



The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition
for Literacy

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.....Lift your coffee cups.....

and toast two New Mexico Literacy programs that have beaten all odds, survived all hits, while serving students, recruiting and supporting tutors, and making a difference in their communities. They never skipped a beat!

The Roswell Literacy Council, now 30, and Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe, now 20, have collectively recruited literally thousands of volunteer tutors, and have served even more thousands of adults and families. How can one fathom the numbers, and how can one imagine the ways in which they have changed lives in Roswell and Santa Fe?

You are monuments, Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe, and Roswell Literacy Council. You are shining examples of strong, community supported, well run programs and you will remain our heroes at the NMCL for years to come. Letty

Naranjo (LVSF) and Andrae England (RLC) deserve accolades, recognition and our admiration for continuing the stellar performances of their wonderful programs.

Salud! Skoal!

Here's to You!

Mazeltoiv!



The NMCL PPDA Meets in Moriarty

August 9, '05...another well attended meeting of the PPDA took place in Moriarty at the Convention Center. The group spent a good deal of time discussing policies on working with ex-

convicts, and the safety/insurance ramifications of doing so. Most programs have a policy of some level of background checking, but this is a difficult issue. How do you know what type of crime an individ-

ual may have been convicted of? Should it matter? These are provocative questions and there are many pitfalls in determining a policy. The fact is, as a community -

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"CREATING A
PATHWAY TO
THE FUTURE FOR
NEW MEXICANS
THROUGH
LITERACY"



The Roswell Literacy Council Celebrates 30 years!



Dorothy Redd, NMCL Board, speaking to group.



Jean Maley, - tutor trained at first training in March 1974.

The Roswell Literacy Council, Inc., recently celebrated 30 years of literacy development in the Roswell area. In addition to current Board Members, tutors and students, several former tutors, students, and Board Members attended, including one of the tutors trained at the initial tutor training in 1974, Jean Maley. She has just retired as a Spanish instructor at the New Mexico Military Institute and has agreed to serve as a tutor substitute initially. Rena Paradis, Executive Director of NMCL, represented our partnership in her usual humble fashion. Thank you, Rena, for your ever-present encouragement and support. Gerry (Rena, what's her other name?) Wilks was the only Southeastern Literacy Council director able to attend; however, she also represents the team

training hub for Southeastern New Mexico. Dorothy Redd (also NMCL Board Member) attended both sessions and helped us celebrate, with the help of two former tutors, trainers, and Board Members, Loris DeKay and Betty Long, the history of the organization throughout 30 years of dedicated service. Thanks to all the volunteers and community support, both state and local, that helps continue to make this service possible and powerful.

Andrae England, Director Roswell Literacy Council 609 W 10th Roswell NM 88201 505-625-1369/ 622-8280 (fax) <http://www.roswell-literacy.org>



Coalition Celebrates International Literacy Day

On Thursday, September 8, the Coalition for Literacy celebrated the 38th annual observance of "International Literacy Day" with an event in the Rotunda of the Roundhouse. Cynthia Izaguirre of KOAT-TV Action 7 News addressed the crowd and shared her family story and her commitment to literacy. Governor Richardson's office issued a proclamation declaring International Literacy Day in the state of New Mexico. Catherine Cross-Maple, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, delivered the proclamation.



Cynthia Izaguirre, KOAT TV Channel/NMCL Board Member



Prince Diabate performs during International Literacy Day

Guests also enjoyed a lively performance from Prince Diabate, a West African kora player who has participated in literacy programs through Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe. Alvin Billie of the Gathering Place spoke of the importance of bringing literacy programs to Navajo people of all ages. Board president Harry Pearson and Coalition executive director Rena Paradis thanked the organizations attending and iterated the need for increased support for literacy programs in New Mexico. Literacy programs from around the state attended the event and joined Coalition staff and board members for lunch following the presentations. Special thanks to Heather Heunermund and Arlene Kinart for their hard work planning the day. *Kate McGreevy*



A NEW FACE AT THE COALITION



Soon you'll have the opportunity to meet Kate McGreevy, our new Resource Developer. Kate came to us in September, and has many wonderful ideas about expanding our funding so that we can help you more. She will be an active fund developer and you may be hearing from her from time to time regarding possible projects we can encourage, and fund, state-wide. We are enjoying her energy and expertise, and know that you'll like her immediately!

PPDA continued

based organization, the decision needs to be made by your board. Agency based organizations must abide by the policies of the agency.

We discussed two new LD initiatives that the NMCL will be presenting to programs this year: One will be to provide three or four two-day Bridges to Practice regional workshops for volunteer literacy programs. These workshops will be described later in the year as we begin to promote them, but will deal with serving those with learning disabilities and learning differences. The second will be to set up a three-level LD policy that programs can adopt, (one of the three or a variation), if they feel the need to have something in writing when challenged as to their ability to serve LD learners. The levels will begin with very basic service or referrals only, all the way up to full service. Some programs have felt unprotected by their Policies and Procedures in terms of how they answer others seeking to have their LD clients served. There is sometimes fear of legal reprisals. When we complete these policies, we will have them reviewed by legal council to be sure the verbiage is appropriate. So, for those of you who have been nervous about the issue, Donna Aragon and Michelle Meeks, our LD specialists and researchers, will come to the rescue. Adoption of any of the three policies is completely optional, of course.

We are so very fortunate to have access to the information Donna and Michelle have gathered from Bridges to Practice. They have accumulated a lot of material, and have been able to sort it out so that people can understand and use it. You'll be hearing from us soon.

Finally, the PPDA will be putting off their December meeting until January 26 & 27, when they will, once again, visit their respective representatives in the Roundhouse during the Legislative Session. This involves a two-day stint: a 10:00-3:00 meeting on the 26th at our office, and the next morning at the Roundhouse. If you think you may want to be part of this, please contact Rena for details. You will be most welcome to represent your program before your Senators and Representatives with the rest of us. Last year the NMCL produced a flyer with each program's logo, and some very basic information about your program: how many students you served, how many tutors you trained, and then my self-serving little NMCL logo in the lower right-hand corner stating that you are partially funded by the NMCL.

Are you familiar with "un-scrabble"? If not, get on our listserv and ask about it!

Whether you belong to the NMCL PPDA (Professional Program Directors Association), please contact Heather about getting involved with the listserv we've set up for you. It's become quite popular. *Rena Paradis*

NMCL goes to “Boot Camp”

The NMCL had the pleasure of working with Jean Block at PathFinder Boot Camp on August 25 and 26, 2005. There were three staff and three Board members present, and we all worked very hard. I will be the first to tell you that the name, “Boot Camp,” is not an overstatement. In short, Boot Camp is a consolidated version of the eight-month PathFinder program. PathFinder helps nonprofits identify other sources of revenue - beyond grants - in an entrepreneurial fashion. The program attempts to rewire the way nonprofits think about themselves, so to speak, and provides them with the tools to play out an enterprise of their own design. Pathfinder is very practical in that way, and is useful for that reason. Plus, it could really pay off! The new way of thinking about how to generate revenue, and what it means to be a nonprofit, is invaluable. Some themes that you may find interesting, are:
Being a nonprofit is a **legal state**,

not a state of mind. You can use business principles in your non-profit, and vice versa; the two systems are not mutually exclusive. The difference between grants and earned income is that you have control over earned income – how you get it, and what you do with it. Forget about the begging mentality. You have something to offer. Assess your assets and put them to work for you. You will have buy-in if you do your homework. The relationship between you and your buyer is reciprocal. The benefits are mutual. By approaching your businesses venture in this way, the market will pull you in and you won't need to push or plead anymore. Are you sold yet? The Coalition is, and our Board of Directors has decided to pursue the PathFinder program in the spring, pending acceptance. Our primary goal is to earn summer money for funded programs. We are also thinking of ways to incorporate your pro-

gram into our venture. We recognize that you have something to offer, and we would like to partner with you to further develop our coalition.

Recently, the NMCL had the opportunity to sponsor a Board training with Jean Block for the Southern part of the state. Hopefully, future opportunities will arise. For now, you can go to: Jean Block Consulting: <http://www.jblockinc.com/> You will not fall short of a wealth of information, literally. Jean offers not only BootCamp and the PathFinder program (via the National Center for Social Entrepreneurs), but she also provides services in board training, fundraising, customer service, volunteer management, etc...

Heather Heunermund



“Kiss the Pig” 10th Annual Fundraiser for LVA-Socorro County

LVA-Socorro County held their 10th annual fund raiser during the month of August. Our yearly “Kiss the Pig”. Community members are asked to be candidates at \$1.00 a vote. Whoever receives the most votes has to kiss the pig. Our candidates this year were Jerry Armijo, City Attorney, Sonny Baca, Business Owner, Beth Beers, Maternal Child Health Project Manager, Joe Daniel

Saavedra, Socorro General Hospital Dietary Coordinator, Rose Wiest, Podiatry Technician, Tom Ortiz, New Mexico Science and Engineer Fair Director, Gianna Mathews, Business Owner, and a write in vote for Hoyt, Hospital Director. It was a good contest with the candidates getting their friends to vote for the other candidates. Cynthia Izaguirre, News Commentator from ABC

channel 7, was the MC at the county fair where the final was held on September 3. Cynthia was a great MC and we had a lot of fun. Finally after much ups and a close contest Jerry Armijo had to kiss the pig. He was asked to do an encore which he did. Cynthia being a good sport also kissed the pig. I hope you all saw it on Channel 7 news at 10 p.m. on September 3. Leo Murphy, a board member, was in charge and with

help of the other board members the contest ran smoothly, raising \$1700. This money will be used for books and supplies for the students and tutors in our program.

*submitted by Joyce Aguilar,
Program Director*

