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The Reader Leader

The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County
April 13, 2004

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Spelling Bee for Literacy

The 12th Annual Spelling Bee for Literacy, sponsored by the Morganton Rotary Club, was held March 30th at First United Methodist Church. It was a honey of an evening as the bee teams attempted to out spell each other. By event's end, the **First Presbyterian Church** team had gained the title of Champion. A total of \$2,311 was donated for council projects.

Heartfelt appreciation to all contestants and contributors! They were great sports and made the evening fun for all. Other teams competing this year were:

- Blue Ridge HealthCare System
- Blue Ridge Radiology
- C. Ervin & Associates
- East Burke High School
- First United Methodist Church
- Freedom High School, sponsored by Edward Jones
- Morganton Kiwanis Club
- Morganton Rotary Club
- SAFT
- The Children's School, sponsored by CCB and Caterpillar
- United Way, sponsored by Weir, Smith, Jones, Miller & Elliott

Thanks also to the following for contributing to the Spelling Bee: Friends of the Library, Lauren & Leigh Gourmet Chocolates and Confections, More Lace and The Muses.

Thank you to all the people that came to support the teams and our efforts to fund our literacy programs. This was one of the most well attended and supportive groups of recent years. We look forward to next year and hope the competition remains to be a "stinger."

Restructuring at the Literacy Council...

The Literacy Council is pleased to welcome Janina "Nina" Linens to the staff. Nina has assumed the newly created position of "Executive/Program Director." In addition to the daily responsibilities as Director, Nina will oversee Project Citizenship, coordinate the one-on-one adult tutoring program as well as Reach Out And Read and Project Flower.

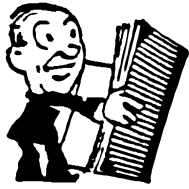
Carol Ware has assumed the position of Motherread/Fatheread coordinator in addition to her existing responsibilities conducting Project Citizenship. Carol was able to complete the training in February and is now a certified Motherread/Fatheread instructor.

Susan Baumann Berley will continue providing assistance with grant writing and fundraising.

Please join us in welcoming Nina to the Literacy Council and in supporting our staff in their new positions

A Word From the New Executive/Program Director

I am so excited to join the Burke County Literacy Council and look forward to meeting all of the community supporters dedicated to improving the literacy skills of Burke County. This past month I have been active between learning about the various programs and attending workshops. Burke County Literacy Council has a wonderful and resourceful staff which has helped me move right in and begin work. This is an exciting time for me and I look forward to becoming a more integral part of the team.



Program News

Project Flower has recently made a move! We will now be meeting at Grace Episcopal Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 1:30 pm. Our thanks go to the people of Grace for allowing us to continue our ESL program. We also want to thank our site of many years, The Salvation Army Church. The building is being sold so relocation was a must. The project comes to a close in May and resumes in August at yet another site. We will have a permanent home at the Multi-Cultural Center on Avery Avenue. We look forward to pooling our resources to help the non-English speaking population of our county.

Motheread continues, under the supervision of Carol Ware, to be a wonderful tool serving parents of young children. Carol has recently attended a workshop offered in Lenoir on Motheread training. She has resumed the Motheread program at Family Connections for both the teen mother and GED classes. She looks forward to working with the other agencies which provide Motheread sessions as well as expanding into the community.

Family Literacy Night at Hildebran Elementary School was a big success. Carol Ware manned the Burke County Literacy Council booth. We gave away books to the children and had information available for any adults who may need help. Thanks to Carol and Hildebran School for helping to spread the important message of life long learning!!!

Natures Lessons On Teamwork

Fact: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep their speed up.

Lesson: In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement—to stand by one's heart or core values, which encourages those of others—is the quality of honking.

Fact: When a goose falls out of formation, it feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: We have as much sense as a goose. We stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We're willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Board of Directors News

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Directors. Our new Board Members are **Barbara Bliss and Betty Pennell**, retired Burke County school teachers.

Returning...

We appreciate our returning Board Members' commitment to another three year term. Returning Board Members are **Adela Blandino, Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Amanda Icard and Robert Lathan**.

Departure...

Many thanks to **Joyce Kendall, Ed Redman, Timothy Rooks and Mary Marcia Salsbury** for their dedicated service during their term on the Board of Directors. Their time and support were greatly appreciated, and we miss them.

Contact Us

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Volunteers please remember to submit your hours monthly to Sherry. Thank you!

Council Wish List

The Literacy Council is in need of the following items:

- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Office chairs
- Office supplies
- Pens and pencils

With Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Ken Hamrick. He passed away recently after a battle with cancer. He was a long time tutor with the Literacy Council. He was an asset to the people he helped and his work will be truly missed.



Council Receives Donations

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between December 3, 2004 and April 13, 2004.

Individuals

Mrs. Carolyn Atwell
Mr. Herbert Avery
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Aycock
Mr. John Bleyнат
Mrs. Jewell Bounous
Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bowers
Mrs. Viola Brandon
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bridges
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Brown
Mr. Charles Burleson
Mr. Andrew Cogdell and Mrs. Barbara Degen
Mr. Mel Cohen
Mr. William Connelly
Mrs. Joyce Counihan
The Honorable and Mrs. Robert Ervin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Erwin, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Foust
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fullwood
Mr. Robert Gage & Mrs. Amy Cox
Mrs. Callie Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gregory
Rev. Jasper Hemphill
Mrs. Margaret H. Hoyle
Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Inscoe
Mr. and Mrs. Emile Jacumin
Mrs. Maureen Johnson
Mrs. Susie Kearns
Mrs. Joyce Kendall
Mrs. Elisabeth F. Loftis
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lowry
Mr. John Lundeen
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDaniel
Mr. Robert McGimsey
Mrs. Elinora Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mitchell
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Plyler
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Redman
Mrs. Billie Rose Robertson
Mr. and Mrs. Sherrod Salsbury
Mrs. Becky Schlein
Mr. and Mrs. Will Sharp
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Sholar
Mrs. Rose Shook
Mrs. Juanita Sigmon
Mrs. Laura Ervin Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Sossoman
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Stephens

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Succop
Mr. and Mrs. Harper Thayer
Mr. and Mrs. Bo Vance
Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Walker
Mrs. Sandra Weathers
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whisenant
Mr. and Mrs. John Whitener
Mrs. Doris Wilson
Mr. Otto Woerner
Mr. and Mrs. Will Wolfgang

Donations in honor of Kathy Garrou

Mrs. Adela Blandino
Mrs. Doris Fullwood
Mrs. Amanda Icard
Mr. Robert Lathan
Mr. Ed Redman
Mrs. Mary Marcia Salsbury
Ms. Gwen Veazey
Mrs. Beth Walker
Mrs. Doris Wilson

Community/Service Organizations

Alpha Delta Kappa
Calvary Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church

Grants/Private Foundations

Burke County United Way
Mull Foundation
North Carolina Community College System
Sisters of Mercy

Spelling Bee

Blue Ridge Health Care
Blue Ridge Radiology
C. Ervin & Associates
Caterpillar
CCB
East Burke High School
Edward Jones
First Presbyterian Church
Friends of the Library
Morganton Kiwanis Foundation
SAFT
Weir, Smith, Jones, Miller & Elliott

In Kind Donations

Mrs. Charlyn Bugg
Mrs. Kathy Garrou
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Homer
Mrs. Lee Kirksey
Ms. Faith Loven
Mrs. Beth Walker
Alpha Delta Kappa
The Muses

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National Volunteer Week

Burke County residents who share their time and talents to make a difference in the community will be honored, along with other volunteers across the country, during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24.

This year's theme, "Volunteers Inspire By Example!" sets the stage for national, regional, and local organizations to applaud the efforts of volunteers, as well as, encourage others to help strengthen their communities. The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network sponsors the annual week-long event.

"We salute the men, women and young people whose selfless efforts are creating a culture of caring in America through volunteering," said Robert K. Goodwin, president and chief executive officer of the Points of Light Foundation. "These unsung heroes are the fabric of our communities and our country."

Both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate have increased according to a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. As of December 2003 about 63.8 million people did volunteer work at some point from September 2002 to September 2003, up from 59.8 million for the similar period ended in September 2002. The volunteer rate grew to 28.8 percent, up from 27.4 percent of the civilian non-institutional population over the age of 16.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the week. Additionally, governors, mayors, and other elected officials make public statements and sign proclamations in support of National Volunteer Week.