

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Participant's name) _____ of (School District) _____ recently participated in a two-day conference on October 14-15 2011, sponsored by the Illinois Association of Educational Office Professionals (IAEOP) at Stoney Creek Inn in East Peoria, IL. _____ has been with the (org.) _____ for ____ years in the position of _____.

IAEOP and NAEOP are the only state and national professional associations for educational office professionals. The organizations are dedicated to providing professional growth opportunities for their members and continue to work toward increased recognition for educational support staff as an important component of the education team. Both organizations recognize the unique role of educational office professionals and important contributions they make to the profession. The prestige, status, and credibility of IAEOP are enhanced by its affiliation with the National Association of Educational Office Professionals. IAEOP is also recognized by the Illinois Principals Association and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

Tour Ronald Reagan Museum, Eureka, IL

For early participants, this tour was offered on Friday, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. (Housed in the Donald B. Cerf Center). The Reagan Museum features a collection of over 2,000 items from President Reagan's student days at Eureka, his movie and television career, his eight years as Governor of California, his campaign for presidency, and his two terms in office. It is the largest collection of Reagan memorabilia outside of the Reagan library in California.

Presenters included the following:

The Value of the Office Professional

Mrs. Debbie Wolfmeyer, past President of the Board of Education at Peoria School District #150 and an alumni of Peoria High School. She worked as a secretary in District #150 for 27 years before retiring.

Office Professional's Role in the Special Services Office

Mrs. Karen Aylward, Director of Special Services shared tips on how the Office Professional can better assist the administrator or staff in communicating with parents and students who come into the office area.

What is Autism?

Mrs. Karen Aylward, Director of Special Services, and Mrs. Stacy O'Dea, Coordinator of Special Services, explained that Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of three. They provided information on Autism and the family connection.

Autism - Student, Staff, and Parent

Mrs. Staci O'Dea shared District 158's Special Needs and Autism Program (SNAP) and its impact on student, staff, and parent with focus on communication with students of special needs.

Illinois Wildlife

Marge Bjorklund, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Educator, Lakeview Museum. Her knowledge in this area is extensive, featuring her "birds of prey" and other woodland mammals native to the Peoria area. Her goal is to teach respect for our native wildlife as well as educate about the individual animals.

PSP Program

Dena Henricks, President, was available to help members interested in pursuing PSP (Professional Standards Program) Certification.

For more information on IAEOP, go to www.iaeop.com or contact Paula Bender at 630-466-2371 or pbender@waubonsee.edu