

CCLC Newsletter

Literacy for Learning for Life

May 2009

Cambria County Literacy Council, Inc.

248 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

Camcolitcouncil.org

814-539-3791

Record turnout for tutor training

A total of 22 people participated in the tutor-training sessions conducted on two consecutive Saturdays in April. This was the highest number and more than double attendance in at least 15 years.

The sessions were conducted by Evelyn Jurysta, an instructor provided free of charge by Tutors of Literacy in the Commonwealth.

The class provided hands-on instruction through the steps of Laubach Way to Reading and progressed through more-advanced reading levels.

While most attendees were new to tutoring, several people attended who wanted a refresher course that could update their skills.

Those participating were Patty Riddle, David Myers II, Michael Evans, the Rev. Sylvia King, Yvonne Lucas, Nancy Higgins, George Higgins, Sandra Sabo, Mylenea White, Maria Naylor, Rusty Goodman, Phyllis Forman, Ric Chirillo, Seymour Finkelstein, Catherine Monk, Anne Fattman, Liz White and Jean Wertz, all of Johnstown; Connie Holdsworth and Brandon King, both of Ebensburg; Susan Stahl, Davidsville; and Judith Lazaration, Dunlo.

Some of the new tutors already have been matched with students, both basic reading and English as a Second Language.

Sister Dolores Partsch, a board member who tests prospective students and matches them with tutors, will be in touch with new tutors as matches occur.

Generous donors make 'Tea' a success

This year's Stay At Home Tea Party fund drive has brought in more than \$1,300 to date. This is approximately \$300 more than last year and well above amounts raised during the past several years.

Leading the way were business donations from CTC Foundation and Slovenian Savings and Loan.

In addition, employees from Slovenian Savings and Loan continued their annual tradition of donating the amount raised during a month's worth of dress-down days.

Donations still are being accepted and may be sent to the council office, 248 Main St. Johnstown, Pa. 15901.

The council wants to thank the following donors whose contributions have helped to make operations a success.

Ellen Merker

Lois Graham

Dr. Carl and Susan Konvolinka

James Vincent

David and Paulette Stefanik

Lelia Calderwood

William Glosser

Barbara Weidner

Harry Weigel

Veronica Liptak

Nancy Miske

Rita Campbell

Stephen and Ann Bush

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Jack and Barbara Demuth

Miriam Flynn

Cristi Kimmel

Patricia Letizia

Dr. Seymour Finkelstein

The Rev. Julius Porcher

Nancy Malloy

Ann Mattie

Camille Maravalli

Jack and Barbara Yerger

Christine Carpenter

Sherry Kosanovich

Donna Kodis

Veronica Wilson

New member joins board

The council board of directors has named Susan Konvolinka to fill a vacancy. A Johnstown resident, she has been a tutor since 2002. She also is a volunteer with American Heart Association, Memorial Medical Center, Community Arts Center and Pennsylvania State University cooperative extension.

Two vacancies remain on the board. Anyone interested in serving should call the council office, 539-3791, or send a letter to 248 Main St., Johnstown, Pa. 15901.

Get ready to log on

The council's new Web site is nearing completion and should be accessible within a few weeks. The site's address is camcolitcouncil.org and is included with information at the top of the newsletter.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, students at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College are creating the site as part of a class. There is no charge for the students' work. The only requirement was that the council provide someone to produce material and oversee the project.

George Higgins and Catherine Monk, board members, have been filling that role for the 15-week class, which began in January.

The cost of paying an outside contractor for page design and creation generally is too expensive for a small nonprofit organization such as the council. With the students' free labor, the council kept its expenses low, mainly name registration and annual host fee.

Tutoring hours heating up

Winter's weather took a major bite out of tutoring hours, with heavy snow and bitter cold causing cancellation of many sessions. But the onset of spring has brought a rebound.

Tutors have reported the following hours to the council office: January, 10 tutors for 45.5 hours; February, 12 tutors for 76 hours; and March, 15 tutors for 126.25 hours. Figures for April are not compiled yet.

Family fun on tap

The council again will participate in the Kids-a-Fair, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Point Stadium in downtown Johnstown.

Sponsored by Cambria County Health and Welfare Council, the 23rd annual event is free and attracts thousands of people every year with its combination of entertainment, health information and hands-on learning activities for children and families.

Once again, Harry Weigel, a board member, will staff a booth with bookmarks and pens with the council's address and phone number, informative brochures and candy. Children will be able to sign up for a chance to win a book. The council's presence provides an opportunity to reach parents, who may need help in learning to read or improving their reading skills.

Board continues outreach

Board members Anu Soi, Kay Kusibab and Anne Fattman attended a community fair sponsored by Cambria County Health and Welfare Council in Kernville.

The first half of the event allowed participating agencies to share information about the services they offer. The second half was open to the public and allowed the council to reach prospective students.

Time to help a friend

Johnstown Branch, American Association of University Women, is preparing for its annual used book sale. Collection boxes for book donations will be at BiLo in Westwood Plaza and Giant Eagle on Scalp Avenue until May 23.

The sale will be conducted June 10-13 at The Galleria. Proceeds go to college scholarships and donations to various educational organizations, including the literacy council.

***Cambria County Literacy Council Inc., 248 Main St., Johnstown PA 15901
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Anne Fattman, President; Catherine Monk, Vice President; Judy Lazration, Secretary; Kay Kusibab, Treasurer.
Members-at-large: Margaret Bozic, Dr. Seymour Finkelstein, George Higgins, Susan Konvolinka, Sister Dolores Partsch, Anuradha Soi, Jim Vincent and Harry Weigel.