



# The Literacy Forum

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy  
August/September 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

#### **News from [www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org):**

We are continuing to add to our web site, hopefully keeping its content fresh, and making it more useful. Some recent additions and changes that you may want to check out the next time you are on-line include:

- LiteracyBase, the Coalition's database tool for administering literacy organizations, is now available for download from our site. You can choose either PC or Mac formats. The link is <http://www.nmcl.org/base.htm>. I have been tracking downloads of the program through a software site that LiteracyBase resides on, and over 200 people have downloaded the program to date!
- The current issue of the Literacy Forum, our bi-monthly newsletter, is

available in .pdf format at <http://www.nmcl.org/Newsletter.htm>, in case you miss the printed version.

- The What's New section of our web site (<http://www.nmcl.org/New.htm>) and the Training Schedule (<http://www.nmcl.org/schedule.htm>) are constantly being updated. Be sure to check these areas frequently for the latest on Coalition happenings and training events.
- The New Mexico Literacy Services Guide is the only comprehensive statewide directory of literacy resources available in New Mexico. The Coalition distributed the newly updated version at our Annual Meeting last month. A searchable on-line version is at <http://www.nmcl.org/guide.htm>.
- We have just completed updating our list of useful Internet links for administrators, tutors, and adult

learners at <http://www.nmcl.org/links.htm>.

- The Coalition, as designated by the US Department of Education, houses the State Literacy Resource Center for New Mexico. By the time you read this, the database for our Literacy Resource collection should be available on-line at <http://www.nmcl.org/center.htm>. If you are affiliated with a literacy program in New Mexico, we will lend you materials from the Resource Center at no charge to you, by post. Or, if you happen to be in Santa Fe, you are welcome to see the Resource Center first hand, and borrow materials on-site.

Please send us comments on the web site as you explore it, and tell us what you think.

## 13th Annual Meeting Overview

The 13th Annual Meeting of NMCL was held on June 16, 2000 in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Approximately 100 people attended and the event was rated good to excellent by the participants. If you attended, then you remember the day as informative and fun. It gave us

all a chance to socialize with other literacy programs, staff of NMCL and our Board of Directors. The event started on the evening of the 15th when the NMCL Board of Directors and staff hosted a reception with food and drink. Rudolfo Anaya was present to autograph his

book *Shaman Winter*, as they were sold and the proceeds donated to NMCL. Twenty books were autographed and sold to the guests at the reception. Thank you Rudolfo!

The day of the conference

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## STORIES FROM NEW MEXICO LITERACY PROGRAMS

### Mora Adult Literacy Program

*“The people feel the good feeling of achievement and well-being by being successful and useful, which makes it a worthwhile project.”*

The Mora Adult Literacy program has been in existence since 1988. It has been under different names and different sponsors, such as Reading for Living, Mora Reading Program, etc. The sponsors and clients have included the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy, which has been our help in the years we have existed. Also, other sponsors have included Home Education Livelihood Program, Rio Grande Treatment Center, David Cargo Public Library, Helping Hands, Inc. and now Luna Vocational Technical Institute.

We have taught literacy and pre-GED classes to the local people. We were part of the therapy at Rio Grande Treatment Center for several years. This helped people

improve their reading and thinking skills to go on with their education and find jobs. The local people in the GED program have received their high school diploma and gone on to further their education and go to better jobs. A couple of years back, 7 of the 20 enrolled students completed their GED and received their diplomas at the graduation ceremony at Luna Vocational Technical Institute. It was a thrilling day for them and for us. Following are more success stories.....One woman with 6 children, no husband and living on welfare received her diploma and went for training in “Follow Through” and is now working full-time, is off welfare and married to a man who is supportive and helpful. A success story like that makes

it all worthwhile. There are also the 2 women who are attending Luna Vocational Technical Institute taking Physical Therapy and Nursing courses while working part-time as well as caring for their families. They are joyful and ambitious now.

At present we are working with the “Welfare to Work” Program with the case workers working with us to help their clients get their GED and continue their education and get better jobs to get out of the circle of welfare. The people feel the good feeling of achievement and well-being by being successful and useful, which makes it a worthwhile project.

**Submitted by Ruth Fort—Mora**



Peterson with children at the computer—The Gathering Place



Pumpkin with friend—The Gathering Place

### The Gathering Place—Thoreau, New Mexico

*“Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. Our goal is to help parents become good teachers.”*

Located in Thoreau’s original trading post, The Gathering Place’s Family Learning Center offers a warm, comfortable environment to all who walk (or crawl) through its doors. The program’s guiding principle is that the role of the parent in the educational development of the child is critical — that parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. Our goal is to help parents become good teachers.

In addition to adult and early childhood education pro-

grams, parents are encouraged to spend 45 minutes each day playing and reading with their children. Parents meet once a week to discuss parenting issues and to support each other in the common struggles and challenges they face.

In the spring of 1999, The Gathering Place was awarded a grant by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the first ever to a New Mexico organization. 13 such grants were awarded from among 400 applicants nationwide. The

past year has taught us a lot about the effectiveness of family literacy programs. Family literacy addresses the cycle of illiteracy that often remains unbroken from generation to generation. With patience and care, it creates a place where everyone has a chance to succeed. When asked recently how the program has helped her daughter, a program participant responded that, “She’s become more outspoken. She has come to understand how important my education is for both of us”. **Greg Cross TGP**

## Best Wishes— Rena Paradis, Training/Resource Center Coordinator

*“So, where is the communication failing? What’s important to know and what isn’t?”*

How would you like to have printed **Communications Wish List** that the board and staff can share? No easy task, but it’s doable.

I recently had a conversation with a program director which virtually echoed concerns about board/staff relations that I’ve heard over and over again through the years from programs all over the state. I hear the same issues from board members with reference to staff. Is this unavoidable, or can there be clarification? The most common complaint I hear from program directors is: “They just don’t know all I do in a day.” The most common complaint I hear from board members is: “We don’t know what he/she does all day.” Yet, most boards require and get an office report from staff. So, where is the communication failing? What’s important to know and what isn’t?

Perhaps if we begin a list for both, we could come with something which would help program people communicate their requirements to each other. It should be impersonal and non-combative. It should be almost a

document of mutual courtesy and general enough to apply to any program. If you would like to send an anonymous wish list to me, I’d be happy to use it as I compile something we can work with. We may be surprised at how similar our concerns are. You might choose to e-mail something to us. I have several items already which will appear on the final list. Please send something if you think communication between staff and the board should be better.

You can email Rena at: [rena@nmcl.org](mailto:rena@nmcl.org)



*(Continued from page 1)* Annual Meeting began at 8:00 with a continental breakfast and registration of attendees. President of the Board, Robert Martinez, greeted the crowd and introduced the keynote speaker: Eileen Longswith, Director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library Systems. Ms. Longswith spoke about the importance of partnerships and literacy. The Board of Directors held their general meeting and renewed three year terms for Robert Martinez, who has just completed serving as President for 99-00, Ellen Harbaugh, Sylvia Sandoval and Zella Soich, whose terms were expiring this year. We lost two board members, both of whom resigned due to personal reasons. Michelle Williams and Patricia Chavez were added as new board members. Michelle is a Senior Paralegal with the UNM Health Sciences Center. Patricia Chavez is a Sales Manager with American Property and was the former State Director for Adult Basic Education for the New Mexico State Department of Education. We are grateful that Michelle and Pat have agreed to serve on

our Board.

The officers for the 2000-2001 year are as follows:

- **Dorothy Redd**, Roswell—President
- **Miguel Briseno**, Deming—Vice-President
- **Ellen Harbaugh**, Carlsbad—Secretary
- **Ernest Padilla**, Santa Fe—Treasurer

The three morning sessions followed the meeting and the attendees went off to attend the workshop of their choice.

Lunch followed the workshops and awards were presented to the following:

- **President’s Award**—Jane Kummerle, Roswell
- **Exceptional Literacy Program**—LVA Dona Ana County
- **Student of the Year**—Francisco Chavez—Deming
- **Trainer of the Year**—Lisa Breschi Al-

mond

- **Partnership Award**—The Rotary Club of Albuquerque.

Ben Wakashige, State Librarian also spoke to the luncheon crowd.

The three afternoon sessions began after a short break and everyone was once again off to their workshops. The day ended with refreshments and a wonderful performance put on by the New Pathways Literacy Theatre. The performers are “real life” adult learners and the skits they performed were astounding. The performers even stayed in character while the crowd asked them questions. The day ended and everyone went home to all different parts of the state. The NMCL Board of Directors and the staff would like to thank all of the people for attending this event. The staff and the board of directors look forward to 2000-2001!!

**New Mexico Coalition for Literacy**  
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## Training Corner

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
8/2,3	LWE	Alamo Navajo Adult Services	Marlene Herrera	854-2609x1403
8/4,5,11,12	LVA ESL	LVA – Santa Fe	Letty Naranjo	428-1353
8/25,26 9/8,9	LVA BR	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-4313
8/25,26 9/8,9	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-4313
9/15,16	LVA BR	LVA Dona Ana County	Harry Person	527-7641
10/6,7,13,14	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-4313
10/20,21	LVA ESL	LVA Dona Ana County	Harry Pearson	527-7641
SPECIAL WORKSHOPS:				
8/17	ESL Conservation	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Sara Bellomo	266-7202
9/30	READ Test for Students	LVA Dona Ana County	Harry Pearson	527-7641
11/4	ESLOA Test for Students	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Sara Bellomo	266-7202
11/4	Students READ Test for	TVI Literacy Program/Literacy Ctr. of Abq.	Sara Bellomo	266-7202

### **WE NEED YOUR STORIES/INPUT!!**

Everyone across the state from the Governor to your senator can read about your literacy program and all the success stories you have. Keep them informed as to the importance of a literate state. Send in your articles to be printed in the next issue for October and November.

Mail, fax or email them to [literacy@swcp.com](mailto:literacy@swcp.com)