

In Memoriam
SUSANNE BATY

~ by Douglas G. Schermer, Iowa
ASCD Historian

Susanne Baty passed away
December 21, 2007, in her home
after a long illness.



In addition to her many accomplishments as teacher and elementary principal, Susanne served as editor of *Iowa Educational Leadership* beginning with the October 1998 issue.

At that time, Iowa ASCD had two publications – a monthly newsletter, the *Thrust* which was edited by Tom Budnik, our Executive Director at the time, and a journal that was published twice a year. Under Susanne’s editorship, both were combined into one publication, *Iowa Educational Leadership*, which was distributed eight times a year.

Publishing that often presented a major challenge for a volunteer professional organization. For Susanne it involved soliciting articles (with Iowa authors given

a priority) as well as gathering more current news from various members of the board of directors for their respective columns. She reviewed all items carefully to ensure a consistent and error-free issue. Once Susanne had edited each article, she gave it to June Wahl who did the typing and layout in PageMaker. It also involved working closely with the people in the graphic and printing departments at AEA 9 to ensure attractive and timely printing and mailing.

Dick Hanzelka, whose resume includes president of both Iowa ASCD and ASCD, served as Iowa ASCD’s executive director during most of the years Susanne was editor. Dick shared these thoughts about Susanne:

“Susanne Baty was one of the nicest people I ever worked with. She was organized, dependable, and well-versed in the profession. One of the things I remember most about her was her soft-spoken approach to any situation. It was clear she gave thoughtful consideration and respect to every question or suggestion about her work with *Iowa Educational Leadership*. I never once heard her become defensive. Under her guidance, *Iowa Educational Leadership* received awards from ASCD for its excellence. She was a fine human being, and anyone whose life she touched will miss her.”

Susanne came naturally to editing. From 1986 to 2005 we were colleagues as principals of the two elementary schools in Maquoketa. That was back in the days of “school mail” rather than “e-mail” which meant hard copies of documents were delivered between our respective buildings by hand and mail arrived once a day (think about that when your next e-mail beeps). As a general practice, I would do the first draft of a document, such as a handbook. Before it was ready for publication, Susanne would add several layers of improvements in red ink including inserts, deletions, corrections, and the initials “SBB” next to a smiley face.

As Dick Hanzelka noted, Susanne won awards from ASCD for the high quality of Iowa ASCD’s journal. She also attended the ASCD workshops for editors which were held during ASCD’s annual conference. At that level, she established relationships with other editors that included sharing of ideas and copies of publications.

One impact of her work at the national level was the development of themes for each issue that paralleled the themes for ASCD’s prestigious *Educational Leadership*. The intent was to have an Iowa focus to accompany the national focus. She also developed submission guidelines modeled after those at the national level. In the view of Tom Budnik, former ASCD president, Susanne put *Iowa Educational Leadership*

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on the national and international ASCD map.

Beginning in 2004-2005 *Iowa Educational Leadership* was published four times per year. At about that time, Dick Hanzelka issued a monthly one-page newsletter that was mailed to all members. Today newsletters and selected articles from the journal are posted on the Iowa ASCD website for anyone to download.

Susanne's last issue as editor was June 2007. Over the course of nine years, she edited 61 issues. With the exception of one missing issue from October 2003, there are two complete sets of *Iowa Educational Leadership* from her tenure. One resides with Tom Ahart, HR director for Ankeny CSD, (tom.ahart@ankenyschools.org) the new and current editor, the other with Dave Darnell, the current president, who is at Drake University. A searchable index of articles is posted on the Iowa ASCD website, <http://iowa.ascd.org> under the archives tab.

Susanne followed in footsteps of other editors going back to the early 1970s when Iowa ASCD's *Journal* was published twice a year. Joe Lamberti, at UNI, was probably the first editor. When he moved to Ohio, Greg Stefanich, also at UNI, stepped up to the plate. The editorship remained at UNI when Charles May took over with Mary Nan Aldridge's

assistance. This was long before Kinkos and bulk mailing services were even imagined. In those days, Charles May would drive the printed copies to Tom Budnik, who lived in Ames, who in turn added mailing labels and mailed them to the membership.

At present Drake University hosts the complete collection of Iowa ASCD publications that dates back to the 1970s and plans are in the works to digitize all the journals to make them available on the Iowa ASCD website for electronic retrieval.

Of all of Susanne Baty's many professional accomplishments and recognitions, her official obituary lists only two: Principal of Cardinal Elementary School in Maquoketa and Editor of *Iowa Educational Leadership*.
