

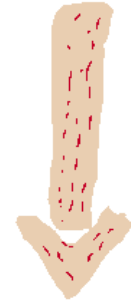


The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition
for Literacy

Volume 1, Issue 2

June, 2005



NMCL Annual Meeting a Happy Reunion!

About 120 people attended the Annual Meeting held at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Rio Rancho, June 3. We were welcomed to Rio Rancho and presented an award by **Susan Ryerson**, the director of ReadWest, and we were honored to present awards to **Senators John C. Ryan, James G. Taylor, First Lady, Barbara Richardson**, and the **Qwest Foundation**. Our keynote speaker, **Carol Brey Casiano**, President, ALA, reminded us of an old and valuable relationship we have maintained with the State Library for many years. Literacy programs were encouraged to work with libraries and to encourage interaction between our adult students and librarians. Acquiring a library card can be very meaningful to our learners, and can open doors to new reading possibilities and internet access.

The NMCL Board of Directors had a business meeting early the morning of the Annual Meeting, and were pleased to

visit with **Loretta Armenta**, President of the Qwest Foundation, **Nick Evangelista**, Executive Director of NMAEA and **Michele Centrella**, ABE Program Improvement Coordinator. The NMCL looks forward to a long and mutually helpful relationship with our ABE colleagues. We must never overlook how important we are to each other.

Rena Paradis



Below: Ellen Harbaugh, NMCL Board introduces Carol Brey Casiano

ProLiteracy Meets in Tucson!

Any excuse to go to beautiful Tucson, Arizona, is good enough for me! Now we have a chance to attend the national annual meeting right next door. You have already received invitations from ProLiteracy.

If you've been missing **David Godsted**, David and Rena will

be co-presenting a workshop at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference, Oct. 26-29, and welcome friendly faces in the audience. The workshop is entitled **"Make a Difference! State Level Advocacy as a Force for Change"** Go to www.proliteracy.org/registration.asp. This promises to be a splendid conference!

Rena Paradis

Grant Applications Available Now.

Charles Schweigert

It's June, so it must be time for another round of grant applications...most of you should already have received a copy of the new RFP, but if you haven't you can download a copy in either Microsoft Word or pdf format from our website (www.nmcl.org) in the grants section. If you prefer a hard copy by mail, or an electronic copy by e-mail, just give us a call at 1-800-233-7587. Keep in mind the deadline is July 22 this year.

We tried to simplify the application process a bit this year by asking direct questions and by shortening the narrative section. We did away with the three-tiered approach used last year in favor of one category of grants that includes new programs, existing programs, and expanded programs. We have a bit more money to give out this year, so we are hoping for some new ideas on new approaches and how to reach more students. But don't worry if you just need funds to continue your existing program. We need you too!



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“The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”

U.S. Dept. of Education, What Works, (1986)



Back Row: L to R Geri Monahan, Stephen DeGiulio, Donna Aragon, Michelle Meeks
Middle: Delora Elizondo, Letty Naranjo, Mary Cook Allen, Michelle Detterick, Andrae England
Front: Marisol Perez, Alvin Billie, Betty Miller

Site Visits are an Inspiration to the NMCL!

Working every day as administrators of funding, problem solvers, trainers and quality agents, we really do not see the nuances of your program until we visit you. Rena has been on the road, and as of this writing, is still visiting programs. Reports are written, and information that is gathered is shared with the Grant Committee on the day grant proposals are reviewed and tough decisions are made.

The southeastern part of the state is moving and changing with innovative ideas for training, recruiting and program management. There can be no comparison between the same programs 10 years ago and now (this is true for programs state-

The NMCL PPDA Rocks!

The second quarterly meeting of the NMCL PPDA (Professional Program Directors Association) occurred on June 2, the day before the NMCL Annual Meeting. Attending were: **Mary Cook Allen** (Ruidoso), **Donna Aragon** (ABQ), **Alvin Billie** (Thoreau), **Stephen DeGiulio** (Las Cruces), **Michelle Detterick** (Silver City), **Delora Elizondo** (Carlsbad), **Andrae England** (Roswell), **Michelle Meeks**

NMCL Contract Trainers are Re-certified.

On June 4, 2005, 15 NMCL contract tutor trainers were re-certified. They are: **Donna Aragon**, ABQ (ESL, LD and Board Trainer), **Sheri Brautigam**, Santa Fe (ESL), **Catherine Carpenter**, ABQ (ESL and Board Trainer), **Kevin DiPalma**, Santa Fe (ESL), **Andrae England**, Roswell (ESL), **William Heenan**, ABQ (BL), **Janice Lujan**, ABQ (ESL), **Michelle Meeks**, Farmington

(Farmington), **Betty Miller** (Moriarty), **Letty Naranjo** (Santa Fe), and **Marisol Perez** (Deming). Highlights of the day long discussion are about promoting your program with other organizations who can help, such as the Lions Club and Chambers of Commerce; partnering with other agencies for space and volunteers (apparently HELP will actually pay young people to take training and tutor and TANF clients need volunteer

hours). Incorporating an “eligibility statement” into your policies was discussed with a caution about appearing discriminatory. Assessments were discussed. Recognizing the need for the TABE, CASAS and the like, it is still helpful to use ESLOA, READ, LITSTART and SLOSSON, as a more useful tool for tutors. Various methods of recognition were visited. The next meeting will be in Moriarty, Aug. 26th. *Rena Paradis*

program support.

Many programs are considering pursuing ProLiteracy Accreditation, and New Mexico demonstrates a healthy interest in those credentials. With funding increasingly competitive in all non-profit sectors, credentials become more necessary. The northern part of the state is exciting in its changes; with two new programs (Abiquiu and Questa) and very different kinds of programs working together to stay strong. The NMCL watches and roots for these folks, for they have already done the incredible: they have offered change and opportunity to their communities, and a new way of looking at adult literacy.

Rena Paradis

help them do this. We will pay for their lead trainer to take the ProLiteracy new on-line Training of Trainers, and will accommodate an apprenticeship program.

We are pleased to be hosting another new apprenticeship with Evicta Harvey, an experienced literacy provider, mentor and tutor from Mesquite, NM, in southern Dona Ana County. *Rena Paradis*

Alamogordo is looking into the possibility of preparing its own training team. The NMCL will



A Note from Artesia

One of the most exciting things Artesia Literacy has done this year is to use computer based software to teach English. We are using **Ultimate Phonics** (New Readers Press) for our beginners and our LD students. We have a number of programs from Don Johnston, which include **“Simon S.I.O.”**, **“Wordmaker”** for those who do not speak very much English, but can understand English, and **“Picture This,”** which is basically clip art that can be made into picture flashcards. A great tool for putting together word games: **“Kidspiration 2,”** which uses a number of subjects such as social studies, science, math, as well as reading and writing with pictures and shapes, symbols, etc. My personal favorite is a very comprehensive program from Reading Horizons. This program features an on screen keyboard that has a mouth that says the letter and the sound of the letter. Another feature is the writing of the letter on the screen showing the sequence of each stroke. This program also teaches the English rules, which is sometimes difficult to come by. The only problem we have had is that the students are very reluctant to quit when it is time. There is a lot of action, sound and repetition so even the slowest learners are experiencing a great deal of success. A perk, of course, is that in the process they are getting to know about computers and this makes them feel really good. I encourage anyone who would like to have a freshness added to their program, to check out what is on the market and order what fits your program. *Gerry B. Wilks, Exec. Dir. Artesia Literacy Council, alc162@juno.com*



Gerry Wilks and Board President in front of Artesia Literacy Council learning center.

“When it comes to adult students, assume nothing!”

Anonymous



A Thank-you to Dona Ana Branch Community College, Las Cruces, NM.

Rena Paradis **Partnerships** between ABE/community colleges and community based literacy programs are always a best-case scenario. Everybody wins. The college gets an increase in numbers and the literacy program receives support of various kinds from the college. **Dona Ana Branch Community College ABE** has an in-house adult literacy program, the first LVA affiliate in New Mexico: **Literacy Volunteers of Dona Ana County**. The partnership between the college and the liter-

acy program has been generous and highly successful. But it doesn't stop there, because ABE DABCC also now lends a helpful hand to the literacy program in Deming, and soon Truth or Consequences, Silver City and Lordsburg may be contacting them. Well done, DABCC. You are an inspiration to CBO's who don't know where to go for testing with their pre-GED learners, and to the NMCL, who promotes ABE/literacy program cooperation in New Mexico. **Literacy Volunteers at TVI, Albu-**

querque, supports local literacy programs, also. They open their inservices and tutor training to any volunteer literacy program in the region who needs to train tutors, as does Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe at SFCC, Valencia County Literacy Council, Los Lunas, and Catholic Charities, Albuquerque. Partnerships don't all look alike, but they do all benefit the most important people we serve: our students!



Stephen DeGiulio, Director, Literacy Volunteers of Dona Ana County.





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We're on the Web!
www.nmcl.org

“Building a pathway to the future through literacy”

From Harry Pearson, President of the Board

A Short Note from the President of the Board of Directors

We have returned to our full time mission of serving the needs of adult literacy programs in the field across the New Mexico. June 3rd in Rio Rancho was a celebration of that return. We will look forward to greeting each of you at our Annual Meeting next June. The Board of Directors of the NMCL provides the support and collaborative direction for our staff and all of us

sincerely hope that it meets your needs. You are only a phone call or e-mail away from speaking directly to our staff if you have a need, concern, or simply wish to share the good news coming out of your programs. Executive Director Rena Paradis had the vision to bring the program directors from the field together in a new collaborative this past spring - the Professional Program Directors Association (PPDA). We look forward to hearing good things as you move

forward, together. Have a great year ahead. You are always invited to attend and provide input to the Board of Directors at its quarterly meetings. For the Board of Directors, Harry Pearson, President

