

# SHINE

Wisconsin Conference Constituency  
October 5, 2014



# SHINE

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a delegate of the thirty-sixth Wisconsin Conference constituency session. This booklet was created to provide a brief written report from the conference administration and departmental leaders.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

As we review the growth and challenges of the past four years, and look to the years ahead, pray that the love of Jesus will shine even more brilliantly across our conference. We desire every Seventh-day Adventist believer in Wisconsin to have the encouragement and passion needed to light up their neighborhoods with the love of Jesus.

# President



**Mike  
Edge**

Have you noticed? Look around. God is active, interested and working among His people! While the world appears to be descending into chaos, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wisconsin has unmistakable signs that God is using people like you and me to hasten His coming.

As we reflect on the past four years, we rejoice over the 940 people who joined our conference family through baptism and profession of faith. These people are here because of you. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you introduced them to Jesus, and led them to a fuller relationship with Him. You represented Him in your friendships, lifted up His Word in your Bible studies, and preached Him in your evangelistic meetings and other forms of outreach.

On average, pastors and lay members led 67 evangelistic events each of the

past four years. Large, area-wide meetings attracted hundreds. Small home meetings met with a dozen or fewer. Whether in large groups or small, God continues to use any person committed to Jesus and willing to share His light. Two new churches were organized since our last constituency session: the Emmanuel Church in Kenosha, and the Waukesha Hispanic Church. New mission groups are meeting in West Bend and Lake Mills. We also have nine companies as beacons of light around Wisconsin. Soon, under the leadership of church planting coordinator, Lisa Isensee, they will also orga-



nize as full-fledged churches. Let's continue spreading the light of Christ as we move into the many Wisconsin cities without an Adventist church presence.

Whether a lay member or pastor, your committed service is essential to fulfilling the gospel commission in Wisconsin. That's why we've been eager to provide a variety of lay training events. The Church Ministries Institute provided training in witnessing, Bible studies, youth ministry, and many more practical skills. The Lay Pastor training empowered volunteers to step up and become more active in evangelism and leadership. Building Healthy Churches events also inspired and equipped congregations to maximize their use of available resources.

Local church leadership is looking different, too. Three churches are now "lay-led-pastor-coached." The primary pas-

tors of the Beaver Dam, Watertown, and Evansville churches are laymen, coached and supported by a district pastor. As more churches sprout up across Wisconsin, you may see more lay people asked to lead out as pastors in these new congregations.

In 2012 a group of students and staff from Wisconsin Academy "adopted" the struggling Watertown church. Students led Sabbath Schools, preached sermons, gave testimonies, and went door-to-door seeking people interested in studying the Bible. With diligent efforts of lay-pastor Thom Foll and others, the Watertown church is now a thriving congregation.

The Hmong work is also expanding. In addition to the congregation in Madison, a second group of Hmong believers now worships in Milwaukee. This congrega-

tion, formed in 2012, continues to grow strong as members of this large immigrant group shine for Jesus. Much credit is due Pastor Ko Saelee as he faithfully serves our Hmong communities.

One-third of our baptisms each year take place in Hispanic churches. Under the leadership of Hispanic Coordinator Evelio Miranda, each of the ten Hispanic churches and companies holds at least two evangelistic series every year.

While some groups are just beginning to shine their lights, others churches shine steadily year after year. Two churches in Wisconsin celebrated major milestones during the past four years. In 2011, the Oakland church celebrated its 150th anniversary. If you're good with math, you might have already figured out that pioneer Adventists were worshipping in the Oakland church before Wisconsin Conference, or the General Conference, were

officially organized. The Superior church marked their 100th anniversary in 2013. They've been meeting in the same building for a century now.

As God's work expands, the printed page has had its role to play. For two summers, students in the Milwaukee Magabook program went door-to-door with volumes of gospel truth. Their work led to many Bible studies. The conference and local churches also hired Bible workers/trainers to help members share the light of God's Word in their communities. As a result, dozens of Bible studies are in progress each week. In addition, your love for Jesus led you to give out over 60,000 copies of The Great Hope to the people of Wisconsin. It is impossible to know the impact of these efforts now. Only in heaven will we see the results of your faithful work.

Along with the tried and true, we're trying new methods of sharing Jesus' love.

In Wausau, members of the Shepherd's House church are renting a storefront. Each week, they offer music, fellowship, and food at what they call NuLifeSong Cafe. They make friends in a comfortable environment and use these connections to lead people to Jesus. It's just one of the innovative outreach methods being tried by committed members in Wisconsin.

Drive by the Wisconsin Academy campus, and you'll notice The Lighthouse Thrift Store and clothes bundling business, opened in 2013. Nearby, 20 acres of Wisconsin Academy farmland produce tomatoes, pumpkins, gourds, sweet corn, strawberries, and other vegetable crops. These new industries, under the leadership of Jerry and Michelle Martin, provide

meaningful labor for academy students and help defray their school expenses.

Yes, God is working in Wisconsin, and much of God's work has been happening quietly as you faithfully serve. You've given Bible studies. You've prayed with a friend. You've taught children's Sabbath schools, cleaned bathrooms, and cooked meals for the homeless. You've been faithful with your money, your time, and your energy. While sometimes unnoticed in reports like this, it's your faithfulness in the day-to-day routine of life that demonstrates Jesus living in your heart. Thank you.

As you read this booklet I invite you to commit yourself again to Jesus. Every victory and every success is His. We thank Him for what He has done during the past four years, and pray for the Holy Spirit's power as we continue to let our light shine.



# Executive Secretary/ Treasurer



**F. Brian  
Stephan**

## **Executive Secretary**

The executive secretary of the Wisconsin Conference works closely with the president in visioning, supporting, overseeing and directing the ministries of the church in Wisconsin.

The executive secretary's duties include acting as custodian of records and policies including keeping official minutes of important meetings and proceedings. The executive secretary is also responsible for the maintenance of personnel records and issuing of appropriate credentials and licenses to workers. Duties also include processing of retirements as well as maintaining and reporting to higher organizations membership records and other statistics pertaining to our conference.

We began this past four-year period on January 1, 2010 with 7,322 members. Over the past 4 years we have had 940

baptisms & professions of faith, 276 deceased, 385 dropped or missing, 831 transferring into our conference and 901 transferring out. This leaves us with a membership of 7,531 as of December 31, 2013. We had a net gain of 209 members over this four-year period. As of December 31, 2013 Wisconsin Conference has 67 churches, 9 companies, 10 elementary schools and 1 Academy.

## **Treasurer**

The conference treasurer is responsible for the safeguarding of all funds received and disbursing them in harmony with policy as voted by the Executive Committee. Just as the "great recession"

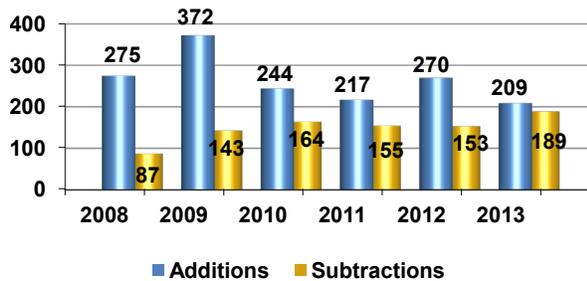


has had an effect on our state and our member's households, it has also affected the operations of our conference. We are prayerfully working through changes at both the conference and the academy level to see that the mission of the church is accomplished in as efficient a manner as possible. Our goal is to rebuild dwindling reserves while at the same time providing resources to churches and schools enabling them to accomplish God's will in the spreading of the gospel.

#### Treasury Department Staff

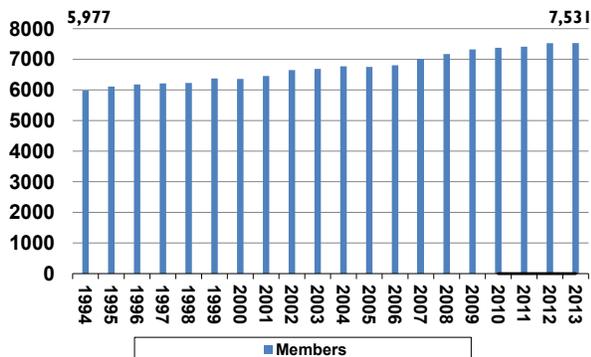
Our Treasury Department staff is entrusted with managing the resources God has provided to advance the mission here in Wisconsin. They carefully follow professional accounting standards as well as the policies voted by the NAD. Your conference financial records are professionally audited annually assuring accurate statements and recordkeeping.

#### Baptism & Professions -vs.- Deceased and Removed 2008-2013



The above graph show additions to membership by baptism & profession of faith (blue bar) compared to subtractions to membership by death or removed (gold bar) between the years of 2008-2013.

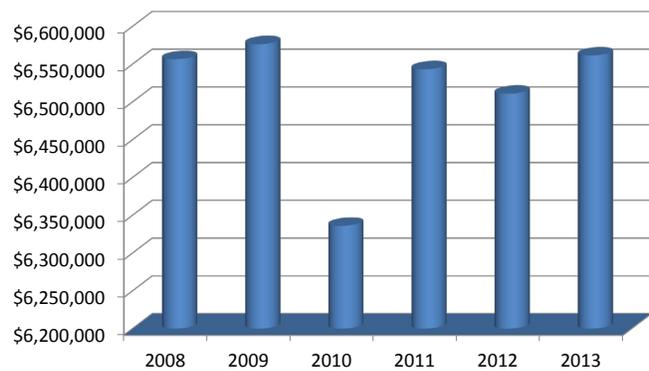
#### 20 Year Ending Membership



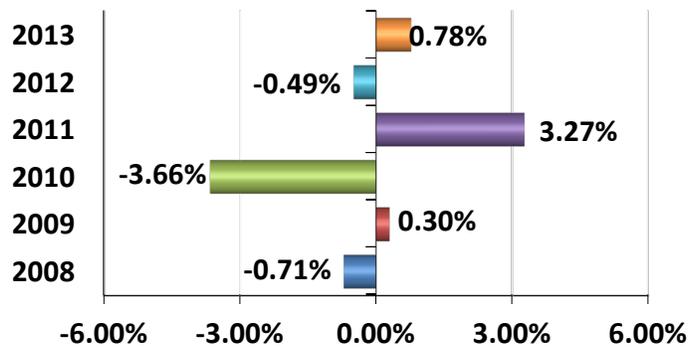
Membership trends over the past 20 years (1994-2013)

Tithe given from 2008-2013. You can see the effects of the "great recession". Our tithe is just returning to 2008/09 levels.

**Chart A: Tithe History  
2008-2013**

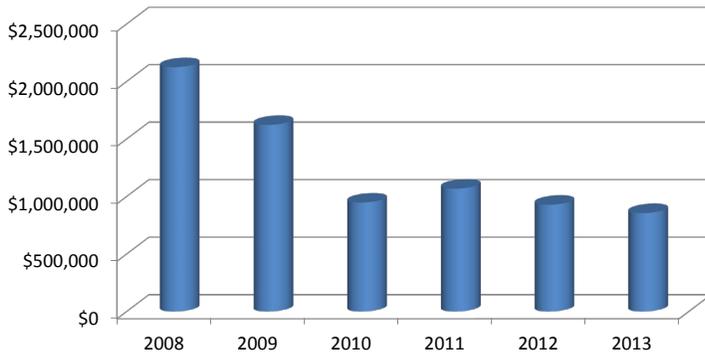


**Chart B: Tithe Increase/Decrease  
December 31**



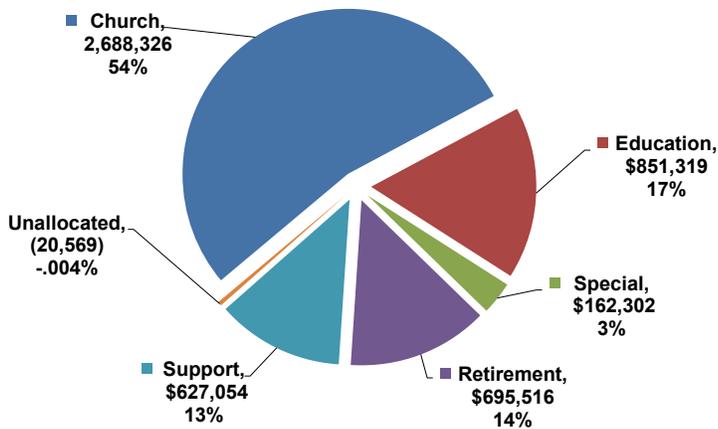
Gains/losses in tithe over the period 2008-2013. All added up it comes to a (.51%) loss over the six-year period.

**Chart C: Conference Net Assets  
2008-2013**



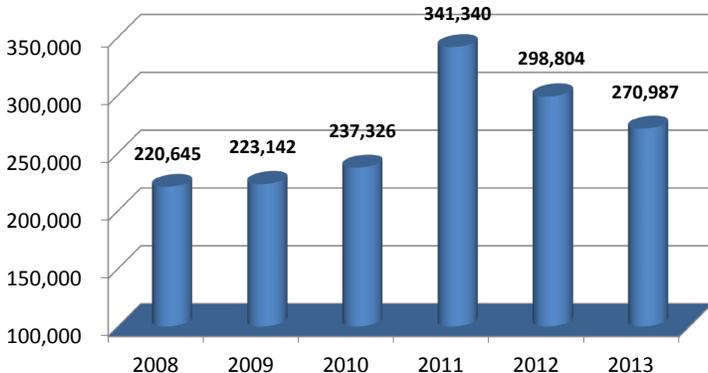
This graph shows the net assets of the conference for the years 2008-2013. Flat income with steadily rising costs (even with reductions in staff) has caused the “reserves” to dwindle. Some of the lowering of reserves was a result of building projects completed during this time period.

**Chart D: Tithe Distribution For 2013  
\$5,004,248**



Tithe distribution for 2013. Note that this is the net amount we keep after we share our tithe with the world church per NAD policy. Expenses within categories are as follows:  
**Church** - Pastors & Bible worker’s salaries, evangelism, youth camp, camp ground, camp meeting, personal ministries, church planting  
**Education** - K-10 teacher salaries, Wisconsin Academy subsidies, Andrews University subsidy  
**Special** - Communications (Lamp letter & Lake Union Herald), Trust Services  
**Retirement** - Pension subsidy to NAD retirement  
**Support** - Conference salaries, insurance, office building expense

**Chart E: Wisconsin Budget  
2008-2013**



Giving to Wisconsin Budget. This offering stays 100% in Wisconsin. The two main ministries it supports are Wisconsin Academy and evangelism. Special appeals in 2011 and 2013 have resulted in a major increase in support for this important offering.

# Ministerial/ Personal Ministries Director



**James  
Fox**

## **Ministerial**

The Ministerial Department serves the pastors of the Wisconsin Conference as well as the churches. We serve the pastors by providing:

- Professional in-services
- Mentorship
- Special support for those who are new in ministry
- Assistance in conflict resolution

We also provide personal, family and career counseling. We serve the churches by:

- Filling vacancies when pastors move
- Lending assistance in conflict resolution

The ministerial director is the pastor's pastor. In this person, pastors can have a sounding board for new ideas, a resource center for ministry materials and practices, and a friend who is available

for their personal concerns. They can also count on a colleague who will support them and be an advocate for them in personnel matters and conflict resolution. The conference president and I meet personally and privately with our pastors for at least two hours each year and more often when circumstances require it.

In normal years (when there is no General Conference Session), I invite our pastors to drive in for continuing education two times each year. In January and in August, the Ministerial Department provides 2-3 days of professional in-service for ministry development. These in-services focus on theological reflection, counseling, coaching, soul-win-



ning, and spiritual development. Each of our pastors need to be life-long learners who grow in their understanding and practice of ministry. In addition, the department schedules virtual pastors' meetings twice each year. This allows pastors to stay in their districts and invest a morning in a computer based meeting.

In 2013, we invited our pastoral families to a family enrichment weekend. This was not a training event - this was a weekend where the pastors and their families were ministered to. Dr. Claudio Consuegra, featured presenter for the weekend, remarked, "This strong support for pastoral families is a first here in North America. What a blessing."

In 2015, we will defer our August meeting in favor of attending a division-wide ministerial pre-session in Austin, Texas, for training and upgrading of skills. At the close of this ministerium, the General Conference session will open in San Antonio, Texas. This marks the first time that the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists is holding its own ministerial pre-session to the General Conference.

We also provide our pastors with a continuing education allowance. Pastors can use up to one week of time away from their districts for continued learning each year. There is even a modest fund available to reimburse some of their expenses in continuing their education. Pastors have used their continuing education time to pursue advanced training in counseling, preaching, Natural Church Development and in theological studies.

When there is a pastoral vacancy, the ministerial director works closely with the president to secure spiritual-minded, competent pastors for service in Wisconsin. We have been blessed by God with wonderful pastors here in Wisconsin and it is an honor to serve them.

**Personal Ministries** are the lifeblood of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We therefore labor to train and empower lay people for ministry. Here is a snapshot of the emphasis during the last four years.

**2010** our conference began a G.L.O.W. tract ministry. As people distributed tracts and encouraging Scripture flyers, they were Giving Light to Our World. Hundreds of people distributed tens of thousands of tracts. We also began a conference-wide emphasis on ShareHim evangelism and

trained approximately 25 lay people to do ShareHim meetings.

**2011** we began a C.M.I. emphasis. The Church Ministries Institute is a regional training day wherein conference personnel provided training in key ministry areas such as lay pastor ministry, small groups, By His Word Bible studies, and more. CMI mobilized scores of workers for Christ.

**2012** we gave special emphasis to outreach ministries. We trained and equipped over 200 members to use By His Word DVD Bible studies, providing them the DVD and printed materials at no charge. We also trained over 60 members for ShareHim evangelism, equipping them with a free notebook computer and the ShareHim digital media. Elder Robert Folkenberg, Sr., Director of ShareHim, came to Wisconsin and prepared our pastors to be trainers in ShareHim evange-

lism, thus enabling them to train their own members.

**2013** we introduced no new programs. We supported the existing personal ministries and encouraged and supported lay workers.

The Lay Pastor Program is currently training over 35 workers for God. Pastoral ministry is complex and demands highly professional expertise and spiritual development. Our lay pastor candidates and graduates provide exemplary service to God and the churches by preaching, teaching, visiting, and evangelizing in the local church.

About nine years ago, the General Conference began to make funds available for new church plants. Under the *Global*

*Missions* umbrella, funds were available for new church plants. The grants are available only if detailed proposals are developed and applications are properly tendered. North America is now being recognized as a secular mission field needing special assistance. The following is a record of grants received:

Year	Amount Received
2010	\$22,000
2011	\$54,000
2012	\$44,000
2013	\$33,000

These funds have supported the Hmong work in Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Southside Church, the Monroe Church, the Madison Hispanic Company, Hispanic Churches in Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Delavan and many more. We received news that Wisconsin Conference was approved to receive \$88,800 in



special funding from the North American Division and the General Conference for this year.

**Evangelism**

As Jesus closed out His time on earth, He gave the gospel commission – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,” Matthew 28:19-20. In this Great Commission, Jesus gave emphasis to three verbs:

- Go
- Teach
- Baptize

In order to be faithful to this commission, we must **go** out and seek those who do not yet know Jesus or His message. We must then **teach** the Word of God to

people who are interested. When they have studied, prepared and made their decision, we **baptize** these new people and accept them into membership.

We have funded and approved 50-80 evangelistic meetings each year here in Wisconsin.

Year	Campaigns
2010	79
2011	57
2012	60
2013	73

In addition to these funded campaigns, we have commissioned many lay-led ShareHim campaigns. While these do not receive funding from the conference, they are a vital part of our soul-winning plan

with many baptized through these efforts.

Public evangelism does not stand alone from the other ministries of the church. Evangelistic meetings frequently are used of God to follow through on the decisions made at summer camp. Young people from our church schools have been prepared well for baptism by their teachers. They often fulfill their desire for baptism during public meetings. Without the personal work of individual members, public evangelism would fall short of fulfilling its mission.

Public evangelism in the Wisconsin Conference is a vibrant part of God’s plan to reach the world for Christ. Dedicated pastors and lay workers focus on seeking and saving the lost. God is glorified every time we faithfully follow the Great Commission.

# Education Superintendent



**Linda  
Rosen**

The mission of the Education Department is to provide Christ-centered resources, training, and guidance for teachers and school boards. The purpose is to help students come to know Jesus as their Savior and guide, develop confidence to stand with Jesus when temptation comes, and to help them find their niche in life. Discovering something that they can do well, aids the student in understanding what career God is calling them to.

**Growing in Jesus:** We have provided several conferences for teachers which have been designed to encourage them in their daily walk with the Lord. One joint conference for pastors and teachers focused on the Holy Spirit. It was a beautiful thing to see teachers and pastors praying together for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They also developed action plans for strengthening the understanding of

the baptism of the Holy Spirit in our churches and schools.

We provided teachers with the book *40 Days of Prayer*, and many partnered with fellow teachers for Bible study and prayer support. A study of the book, *Education*, by Ellen White, and also the book, *Christ's Method Alone*, by Dr. Philip Samaan, were additional contributions of ministry to the educators in our schools.

**Development and Training:** Teachers are lifelong learners. Sixty-five percent of our educational staff in Wisconsin hold Masters degrees. All teachers receive continuing education to



maintain certification. Research continues to show what works best in educating students and informs the training provided for teachers. Teachers annually receive instruction in dealing with blood borne pathogens. This school year we added CPR and first aid training to the list. The teachers enjoyed learning how to make and use lap books; adapting them for any subject and grade level, thus enhancing creativity and critical thinking.

Additional training includes:

- Recess and Physical Education activities for small schools
- Irlen Syndrome
- Teachers training to be teacher trainers
- Using new curriculum materials
- Special education training
- School board training
- School law

**Events for Students:** Several planned conference-wide activities and events

are planned to enrich the students' learning experience. There are the traditional events: Science Fair, Elementary Music Festival at Wisconsin Academy, and the Lake Union Lego Robotics Challenge.

Celebration of Nations, a new event, featured a variety of countries where students experienced the countries culture, food, games and art.

Outdoor education has become an annual event for 5th and 6th grade students. We held the first annual spelling bee for 3rd and 4th grade students during the 2013-2014 school year.

**Looking Forward:** As we review best practices in education, it is apparent that we need to continue to provide professional growth experiences for our teachers to help them facilitate students' academic, spiritual and physical growth. The

area of special education is an important concern for teachers; plans for additional training in this area have been made.

What differentiates Seventh-day Adventist education from public education is the ability teachers have to share Jesus with their students. It is imperative that we continue to provide resources and training for our teachers to encourage students to grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus.

Plans for the next four years include:

- Training and support for teachers as they connect instruction to academic standards
- Development of small teacher study groups to improve classroom instruction.
- Addition of specific events targeted at grades 1-2 and grades 7-8

Ideas for future events and activities include:

- Young authors, National Geography

Bee, Math Counts

- Focus on personal fitness and health for the development of healthy lifelong habits
- Provide opportunities for students to develop an employable skill upon graduating from the academy

### Wisconsin Academy

Maly Vang was raised in a dedicated Animist Hmong family in Milwaukee. A friend she met invited her to church and eventually sponsored her to attend Wisconsin Academy. During the school year, Maly had Bible studies and was baptized. She was afraid her parents would not understand, but she prayed about it, and her parents eventually supported her decision. "I am the the first and only Adventist in my family at this point," says Maly, now a senior at Wisconsin Academy. "I feel so blessed. It seems God has always put the right people in my life at the right time."

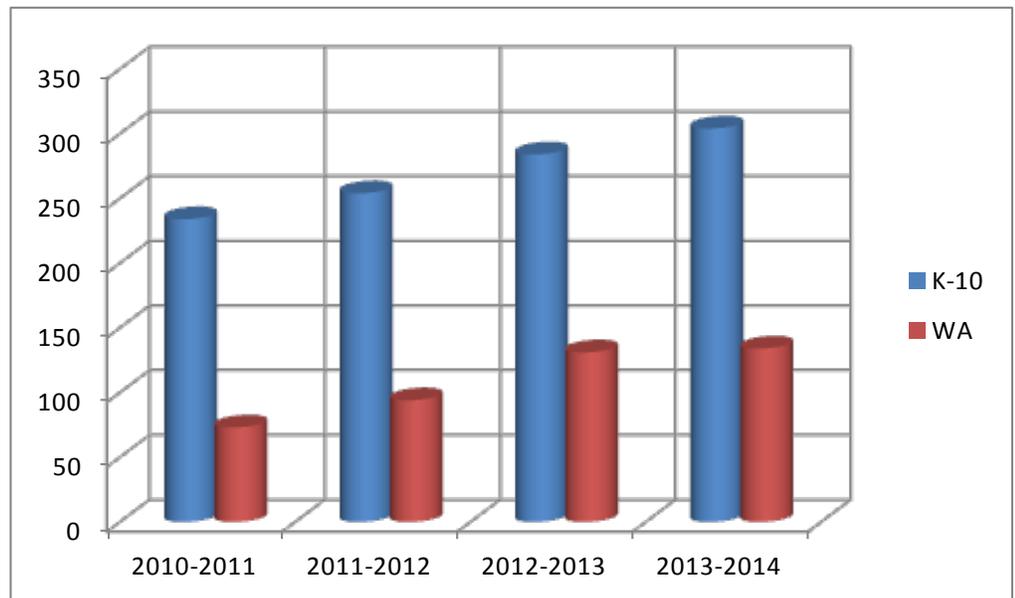
Through the years, Wisconsin Academy has been there at the right time for

hundreds of students. Whether serving teens from across the street or around the world, our mission remains clear. Wisconsin Academy exists to establish students' faith in God, build their commitment to a life of Christian service, and offer them training to best prepare them for successful careers.

At WA, we believe that a living faith relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing in the world. Because we are committed

to leading our students to a relationship with Jesus, we are careful to hire faculty and staff who are not only skilled in their areas, but also demonstrate what a living faith relationship with Jesus looks like. By watching Christian adults live their lives for Jesus, students come to understand how faith is lived in real life.

Wisconsin K-10 (blue) and Academy (red) Enrollment





Living for Christ inspires commitment to excellence in all areas of life. This commitment to excellence is reflected in recent updates to our academic curriculum and study program. We still offer the traditional courses, but the curriculum this fall has been expanded to include the following: 1) A new senior-level environmental science class earning dual credit through Andrews University, 2) A new junior-level emergency preparedness class that meets Adventist Community Services standards for training, and additionally adds certifications from Incident Command System through FEMA, 3) A full year of geography for freshmen rather than the standard half year. Study halls and lights out are strictly enforced in the dorms each evening to allow for maximum study time and the needed hours of sleep.

In addition to our academic curriculum, Wisconsin Academy organizes opportu-

nities for students to foster an attitude of service and compassion for their community. Each spring, students have the opportunity to serve on a mission project, either to another country or another region of the United States. Students have built churches, repaired orphanages, assisted medical clinics, conducted vacation Bible schools, helped out with relief work after natural disasters, and repaired damaged homes in places such as Nicaragua, Georgia, Panama, and Tennessee.

The majority of Wisconsin Academy students work several hours each day on campus jobs. In 2013, students began to be employed by The Lighthouse Thrift Store and the Wisconsin Academy farm. The farm grows, corn, tomatoes, kohlrabi, peppers, squash, strawberries, and a variety of other crops.

This summer, WA welcomed several new staff members to round out a strong educational team. As the 2014-2015 school year begins, we are renewing our commitment to establish faith, build commitment, and train for service. We are also determined to see WA not only have stable enrollment but also to grow in financial stability and long-term sustainability.

In a recent article in the Lamp Letter, senior Suny Gomez reflected on her experience at Wisconsin Academy. "Coming to WA was the best decision I possibly could have made," she says. "WA gave me a blank page, a new start, an opportunity to grow into the person God wants me to be in an environment where those around me would nurture, not hinder, my spiritual growth. I am extremely grateful for what WA has done for me and I can only hope to give back through my ministry so it can do the same for others."

# Youth Director



**Greg Taylor**

The mission of the Youth Department is to lead young people to Jesus and help them grow in spiritual leadership. By providing active, wholesome recreation and sessions of spiritual interaction and growth, we seek to provide an environment for spiritual development.

**Camp Wakonda:** Summer camp is an incredible form of evangelism. It provides opportunities for youth, families and friends to enjoy nature and fellowship with others while learning more about Christ's love. We have averaged 80 decisions for baptism each summer for the past three years. The young adults that work as camp staff are dedicated to helping campers fall in love with Jesus.

It has been a blessing to see how God has provided funds for campers to attend camp who otherwise would not have been able to come. We are tremendously grateful to the churches and individuals who give.

We are also grateful to the volunteers who have painted, picked up sticks, donated money, and even done electrical and plumbing work.

As a result of the growth and evangelistic effort, Camp Wakonda has received the Norm Middag Award of Excellence for the summers of 2012 and 2013. This is awarded by other camp professionals throughout the NAD as part of the Adventist Association of Camping Professionals. It is truly an honor.

We have an annual Youth Rally as well as an annual Winter Retreat at Camp Wakonda. These events bring our youth from



homeschool, public school and Wisconsin Academy together. In our first two years of the conference youth rally, we had over 550 in attendance. Our Winter Retreat has proved to be an incredible weekend of ministry, fellowship, and of course skiing. In February of 2013, we had over 90 youth and young adults attend the LUC Youth Congress, which focused on supporting and initiating ministries at the local church level.

Every year, nearly 5,000 people gather at Camp Wakonda for a 10-day camp meeting celebration. Each day is packed with uplifting meetings, children's programs, food and fellowship.

With the strong support of our Camp Manager, Scott Baker, and new camp secretary, Tammi Baker, we are building our off-season program. More and more constituents are taking advantage of this beautiful camp during the winter months.

The word "Wakonda" is a Lakota word

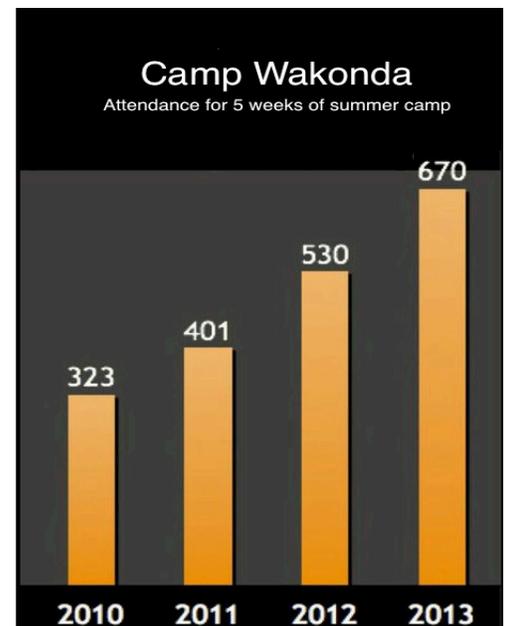
meaning "sacred" or "set apart." We believe this is very fitting for the incredible ministry that happens here.

**Pathfinders and Adventurers:** These two ministries mobilize and empower our young people for ministry in our conference. The youth are given an identity and function in the local church. They learn skills, go on campouts, participate in community service projects and much more. In 2014, fourteen clubs participated in the Pathfinder Bible Experience, a NAD program focused on Bible study and memorization. Each September we have our annual Pathfinder and Adventurer camporees. Also, a Pathfinder winter retreat was recently added in February with over 200 in attendance. A highlight of the year is our Pathfinder Fair held each May.

Wisconsin once again hosted the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh

August 11-16, 2014. Over 48,000 Pathfinders from across the globe come for an incredible ministry experience.

In the past three years our Pathfinders have grown from 14 clubs to 22 clubs. Our Adventurers have grown from 3 clubs to 14 clubs throughout the conference. We are so thankful for the men and women who give of their time to support these incredible youth ministries.



# Communication Director



**Juanita  
Edge**

Imagine you are driving to work and running late. Suddenly you see those dreaded brake lights; you are stuck in a traffic jam. Fifteen minutes later, you've moved a hundred feet! Communication is much like a city highway infrastructure for cars and trucks. It allows, ideas, concepts, and information to travel freely, or not so freely, between different parts of an organization. This concept is something we take very seriously here in the Wisconsin Conference.

It's easy to assume communication is simply a set of tools: newsletters, email, Facebook, bulletin inserts and such. But communication is actually much more than a collection of tools.

Over the past four years we have intentionally endeavored to expand and improve that communication infrastructure, so the ideas, concepts and information that drives the mission of our conference

can make their way quickly to all the Wisconsin constituents. Here are some of the things we've been working on.

**In 2010** we redesigned and re-focused our conference newsletter, the Lamp Letter. We created a tighter design to enable more pictures and content to be printed without adding pages and cost. We added a Financial Snapshot section to keep you updated on where our conference stands financially. And we have sought to share the stories of how God is working in the schools, churches, and lives of people in Wisconsin.

Our goal today is the same as it



was in the late 1800's when our conference newsletter began: to inform, inspire, and connect us as a family of Wisconsin Seventh-day Adventists.

**In 2011**, we updated and expanded the conference website. It now supports over 150 pages designed to aid the public and members alike in finding reliable information about what Adventists believe, how the church is organized, what ministries are offered, and how to locate Wisconsin pastors and teachers. There are job descriptions for church officers, a conference events calendar, news articles, and the ability to return tithe and give offerings online. Archive records are available of Lamp Letters, Camp Lamps, camp meeting sermons, and summer camp pictures and videos. Each department provides resource links to help people search the internet and find the information they need.

**In 2012** we realized the need for our conference to have a Facebook presence. Billions of people are on Facebook, it is free, and information can be spread almost instantaneously. The various conference departments, Wisconsin Academy, Camp Wakonda and other ministries are able to share pictures, news and updates as needed. Inspirational and educational posts such as our Adventist beliefs, Hope Sabbath School, and local highlights can be seen weekly. One constituent expressed, "I've never felt as connected with the conference as I have since the Facebook site started." We hope it has helped others sense a greater connection as well.

**In 2013**, we offered training in social media, newsletter production, and website development. Materials were presented on improving church bulletins, and on the proper use of the Seventh-day Adventist church logo. Updates were also added to the conference website and newsletter.

**At present**, we are working to collect member email addresses to facilitate faster and more economic personal communication. We are exploring effective ways churches can make use of their local TV, radio and newspaper. We are also making plans to train churches and schools in better methods of crisis management.

In communication, as in a highway system, new roadways and improvements are always needed. Our conference is a united body of believers with a message of hope and deliverance to communicate to an ever-changing world. We count it a privilege in the Communications Department, to provide avenues for connecting Wisconsin Adventists with the work and mission of their church, and to serve as a resource to departmental and local church leaders.

# Ministry Coordinators



**Juanita Edge**  
Health Ministries



**Mike Edge**  
ASI



**James Fox**  
Evangelism



**Titus Naftanaila**  
Stewardship,  
Religious Liberty



**Linda Rosen**  
Children's Ministries



**Ko Saelee**  
Hmong Ministries



**Alice Garrett**  
Community Services



**Lisa Isensee**  
Church Planting



**Evelio Miranda**  
Hispanic Ministries



**Cindy Stephan**  
Planned Giving and  
Trust Services



**Abraham Swamidass**  
Family Ministries



**Greg Taylor**  
Men's Ministries,  
Sabbath School

# Support Staff



**Bob Hillebert**  
Assistant Treasurer



**John Ramsey**  
Assistant Treasurer,  
Auditor



**Jean Schwark**  
Assistant Treasurer -  
Part Time



**Scott Baker**  
Camp Manager



**Jim Schwark**  
Conference Office  
Maintenance -  
Part Time



**Sandy Berg**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Cindy Stephan**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Bert Wredberg**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Tammi Baker**  
Camp Wakonda  
Secretary - Part Time



**Jane Gerndt**  
Clerk - Part Time



**Kim Taylor**  
Secretary - Part Time



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST® CHURCH