

Our First Bowl-a-Thon

The Seminole Lake Rotary Club in partnership with the Sunshine City Kiwanis and Seminole Lanes sponsored our very first Bowl-a-thon as a fundraising event on Saturday, September 13th. With Marianne Fisher's efforts, we were fortunate to get the participation of several businesses in the area which each made a \$100 donation to the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg. An impressive \$3600 was raised at the Bowl-a-Thon!

We had a terrific turnout of participants who had a fabulous time bowling in the dark which they call Galactic Bowling. Many prizes were raffled off thanks to our sponsors: a trip for two to Adventure Island, two tickets to Sea World, two great seats for the Neil Diamond concert, just to name a few. Prizes were also given for the highest scoring person and the highest scoring team.

I want to say firsthand, it was a great time had by all. We especially want to thank the Seminole Lanes for this spectacular event. They have invited us back again next year, so if you missed it this time around, watch our events calendar for the next one. Our heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors who made this fundraiser a great success:

Seminole Lake Rotary Club	Oakhurst Realty
SPC Circle K Kiwanis	One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating
Seminole Lanes	Dr. Jeffrey Raheb, DC
Capital Atlantic Mortgage	Shook Woodworking
1 st Home Bank	Weichert Realtors Sun & Sand Realty
Marianne Fisher	Whitney Bank
Harmon Home Builder	R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home
Dr. David A. Moore, DDS	

Ann Palmer, Vice President



Barnes & Noble Supports Literacy with a Book Fair

The month of October was a busy time for the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg. On October 10th and 11th, Barnes & Noble Book Store held a Book Fair to support us. Friday night was devoted to the adults, so we provided events to soothe the soul such as Mozelle Sawyer Bell of the Tampa Bay Symphony who played her violin and Whistling Tom, who whistles tunes just like a bird.

On Saturday, we devoted our efforts to occupying the children so their parents could spend money. Craft tables of many kinds were set up throughout the store providing children of all ages lots of activities. We especially want to thank our volunteers who played with the children. They all had a good time and each child was able to take something home that they made while their parents went shopping.

Barnes & Noble donated \$688 to the Literacy Council from the proceeds of this Book Fair. Their support is critical to our ongoing efforts to teach adults to read. We wish to thank their staff for a fine event which we hope will become an annual affair.

Critical Funding from Verizon

Once again Verizon has provided critical funding for the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg so that we can continue with our tutoring programs. This year we are pleased to announce a \$5,000 grant from Verizon, which will help us purchase books and software for our computers. Due to Verizon's support over many years, our students can better their reading skills not only with textbooks but with laptop computers available at each of our tutoring sites. These laptops have software especially designed for our adults: Strategies for Older Students, and Reading Horizons. Thank you Verizon for helping our students continue to better their reading skills.

Welcome New Tutors!

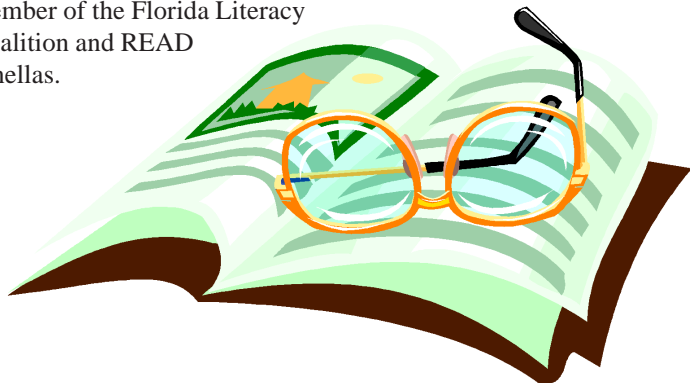
Our third Tutor Training Workshop this year was held on September 19th & 20th at the USF-St. Petersburg campus. This group of new tutors was unusual because almost half of them are teachers. Although our group was small this time, they were lively and enthusiastic. Most of our new tutors are already working with students. We would like to welcome:

Maria Bush
Sara Cavallo
Judy Garrett
James Keane
Joey Norton
Conan O'Neil
Jacquelyn Smith
Ruth Taylor
Becky Wells

Our last Tutor Training Workshop for this year is scheduled for December 5th & 6th. Please spread the word to anyone you know who would like to become a tutor with our program.

LCSP Mission Statement

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg is a non-profit organization established in 1968 to teach adults to read and to assist them in entering a GED program. LCSP is affiliated with ProLiteracy America, formed from the merger of Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers of America. LCSP is also a member of the Florida Literacy Coalition and READ Pinellas.

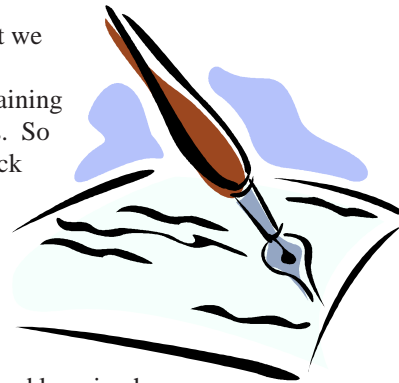


St. Petersburg Hosts Volunteer Tutor Symposium

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg, its board and volunteer tutors are experts at teaching reading and writing skills, but they are great at listening, too. During the summer, President Barbara Taylor Ann Vice President/Lead Trainer Ann Palmer sent a survey to all active tutors posing a simple but important question.

Tutors working with the Literacy Council receive intensive pre-service training to prepare them to work with adults struggling to improve their reading skills.

Board members realized that we are all lifelong learners and wanted to offer additional training to their dedicated volunteers. So the survey asked tutors to pick from a range of topics for further training. It turned out that tutors were most interested in exploring word recognition strategies, getting a closer look at the Challenger Reading Series, and learning how to incorporate real life materials into their lesson plans.



On October 11, 2008 a group of 19 tutors from St. Petersburg, and other literacy providers from as far away as Ft. Meade and Lake city, met at the USF-St. Petersburg campus. They explored these three topics with Lead Trainer Ann Palmer and Roberta Reiss, a trainer provided by the Florida Literacy Coalition. The symposium format allowed participants to stay the whole day or choose to sit in on one or two sessions. Participants had a chance to improve their skills and receive free materials. Overall, evaluations of the event proved to be positive, thanks to good planning and enthusiastic participants.

Roberta Reiss
Florida Literacy Coalition



A First: Tutor Training Workshop at the Pinellas County Jail

On September 4th, the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg and the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries joined forces to conduct a tutor training workshop which would assist the GED teachers at the Pinellas County Jail and further the education of some of its inmates. An experienced team of tutor trainers consisting of Mitch Smith, Ann Palmer and Emily Bowen provided an area of training which has never been done before in Pinellas County: they combined Basic Literacy and English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) techniques into one workshop.

After considerable review by the GED teachers, a training session was held for 12 inmates and 3 teachers. The inmates in this tutor training workshop will provide tutoring to other inmates at the Pinellas County Jail. The goal is to get tutoring to the pre-literate and/or ESOL inmates thereby reducing the recidivism rate. Which means that if inmates can further their education, they will then enter the workforce, and hopefully not return to jail.

The training went very well and the inmates were very interested in getting started. READ Pinellas will be tracking the progress of the program. We want to thank the Pinellas County Jail and the Sheriff's Office for allowing this pilot program.

2009 Calendar

January	20	Board Meeting
February	17 20-21	Board Meeting Tutor Training Workshop
March	17 28	Board Meeting Learning Disabilities Workshop
April	21	Board Meeting (Elections)
May	16 18	41 st Annual Awards Dinner Board Meeting
June	16 20-21	Board Meeting Tutor Training Workshop
July		No Board Meeting
August	17	Board Meeting
September	15 26-26	Board Meeting Tutor Training Workshop
October	16 20 31	In-Service Workshop Board Meeting Festival of Reading
November	7 17	Fall Barbecue Board Meeting
December	4-5	Tutor Training Workshop No Board Meeting

Carnival Time at the Barbecue

On November 1st, the Literacy Council had its annual barbecue once again at Fort DeSoto. The theme this year was "Carnival". The day was beautiful. The area was festive with carnival decorations and activities included face painting, a "balloonist" (thanks Linda Ciston), a belly dancer, and games and even prizes for the kids. We even had carnival cutouts so that you could take a picture of yourself as a carnival man or lady. The Council provided burgers and hotdogs at this potluck event while students and tutors brought in salads, cakes, and other goodies.

This was a chance for students and tutors to just get together, have some fun, meet new people, and talk with old friends.. Many people gave their time to help us set up this event, but a special word of thanks goes to Edie Randolph and Ann Palmer—their efforts helped insure the success of this annual outing.

Mitchell Smith, Board Member



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Words of Wisdom

“A book is the most effective weapon against intolerance and ignorance.”
—*Lyndon Baines Johnson*

“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read.” — *Mark Twain*

“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.” — *Samuel Johnson*

“Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.”
— *Harry S. Truman*

“The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who’ll get me a book I ain’t read.” — *Abraham Lincoln*

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.” — *Walt Disney*

“No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.” — *Confucius*

“Never discourage anyone...who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.” — *Plato*

“Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens.” — *President Clinton on International Literacy Day, September 8, 1994*

From the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg

Board of Directors

THANK YOU TUTORS!!

From January through October 2008

You volunteered over

2752

tutoring hours

to our students.