



Volume 21 Issue 2
October 2010

THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF ST. PETERSBURG, INC.

NEWSLETTER

[News Release from ProLiteracy... in case you missed it!](#)

ProLiteracy Applauds Formation of First-Ever House Adult Literacy Caucus

Democrat Maffei and Republican Roe join together to focus attention on adults in need of literacy and basic education services.

SYRACUSE, NY, Sept. 15, 2010 — Congressman Dan Maffei (D-NY) today will announce the formation of the first-ever House Adult Literacy Caucus. The bipartisan caucus aims to bring attention to the critical need for literacy services for the estimated 32 million adults in the country who have below-basic reading skills. Congressman Maffei will serve as the caucus chair and Congressman Phil Roe (R-TN) will serve as the co-chair. The announcement is taking place at a National Coalition for Literacy awards ceremony on Capitol Hill.

ProLiteracy, the world's largest organization of adult literacy and basic education programs, will participate in the event, held in conjunction with this week's Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

"Syracuse is often referred to as the unofficial capital of the adult literacy movement given that our organization was started here more than 40 years ago," said David C. Harvey, president and CEO of ProLiteracy. "It is fitting that Syracuse's own Congressman, having seen and supported our efforts here and around the globe, has taken a leadership role to advance this much-needed cause in the House of Representatives."

"It is imperative that we raise the visibility of adult literacy and basic education in Congress at a time when job opportunities for people with low literacy are severely limited," said Congressman Maffei. "I am pleased to work together with my co-chair Congressman Roe, and look forward to engaging more of our Congressional colleagues in combating adult illiteracy to help more Americans get work."

The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy found that approximately 93 million adults in the U.S. lack the literacy skills needed to reach their full potential. Of this group, 32 million adults have such low levels of literacy that they cannot fully participate at home, in the workplace and in their communities.

The House Adult Literacy Caucus' mission is to promote adult literacy initiatives on a local, national and global level and offer these underserved adults the tools they need to increase their opportunities and contribute to their communities.

At the ceremony in Washington, D.C. today, the National Coalition for Literacy will also present the 2010 Leadership Awards to individuals and organizations that have taken extraordinary steps toward improving literacy and raising awareness of the adult literacy and English language learning needs.

About ProLiteracy

ProLiteracy, based in Syracuse, champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults and their families, communities, and societies. It works with adult new readers and learners and with local and national organizations to help adults gain the reading, writing, math, computer, and English skills they need to be successful. ProLiteracy advocates on behalf of adult learners and the programs that

serve them, provides training and professional development, and publishes materials used in adult literacy and basic education instruction. ProLiteracy has 1,000 member programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and works with 80 nongovernmental organizations in 50 developing countries. For more information, please go to www.proliteracy.org and www.newreaderspress.com.

Updates from the Gallery : Tutor Trainings

Teaching Adults to Read, Changing Lives Forever

On May 26, 2010 the St. Petersburg Times ran an article about our program. The article focused on our senior tutors and the number of senior students we serve. After the article ran, the phone rang and rang with people wanting to become tutors. It was nonstop for six weeks, until we conducted our summer tutor training session.

The training event was held on June 25 at the USF St. Petersburg campus downtown. It was the largest crowd we have ever had in one session. There were 30 trainees present and all of them were certified as Laubach/ESOL tutors. As it happens, some of the new tutors have been unable to begin tutoring, for one reason or another. With the beginning of the new school year, we have placed almost all the tutors with students in our sites.

The next training was held on September 24 at the Bayfront Medical Center – Conference Center. We had another 16 participants for this fall training. All of these trainees became certified as Laubach/ESOL tutors and are being placed with students at our sites. We want to thank all the seasoned tutors who helped to make this happen, preparing the room for the training. The next event will be in February, our winter training. We hope to have many more tutors to help us provide tutoring for our ever-growing student population.

Our tutors are a very important part of our program, without them we would be unable to touch the lives of so many students. **We wish to thank all** the participants of the June and September trainings and welcome you to our family.

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual BBQ

4501 30th Ave. N

St. Petersburg

Saturday, November 6

12:00 – 3:00 PM



November 6

Fall Barbeque

November 16

Board Meeting

Welcome to New Coordinator

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg is happy to announce a new site coordinator at our Seminole-SPC location. Eileen Dardis, a seasoned tutor, has taken over the position and is working feverishly to bring everything up to standards.

The new school year comes with some new requirements for our literacy program. At most of our tutoring sites we have been registering our students into the school's records. However, Seminole has not been required to do so as they are not located in an adult school location. This year will be the first time we are required to do so and it requires some new paperwork. Included in this registration process is the testing of our students. The majority of our sites have never used the TABE (Tests of Adult Education) for assessing the new students. Now it is a requirement and has been a challenge for all of us and in particular the new site coordinator. This testing tool is going to be beneficial to our literacy program so that we are better equipped to monitor the successes of our adult learners.

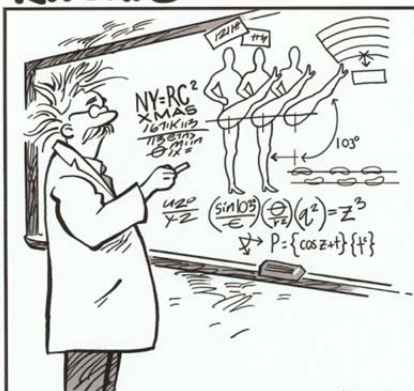
We would like to thank Eileen for the great job she is doing and for her patience. Our hats are off to you Eileen.



Poetry Club offered at Tomlinson

Poetry Club to be held on Wednesdays following morning reading class at Tomlinson school. Many thanks to Pat Horton for her initiative!

KWURKS



Thank You! For you CONTRIBUTIONS

Online at www.stpetereads.com



Student Corner:

Thanks to students Christopher Beausoliel, Andrew Bess, John Ruiz, Sylvester Williams, Ingrid Wright

My Summer Vacation by Christopher Beausoliel

During the summer break I worked on my house. I remodeled my kitchen, poured the driveway, and built a shed for my tools. I also visited the island of Jamaica with my wife. It is a very beautiful place and I enjoyed myself.

When I returned, I visited the pier downtown with my family members that were visiting me. They too enjoyed themselves. It was lots of fun. I wish every day was a holiday.

A Word of Wisdom by Andrew Bess

Many people believe that the best way to learn is by the day to day experiences one has in life. This is correct for the general population. But, what about the wisdom gathered from reading books? You gather knowledge from non-fiction books and you increase your imagination from reading fiction books. So, to those who are just learning to read, you have more than one choice.

Summer Vacation Having Fun by John Ruiz

My summer vacation was fun. Even though I was on vacation, I tried to read every day. I went swimming in the pool where I live. It is easy to walk in the water.

For my birthday, August 31, I went to the beach. After that we went to Shepherd's, my favorite restaurant. It is a buffet. I love seafood. Later we went to the movies.

Part of my summer vacation was to practice what my doctor told me to do, to walk without my walker. I think of all the things I used to do like playing baseball, bowling, and walking around the lake. I am getting better with the help of my mother and sister. I enjoyed my vacation this year. I hope to do more exciting things next year.

What I did during the summer by Sylvester Williams

This summer I worked. I served food to people. I took food up the stairs for people to eat. Then I helped throw away trash and clean up when they were done.

Being Literate "To the illiterate of the world", a quote from Frank C. Laubach by Ingrid Wright

I would like to tell my story of being illiterate. My name is Ingrid Wright, and I say that with great self assurance, something that I did not have until I learned to read. Don't get me wrong, I had confidence, but when I learned to read it soared through the air like a happy go lucky bird! Being illiterate at times I felt like an outcast. I felt like the stupidest person in the world and so needy of people's help until I was blessed with this wonderful school called Tomlinson Adult Learning Center of St Petersburg, Florida.

When I started, I was a lost child all alone in this world. But it changed quick-fast-in-a hurry. I felt so appreciative and loved at that school. The teachers that they have in that class are unbelievable. I am a slow learner, but they took me from a state of doubt to I can and I will. My teacher is Mary Putnam and there are many more tutors from the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg that help us students. They care a great deal about the illiterates and want to see us get to the top. You would want to go to school every day because of the amount of support. I even started writing poems, something I never thought about doing. When you start doing something impossible, there is no stopping you. You just need the right people backing you.

Please don't be afraid to go back to school to learn to read because it will open up new opportunities. Just remember, keep your head up high because you are somebody and more. It just has to come out. Learn to read and your whole world will change.

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A Letter from the President



Welcome back to the new school year. Many of our students are already making great strides in achieving their goals. Entering a GED class, reading to their children or grandchildren, or just reading the newspaper, our adult learners work very hard with their tutors to complete what they want to accomplish. We are very proud of all of them and appreciate our volunteer tutors who make it possible.

We are working with several organizations in the community to better serve the population of adult students who need our services. We have begun a tutoring program at the Boley Center on the south side to enable some of their clients to become better readers and to enter into the GED program. There are negotiations in progress to implement other new programs for adult learners and we are continuing to keep up the good work!

We are reaching out to civic organizations such as the Rotary and Kiwanis to promote literacy awareness. Some students from the Tomlinson site will be attending the Florida Literacy Ambassador program, being held in Indian Rocks this year. This program, sponsored by the Florida Literacy Coalition helps adult learners to begin to advocate for literacy and to develop their own stories to share with others in their community.

Our committee members want to hear from you. Some of the tutors have already participated in a survey to share their experiences with our organization. If you have any ideas for enhancing our programs, please let us know. You may send us an email at litcouncilstpete@gmail.com. We are looking forward to many successes this year and wish to thank everyone for their continued efforts in helping our program grow.

*Sincerely,
Ann Palmer
President*