



# The Literacy Forum

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy  
June/July 2000

P.O. Box 6085, Santa Fe, NM 87502-6085/website: [www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org)/email: [nmcl@newmexico.com](mailto:nmcl@newmexico.com)

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!

## **The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy Staff**

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## 13th Annual Meeting—"Partnerships"

The NMCL's 13th Annual Meeting will take place on June 16, 2000 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rio Rancho. This year's theme is "Partnerships". Our keynote speaker is Eileen Longsworth, Director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library Systems.

It will be a full day of informative sessions with three workshops in the morning and three in the afternoon. The workshops held in the morning are "How to get to the H.I.L.L. (High Interest, Low Level Material), presented by Clara Rey, an NMCL Board member and the library director for Schlientz Memorial Library in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Prison Literacy is presented by Jane Kuemmerle, an NMCL Board member and an expert on the subject; David Godsted, NMCL Executive Director will present a workshop that will give tips on navigating the Internet to get the information you need. The afternoon sessions include New Partnerships, New Opportunities presented by Dr. Rebecca Gault, NMCL ABE

Coordinator; "Bringing Your Spirit to Work" presented by Carolyn Silver, Organizational Development, and Writing a Grant Proposal with Charles Schweigert, NMCL Resource Developer.

There will be a luncheon during which awards will be presented to:

Student of the Year—Francisco Chavez of the Deming Literacy Program. This young man is an ESL student that has not allowed his handicaps to slow him down in achieving his wish to become a productive citizen of the United States.

Exceptional Literacy Program—LVA Dona Ana Branch, Director Harry Pearson. This program is very worthy of this honor, not only for its wonderful work in adult literacy services, but because of its willingness to cooperate with all partners in the field of literacy.

Trainer of the Year—Lisa Bre-schi Almond. Lisa has been on board since last summer. She conducts exceptional Family Literacy workshops for the ABE

Professional Development component, and takes on any other task given to her with much enthusiasm.

Partnerships Award—The Rotary Club of Albuquerque, an organization that gives so much to the cause of literacy in the state of New Mexico, therefore entitling them to this award.

Also during the luncheon, Benjamin Wakashige, New Mexico State Library, will speak.

At the end of the day, everyone will get a chance to see the New Pathways Adult Literacy Theater perform skits on the challenges faced by adult learners.

Join us when we "partner" with volunteers, students, trainers, board members, and everyone having an interest in making New Mexico a literate state!

If you would like to register for this exciting, informative event and do not have a registration form, please call and we will mail or fax you one. Or check out our website at [www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org) and download the form.

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## Jane Kuemmerle-NMCL Board Member Receives Award

Jane Kummerle, past NMCL President of the Board of Directors and current board member received the prestigious Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. The awards were presented to 30 women by Governor Gary Johnson and First Lady Dee Johnson

at a banquet in their honor on May 6th at the Crowne Plaza Pyramid in Albuquerque. The award was sponsored by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women and is awarded to those who have made efforts to improve the status of women in New Mexico

by being involved in their communities, showing leadership and implementing positive change.

Jane is from Roswell, and is passionate about literacy, as evidenced by her involvement

*(Continued on page 4)*



Jane accepting the award from Governor Gary Johnson and First Lady Dee Johnson

## STORIES FROM NEW MEXICO LITERACY PROGRAMS

### Deming Literacy Program—LVA

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*“The Deming Literacy Program has been recognized as a vital part of the community.”*

The Deming Literacy Program was started in May, 1990 by Nati May—a woman with a dream. Her dream was to raise the level of literacy in Luna County by offering free classes to adults. When she applied for membership with the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy she was loaned space for classes at the First United Methodist Church, and individuals volunteered as tutors, her dream became a reality. She moved from Deming, but the seeds she had planted

had produced a program that continues to excel.

As the program gets ready to celebrate its tenth anniversary, we see a great deal of changes have occurred. Classes in basic literacy, pre-GED, GED, Citizenship, ESL, and Spanish are offered. Enrollment has increased steadily. This year, as NMCL works with the Department of Labor on Welfare to Work programs, more and more students are seeking an education.

The Deming Literacy Program has been recognized as a vital part of the community. This was proven on March 24th when a ground breaking ceremony was held by city government for a building to house the program. By this fall as the move is made, volunteers and students look forward to a bright and exciting future for the Deming Literacy Program—LVA.

*Submitted by Dolores Rodriguez, Director, Deming Literacy Program*

*The groundbreaking ceremony for the building in which the Deming Literacy Council will be housed. Holding shovels: L to R Dolores Rodriguez, Miguel Briseno, Mayor Sam Baca, City Administrator John Strand, Marie Sutter-Sinden, and Tina Milo.*

### Artesia Literacy Council

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*“By working in one-to-one or small group setting, tutors are able to provide the individualized attention that may not be available in larger classes”.*

The tutors of the Artesia Literacy Council have been teaching adults since 1995. We are teaching adults affected by low-literacy and immigrants with English as a second language, using Laubach books and materials with reading, writing, spelling and conversation.

By working in one-to-one or small group setting, tutors are able to provide the individualized attention that may not be available in larger classes. The tutor tailors the program to the learner's needs, goals, and the student's primary reasons for wanting to learn English.

Our current enrollment is at 31 students and 15 tutors. Since 1995 we have had 156 students.

One of our students is preparing for the Citizenship Exam. In the past year, we had two that passed their exams. We've had 4% of the students that met their goals in our program and they will continue their education elsewhere. These adult learners feel they are prepared and up to the challenge in taking an active part in problem solving in their activities of daily living.

Artesia Literacy Council is

also involved with family literacy with students from our center and at the Artesia Public Library. The council donated books and prizes to the library last summer, which in turn were awarded to 35 children for reading one hundred pages.

On October 12, 1999, The Artesia Literacy Council held our fourth annual Fiesta de Alegria for a group of thirty and certificates of achievements were given to students.

*Submitted by Artesia Literacy Council staff.*

## STORIES FROM NEW MEXICO LITERACY PROGRAMS continued.....

## Las Vegas/San Miguel Literacy Vounteers

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*“The program has served a lot of students through the commitment of dedicated volunteer tutors.”*

The Las Vegas/San Miguel Literacy Volunteer Program was started in 1988. The program has served a lot of students through the commitment of dedicated volunteer tutors.

This local literacy program works closely with the Adult Basic Education Program at Luna Vocational Technical Institute and the satellite program at Pecos National Historical Park. At the present time 3 students are participating in basic literacy.

Sylvia Sandoval from Albuquerque served as facilitator for

the workshops for the new tutors at New Mexico Highlands University Student Center and at the Pecos National Park in March.

Joe Herrera, director was the guest speaker at the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Association of American Women at their March meeting. He spoke about the program, its objectives and the participation by volunteer tutors and students.

*Submitted by Joe Herrera, Director, Las Vegas/San Miguel Literacy Volunteers*

If you would like to submit your story to be printed in “The Literacy Forum” just submit by mailing, faxing or emailing. The latter is preferred because we will not have to re-type it, and would save time. But if you can’t email it, that’s fine too. Also, send us photos if you would like. Not all stories will be published and not all photos will be included. This all depends on space!  
Thanks!

### Accreditation Guarantees Credibility By Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer LVA Board of Directors (Taken from “the READER” LVA, April 2000 issue)

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*“Students who improve their lives through an accredited literacy provider will be the real winners.”*  
- Congressman Sawyer

One in five adults in this country cannot read or write well enough to achieve their potential at work, at home, and in their communities. This ratio has remained the same since I led efforts in the House to pass the National Literacy Act of 1991 (NLA). That legislation included important provisions to improve the quality of literacy services and expand the number of adults receiving instruction in the U.S. Quality and accountability were also important themes in the NLA’s successor, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Now, Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. (LVA) is implementing a major accreditation initiative to establish accountability standards for volunteer literacy service providers. The purpose of LVA Accreditation is to ensure that everyone who receives tutoring from volunteers receives quality service. To my knowledge, this is the first effort by a national adult literacy organization to apply mandatory program standards system-wide.

LVA Accreditation employs a framework that is mandatory and rigorous yet flexible. This approach maximizes accountability while encouraging innovation. It gives literacy providers the flexibility to do what they do best and helps them to see how they can do it better. LVA Accreditation is designed to continuously raise the performance threshold of LVA’s affiliates and other literacy ser-

vice providers through ongoing standardization of best –demonstrated practices.

LVA has demonstrated leadership in the field of adult literacy by modeling for the field the tool other fields such as health care and higher education have found effective for ensuring quality and raising resources. Government agencies, like corporations and philanthropic foundations, want to put scarce resources where they will be used effectively. Rigorous accreditation based on recognized best practices provides a quality “seal of approval” that funders will appreciate.

If the budget surplus and financial resources were limitless, we would fund every worthy cause. However, in competition for limited resources organizations must make the best case for their ability to be effective. LVA Accreditation will help volunteer literacy programs make their case in both the public and private sectors by guaranteeing credibility.

LVA has assumed a leadership role in the adult literacy field by mandating accreditation for all programs in its network. I am proud to serve on the Board of an organization that embraces quality, accountability, and innovation the way LVA does. In the end, students who improve their lives through an accredited literacy provider will be the real winners.

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## Training Corner

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
6/16,17, 23,24	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program	Donna Aragon	224-1313
6/16-24	LVA BR	ReadWest (Rio Rancho)	Elizabeth Thomsen	892-1131
7/2,3,9,10	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program & Literacy Center of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-1313
8/25,26 9/8,9	LVA BR	TVI Literacy Program & Literacy Center of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-1313
8/25,26 9/8,9	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program & Literacy Center of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-1313
10/6,7,13,14	LVA ESL	TVI Literacy Program & Literacy Center of Abq.	Donna Aragon	224-1313

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of nearly three decades. She is now the Laubach Supervising Trainer for New Mexico in both literacy and English as a second language. She has been a Coalition board member for many years and also serves on the Roswell Literacy Council as the President of the Board of Directors.

Jane is truly a driving force behind the literacy movement in New Mexico, and a symbol of the vision statement of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy, which reads, "creating a pathway to the future through literacy".

CONGRATUATIONS JANE!