



Gene D. White, Ph.D.
**Past President, & Chair of Council
for Conventions**
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Re: Eastern District AAHPERD Convention
February 24-27th, 2010
Rye, NY

Dear Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Administrators and Professionals:

Professional development is an extremely important aspect of the professional growth of teachers, coaches, and HPERD professionals. Health, physical education, recreation, and dance disciplines are often neglected during more general in-service and professional development opportunities conducted by local school districts. As is true with all professional development opportunities, it is difficult to address the needs and issues of every individual or sub-discipline with one in-service session or speaker.

As you know, there is an ever-increasing need for technological applications and assessment in all aspects of education. This is also true for health, physical education, recreation, and dance (HPERD) professionals. With childhood obesity on the rise and the new mandated federal wellness policy the HPERD professionals must be better prepared to meet increasing challenges of a technological and sedentary life, and must be able to update their teaching and knowledge base regarding best practices to enable them to address such critical issues. In spring, 2010, the Eastern District Association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (EDA-AAHPERD) is holding its annual convention in Rye, NY February 24-27th, and the program is designed to address the needs of HPERD professionals in education and related professions. The conference program includes sessions and workshops designed to address current issues and educational practices using authentic assessment and technology. Furthermore, professionals attending the conference will be provided up to data research, grant writing information, and sessions geared toward standards-based education and motivation of P-12 learners through teaching of HPERD. The conference information is available at the web site: <http://www.aahperd.org/about/districts/eastern/convention.cfm> , and includes registration costs, general information on the program, specific information on in-depth conference workshops, and resources available for professionals.

I understand that resources at schools are especially tight this year, however, I urge you to recommend and afford release (professional development) time so that your HPERD teachers or related professionals can attend this important activity. Rye is close to New York City, and conveniently located for many New England, Eastern and mid-Atlantic state school personnel to be able to attend at minimal travel costs. The conference is a bargain, and provides a plethora of information for EDA members. Thank you, in advance, for your support of the HPERD teachers and professionals.

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