

# Great Lakes Employment and Training Association

## A Brief History

(Being based on written records, recollections, legends, and memories of things, whether they happened or not.)

The only written documentation that survives is very limited. If any minutes exist, they have long since sunk out of sight. The same holds true of the financial records of the Association, records of the annual conferences, and membership lists.

We do have the original documents which incorporated GLETA in the State of Minnesota in February 1985. The documents were signed by Larry Buboltz. Larry was also the signatory for the application for 501(c)3 status to the Internal Revenue Service. There is no record of that status ever being granted, nor is there any record of any annual reports being filed with any governmental body in regard to that 501 nonprofit application.

Joining Larry as directors of GLETA on the IRS application were Don Singer, Ohio; Linda Woloshansky, Indiana; and Joe Halter, Wisconsin. Joining Larry on the Minnesota application were Joseph Monaghan, Illinois; Daren Larson, Illinois; Dennis Whetstone, Illinois; Joe Halter, Wisconsin; James Lauer, Wisconsin; Mary Ellen Hansen, Wisconsin; Christine Larsen, Minnesota; Greg Wince, Ohio; Joan Hammond, Ohio; Don Singer, Ohio; Micki Pasteur, Michigan; Robert Pendleton, Michigan; Mike Quinn, Michigan; Roy Vanderford, Indiana; and Linda Woloshansky, Indiana.

GLETA has much the same mission then as now. The IRS papers state, "The Great Lakes Employment and Training Association was formed to provide a vehicle to exchange ideas, promote policies development (sic), interface with other agencies, share programmatic ideas, and advocate for the employment and training system."

In order to support its activities, the applicants told the IRS they would charge dues where appropriate and host an annual conference as a way of paying the bills. Dues have, over the years, been an on again off again proposition. The annual conference has also experience periodic hiatus.

The annual conference, in the early days, was hosted on a rotating basis to the various states. Most were memorable for one thing or another. The Wisconsin conference at Oshkosh was held during the annual Experimental Aircraft Association fly in. Planes of every type and configuration were on display and the conference dinner was hosted at the Association's headquarters. The Indiana conference offered visits to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, the NASCAR Brickyard 400, and the U.S. Gran Prix. As I recall, the Indiana conference was the last one prior to the partnership with NAWDP, which now presents the spring conference in St. Louis.

Initially, it was intended that membership would be open to anyone who worked in the public employment and training business in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota,

and Wisconsin. An Executive Board with representation of two members from each state was set up to meet monthly to direct the affairs of GLETA. The Executive Board members were, and are, selected by their respective state associations.

GLETA has always constituted a strong presence on the national scene. Early on the members were active in the two leading public interest groups, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. GLETA board members held the leadership post in the NACo affiliate, NACTEP, for many years and sat on the NACo Board. Those GLETA board members who have held that position include Mike Quinn, Larry Buboltz, Billy Brumfield, Ralph Loeschner, Don Singer, and Chuck Roche. (If I left anyone out, I apologize.) GLETA members who have chaired the USCM affiliate include Steve Corona.

These board members, by virtue of serving on these groups, have had a disproportionate influence on the development of federal policy in the employment, training, and education arenas. They have served on Department of Labor (DOL) committees, federal commissions on employment and training, and generally provided input to both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government.

The original five Midwestern states that made up GLETA were based upon the federal DOL Region V. When that region was expanded to include a number of other states in the Midwest, they were added to the GLETA board as well.

GLETA has always had a mix of representation from the metro areas of Chicago, the Twin Cities, Indianapolis, and Cleveland to the small rural areas that make up the backbone of the Midwest. That has added to its strength as a force with which to influence the policies and programs of the federal government. With the expanded region and the new, vibrant leadership from the new states, GLETA can only be expected to continue in that time honored tradition.