

From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

2017 has the potential to be our best year ever! We have two students looking seriously at studying for the US Citizenship test and we have 4 students working hard on their GED (high school diploma). At least 3 GED students may graduate by Recognition Day this August!

One area of concern is we have had many potential students on our wait list due to a tutor shortage. To accommodate more students we've tried small and large classes with little success. Luxemburg, Kewaunee and Casco areas need at least 3-4 tutors each right now. There are a few days left before orientation. Please see the article, "Help!" in this issue.

Lastly, please look over the Calendar for 2017 in this issue for a number of excellent events. We need your help to make these events a success (see Anne's articles to volunteer).

Here's to another great year of literacy!

*Best Fishes.
Bob*



THE STAR

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County

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Board Members/
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HELP!

Bob Garfinkel

We need tutors in Kewaunee, Casco and Luxemburg. If you know someone who'd be interested in tutoring, please have them call me TODAY!



Tutor Orientation: February 28th 9-10:30 am

Tutor Training Classes: March 7, 9, & 23rd
9:00 am-12:30 pm

All classes are held at our Resource Center,
located in the

United Methodist Church, 804 Parker Avenue, Algoma

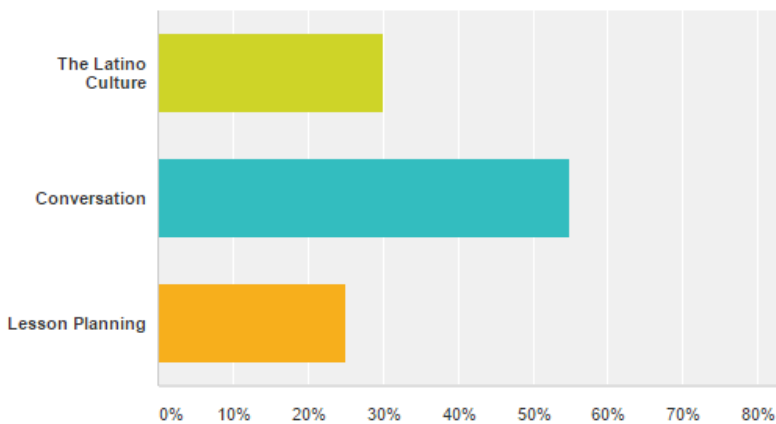


Tutor Survey 2017 Results

Below are the questions that many of you answered last fall regarding the direction of our organization, what you would like, what you think might be done better, and what things will possibly occur in 2017. Thank you to all who took the short time to answer the survey. The results have already helped our Board of Directors plan some events for 2017!

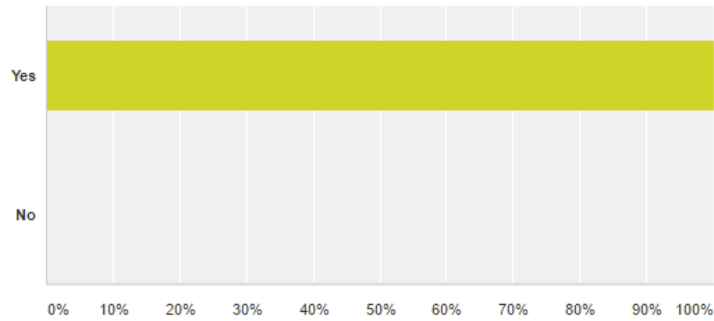
As a tutor, what type of in-service program would you like to have in 2017?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 5



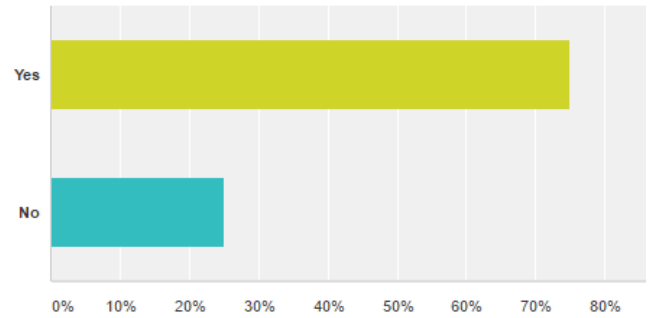
Do our current Resource Center hours (10:30 am - 12 p M-F and by appointment) meet your needs?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 2



If schedules allow (you & your family, your student & their family), would you be interested in participating in a Game Day this spring? (Game Day would feature multiple board games, snacks, drinks and fun!)

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



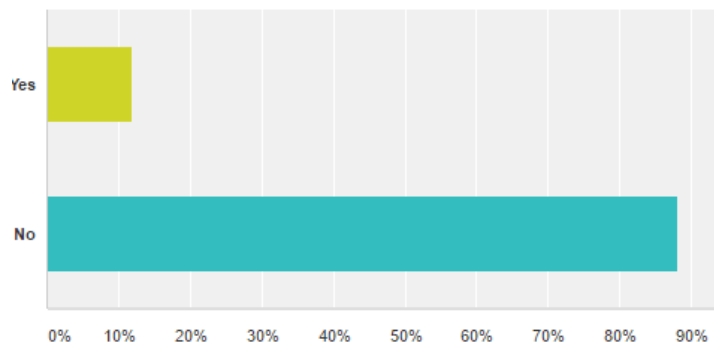
Q4 President's Comments: Planning has been in progress. You will be contacted soon!

What could our Board of Directors do to help you be more effective in working with your student?

Q2 President's Comments: A buddy system was mentioned and is a good idea. Right now we have a mentor system and unfortunately have more mentors than new tutors. I have also been trying to get student discussion groups going for years. Student schedules make it difficult along with distances needed to travel. Many students cannot drive. If anyone wants to come forward and set this up, it would be a very important activity.

Our newsletter has been reduced from 6 issues to 4 per year. Do you feel this has reduced our communication to you? Also, please provide suggestions in the comment box on how you think our newsletter could be improved.

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

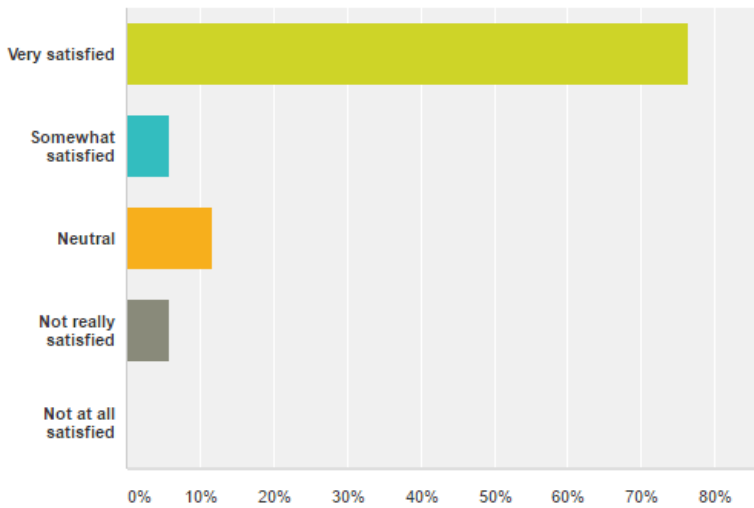


Our student writing books featured at Recognition Day for the last three years have been excellent. We have covered topics of home and family. What should be the focus in 2017?

Q6 President's Comments: Thanks for all the great suggestions. Our committee has chosen 2 topics, one for this year and one for next year. See our choice announced in the newsletter!

If you use the Ventures text, how satisfied are you with the Ventures program so far?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 8



Q7 President's Comments: Interesting feedback on this one—thanks!

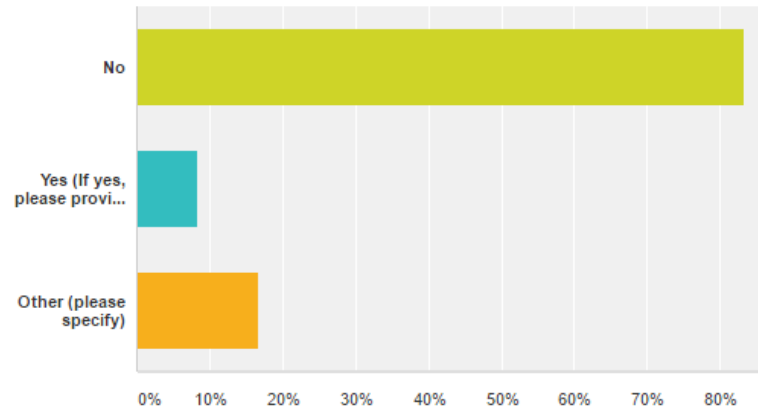
How can Literacy Partners attract more tutors?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 6

Q8 President's Comments: The media is no help! The Star is a skeleton of what it used to be. Getting anything in it is difficult. We had 6 free months of ads on 4 Door/Kewaunee radio stations with 12 total ads a day. Not one call came from those advertisements. We tried the Press-Gazette once—no one called. The only effective avenue is YOU—our tutors and supporters talking to people you know. Churches, posters and media have been marginal to date.

Do you have any connections to groups, businesses, or events in our area that would support Literacy Partners financially (specific Literacy Partners events or general programming)?

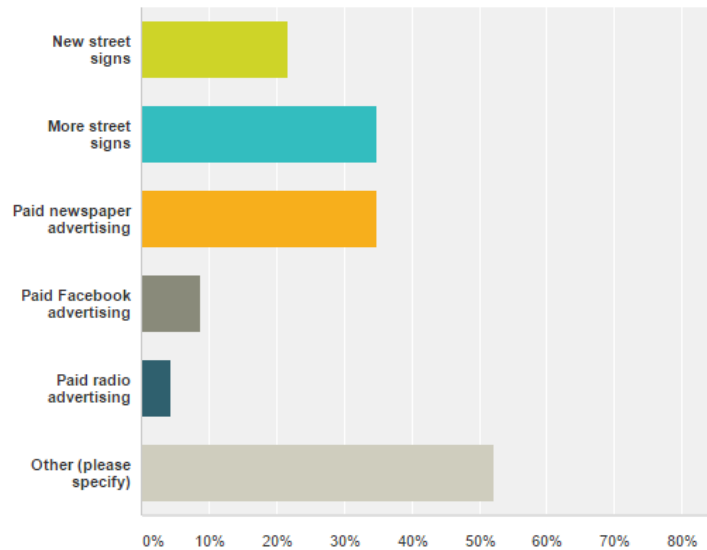
Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



Q9 President's Comments: Hooray for Hollywood was recommended. We can only approach Hooray for Hollywood every other year. They have been supportive each time we have written them.

How do you feel we could more effectively advertise our annual Pig Roast fundraiser?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 2



Q10 President's Comments: Received a call from a tutor and we will have the use of the NEW Kewaunee Chamber sign a week before the event. They will also list the roast on their Calendar of Events and Facebook. New pig signs will be made/purchased. Your suggestions have been passed on to the Pig Roast Committee. Thanks!

Recognition Day 2017

Bob Garfinkel

Recognition Day is a celebration of our students' accomplishments, dedication of our tutors and recognition of groups and organizations that support us. You and your student will receive a letter in the coming months with all the details. At this point, please put August 20, 2017 on your calendar with a tentative time of noon as a starting point.

Briefly, Recognition Day is a picnic under the largest shelter in Bruemmer Park, Kewaunee. We have a planned pot luck (more later), a short program, and 2 piñatas for the kids. Children and students receive free books to take home and tutors and supporters will receive a nice present.

Recognition Day is our event of the year. Please plan to attend!

Student Book for 2017

Our student books have been outstanding! The last 3 years have featured:

1. Any topic students have wanted to submit
2. *Where is Home*
3. *My Family*

Stories varied in length from 3 sentences (for beginners) to 2 pages in length. Tutors may help students, but the bulk of the work is on the student. Pictures may be used but they must be emailed.

This year's title of the student book is: *A Look Into My Future*. The deadline for turning in stories is July 4, 2017. We need about a month lead time for editing, typing and printing. Stories are best if emailed, but can be snail mailed, as well to the following addresses:

Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com
Or
Bob Garfinkel
PO Box 203
Luxemburg, WI 54217

Student books will be handed out to tutors, students and guests at Recognition Day. Special Recognition of student authors will be given at that time.

Resource Center News

Bob Garfinkel

Literacy Partners Resource Center

United Methodist Church, Algoma

Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 AM – Noon

...or by appointment—call Bob @ 920-676-2061

We have added two books to our Resource Center. You will find them on the round table at the center. Check them out and put the card in the file.

How I Learned English—the story of a brave Mexican girl who came to this country, learned English and graduated from college. Written at about the 4th grade level (32 pages).

Talk Your Head Off (and write, too!) This book has hundreds of conversation ideas and is fun. It can also be used to promote creative writing. For Levels 3 & 4 students.

Free Magazines:

Girl Scouts of American wrote a grant for magazines. We inquired and will get six free subscriptions for a year. When you get to the Resource Center, they will be on the round table. Take a copy for yourself and student. So far we have received: *Field and Stream*, *People Magazine (in Espanol)* and *Diabetic Living*.

Calendar of Events for 2017

February 28th: Tutor Orientation (9-10:30 am), United Methodist Church, Algoma

March 7, 9, 23rd: Tutor Training classes: 9a-12:30p, United Methodist Church

June 2: Festival Foods East Brat Fry Fundraiser: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. Look for more information in this newsletter

July 29th – Pig Roast with HCE – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. See article

August 15: Back to School Day set up

August 16: Back to School event: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for both. Watch for times to be announced

August 20: Recognition Day. See article

Also coming in 2017: Fall Health Literacy event, tutor in-service, and 2nd brat fry in Kewaunee

Nora Roberts Foundation

More than three decades after publication of her first book, *Irish Thoroughbred*, Nora continues to hone her craft, working on one book at a time. Nora Roberts first appeared on the New York Times Best Seller list in 1991, nearly a decade after that first book, and every book since 1999 has appeared on that list.

For Nora Roberts, a life-long love of reading and telling stories is accompanied by a long history of philanthropy. She personally donated to organizations such as ProLiteracy, MPT, United Way, and the Alzheimer's Association for many years. In 1994, Nora created a college scholarship competition for seniors at Boonsboro High School (her sons' alma mater) who planned to study some form of writing in college. Each spring for the past 23 years, Nora reads every entry and judges the winner of the scholarship. Recently, Hannah Gerson, one of the earliest winners, joined Nora at a book signing at Turn the Page Bookstore to celebrate and autograph her own debut novel.



The seeds of the Nora Roberts Foundation are rooted in the Boonsboro High School scholarship and her history of personal philanthropy. As the Foundation's framework took shape, Nora and her family focused on Literacy, Children's programs, Arts organizations and Humanitarian efforts. Through many grants over the last 17 years, The Nora Roberts Foundation contributes to literacy and access to literature for all, the protection and appreciation of nature and art, and the education and well-being of children and adults.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: *The Nora Roberts Foundation has donated money to purchase Recognition Day books for our students and their children for the last 2 years. The gift of literacy is priceless!*

Tutors Corner

When to Call 911?

I bet your student is familiar with the numbers 911. But, does he or she know when it is appropriate to use them? Your student may think 911 should be used for any situation requiring help such as minor health issues, bursting water pipes, their cat ran away, etc. Other students may not call 911 because they fear their English is not good enough to communicate a proper message. Dispatchers will claim that 10% or more of their 911 calls are not emergencies.

I have used the following scenarios in conversations about health, working on telephone skills and role playing. Give it a try!

1. Ask the student if he/she knows what 911 is. Be sure the student understands it is a number to call when there is a medical or home emergency.
2. Ask if the student knows when to call 911?
3. Activity-Use 2 pieces of paper with 1 marked "OK to call 911" and the other "Not okay to call 911" on it. Have strips of paper with different situations on each. Read each one to the student or if the student can read alone, all the better. Simply have the student place the situation under the proper heading:

OK to call 911	NOT okay to call 911
Medical Emergency	When the power goes out
House Fire	When water pipes break or leak
Heart Attack/Chest pain	For a ride to the doctor's office
Domestic Violence	For your pet
Car accident	As a joke
Choking family member or friend	For a plugged toilet
Someone is breaking into your house	Your roof is leaking
	A squirrel got in your car
	To get directions

What really is effective is to role play many different situations. Use cell phones or pretend to use phones and stage 911 calls. Discuss the conversation first. You be the 911 operator and the student is the caller. Roles may be reversed. Not only is this an important skill for the student to master, but communication skills are improved along the way!

Sample 911 Conversation:

911 OPERATOR: 911, what is the nature of your emergency?

CALLER: Help me. My house is burning!

911 OPERATOR: Where are you right now?

CALLER: Outside my house.

911 OPERATOR: What is your address?

CALLER: Caller gives their address—some do not know—good opportunity to learn!

911 OPERATOR: I have called the fire department. They will be there soon. Please stay on the line with me until they come.

CALLER: ok.

Of This and That

1. Please email your student's accomplishments no matter how large or small to Bob. Include pictures (must be emailed) if you wish. Also, trips to the store, zoo, etc are welcome and might give other tutors ideas.

2. Several tutors have talked to me about including a picture of you and your student in the newsletter. First names are okay, and a short text is nice, but not necessary. I will send you a release form for you and your student to sign.

3. July 2017 will be Literacy Partners 11th birthday! Please email, send or call Bob with 1 word describing what Literacy Partners is all about. We will publish 11 responses in the next issue.

4. Some of you have been tutors for almost our entire time as a non-profit. Think back through your student (or students) journeys and experiences. What was memorable? Accomplishments, get together, children graduating, GED, driver's license, US Citizenship, etc? Please email Anne @ AnnieMLaurent@gmail.com. No names are necessary. We would like to put together some sort of memory board for Recognition Day that will then move to our Resource Center. 11 years is a LONG

time. I expect my email to be flooded with responses!

Summer Fundraising & Events

Anne Laurent

With every non-profit comes fundraising. It is a fact of life these days. I'd like to think that our group doesn't overwhelm its members with the hassles of fundraising. Nobody here has the energy to sell pizzas and popcorn, or has the time to go door to door. Everyone's children and grandchildren are selling things multiple times throughout the year for school and sports organizations, as well.

For this reason, we try to rely solely on grants, donations from our yearly *Dinnerless Dinner*, and 2 fundraisers a year in the form of a brat fry at Festival Foods East in Green Bay, and a joint Pig Roast Fundraiser with Kewaunee County HCE each year at the end of July.

This year, the dates and needs are as follows:

Brat Fry: Friday, June 2

Shift 1 (9a-1p): 2 volunteers

Shift 2 (1p-5p): 2 volunteers

Pig Roast Fundraiser: Saturday, July 29

Shift 1 (8:45a-12:00p): 4 volunteers

Shift 2 (11:30a-3:00p): 4 volunteers

*We will also need pie donations for this event!

Non-fundraising Summer Events

Back to School Set-Up

Tuesday, August 15 8:00 am

Back to School Event

Shift 1 (12:15p-3p): 5 volunteers

Shift 2 (3p-5:30p) : 5 volunteers

Please email or call Anne Laurent, Coordinator, if you are available to help with any of the above!

Health Literacy

Anne Laurent

Healthy Eating Family Fun Night 3

BREAKFAST

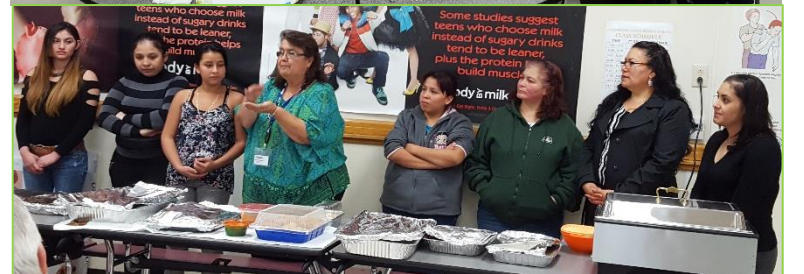
On October 20, the Health Literacy Committee was back in action! The event was the 3rd of its kind, and the biggest health literacy event to date!

Over 75 people gathered in the cafeteria at the LC Middle School to learn about a variety of health topics. Handwashing was covered by our Public Health representative Brittney Benzshawl, Milk and Dairy education was handled by Stacy Jauquet on behalf of the Kewaunee County Dairy Promotion, Family Meal time/Eating Together was covered by Laura Apfelbeck, a UW Extension guest, and Calories/energy expenditure were covered by Cythina Farrell, another KC Public Health nurse.

To break up the educational pieces of this event, all participants had some hands on experience making quick and easy healthy breakfasts. Yogurt parfaits (greek yogurt, granola and fruit), as well as whole grain waffles with peanut butter were passed out and assembled by participants. The Kewaunee County Dairy Promotion donated milk for everyone to enjoy, and Imelda Delchambre had a wonderful group of women prepare authentic Honduras, Mexican and Salvadorian breakfasts for everyone in attendance to taste.

The event was a great testament to all the hard work our Health Literacy Committee puts in over the year. The program was educational, fun, and kept kids and families engaged—having participants come forward for demonstrations quite frequently.

Watch for this year’s health literacy events. They are ALWAYS fun, educational, and you usually don’t go hungry at them ;) And, if you haven’t taken the Health Literacy 2017 Survey, please do so. Your input is needed. Stay tuned for more health literacy fun as 2017 unfolds!





A special “Thank You” to all of our officers, Board of Directors, advisors, and supporters. Without your hard work, dedication and generosity, Literacy Partners would not be the successful non-profit organization that it is today. We appreciate you all very much!

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Jill Jorgensen, UW-Extension; Anne Laurent, Coordinator; Stephanie Vincent, Legal Advisor; Donna Mahlik, Bookkeeper

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