



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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Twitter: @LiteracyMission
www.literacytaskforce.org



From the President's Desk

Dear Friends of Literacy,

This has been another very exciting year for the Literacy Task Force. We've made some wonderful progress with our infrastructure and providing well qualified instructors for teaching perspective tutors and teachers.

True to our mission we have provided two tutor training sessions since I last wrote. One was held on July 23-25, 2014 with Marsha Geller. Her **SLANT** course is a multi-sensory structured approach to teaching reading. It was very helpful to those in attendance. Then on June 22-25th, 2015 we had Dr. Marcia Henry teaching **Introductory Literacy Training** for a possible two credits through Viterbo University. Dr. Henry has taught for us several times in the past, with a vast background in working with learning disabilities and is the past president of the International Dyslexia Association. We had 25 students take the class with 5 more on the waiting list. We were able to offer the class at a reduced cost this year thanks to your generosity and especially the St. Matthias Thrift Shop.

In November we had our

open meeting with a light dinner and speaker Sara Adamovich. She did a presentation on the neurobiological basis of dyslexia. She explained how having a dyslexic brain versus a typical brain impacts learning to read and write. Her talk was very well received by those in attendance.

Fundraising has been through memberships, donations and grants. We have also had several brat sales at the Minocqua Trigs store. Almost the entire amount of money gained from these endeavors goes directly to providing courses and linking up tutors with those in need.

Presentations to local groups have included the Minocqua Noon Rotary, Channel 12 and the Women's Discussion Group at Ascension Lutheran.

Our biggest venture this past year has been being involved with the Leadership Oneida County Project through the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce. We had an amazing team of Tim Collins from Winter Park, Lauren Stephenson from Channel 12, Lynn Feldman from U.W. Extension and Rod Ankrom from Calvary Baptist Church in Rhinelander. Over a five month period of time they assisted us in updating our website and data base, giving ideas for public relations and looking into doing a "Books on the Bus" project. They have been invaluable to us as we are moving forward with our organizational structures. Board member Connie Hicks also helped

with our infrastructure by setting up a Pay Pal account, Twitter account (@LiteracyMission) and a Facebook account (Facebook.com/LiteracyTaskForce).

We are looking forward to our open meeting this coming November 5th at 5:30 in the Minocqua Library (Smith Room). Jennifer Knauf will be speaking on Wrightslaw. Wrightslaw is about giving accurate and reliable information concerning special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities. This is appropriate for parents, teachers and the concerned public. There will be more about this presentation on our website (literacytaskforce.org) in September.

As you can see, it's been a busy and productive year. We are looking forward to helping more struggling readers in the future. However, the cost of providing good quality training that tutors and teachers need can be expensive. We are dedicated to providing an affordable training for all who wish to help others in reading and spelling. Therefore, we could really use your help. Please consider joining our organization and/or donating to our cause. We are a nonprofit so all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for letting me share with you what has been made possible through the kindness and generosity of some very special caring and dedicated people.

Sincerely,

Peggy Steber
LTF President



Finding Success: One Tutor's Story

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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When I attended the Nicolet College Literacy Task Force course, it was the summer of 2008 and I was a stay-at-home mom desperately seeking ways to help my twelve-year-old son. This course taught me a great deal about dyslexia and Marcia Henry's "Patterns of Success" gave me a reliable and specific method to follow as I began to tutor my own child three-to-four times a week. After three years, and reasons too numerous to mention, our family came to the conclusion that we needed to find a school where our son didn't feel compelled to hide his disability and where he would get the specialized language-based instruction that he needed. He had learned to hate reading and his school days were marked with frustration.

After much soul searching and online research, he was off to Landmark School in Massachusetts to begin his sophomore year in high school. Three years of daily specialized instruction and he has successfully graduated with a 3.3 GPA and will be attending college this fall on an academic scholarship. This is my son's success story, not mine. I felt that I had failed him because under my watch

he had developed such a disdain for reading and learning that that there seemed to be nothing I could do to empower him or help him recognize his talents and potential.

Fortunately, with failure comes learning. Because of this experience, I became determined to make

sure my goals stayed true to the course with any future students. Now my goal in tutoring is to make sure, above all else, that my stu-

When I was asked by the Literacy Task Force to share a "tutoring success story," I realized my successes couldn't be shared without first sharing my failure.

dents love books and learning. I've learned to take things a little slower and trust the progression of the OG (Orton-Gillingham) based curriculum. When my six-year-old granddaughter showed signs of dyslexia, I began Patterns of Success with her. When we started, she was unable to blend three letters, nor could she recognize a word if it was repeated on the page multiple times. My goal was to make sure that she experienced success and that she did not become frustrated with reading. We have worked together an average of two-to-three times a week. She is now eight-years-old and not only loves reading, but is also learning advanced spelling and syllable patterns. Yesterday she was observed helping out her older brother (an avid reader from the age of five) with his spelling.

In addition to her reading and spelling successes, she has a wonderful attitude and looks forward to our sessions. Having experienced quite the opposite with my son, (Did I mention the bribes?), I thought of this as reward enough. When people ask my granddaughter to list her favorite subject, and she replies, "reading," I know that together we have spelled "success."

Thank you Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin, Nicolet College, and Dr. Marcia Henry for "Patterns of Success."

~ Katy Dyreby



Katy Dyreby and a student enjoying their time reading and learning together.

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin relies solely upon donations to support literacy needs in northern Wisconsin. Your \$20 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 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 seven 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. Then Peggy worked part time for Nicolet College as a GED/HSED tester.

(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 the 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

Co-Secretary

Julie Hagstrom

Julie is an [adult basic education](#) instructor with Academic Success at Nicolet Area Technical College as well as the site coordinator for UW-Madison's Information Technology Academy-Tribal Technology Institute program in Lac du Flambeau. She has tutored students in Nicolet's Disability Support Services program and has been a [private tutor](#) for children and adults. 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.

julie17@frontiernet.net

Co-Secretary

Carol Lorbetske

Carol is a retired elementary school teacher from the Three Lakes School District. She completed the literacy training course in 2010. In the past she has tutored both children and adults. She volunteers reading help to elementary school children.

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

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

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

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

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 for over twenty-four years. 715-277-2019 ste@newnorth.net

Community-Based Organization Representatives

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

Lisa Young

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





Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit



Wisconsin Health Literacy's Health Literacy Summit was held in Madison, Wisconsin April 13- 15, 2015.

Connie Hicks attended the Summit representing the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin. Health care providers, educators,

publishers, insurance representatives, community literacy organizations and many other affiliated professionals joined together at the bi-annual event to present, exchange, and discuss issues in the field of health literacy.

medications in order to make wise choices regarding their care. Many aspects of education and methods of communication related to this topic were shared at the Summit.

As a health literacy outreach effort to senior citizens, Wisconsin Health Literacy is currently conducting presentations titled "Let's Talk Medicines." The presentation's focus was on reading and understanding prescription labels properly, storing and disposing medications safely, and providing helpful hints on remembering to take medications. Connie Hicks has made several presentations this spring with more scheduled throughout the summer.

Wisconsin Health Literacy, Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., and the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin continue to sponsor programs and classes for the continued improvement of literacy and health literacy in our area. For further information, please contact Connie Hicks: ConnieHicks@centurylink.net.

Monthly Board Meetings

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

Annual General Open Meeting

November 5th—5:30
Light Dinner/Speaker on
Wrightslaw: Jennifer Knauf,
parent/advocate

Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin

PO BOX 574
Minocqua, WI 54548

We work closely with the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexia Association in promoting awareness of dyslexia and related difficulties.

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

Improved health outcomes are related to improved health literacy. It is important for health care providers to communicate health information to patients in an understandable way. Patients must be able to understand their diagnoses, test results, treatment options, and

Summer Training Highlights with Marcia Henry



Dr. Henry demonstrating teaching strategies and techniques while working with Cole Stella.

Cole and Tammy Stella with Dr. Henry

Check us out on the Web!
www.literacytaskforce.org



@literacymission



Facebook.com/
LiteracyTaskForce



**2014 Annual Meeting with
Special Education Teacher
and Dyslexia Advocate
Sara Adamovich**

**If you or your organization would like to know more
about Dyslexia,
please contact the Literacy Task Force
of Northern Wisconsin
or Sara Adamovich.**

**According to the Yale Center for Dyslexia
& Creativity, the following can be signs of
dyslexia in children:**

PRESCHOOL

- Trouble learning common nursery rhymes, such as "Jack and Jill"
- Difficulty learning (and remembering) the names of letters in the alphabet
- Seems to be unable to recognize letters in his/her own name
- Mispronounces familiar words; persistent "baby talk"
- Doesn't recognize rhyming patterns like *cat, bat, rat*
- A family history of reading and/or spelling difficulties

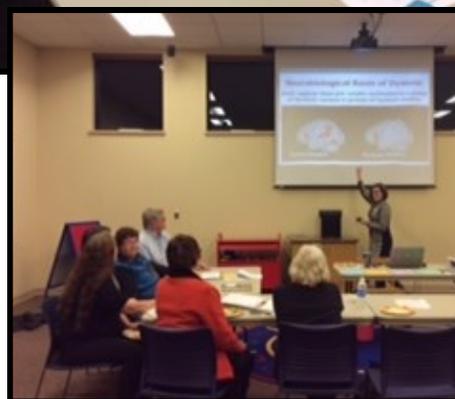
KINDERGARTEN and FIRST GRADE

- Reading errors that show no connection to the sounds of the letters on the page—will say "puppy" instead of the written word "dog" on an illustrated page with a dog shown
- Does not understand that words come apart
- Complains about how hard reading is, or "disappearing" when it is time to read
- A history of reading problems in parents or siblings.
- Speaking
- Cannot sound out even simple words like *cat, map, nap*
- Does not associate letters with sounds, such as the letter b with the "b" sound

SECOND GRADE and UP

- Very slow in acquiring reading skills. Reading is slow and awkward
- Trouble reading unfamiliar words, often making wild guesses because he cannot sound out the word
- Doesn't seem to have a strategy for reading new words
- Avoids reading out loud

**If you have concerns about dyslexia and your
child, please contact the
Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin.**





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