



The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition
for Literacy

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NMCL to Celebrate 20th Anniversary with Gala

The Coalition, in anticipation of its 20th year of service to the adult literacy community of New Mexico, will host a gala event to kick off our Annual Meeting. The evening will feature keynote speaker and New Mexico author Michael McGarrity, as well as musical performances by Roberto Capocchi and the Chris Abeyta Band.

The Coalition is pleased to announce that First Lady Barbara Richardson, former First Lady Kathy Carruthers, Coalition founder Janet Green, and KOAT-7 anchor Cynthia Izaguirre will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of this landmark event.

It's time to celebrate our successes and increase public awareness – much has been accomplished, but it is estimated that well over 200,000 New Mexicans are in need of literacy services.

Please consider supporting the Coalition and attending this event. Program personnel, volunteer tutors, and literacy students will be offered tick-

ets on a sliding scale. Check your mailboxes soon for more information.

See you June 1!

Event Details

When: Thursday, June 1, 2006
6-10:30 pm

Where: The Hilton Garden Inn Grand Ballroom Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Who: Guests will include current and former elected officials, donors, esteemed members of the community, board members, program personnel, and literacy students

Program:

6:00-7:00 pm Cocktail Reception, Roberto Capocchi, classical guitarist

7:00-7:45 pm Dinner/Speaker, author Michael McGarrity (see page 4)

7:45-8:15 Social Impact Theatre performs

8:00-10:30 pm Dancing, featuring the Chris Abeyta Band

- Kate McGreevy

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New Mexico Coalition for
Literacy
3209 B Mercantile Ct.
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505.982.3997
1.800.233.7587
Email: info@nmcl.org

Professional Program Director's Association

Continuing an ambitious schedule of meetings, the PPDA met in January for the Legislative session, and again March 3rd in Las Cruces.

The January meeting was a big success: Pro-

gram directors visited their respective legislators and each left a promotional flyer behind. We also discussed resources at the NMCL which might be useful for in-services. Many directors took materials

home for review.

The Las Cruces meeting took place at the lovely DABCC campus, hosted by Stephen DiGiulio. We were able to view software with the help of Geri Monahan and
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“CREATING A
PATHWAY TO
THE FUTURE FOR
NEW MEXICANS
THROUGH
LITERACY”



Why the NMCL Began 20 Years Ago...

In 1987, there were already a small number of volunteer literacy programs in different parts of the state. They had no way of raising money through the Legislature because of the many complications of the anti-donation clause faced by individual legislators. The only reliable way of procuring public funding through the state was to have an organization representing and serving all volunteer programs who could manage state monies through a

competitive granting process, and who would hold programs accountable for the funds they receive. This entity was to procure funding from the state and provide training and technical assistance to programs as well. Since we were ultimately funded through the state library, we decided to also provide a lending library so that programs would also have access to materials for review or use in their programs. - Rena Paradis

HISTORICAL TRIVIA:

When the NMCL was first formed, the organization decided they needed a way to connect with the public. They developed the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy Theatre, which was made up of volunteers from the board of directors and the community, and functioned successfully for several years.

NMCL Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker



Janet Green is the director of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management at New Mexico State University and is faculty advisor to NMSU's Sigma Alpha. From 1992 –

1995, she served as the first full-time director of the Rural Economic Development Through Tourism project of NMSU, and the New Mexico Tourism Industry selected Ms. Green as the Tourism Professional of the Year in 1998. Additionally, she served for more than seven years in the State Capitol as a cabinet official for Gov. Gary Johnson, and as the state's protocol officer for eight years. She also served in state government as an executive assistant to Governor and Mrs. Garrey Carruthers. At this time, she worked with the First Lady, Senator Bingaman's office, and a number of individuals from throughout the state who served on the steering committee to establish the NMCL. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a graduate degree in family and consumer sciences with an emphasis in hospitality and tourism, both from NMSU. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in educational administration.

Among her honors, Ms. Green was chosen to be inducted into El Orden Isabel la Catolica; she re-

ceived a commendation from King Juan Carlos of Spain for her exemplary diplomatic work on New Mexico's Cuarto Centenario. She was also one of the first New Mexico women selected to participate in the prestigious Leadership America - a national, nonprofit that recognizes, educates and connects accomplished women to increase their individual and collective impact. Ms. Green serves on the board of directors of the following organizations, in further service to New Mexico: New Mexico 4-H Youth Development, New Mexico Amigos, the Tourism Association of New Mexico, the Association of Commerce and Industry, and the New Mexico Restaurant Association. She is a charter member of the Reggie Theus Foundation, and a member of the Las Cruces Rotary Club.

Ms. Green enjoys golf and intends to play every golf course New Mexico. One year, the NMCL held a golf tournament fundraiser, of which both her and her mother, Alma's, efforts were integral. We hold Ms. Green very dear for establishing the NMCL, for continually supporting our efforts, and for joining us in what is to be a twenty-year celebration of service to community-based literacy programs. We are honored to have her as our keynote and we are pleased to have Alma Green's service on our board of directors!

- Heather Heunermund



NMCL Annual Meeting Speaker



Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D., is currently the dean of the College of Business at New Mexico State University. Most recently, he and Governor Bill Richardson began teaching a leadership and government course at NMSU in September of 2005. Before becoming dean in 2003 and serving as governor of New Mexico from 1987-1990, he joined the NMSU faculty in 1968 and was a professor in the Department of

Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business. Dr. Carruthers holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in agricultural economics, both obtained from NMSU. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University the same year that he joined the faculty of NMSU.

Dr. Carruthers has a long history of serving the public and of supporting education, including service on the boards of the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, among a few of the many organizations to receive his support. In recognition of his service to the state, the New Mexico State Library renamed their building in Santa Fe after him in December of 2003. In 1989, he signed House Bill 126 into law, in support of an allocation of funding to adult literacy programs. And Dr. Carruthers'

wife, Kathy Carruthers, was co-founder of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy. As we approach our 20th anniversary year, coming full-circle, Dr. Carruthers has collaborated with the NMCL in order to bring New Mexico a much-needed, direct assessment of adult literacy ability statewide.

Incidentally dovetailing with our own concerns about the state of literacy in New Mexico, Carruthers published an editorial in the Las Cruces Sun-News in December of 2005 entitled, "the Coming Decline in New Mexico Incomes." In it, he cites a recent report by the National Center for Public Policy, reiterating their claim that by 2020 the workforce will be less educated than the workforce of today, which will result in a drop in New Mexican's incomes. He concludes by underscoring the importance of education and states that if New Mexico does nothing further to raise the education level of its residents, then it can expect to see a marked drop in the success of its economy and the solidity of its tax base. Copies of this article will be available in your welcome packets for the Annual Meeting and Conference, and you can read it online at <http://www.lcsun-news.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2005512220312> We look forward to having Dr. Carruthers as our luncheon guest speaker in continuation of this discussion.

- Heather Heunermund

McCune Foundation Partners with NMCL

The Coalition is proud to announce a generous grant from the McCune Charitable Foundation, headquartered in Santa Fe. McCune has agreed to fund a portion of the Coalition's efforts to expand public awareness and involvement in adult literacy programs.

As part of this project, the Coalition will partner with Voz, Inc.'s (Building Leadership through Adult Student Training) BLAST Social Impact Theater, and with this generous investment from the McCune Foundation, utilize the transformational effect of theater.

BLAST performs skits based on the lives on adult learners. Issues like "passing as a reader" and struggling as a non-native speaker are encountered by actors that include literacy students. Skits are followed by a dialogue with the audience; actors stay in character and answer questions.

BLAST's performances are tentatively scheduled for the summer and early fall. Keep an eye out for more information!

- Kate McGreevy



BLAST Social Impact Theater

20th Anniversary Gala Featured Speaker

Michael McGarrity, is author of ten books in ten years. This year, he celebrates the anniversary of his first publication, *Tularosa* (1996), and has published his tenth book, *Nothing But Trouble*. *Tularosa* was nominated for Anthony, Dilys, and Spur Awards; it was selected as one of the best books of the year by Publishers Weekly. Mr. McGarrity turned to writing full time the same year that he published his first novel, to start a new life as he retired from a 25-year career in law enforcement. This new, full-time dedication to his craft resulted in more accolades for his work: *Serpent Gate*, his third novel in the Kevin Kerney series, was a Booklist Top-Ten Crime Novel Bestseller of 1998-1999. *Under the Color of Law*, his sixth novel, was on the Independent



Mystery Booksellers Association's Top 10 bestseller's list for 2001. It was also one of *Deadly Pleasures Magazine's* best books of the year. Then in 2003, Mr. McGarrity was nominated for two awards - the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for Literature and the Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Western Novel, his second Spur nomination. He received the Governor's Award in 2004. Mr. McGarrity is a great supporter of libraries, such as his community's Vista Grande Public Library in El Dorado, and he is currently slated as guest speaker for the Roswell Public Library's 100th Anniversary celebration. Mr. McGarrity will join us for our own anniversary celebration as featured, guest speaker at our Gala on June 1, 2006.

Michael McGarrity holds a bachelor's degree with distinction in psychology from San Jose State University, and a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Iowa; he is a Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient.

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discuss software that could be helpful to programs that have waiting lists of students who need to be served right away. We agreed that the Crossroads Café is a very helpful video series for ESL students. They have occasionally been shown on public television, and are also available at the NMCL Resource Center. Mentioned, too, are the GED prep programs occasionally shown on public television, which can be taped for students. We also discussed the advantages of programs video taping their own students and tutors for local promotional purposes. The NMCL hopes to produce a state-wide promotional video later in the new year, and may be able to use portions

Moreover, he is an honor graduate of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy. He is published in a number of professional journals in the social sciences, covering topics such as: therapy programs for children; program assessment and evaluation; staff development; and drug treatment interventions. He maintained a private practice in family therapy and consultation to community-based treatment agencies. Mr. McGarrity has many credits to his name in his role as social worker: he was responsible for reestablishing mental health services for the New Mexico Corrections Department after the riot of 1980; he created school-based counseling services for children and youth; he established intensive therapy programs for patients with serious mental disorders; and he developed halfway houses and residential treatment programs for drug abusers and felons released to the community. In 1980, he was recognized as the New Mexico Social Worker of the Year.

In his life as a law enforcement officer, Mr. McGarrity served as a deputy sheriff for Santa Fe County, serving as patrol officer; community relations officer; training and planning supervisor; and lead investigator for the sex crimes unit, which he established. He also served as an instructor at the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, and as an investigator and caseworker for the Public Defender's Office. He was honored as Santa Fe's Police Officer of the Year in 1987.

Given Mr. McGarrity's fascinating background and phenomenological approach to writing, it is no wonder why his mysteries captivate the minds of so many. Be prepared for an evening of excitement with our featured guest.

BookWorks will have a table from 6 - 9 pm.

- Heather Heunermund

of your tapes. Barbara Wesley, director for Literacy Volunteers of Cibola County, has offered the services of her television production crew at a significant reduction in production costs.

A final PPDA meeting for the year will be held in conjunction with the NMCL Annual Meeting, June 2 in Rio Rancho. The PPDA meeting will be held Thursday, June 1. All program directors are invited to attend. The meeting will run most of the day. More details later! Overnight lodging at the conference hotel for the 1st will be paid as well as mileage for PPDA attendees. - Rena Paradis