



» THE LANTERN «

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OCALS LEARNING SERVICES

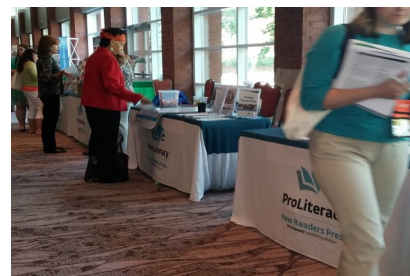
Lighting The Way To Learning

Notes on 2015 ProLiteracy Conference in Charleston, South Carolina

From: Vice President, Jeanne Flow:

I was pleased to finally have the opportunity to attend a ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Literacy this past October. This was an experience that far exceeded my expectations. With over 100 workshops to choose from, I gained a wealth of information to bring back to OCALS. The best thing about this conference was that I was able to choose only those workshops that pertained to the functions I am currently performing within OCALS. Some of the workshops I attended were: Funding Issues Facing Nonprofits, Dollar General: Conversations with Funders, Growing Your Program with an Integrated Marketing Campaign, Community Involvement – One Person at a Time, and Survival of the Fittest.

The Social and Economic Impact of Literacy and Literacy Programs in the United States was the most significant workshop I attended. This workshop explained a ten year study done by Portland State University with the assistance of 1000 participants. This type of analysis has never been done before. Some of the participants chose not to receive any literacy tutoring at all, some obtained 20-30 hours of tutoring, and some had been tutored for over 100 hours. This study recorded literacy skills of the participants throughout the ten year period, along with employment skills during that same time period. Findings showed that students who were tutored for 100 hours or more increased their wages by approximately \$10,000 by the end of that ten year period. **In many cases this was enough of an increase to raise them out of the poverty level.** This is great news for any of our tutors who are wondering if what they are doing is making a difference in someone's life or not. With information as thought-provoking as this to share, I came home from this conference feeling excited and energized about OCALS and the important work we are doing to combat illiteracy in Orleans County.



From Family Literacy Program Director, Pam Foss:

I attended the ProLiteracy Annual Conference in Charleston, SC and found that this experience was more than I expected. Working within a non-profit venue has its challenges but it also brings with it great reward. At a conference like this you are able to meet and network with others who are in similar situations. Often, you are able to have discussions that provide clarity or "we been there too". The workshops provide places to gain knowledge and explore new avenues.

During the workshop sessions I gathered as much information I could about workforce literacy, an avenue we are quickly

approaching. There was an abundance of information and knowledge to be had. Topics like the importance of reaching those looking for work or trying to keep employment, assessment tools, and curriculum were a few I attended. I also explored new avenues for Family Literacy like working with schools and prison literacy.

I know I am looking forward to using the knowledge I gained and the connections I made to continue to help OCALS strive forward to meet the literacy needs in Orleans County. We have so many opportunities waiting for us and I know we will continue our success in the coming year.

OCALS 9TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The following officers were re-elected for a second term: Don Ruck, President; Jeanne Flow, Vice President; Don Ruck, Treasurer; and Penny Nice as Secretary.

Volunteer of the Year award presented to Donald Ruck. Not only has he served at Treasurer, but took over as President and has continued to work tirelessly for the organization.

Special Friend Award was presented to former board member, David Callard. He has been a continuous supporter of OCALS and is always willing to help out when necessary. Thank you Dave for your support.

Key Contributor Awards:

Terry & Kevin Novak	Mark & Nancy Schaaf
Donna & Shane Seyler	Mark Erway

Barb Dunham presented Certificates of Appreciation and awards to honor all tutors and students.

“Tutor of the Year” - award was presented to **Ann Czajkowski** and **Diana Pathammavong**.

“Student of the Year” award was presented to **Leon Johnson**.

Appreciation to:	United Way of Orleans County	Pathstone
	Orleans-Niagara BOCES	Orleans County Foundation
	Liberty Partnership Program	“The Daily News”
	Hoag Library	Bindings Bookstore
	Community Free Library	
	Yates Community Library	
	ABCD Holley, “Grace’s Place” - accepted by Director Jessica Suleski	
Lee-Whedon Memorial Library—accepted by Kristine Mostyn, Asst Director		

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD:

9th Annual Dinner Meeting, September 10, 2015

- **Workplace Literacy** - This program is designed for employers to select and identify employees who are not working up to standards and help them enhance their literacy skills instead of being replaced.
- **Adult Literacy** - We now have several students ages 9-10 whose parents have asked for help with tutoring, especially in Math. In 2015-2015, we had 22 students and 18 active tutors. Age ranges of clients are 9 to 71.
- **Family Literacy Program** - Last year was our first full year at ABCD Newfane. 12 students graduated from ABCD Newfane and 14 students graduated from ABCD Holley. We have been invited to Albion CSD to continue servicing students from ABCD Holley.
- **Mission/Vision Statements** - These statements were revised to encompass and include our progression and development of other programs.

OCALS ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Each weekend in October, OCALS held a bake sale at Knight's Giant Pumpkin Farm on Knowlesville Rd in Medina. Mary Lee Knights provided shelter and electricity to our table.

Each weekend many of our board members and volunteers donated home baked goods, soups, and other items. We are extremely grateful for each and every one who contributed to this event.

Special thanks to Jackie Keller for organizing the bake sale, as well as to Linda Scalzo and her family for working the event. A very big thanks to Mary Lee Knights for hosting the event and providing us whatever we needed, including the unwavering support of her helpful employee, Terry, and his family.

Also, we'd like to thank the following businesses in Medina for their generous donations: Dunkin Donuts, Roberts Farm Market, Tops Markets, and Tops Markets in Albion.



Important Information

Jackie Keller will be putting together the newsletter from now on so if you have anything you would like included, please email her at ocals2006@gmail.com.



Welcome to our new ESL Coordinator

Best wishes to our previous ESL Coordinator, Maria Eley, as she embarks on a new career path.

We would like to welcome Katrina Rodriguez-Paeth as our new ESL Coordinator.

Katrina's Biography

I grew up in Kendall and graduated with a Regents Diploma in Math, Science and Spanish. I received my Associates Degree in Human Services and Early Childhood Certificate in 2004 while working at Agri –Business Child Development Center, now known as Grace's Place. I worked there from 2000-2009 as a Teacher's Aide/Assistant and Preschool Teacher until I eventually was the Education Coordinator, where I practiced conversational Spanish and was able to translate for teacher and parents during meetings. I made it my personal mission to understand the culture of others and become as bilingual as possible. I also have taken 3 sign language classes, as I found this a need as an educator.

I have been an infant teacher, school age teacher, and the center's Spanish/English translator at Little Leapers Childcare Center since 2011.

I am excited to be able to use these tools I have acquired to help my community and its people to learn a new language and develop their level of literacy.



OCALS Learning Services

134 S. Main Street

Albion, NY 14411

Joseph Epstein once said,

“We do not choose to be born. We do not choose our parents, or the country of our birth. We do not, most of us, choose to die; nor do we choose the time and conditions of our death. But within this realm of choicelessness,

we do choose how we live.”

Thank you to all who have chosen to better the life of others through the gift of reading and education!

A funded agency of:



United Way of Orleans Co.



Accredited member of

ProLiteracy

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR FACE BOOK PAGE AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OCALS1 AND OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.OCALSFAMILYLITERACY.COM

OCALS LEARNING SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President—**Jeanne Flow**

Secretary—**Penny Nice**

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Tutor/Student Coordinator—**Barb Dunham**

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Learning Specialist—**Mary Lee Knights**

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Board Member—**Tim Dunham**

Board Member—**Nicole Goodrich**