



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 Supporters of Literacy,

This has definitely been the summer we thought would never come but what a wonderful summer it has been, (except for the mosquitos of course).

The 2013-14 Task Force has been busy with this year's activities. August 12-14th 2013 we teamed up with Nicolet College to offer an Advanced Literacy Training for teachers and volunteer tutors. Dr. Marcia Henry, a well-known literacy figure and Professor Emerita from San Jose State University in California, was our instructor. She is past president of the International Dyslexia Association and has written several books with teaching tips for those working with dyslexic students or others struggling with reading and spelling skills.

Local presentations were also done this past year. Terry's Tree House in Woodruff received a helpful presentation on PALS (a screening tool that can

From the President's Desk

be used for K-2nd grade level children). They also received a demonstration of how to make several different kinds of books from various materials and resources.

Another presentation was done for the Mothers of Young Children group at Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua on the importance of reading.

Board member activities included attending the North East Regional Wisconsin Literacy meeting in Green Bay. It was interesting to hear each group's mission and how they differ according to the needs of their respective communities. Many unique ideas were shared for fundraising as well.

Our December meeting brought our Regional Literacy Consultant, Andrea Pease, for a visit and conversation with the board about how to most effectively meet our literacy goals. She shared with us about the things we could do with the help of the Literacy Council.

Our annual open meeting was held January 16th at the Minocqua library. We were privileged to have Marie Rippel as our speaker. She addressed the topic of how to help children, teens and adults

who struggle with reading.

Our focus for spring has been on fund raising through grants and a brat sale at Trig's. We also have been preparing for beginning literacy training with Marsha Geller on July 22-25th, 2014. (See attached information)

Thanks to your kind support through donations, membership, time and talent we continue to be an active support for the literacy needs of our community.

Warmly,

*Peggy Steber
President*

Monthly Board Meetings

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

Advanced Training Marsha Geller, SLANT System

July 22-25
Nicolet College

Annual General Open Meeting November

Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin
PO BOX 574
Minocqua, WI 54548



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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Task Force Board Member Selected to Work on Revising English Language Arts Licensure Program Content Guidelines

Sara Adamovich, Vice President of the Task Force, was recently selected by Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction to work on an English Language Arts (ELA)

Content Guidelines Work Group in an effort to develop a revised set of Licensure Program Content Guidelines for Wisconsin educator preparation programs to use for

preparing English Language Arts teachers. The current guidelines, written in 2000 will be replaced and updated as the Work Group finalizes their revisions.

Former Task Force President Chosen to Serve on State's Read to Lead Development Council

Donna Hejtmanek, former President of the Task Force has been appointed to Governor Scott Walker's *Read to Lead Development Council* for a two-year tenure. The Education Reform Legislation Act 166 of 2011 made several changes to improving education effectiveness and student

performance. Those changes included the creation of the *Council* to provide grants in support of literacy and early childhood development programs in an effort to improve reading for Wisconsin's children. To learn more about the development council visit <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/>

reports/13-14full.pdf. To read more about the Read to Lead Task Force recommendations, go to <http://read.wi.gov/Documents/Read.pdf>.



www.literacytaskforce.org

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

Sharing Knowledge to Strengthen Literacy

Long-time learning disabilities teacher and certified Wilson Reading System trainer, Sara Adamovich has many opportunities to positively impact the Northland Pines School District. She recently shared her expertise with fellow Task Force member, Carol Lorbetske, who tutors and wished to learn more specifics about Wilson teaching techniques. Being able to ob-

serve firsthand the teacher-student interaction during a Wilson lesson was very valuable to the visiting tutor as were the specific hints for technique and material organization. This refined knowledge can now go on to benefit students outside the Northland Pines District.

Another way to strengthen literacy offerings in our area!



Carol Lorbetske taking in a Wilson Reading System lesson.

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, a MSE and Reading Certification from UW-Stout and a Certificate in Louisa Moats Literacy Instruction. She is Wilson Reading System Level I and Level II certified and is an in-district Foundations and Just Words presenter and Wilson Reading System Trainer. She is a Wilson Reading System tutor to struggling readers of all ages. She is a member of the International Dyslexic Association and the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexic 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 and volunteers reading help to elementary school students.

(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

Holly Dionne

Holly is a recent retiree from the Verona Area Public Schools where she served 22 years as a high school English teacher, resource and testing coordinator, and reading specialist. She worked extensively with curriculum development and innovative programming for striving readers, grades 9-12. Disciplinary literacy and text-based comprehension strategies continue to be key areas of interest for her. Holly holds BS and MA degrees from UW-Stevens Point and completed her reading teacher and specialist training through Viterbo University. She has spent the last ten years as an instructor and graduate research advisor for K-12 reading teacher and specialist candidates at Cardinal Stritch University. (H) 715-356-2863 holly.dionne@gmail.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

Community-Based Organization Representatives

Lisa Young

Community-based organization from Nicolet Area Technical College (NATC).

Kim Shey-Scuglik

Community-based organization representative from Nicolet Area Technical College (NATC).

Kathleen Marshall

Community-based organization representative from American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Literacy Training 2014

NICOLET COLLEGE, Rhinelander, WI
Northwoods Center, Room 207
July 22-25, 2014, 8 am—3 pm

This year, **Marsha Geller**, M.Ed., will teach the **Structured Language Training (SLANT) System**, a research-based, multisensory professional development program. The program is designed to improve teachers' or tutors' skills in teaching reading, spelling and writing to individuals of any age who have been unsuccessful using traditional approaches or who are considered at risk.

Workshop Tuition: \$175

(\$99 for participants over the age of 62)

Materials Fee: \$250

Graduate Credits available for an additional \$200.

To register with a credit card, call Nicolet College:
800-544-3039 ext. 4493 or 715-365-4493
or by mail visit:

literacytaskforce.org and print a registration form.

For more info visit: slantssystem.com or email:
Peggy Steber at ste@newnorth.net

Connie Hicks Receives Award



Jim Lorensen, president of Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, MI, recently presented the Faculty Excellence Award to Connie Hicks of Fifield. She is a long-standing instructor at the college who teaches in the areas of Mechanical Design – Engineering/ Manufacturing Technology as well as developmental math, reading, and English.

Her teaching skills coupled with her consistent heartfelt efforts in helping students succeed are held in high esteem by administrators, colleagues, and students. Her passionate dedication is evidenced by the positive impact she has had on students throughout her years of service.

In addition to her teaching, Hicks serves on the executive board of the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin helping those with dyslexia and other reading challenges. In memory of loved ones who have passed on and in keeping with her health literacy interests, Hicks also serves on the Cray Foundation Lung Cancer Endowment Fund Board at the Marshfield Clinic representing patients and caregivers.

(Article as it appeared in the Price County Review on June 5, 2014)

Annual Meeting with Publisher Marie Rippel and Board Meeting with Literacy Consultant Andrea Pease



Literacy Training August 2013 with Dr. Marsha Henry Nicolet College

