



# The Literacy Forum

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy  
October/November 2000

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**The Literacy Forum** is published bimonthly by the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy. News and commentary may be submitted to the Coalition using our mail address, e-mail address, phone, or fax number. We look forward to hearing from you!

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## From the Executive Director

### *And the Survey Said...*

As I approach the end of my second year as Executive Director, I thought it might be a good time to take stock, and ask you, the New Mexico literacy community, to tell us how the Coalition for Literacy is performing. Below, you will see a series of questions. I would ask you to please take the time to answer those questions, and to send them to my attention here in Santa Fe.

1. What role do you play in the literacy community (interested party, literacy coordinator, adult learner, tutor/instructor, board member, other...)
2. What are the most pressing literacy needs in New Mexico today?
3. Is the NMCL on the right track towards meeting those needs? If not, what should we be doing differently?
4. Please list specific strengths about the NMCL.
5. Please list specific weaknesses about the NMCL.
6. How would you critique this newsletter, the *Literacy Forum*?
7. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our web site, <http://www.nmcl.org>?

8. Overall, if you were given the opportunity to speak to the NMCL Board of Directors, what would you like to say to them?

To refresh your memory, and perhaps to get you started in your comments, let me review some of the work that we have been up to over those two years:

- Administration of the State Adult Literacy Appropriation – Funding from the State of New Mexico for Coalition activities, including grants to local programs, training, technical assistance, and materials grants, has remained steady during this time period. As you know, during each legislative session, we fight to have this amount of money increased, and we are very hopeful that, with your help, the 2001 session will be a breakthrough year for us. By the way, during the 1999-2000 program year, we trained more volunteer literacy tutors than at any other time in our history.
- Professional Development Activities for Adult Basic Education – The NMCL enters its second year as the entity providing training to adult basic educators

throughout the state under Title II of the Workforce Investment Act. We are working hard to leverage resources and to recognize the spirit of the legislation, which calls for a 'seamless delivery of services.' So, for the first time, ABE and literacy will be holding a joint regional training in Las Cruces on November 4th.

- JTPA Activities – Due to the enactment of the Workforce Investment Act, the Job Training Partnership Act ceased to exist on June 30 of this year. The NMCL began a project under JTPA last year, and this year we were allowed to carry over the project on a temporary basis. The project provides literacy skills training to eligible clients in the four poorest counties in New Mexico: Mora, McKinley, Luna, and Chaves. We anticipate that these separate projects will continue under their respective local Workforce Investment Boards, while the NMCL will attempt to make a programmatic transition with

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## More on Accreditation.... Rena Paradis

As LVA programs become accredited, the NMCL thought, who better than the directors of those programs to council boards and staff of other programs? We have contracted four individuals, Marie Gallegos and Kaye Adams from LVA Cibola County and Elizabeth Thomsen and Jane Heir from

ReadWest, Rio Rancho, to visit other LVA programs to help either with accreditation preparation or program management and board meetings, acting as peer-facilitators.

This new initiative serves two purposes: 1) programs have an opportunity to learn from each other and 2) perhaps

a continuing dialog will open up between programs as they work together to accomplish similar goals. The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy hopes to expand on this activity and as new programs become accredited, they, too, can travel to other affiliates to share ideas and experiences.

## STORIES FROM NEW MEXICO LITERACY PROGRAMS

### Valencia County Literacy Council *Taken from VCLC News, Fall 2000*

*“Accreditation would give VCLC national credibility, and we can also celebrate our successes for the three programs we provide our community!”*

VCLC is working hard to become accredited by the national Literacy Volunteers of America. In “passing” the accreditation inspection, VCLC will continue to have the support of the nationally recognized organization of LVA. In addition, many funding sources will find the accreditation a valid reason to fund us.

Getting ready for the accreditation will be difficult work, and many volunteers will be called on to help us in the office. The Board of Directors will be heavily involved making policies and approving plans. It will take a lot of hard work and time to put all of our “ducks in a row.”

New Mexico Coalition for Liter-

acy has asked someone from the Rio Rancho literacy group, “ReadWest”, who passed the accreditation with an exceptional standard, to come here to help us organize and show us the places we need to concentrate. Several volunteers will be helping with that also.

NMCL also is helping us by sending us a person who is an accreditation surveyor (inspector) in other states to give us a “mock review” on November 4. She will be able to help us gather the “last minute” items before the real inspection in January, 2001.

Meanwhile, we are hoping to continue offering one-to-one tutoring to those students who have asked us for help. We hope to continue

helping the family literacy program with child development specialists, getting them training and helping them get the supplies they need to work with the children.

We also hope to continue our BOOK Program (Books Open for Our Kids) at the Belen Community Healthcare, getting the readers books to read aloud to the waiting parents and children and the health practitioners books to give to patients to encourage intergenerational reading.

If you want to volunteer for this program as well as for the one-to-one tutoring program, please call VCLC at 1-505-864-3511.



*Guests enjoying a cocktail before dinner at the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art.*

### Roswell Literacy Council

*“Congratulations to the Roswell Literacy Council for 25 years of service in their community!”*

#### 25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

On Friday evening, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Roswell Literacy Council celebrated 25 years of providing literacy services to Chaves County with an elegant dinner at the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art.

Amid beautiful music and extraordinary art, guests enjoyed cocktails and a wonderful dinner of stuffed tenderloin of beef - a culinary delight!

Our speaker, Pat Cum-

mings, the soft-spoken former student of the Roswell Literacy Council held the audience entranced with her touching story of having been an adult non-reader, and how a tutor from the Roswell Literacy Council changed her life. Pat owns a successful business, has raised two outstanding children, and has become an advocate for learning disabled children and non-readers.

It was a wonderful evening – wish you all could have been there!



*Jane Clark, co-founder of the Roswell Literacy Council*

## Presidential Candidates Statements on Adult Literacy

Presidential candidates George Bush and Al Gore have submitted position statements on adult literacy to LVA. The statements have been published in the fall edition of LVA's newsletter, *The Reader*. The statements appear below in alphabetical order, unedited by LVA.

### George W. Bush

Improving education has been my number one priority as Governor, both in focus and in funding. As President, I will make education my number one domestic policy priority. And I will operate from a very simple premise: I believe all children can learn and no child should be left behind.

Success in school is strongly influenced by how much parents expose a child to language and reading before starting school. Children who have been read to for hundreds of hours are much more likely to start school ready to learn. Family literacy is an excellent way to increase vitally important parental involvement.

Family literacy programs work to break the parent-to-child cycle of illiteracy. Through intensive education of more than one generation, family literacy programs build on families' strengths. Families come to school together. While their children learn in nearby classrooms, parents work on their own reading skills. And parents practice teaching their children under

the guidance of professional teachers. Parents learn that the most important thing they can do to prepare their children for success in school is to read to them early and often.

In 1996, with the financial support of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Laura and I established the First Lady's Family Literacy Initiative for Texas. The initiative is a grant program which awards seed money to Texas family literacy programs. Thus far, the initiative has granted almost \$800,000 to 40 family literacy programs. I strongly believe that families are the backbone of our society and as Governor of Texas, I have supported efforts that help families either through increasing child care funding for low-income families, transitional assistance from those families on welfare who find employment, and offering affordable children's health insurance available statewide. Family Literacy programs are another powerful example how our nation can offer support to our families in today's society.

### Al Gore

Today, education is the key to success in life, starting with literacy skills—the ability to read, write, and solve problems. Yet 40% of adults lack the literacy skills needed to compete in today's workforce, to raise a family, and to participate fully in their community. Everyone must be literate so families can succeed in the new

economy and help children do well in school. Research has shown that the educational level of the parent is the best predictor of how well a child will do in school. We know that low literacy impacts the ability of adults and families to access and benefit from healthcare information. And limited literacy impacts a wide range of community and social concerns across the nation. I believe we must work together to provide opportunities for every adult American to have access to high quality literacy services wherever they live. Not everyone masters the basic skills they need for life in the traditional K-12 educational system, so learning opportunities must never end. We all must play a role—families, educators, policymakers, businesses, civic organizations and congregations. Anyone who knows someone who might be limited because of low basic skills should encourage them to enroll in adult literacy education services. The National Literacy Hotline at 1-800-228-8813 can help locate a program in any community.

We all share the responsibility for making adult and family literacy a national priority. As President, I will make adult and family literacy and lifelong learning a priority for increased support, and continue the budget increases that the administration has recommended for the past eight years. An educated America is a strong America.

(Continued from page 1) From the Executive Director

the State WIB.

- Reading Excellence Act – The NMCL worked with the State Department of Education for the past two years on competing for federal funding that would enable K-3 literacy programs around the state. This year, New Mexico was awarded five million dollars to offer competitive grants to local schools towards establishing these programs. Due to the NMCL's involvement, a requirement for the grantees will be to work with their local community based volunteer literacy organizations towards the establishment of certain components of these programs. Specifically, the local CBO's would be a source of one to one tutors for the schools, would work with families to offer intergenerational literacy programs, and could provide professional development activities for the school regarding family literacy. It has taken some time for educators to realize that childhood literacy must involve the parents. The NMCL looks forward to working with all New Mexicans towards realizing our goal of a fully literate New Mexico.

I hope that will help to frame your answers to my survey. Please feel free to use e-mail, 'snail' mail, or fax for your answers. I am truly anxious to hear what you have to say, and I will summarize the results in our next newsletter, as well as on our web site. Thanks for your interest in literacy, and thank you for your participation!

### NEW ITEMS

Books for Babies—New Mexico announces the publication of a new book for infants, *My Things/Mis Cosas*. The book is twelve colorful pages of infants and toddlers with favorite objects—blocks, hats, balls, and of course books. The book is bilingual, washable, and infant-safe. For information about obtaining the books for your Family Literacy program or other projects, contact Books for Babies at 505/820-9903 or e-mail [steinke@rt66.com](mailto:steinke@rt66.com).

### Resource Tip: Spanish Language America Reads

Video FREE!

The U.S. Department of Education has a free America Reads video in Spanish. "Vamos juntos a la escuela" provides tips on parent involvement in reading and math material and preparing for college. The 15-minute video, narrated by Univision TV news anchor Maria Elena Salinas, is in a kit with print materials in Spanish. Order on-line at <http://ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or by calling 1-877-4-ED-PUBS.

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Training Corner

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE #</b>
10/6,7,8	LVA BR	LVA Socorro County	Barbara Romero	835.4659
10/6,7,13,14	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224.4313
10/13,14,20,21	LVA ESL	LVA Santa Fe	Letty Naranjo	428.1353
10/20,21	LVA ESL	LVA Dona Ana County	Harry Pearson	527.7641
10/20,21,22	LLA LWR	Let's Read—Española	Frances Wilmeth	753.9300
10/20,21,27,28	LVA ESL	ReadWest—Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
11/4	Phonics	ReadWest— Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
11/4	ESLOA Test for Students	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Sara Bellomo	266.7202
11/4	READ Test for Students	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Sara Bellomo	266.7202
11/10,11,17,18	LVA BR	LVA Santa Fe	Letty Naranjo	428.1353
1/26,27— 2/2,3 2001	LVA BR	ReadWest— Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
2/10 2001	LVA READ/ESLOA	ReadWest—Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
3/23,24,30,31	LVA ESL	ReadWest— Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
6/1,2,8,9 2001	LVA BR	ReadWest—Rio Rancho	Elizabeth Thomsen	892.1131
<b>SPECIAL WORKSHOPS</b>				
9/30	READ/ESLOA test	LVA Dona Ana County	Harry Pearson	527.7641
11/4	READ/ESLOA test	TVI Lit Prog & Lit Ctr of Abq	Sara Bellomo	266.7202