

ReadWriteNow.org

Bi-Monthly Newsletter



A publication of Literacy Volunteers of Doña Ana County, an Accredited Affiliate of ProLiteracy America.®
Our project is funded in part by the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy and the Adult Basic Education Division of DACC.

Stephen's Notes:

Happy Holidays, and a Great New Year!

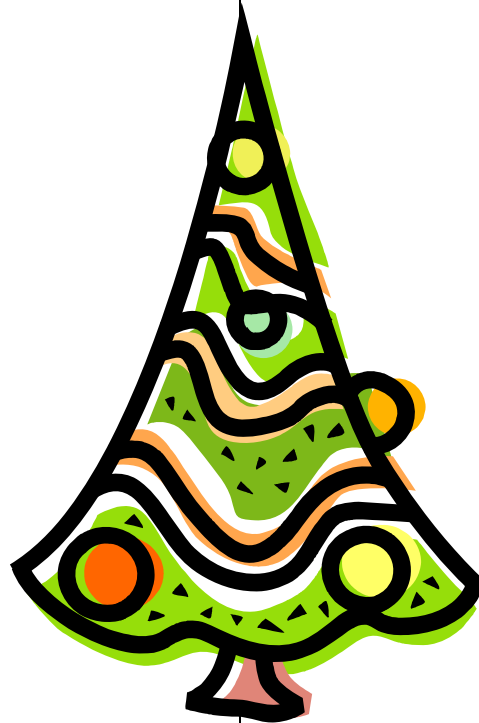
We've gotten some good news recently; we were awarded an IME Becas Fellowship of \$13,000 for 2008/2009. The same organization awarded us \$14,000 last year. This will support a number of classes for our learners, pay for a couple of part time Literacy Associates, and cover GED test fees for some learners who have advanced that far.

We were also awarded a \$900 stipend to cover expenses to send two staff to a seminar being offered by ProLiteracy March 9 & 10 in Phoenix, AZ. Council members and Tutors may attend. The seminar is about how to reach out to the community to recruit more learners, volunteers, and funds (see page 2).

Otherwise, things are tight, as they are most places this year. DACC has stopped all non-essential travel and told us to expect about a 5% drop in expected funds this year, and NMCL has said the same thing for our operating grant.

Overall, though, it's a time to celebrate—our learners are doing well, our new volunteers are tutoring, and our new data system, LACES, is behaving well!

**Best Wishes to All
for a Happy and Peaceful
Holiday Season**



Advisory Council Elects Officers

The new officers are:

Chair: Dr. Abel Chavarria, abelc@nmsu.edu
Vice-chair: Sheila McCaskill sheilamcc@zianet.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Jackie Kiefer jkiefer@nmsu.edu

Congratulations! And thanks to all the council members, who help us in many ways.

Advisory Council Meets January 14

The LV-DAC Advisory Council meets January 14 from 4-5:30 pm. in the QLC Conference Room. The Council will meet on the second Wednesday of each month until the further notice.

All council meetings are open to tutors and learners. Come and meet the new officers—guests are always welcome.



Individual ProLiteracy Memberships Available

Could you use more resources about literacy and tutoring? We can award three free individual ProLiteracy memberships to our active volunteers.

Benefits include tutoring materials and plans, a newsletter, etc. This membership is open to all, and normally costs \$35 per year.

Please let us know if you are interested—first come, first served!



Program News

- Thinking ahead, the Annual Spring Social is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2009, 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Fun and games for the whole family—keep the date open. Any ideas for a theme?
- Have you seen our ads in local papers, or heard them on public radio? Let us know your impression. They have been scheduled to run all year, and we can change the text if we get some suggested improvements.



LV Outing to the Van of Enchantment at the Mesilla Valley Bosque Park Grand Opening!

A traveling museum exhibition will be at the grand opening of the Mesilla Valley Bosque Grand Opening Saturday, December 13, 2008, from 9 am to 12 noon. A good opportunity for a change of pace, and a nice spot for a family picnic, too. The park, of course, is open all day.

The park is in Mesilla, about 4 miles from the QLC.

We have learner and tutor literacy materials about the exhibit that have been developed by NMCL. These materials are suitable for a couple of tutoring sessions, both before and after the visit.

The exhibit is called “A History of Travel in New Mexico,” and encompasses many aspects of NM culture and history, and the materials and exhibit itself are designed to be easy to read.

Directions:

- take Avenida de Mesilla south to Mesilla
- as you enter Mesilla turn right on Calle del Norte (state road 359)
- travel two miles west until you cross the Rio Grande.



November/December, 2008

- on the west side of the river take an immediate left--there are two silver pipe gates—this is the entrance to the park
- then travel south on the dirt road for one mile and come to the new park visitor center.

If you are interested in participating, please register with Paula, and we will give you the lesson materials.



Outreach Seminar in Phoenix, AZ

We have been awarded a \$900 stipend to cover tuition and expenses to send two staff to a seminar being offered by Proliteracy March 9 & 10 in Phoenix, AZ.

This is a program level seminar about how to promote Literacy in the community, grow our program, and attract more volunteers, learners, and funds by getting the word out effectively.

Tutors and council members are eligible, so please let us know if you are interested in attending. There is some preparation beforehand: reviewing two online courses. We have found ProLiteracy courses to be of high quality, and worth the trip.



Partnership with Business Majors Continues

For the past two spring terms, LV has trained a group of 10/12 NMSU business majors and benefited from their volunteer tutoring.

This is a component of MGT 333, taught by Professor Grace Ann Rosile, a course about how to train employees. The students take one of our volunteer trainings, test the effectiveness by tutoring some of our learners, and write up their experiences.

This has given us valuable feedback about our ProLiteracy tutor training workshops, and the students enjoy the experience. Some have continued as volunteers.

Newsletter Available Online

This is the first issue of our "Literacy Update" Newsletter to be automatically emailed to everyone. (Please email Paula: pleight@nmsu.edu if your address has changed.) As with previous issues, it will also be posted to the web site, where it can be read or printed by anyone.

However, if you would like to continue receiving a paper copy in the mail, let us know. We will also have some paper copies available at the QLC.

Most important, please send us information about any events you would like to share: notes about tutoring tips or lesson plans, reflections on your work, writing by your learner, etc. This newsletter should also be your connection to other volunteers and learners.



Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop

The next Tutor Training workshop, for **Basic Literacy**, will be held on Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31; both days start at 8:30 am and end at 4:30 pm.

Diane Ross will conduct the workshop--thanks go to the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy for their sponsorship.

It's a great opportunity for any current volunteer to update their Basic Literacy certification status or become BL certified--and to learn more tutoring tips and ideas for lessons.

The New Tutor Orientation for the upcoming training is Thursday, January 29, EITHER from 3-5 PM, OR from 5:30-7:30 PM. This is required of all volunteers new to our program and provides information pertaining to the tutoring experience and to our program and resources, but it is open to all who might have questions about our policies.

DATES for upcoming Tutor Trainings this year are:

#3 BL January 30/31, 2009;

#4 ESL March 27/28, 2009;

#5 BL May 29/30, 2009.

Mark your calendars and help recruit some new volunteer tutors.



Calendar

Quintana Learning Center Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Beginning January 26: Mon—Thur 8 a.m. to 7 p.m
Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monthly Scrabble Sunday
Every Second Sunday of the Month
at the "Hardback Café,"
Inside Hastings Bookstore on Lohman Avenue
Games start at 2 p.m., and it's a \$3 donation to play.

Saturday, December 13, time All Day
Literacy Visit to the traveling Museum Van

Wednesday, January 14, 4-6 pm, QLC
Wednesday, February 11, 4-6 pm, QLC
Wednesday, March 11, 4-6 pm, QLC
LV-DAC Advisory Council Meeting

Friday/Saturday, January 30 & 31, 8:30 am-4:30 pm;
DACC 129
Basic Literacy Tutor Training
****New Tutor Orientation****
Thursday, January 29, EITHER from 3-5 pm,
OR 5:30-7:30 pm, QLC

"There are many reasons why some people can't read.
You can be the reason why they can..."
--Ruth Colvin, Founder of LVA



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Visit our web site: ReadWriteNow.org

Or contact us via email at lv-dac@nmsu.edu

