



# Newsletter

Fall 2006

## OPEN Doors to AEA

By Juliette Mackin, OPEN Past President

The AEA 2006 Conference is being held in Portland, November 1-4, 2006, with professional development workshops October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>. Many of our own OPEN members are sharing their expertise, through panel presentations, round table discussions, and posters.

Presenters represent local research firms (including NPC Research, Pacific Research & Evaluation, Research Into Action, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, RMC Research Corporation); universities (Oregon State University, Portland State University, Washington State University – Vancouver, Western Oregon University); independent consultants; and state, county, and direct service organization research offices.

The AEA program represented by OPEN members includes technical, skill-building and professional development material; opportunities to discuss current, salient issues in the field of evaluation; and information about diverse content and specialty areas. Presentations will cover a range of topics, such as:

- ❖ Cultural issues in evaluation with diverse or special populations, including indigenous communities and international projects
- ❖ Evaluation capacity building
- ❖ Benefits and challenges of multilevel analyses
- ❖ Strategies for participant recruitment
- ❖ Use of qualitative methods
- ❖ Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness methodology (chari, I don't know if these are hyphenated?)
- ❖ Satisfying funders, policy-makers, and clients; and balancing the needs of multiple stakeholders
- ❖ Use of mixed methods
- ❖ Increasing evaluation utilization
- ❖ Participatory evaluation strategies
- ❖ Collaborations between academia and community organizations

The presentations cover a variety of professional arenas, including health, education, juvenile and criminal justice, international contexts, environmental programs, non-profit programs, K-12 education, programs supporting lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender individuals, business and industry, extension education, and math/science/technology. To register for the AEA conference or to see more detailed information about Evaluation 2006 offerings, go to [www.eval.org](http://www.eval.org) and then to "Evaluation 2006" (click on "Learn More"). The entire conference program and details regarding the professional development workshops are all available on line.



## Volunteer for the AEA Silent Auction!

For more information, contact Juliette Mackin at  
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# You and the OPEN Council

By Chari Smith, OPEN Newsletter Editor

OPEN members elect council members every December...which is rapidly approaching. OPEN is an all volunteer organization, relying on its' members to step up and take on different roles such as president, secretary, financial officer, and so much more.

There are a variety of reasons to be a part of OPEN. Different reasons motivate different people. "I wanted to give back to the organization," says Juliette Mackin, past President and Senior Associate at NPC Research. Not only do council members give back, they get back by meeting new people, expanding their knowledge of the program evaluation community, and it looks pretty good on your curriculum vitae."

Being on the OPEN council is generally a one-year commitment, with lunchtime monthly meetings. "It's a great experience to see just how hardworking a handful volunteers with lots of vision and little recognition truly are, and how much they can accomplish without too much of a time commitment," Tamara Perkins, OPEN Secretary and Research/Evaluation Analyst at NARA Northwest.

The OPEN council is an excellent opportunity to expand beyond your office space and engage in the program evaluation community on a much larger level. "I would consider all active members to treat themselves to the opportunity of being a council member. The council really is a place to turn your ideas, motivation, and interest in program evaluation into something that is beneficial to the larger evaluation population," says Jerod Tarte, OPEN President and Associate at NPC Research.

## OPEN Council positions for the upcoming year:

*President Elect*  
*Secretary/Listserv administrator*  
*Financial Officer*  
*Program Chair*  
*Membership Services Chair*

## President's Message

Dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you have all enjoyed our wonderfully unique Northwest summer and are feeling refreshed and rejuvenated for the fall.

The American Evaluation Conference, being held **October 31 – November 4, 2006** is quickly approaching. Congratulations to the many OPEN members who have been accepted to present at this years conference. Students interested in volunteering at the conference in exchange for a reduced rate should visit the AEA student website at: <http://www.eval.org/eval2006/aea06.students.vol.htm>. Volunteer space is limited, however there is still space available.

This year's OPEN Annual Meeting has been scheduled for **December 13, 2006**. Our goal is to highlight some of this year's local AEA presenters, as well as to hold general elections. If you are interested in being nominated for a council position, or would like to join an OPEN committee feel free to contact me, or visit the council members page at: [http://www.oregoneval.org/council\\_members.html](http://www.oregoneval.org/council_members.html) for more information.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of OPEN!  
Jerod M. Tarte  
President, 2006