



Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin

Promoting, providing, and developing literacy opportunities to serve children, adults, and their families in Northern Wisconsin.

What we do:

- Provide tutoring for struggling children and adults
- Train reading tutors using scientifically research-based methods
- Utilize explicit, systematic, multi-sensory strategies
- Give talks about literacy to area agencies, organizations, and schools
- Raise money for training scholarships and resource materials for parents and teachers

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Dear Friends of Literacy,

Spring has finally arrived after a long and snowy winter. The Literacy Task Force has been busy since our last newsletter. June 24th—28th, 2012, we held a reading training for tutors called SLANT. It was a very intensive training, well-structured with a multi-sensory approach to teaching reading. The instructor, Marsha Geller www.info@slantssystem.com, came to us from Illinois to do the training. It was held in Three Lakes at the high school with participants coming from Tomahawk, Minocqua, Park Falls, Fifield, and Eagle River. Several of the participants have continued to receive instruction through on-line participation and support while they continue tutoring in their communities. This practicum support reinforces skills learned in class and will be of great help to the struggling readers they are tutoring in our area.

In October several board

From the President's Desk

members attended the regional meeting for Wisconsin Literacy. Many helpful topics were discussed and some free, easy-to-read materials from the Historical Society were obtained. They are now housed in the Minocqua Library in our special Literacy Task Force sponsored area (See librarian for location.).

Our treasurer, Connie Hicks attended a health literacy conference called Changing System, Changing Lives. Connie received a scholarship to attend this conference and is our "go to" person when it comes to health literacy.

Our task force has been asked to have an advance training for those that were formerly trained in an Orton-Gillingham, multi-sensory based reading program. As a result, we have engaged Dr. Marcia Henry, past president of the International Dyslexia Association and former trainer for the literacy task force to teach the advanced training course, August 12-14, 2013 at Nicolet College. Needless to say, we are very excited to have someone of her caliber teaching the class for us. One graduate credit through Viterbo College will be available for this extremely helpful course.

Our annual open meeting with a speaker and light dinner will be held in November again this year. Details to follow on-line at www.literacytaskforce.org

Thanks to all of you for your continued support through funding, membership and donated time and talent. Thanks to your help, much can be accomplished.

Warmly,

Peggy Steber, President

Calendar of Events

Monthly Board Meetings

First Thursday of the Month
Minocqua Library, 5:30 p.m.
Sue & Roger Smith Room
(July—second Thursday)

Advanced Training with

Dr. Marcia Henry

August 12—14th
Nicolet College

Annual General Open Meeting

November
Details in Fall Newsletter

Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin

PO BOX 574
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 277-2019

Twitter: @LiteracyMission

www.literacytaskforce.org

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is a non profit organization dedicated to helping families and individuals in northern Wisconsin who struggle with reading and spelling. We are parents, educators and concerned citizens. We partner with the Wisconsin Branch of International Dyslexia Association (WIBIDA), Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Nicolet Area Technical College.

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***The task force
is a member
of Wisconsin
Literacy, Inc.
a state-wide
Coalition that
supports
volunteer adult
and family
literacy
services.***

Health Literacy

Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin executive board member—treasurer, Connie Hicks, was recently awarded a scholarship from Wisconsin Literacy and the Wisconsin Research Education Network, to attend the bi-annual Health Literacy Summit in Madison, April 8-10, 2013. Health literacy specialists serve patients by

offering assistance in reading diagnosis information, health-related instruction, prescription medication pamphlets, financial forms, and other related materials. They also produce documents in an “easy-read” format, as well as produce CDs, podcasts, DVDs, and devise methods to help convey health

information. Connie presently serves on the Marshfield Clinic Lung Cancer Endowment Fund Board and offers insight from a health-literacy, patient advocate, and cancer care-giver perspective. For further information, Connie may be reached at 715-762-3574 or ConnieHicks@centurylink.net

www.literacytaskforce.org

The Gift of Literacy

What makes helping someone learn to read and spell so deeply satisfying? It is being able to walk alongside someone who is on a journey to new skills, new dreams and new opportunities!

It began for me in the summer of 2009 when I took a course offered by Nicolet College & the Literacy Task Force. In it, I learned to apply the Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory method to the teaching of reading & spelling. Afterwards, I became a tutor and began using those techniques. In the spring of 2010, I began tutoring Tom Meehan.

Tom was in his 40's and had come to Nicolet College for a new start. He had dropped out of school in Illinois after 8th grade and then spent the next 20 years working the carnival circuit. Eventually, Tom decided that he wanted to go back to school, but his low reading level was a frustration to him. All that changed for Tom as he

learned to read. Like Tom recently said, “I found a tutor who taught me how to read and spell and use a computer. It took a couple of years, but I learned, and it was fun for me!”

Tom's first step toward college was to earn his GED. As his reading skills developed, Tom began taking his GED tests. One of the options for him was having the tests provided in audio format, but he preferred reading them on his own. Tom's confidence grew as he found that he was able to read-and pass-the tests!

In May of 2012, Tom graduated with his GED. His family traveled to Rhinelander for the momentous day. What a treat for his mom to watch him finally complete high school at the age of 46?! “I loved walking across the stage to get my GED!” Tom said.



Tom Meehan receiving his GED.

These days find Tom progressing through the Welding program at Nicolet. He continues to do a majority of the reading by himself. He says “It's so amazing to go back to school at my age. I'm starting all over again. I think to myself, who goes back to school at 47 to start a new career? It's fun for me to go to school and learn. Every day that I talk to you or John Bates or my teachers, I'm proud of myself for doing this.”

***This is the gift
of literacy!***

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin relies solely upon donations to support literacy needs in northern Wisconsin. Your \$15 per person membership and other donations are used for workshops and presentations, informational literature, tutor training scholarships, tutoring materials and to support operating expenses for the organization. See website for more information.

Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin Board of Directors

PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

President

Peggy Steber

Peggy is a recently retired school counselor after twenty-eight years at MHLT Elementary School, Minocqua. She taught third, fourth, and fifth grades in West Allis and Menomonie, Wisconsin. Peggy taught Title I reading for six years in corrections at Lincoln Hills School in Irma, Wisconsin. Peggy completed Orton Gillingham training in Duluth, Minnesota in 1977 and again at Nicolet College in 2005. She received a BS in School Counseling from UW-Stout. For the last two years, Peggy administered GED and HSED testing for Nicolet College part time and is now fully retired.

(H) 715-277-2019 (C) 715-367-2090 ste@newnorth.net.

Vice President

Sara Adamovich

Sara has been a special education teacher with the Northland Pines School District since 1998. She is currently the Learning Disabilities Special Education Teacher at Eagle River Elementary School. Sara holds a BS in Special Education from UW-Oshkosh and a MSE from UW-Stout. She is Wilson Reading System Level I and Level II certified and is an in-district Foundations and Just Words presenter. Sara is in the final steps of becoming a Wilson Reading System in-district trainer. She is a Wilson Reading System tutor to struggling readers of all ages. She is a member of the International Dyslexic Association, Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexic Association, Wisconsin State Reading Association.

(C) 715-614-5949 adamovichfamily@gmail.com

Vice President

Carol Lorbetske

Carol is a retired elementary school teacher from the Three Lakes School District. She completed the literacy training course in 2010 and is an active tutor to two young adults.

(H) 715-272-1434 c_lorbetske@hotmail.com

Secretary

Bonnie Margitan

Bonnie is a retired elementary teacher from MHLT Elementary School in Minocqua. She completed the beginning level literacy training in 2005, the advanced level training in 2007, and tutors students in the Minocqua area. In April '06 Bonnie was hired under grant monies to assist with the coordination of the task force, with a primary focus on training/services for adults.

(H) 715-356-6889, bmargitan@gmail.com

Treasurer

Connie Hicks

Connie is the Applied Technology instructor at Gogebic Community College where she also teaches developmental English and math. She has a degrees in Technical Accounting from Nicolet; a BS in Natural Science from Northland College, and Masters of Science and Mathematics with computer emphasis from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Connie completed both the beginning and advanced level literacy trainings in 2007. (W) 906-932-4231; (H) 715-762-3574; email (school year only): connie.hicks@gogebic.edu

BOARD MEMBERS

Jan Evans

Jan is a retired teacher of students with learning disabilities and a member of the Wisconsin Branch of The International Dyslexia Association for many years. She has tutored students and trained in O/G, Project Read, Lindamood Bell, and Wilson overview. Jan has two years of service as a master teacher for the Literacy Task Force. 715-385-2318 (summer); 608-868-3695 (winter); davejanevans@gmail.com

Julie Hagstrom

Julie is a tutor for the Disabilities Support Services Program and an Academic Success Instructor at Nicolet Area Technical College as well as a Vision Therapist at Buffington Optometry. She and her husband, Fred, home educated their two children, now grown, for 12 years. Formerly a research technician at the Forestry Sciences Lab in Rhinelander, Julie holds a degree in Bacteriology from UW-Madison. She took the literacy training course in 2009. (H) 715-277-3883 julie17@frontiernet.net

Donna Hejtmanek

Donna is a Title I Teacher for the Northland Pines School District. She taught special education for twenty-one years while living in the state of Illinois. She has training in Project Read and Is Wilson Reading System Level 1 certified. Donna holds a MS degree in Education from Northeastern Illinois University and in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University. She is the director of Literacy Training for the Literacy Task Force. (H) 715-277-3105 (C) 715-573-0125 dhejtmanek@yahoo.com

Kathleen Marshall

Kathleen is the Rhinelander-Northwoods Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) representative on the Task Force. AAUW helps with fundraising for the Task Force. (H) 715-277-2664 kathleenamars@gmail.com

Bob Steber

Bob is a recently retired faculty member and case manager for Nicolet Area Technical College's Disability Student Services. Bob has worked as a transition specialist for high school students with disabilities with disabilities for over twenty-four years. 715-277-2019 ste@newnorth.net

Lisa Young

Lisa has a Bachelor's Degree from Steven's Point and a Master's Degree from Capella University. She has taught at Nicolet College since 1997 as an Adult Basic Education instructor and teaches the General College Introduction to Reading and Study Skills, as well as integrating basic skills into the Early Childhood and Business programs.

Kim Schey-Scuglik

Kim holds an associate Degree from Nicolet Area Technical College, a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree from UW-LaCrosse. She has worked full-time at Nicolet Area Technical College since 2001 and part-time for the college prior to that. She teaches General College Intro to Writing, Intro to Reading and Study Skills, Integrated ABE Reading and Math for IT classes, and works with students in the Academic Success Lab.



Advanced Literacy Training

Professional development opportunity for teachers and volunteer tutors.

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin and Nicolet College are teaming up to offer a three-day Advanced Literacy Training course for teachers and volunteer tutors. This thorough and engaging program builds on the fundamental of the Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory structured language method presented in the introductory literacy course. Filled with practical approaches based on documented best practices, the Advanced Literacy Training workshop is essential for anyone who works with students who read, write, and spell beyond an introductory level. As part of the hands-on workshop, participants will observe model lessons and prepare sample lesson plans.

Instructor: Marcia K. Henry, Ph.D.

Dr. Marcia K Henry, Professor Emerita from San Jose State University and Fulbright Scholar, is a well-known literacy figure who has written numerous articles and books on reading and spelling, including *Unlocking Literacy: Effective Decoding and Spelling Instruction*. She is the co-author of *Patterns for Success in Reading and Spelling*. Dr. Henry is a consultant to Scottish Rite Children's Learning Centers across the East and Midwest, fellow in the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, a past president of the International Dyslexia Association, and was a member of the Governor's Read to Lead Task Force. She has been an outstanding teacher and mentor in previous training courses offered by the task force, and we are delighted to have her back.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of an introductory course in the Orton-Gillingham based multisensory structured language method is a prerequisite for this workshop. Previous coursework in the Wilson, Slingerland, Barton or other Orton-Gillingham based programs would satisfy the prerequisite.

For more information: Contact Marcia Henry: 715-747-6845 or Peggy Steber: 715-277-2019

COURSE DETAILS:

August 12 - 14, 2013 (3 days)

Monday and Tuesday 8 am—4 pm
Wednesday, 8 am—2 pm

Nicolet College, Rhinelander

Northwoods Center—207
Fee: \$150 per person
(\$82.79 if 62 or older)
Class #10387

Graduate Credit

One (1) graduate credit is available through Viterbo University for an additional fee of \$110 per person.

**Register by phone with a credit card:
715-365-4493 or 800-544-3039 ext. 4493**

Check us out on the Web!

www.literacytaskforce.org



Follow us on Twitter:

@LiteracyMission

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their generous donations and contributions over the years:

Businesses

Arnott Plumbing and Heating
Associated Bank
Augie's Collectives
Berkelman Metalworks, Inc.
Commitment to Learning, LLC
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First National Bank, Park Falls
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Foundation

Pukall Lumber Foundation
St. Mary's Hospital Foundation
Tomahawk Star Foundation
Wisconsin Technical College System

Organizations/Clubs

Beta Sigma Phi Epsilon Gamma
Kiwanis Club of Rhinelander
Lakeland Area Kiwanis
Lakeland Rotary
Lioness Club, Manitowish Waters
Ministry Health care
Nokomis Chapter NSDAR
Oneida County Tavern League
Oneida Co. Deputy Sheriff's Assoc.

Prince of Peach Lutheran Church
AAUW Rhinelander Branch
Rhinelander Rotary Club
St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Tomahawk Optimist Club
Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.

All donations are tax deductible. Donations will be used to fund tuition scholarships, literacy training, resource materials for trainees, parents and person of low literacy, and instruction/tutoring. Please visit our website or contact a member if you'd like to make a tax deductible donation.