

## Thank you Ted Bowman

by Ben Wolfe, MCDES Chair

The year was 1997. U.S. President Bill Clinton was inaugurated for his second term. Princess Diana's funeral took place. Paducah High School was in the spotlight due to student shootings. Camel cigarettes removed Joe Camel. A heart attack sent Frank Sinatra back to the hospital. And Debbie Reynolds won the 11th American Comedy Award.

It was also 1997 when Ted Bowman joined the MCDES Board. This past December, after 16 years, Ted stepped down from the board having served MCDES in a number of capacities.

Ted shared with our board the following:

*"The aspect of MCDES' work that drew me to the board was the conferences. More specifically, it was the quality of the conferences and their utility for registrants. I leave the board knowing that for 16 years, the commitment to a quality spring and fall event was and is the dominant item at board meetings and board focus. The conferences are often the front page of our wonderful 'Coalition News;' the conferences' ebb and flow of registration numbers are the major part of a treasurer's report and the resulting discussion; and we have spent countless hours discussing the evaluations of the events.*

*Having just chaired the planning committee for a daylong conference of another statewide organization, I'm now more keenly aware that the reputation of MCDES as a provider of quality conferences is a factor in our numbers. Yes, the topic and speaker are factors as we have discussed. Still, many come to MCDES conferences without taking much time to consider the theme and speaker."*

Ted, at some point, became part of our MCDES conference planning group, and through Ted and others on that committee, the MCDES spring and fall conferences have been truly well-received and appreciated. Ted and a few other board members developed our initial MCDES Website, and Ted has contributed often to the MCDES *Coalition News*. He, along with his wife Marge, for many years also opened their home to the board for its annual holiday board meeting and potluck. A gourmet cook, Ted was always a gracious host and known by the board for his famous lamb dish!

For those who do not know Ted's professional life...he is a long-time group facilitator, currently leads a caregiver group, and is a trainer of group leaders. He is a community instructor in Family Education at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct professor in Social Work at the University of St. Thomas. Additionally, Ted is co-editor of *The Wind Blows*, *The Ice Breaks*, a volume of poems by



Ted Bowman, MCDES Board Member, 1997–2013

Minnesota poets addressing themes of loss and renewal, and is author of two booklets addressing shattered dreams; *Loss of Dreams: A Special Kind of Grief* and *Finding Hope When Dreams Have Shattered*.

At Ted's last board meeting in December, the Board presented him with a gift of an international time clock, acknowledging his training of professionals and volunteers over a number of years in England and Scotland. Ted shared with the Board, "It has been a treat to work and interact with some of you for 16 years and others for fewer years of mutual commitment to grieving and bereft persons and those working with them." Ted, THANK YOU again on behalf of MCDES for your years of service, and your years of friendship.