



» THE LANTERN «

ORLEANS COUNTY ADULT LEARNING SERVICES – "LIGHTING THE WAY TO LEARNING"

Volume 4 Issue 1

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OCALS WEBSITE

ATTENTION: OCALS Board Members, Committee Members and Supporters of Literacy:



OCALS website is now up and running!!

You can access this site by typing the following into your web browser:

ocalsfamilyliteracy.com

Some of the information you can find on our website:

- **Mission Statement**
- **Contact info**
- **Student info**
- **Tutor info**
- **Brochures**
- **Literacy websites**
- **Library materials**
- **Upcoming events**

You can also look at OCALS' website photo album, access prior newsletters, or use GoodSearch/GoodShop to make donations to OCALS while you shop on the net.

Check it out!!!

*****Be sure to Bookmark our website, list it under "My Favorites", or create a Desktop Shortcut Icon for easy access!!**

OCALS New Staff Member.....

We are pleased to announce that Julia Sargent has accepted a position with OCALS as **Family Literacy Representative** for Western Orleans County.

Julia's Autobiography:

My name is Julia Sargent. I live in Medina with my husband and three children. I currently work at Orleans Niagara BOCES, also located in Medina. I work in the Career & Technical Educational Department and have been employed there for thirteen years. The first twelve years I was a teacher's aide in the Culinary Arts program for 11th and 12th grade students. My responsibilities included student supervision in the classroom and kitchen, ordering of products, cash flow control, and many other restaurant managerial tasks.

I spent much of my time working hand in hand with the students throughout their daily activities. Part of my job was to assist those students who needed extra help with reading and writing. It was during this time that I learned many students were graduating high school, and were not prepared with the basic skills we take for granted.

Currently, I work as an account clerk within the vocational office at BOCES. My responsibilities now include processing all the supply and equipment orders for every vocational class, daily budget tracking, account transfers and balancing, cash flow auditing and control. I spend a good amount of my time on teacher and vendor relations. I still have daily interaction with students. I have an A.A.S. in Criminal Justice and am working toward an accounting certificate through G.C.C.

Julia is excited to be working on creating an awareness of OCALS in the Lyndonville and Medina schools and communities. She has many contacts in the area, and great ideas for expanding our organization into Western Orleans County. We're glad to have her on-board, as we feel she will be a great asset to Orleans County Adult Learning Services.

OCALS 4th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Orleans County Adult Learning Services (OCALS) 4th Annual Dinner Meeting will be held in Holley this year at the St. Mary/St. Mark Social & Education Center at 13 South Main Street. The dinner meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 9, at 6:00 PM**. It will be a pot luck dinner, so please bring a dish to pass. Coffee and tea will be provided (at the kindness of our event chairperson, Renee Garnier). If someone else would like to provide other beverages, it would be appreciated. Please let us know ahead of time. Tableware will also be provided.

OCALS office/library is located in the St. Mary/St. Mark Social & Education Center. The dining room is located on the same floor (basement) as the office. This will give anyone interested a chance to look at the OCALS office. The room is primarily a library/storage area, containing bookcases and shelves for our library, training materials, and a few desks to use as needed. Small committee meetings have also been scheduled in this office.



**Mark your calendars!!
September 9 at 6:00 pm!!**



HELP WANTED!!

OCALS is actively searching for a new AmeriCorps member. This position will become available in October of 2010. AmeriCorps is a program that gives members opportunities to give back to their communities. Members serve with nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. AmeriCorps gives people the option to serve in a variety of ways, whether through their own service or through the volunteers they mobilize.

OCALS is considered a "host site" for AmeriCorps members. Therefore, the terms of this position would be dictated by OCALS. Currently, we are looking for someone who would be able to handle some or all of the following duties:

- Administrative duties
- Community Representative
- Attending community meetings
- Contacting businesses and churches
- Giving presentations
- Developing fundraisers
- Writing grants
- Attending literacy conferences
- Writing PR ads: TV and radio

Although OCALS is a nonprofit organization that works mainly with volunteers, you would receive a small "living allowance" from AmeriCorps. The living allowance rate is based upon the number of hours that you choose to serve.

OCALS needs someone who feels comfortable being in contact with the public and has great communication (verbal and written) skills; someone who more or less "beats the bushes" when it comes to contacting people; someone who can take the initiative to promote the organization fully. If interested in discussing this position please call Rose Ruck immediately at (585) 746-2614, or you can email her at rruck@juno.com.

OCALS' Sidewalk Sale Fundraiser

OCALS was pleased to participate in the community-wide 2010 Albion Strawberry Festival held on June 11 and 12. This sidewalk sale fundraiser was sponsored by AmeriCorps, as a service project designed to recruit community youth volunteers. Seven students from Holley CSD met at the St Mary/St Mark Social Center on May 29 to tag the sidewalk sale items that were donated by OCALS' members.



Not only did OCALS benefit financially from the fundraiser, it was also used as a means of presenting our organization to the public. Brochures and newsletters were handed out, and several people showed an interest in becoming involved in OCALS as volunteer workers or tutors.

Autobiography: Dennis Seekins, OCALS Tutor

My name is Dennis Seekins and I am 71 years old. High School was math and science, and then I was college bound. I spent two years at SUNY Syracuse Forestry College, then four years of USAF where I trained for airborne electronic systems. After that I spent 30 years in military, and US government electronic and computer systems design and maintenance. For the first 5 of those 30 years I also went to night school, almost exclusively studying higher level math; Post- Differential Equations. Officially I was going for an EE, but stopped when only lacking about 9 credit hours.

Essentially, I became much more interested in the outdoor world, as I was attending Forestry College to become a forest ranger. I was a cutting edge cave explorer who also did some rock climbing, back packing and white water paddling. I'm getting a bit old for the caves and rocks now, but I still do a lot of white water.

The outdoor interest involved a lot of learning and practice, both receiving and giving. Hopefully I can apply some of my experience here to the people seeking OCALS' help. I feel that my non-standard education and work background gives me a bit of empathy for some of the students I'm likely to encounter. Though I love books and reading them, I believe I do better as an arithmetic/math tutor. After retiring my wife and I started a used and rare book business, and I tutor in my spare time.

SWAN LIBRARY UPDATE:

OCALS has plans to do fundraisers and seek contributions and grants for a room reserved in their name at the new Swan Library. The cost of the room is \$25,000 and it will be paid over a period of five years. OCALS' name will be on the door, and our tutors will have access to the tutoring room whenever needed. Inside the room we will have a table and chairs, a locked storage cabinet, and possibly a whiteboard on the wall. There will be shelving outside the room, dedicated to materials for tutors and students, and all of our books and materials can be bar coded so they are available through the library catalog and can be checked out. This will give OCALS much needed control over our library materials.

Any donations or suggestions on how to obtain the necessary funds would be much appreciated. The acquisition of the tutoring room in the new Swan library will provide security for the OCALS literacy program and convenience for its members and everyone in the community. Thank you Swan Library for your friendship and support of the OCALS' program.

TOOLS FOR TUTORS:

Here's a great tool to use that is both meaningful and appropriate for adult learners:

1. Use a piece of blank paper.
2. Ask the adult a relevant question. Some examples may be: "Describe your favorite pastime", or "Tell me the directions to your house".
3. Write down what he/she says.
4. Once it is down on paper, underline all of the words the student knows. Using the words he/she doesn't know, make flashcards to practice word recognition.
5. Use the words the student did know for spelling practice (can also make flashcards). Word recognition is primary, but it will be important for the student to learn to spell the words, not just recognize them, so he/she can transfer them to his/her own writing.
6. Keep all of these "stories" in a notebook that the student can use to practice reading.

This technique is effective because it helps the student see the connection between reading and writing, provides reading material that is not "child like", and exposes the student to words that are meaningful and/or important to them.

TO LEARN, READ
TO KNOW, WRITE
TO MASTER, TEACH
~Oriental Proverb



LIBRARY

"LIGHTING THE WAY TO LEARNING"

OCALS has received selected copies of some of the most requested and top-rated literacy and reading publications from The National Institute for Literacy. These books will help support our work with teacher educators and adult learners.

The books are as follows:

- Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults - First Steps for Teachers*** (6 copies)
- Guide to Performance Management for Community Literacy Coalitions*** (1 copy)
- Put Reading First – Helping Your Child Learn to Read – Pre-School through Grade 3*** (Phonics Awareness, Phonics Vocabulary, Fluency, Text Comprehension) (15 copies)
- What is Scientifically Based Research – A Guide for Teachers Using Research and Reason in Education*** (15 copies)
- A Child Becomes A Reader – Proven Ideas from Research for Parents – Kindergarten through Grade 3*** (14 copies)
- Investigating the Language and Literacy Skills Required for Independent Online Learning*** (3 copies)
- Using Research and Reason in Education – How Teachers Can Use Scientifically Based Research to Make Curricular & Instructional Decisions*** (15 copies)
- What Content-Area Teachers Should Know about Adolescent Literacy*** (15 copies)

OCALS Library is located in St. Mary/St Mark Social Center, Holley, NY. Call Jeanne Flow (585 802-4720) or email jeanneflow@rochester.rr.com to review or sign out these, or any other available library materials.



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"THE LANTERN" is a publication of Orleans County Adult Learning Services. Submissions from Staff, Students and Tutors are invited and encouraged. Please send submissions to:

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