfield. I was struck by the fact that some of you commented that the trip was not as lengthy as you presumed. I believe it is important that on occasion we get to visit each other's programs. For those of you who were able to attend, I am sure you were as impressed as was I with the breadth of programs and services that Lower Pioneer provides.

**Annual Report** I trust that you will find our first annual report informative and useful. Caroline spent a lot of time helping me in its creation, and Lucia Foley from HEC was most insightful and creative in its design and production. We have ample copies, and I hope you arrange delivery with Caroline.

**Readiness Centers and District School Assistance Centers** I am pleased that many of you have been included as partners in the creation of the Readiness Centers and will be key providers in the DSACs. As I stated earlier, we are slowly gaining traction in the minds of key policy makers and legislators. The work that you do is beginning to be noticed and considered as policy initiatives are implemented.

### **Meeting Reminders**

**MOEC Board meetings:** November 2 and December 14 at The Education Collaborative

**MASC/MASS Annual Conference:** November 18-21 in Hyannis, MA

**AESA National Conference:** December 2-5 in Austin, TX

**MOEC General Membership:** January 11 at The Education Cooperative