

## From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

Nothing recharges my batteries more than running into tutors and students having class at either of our two wonderful public libraries, at NWTC Luxemburg, or Hillcrest School. Chemistry is great between most tutors and students and many long and short-term student goals were met in 2012. 2013 started out with a bang with Michele DeBaker telling me that her student took and passed the US Citizenship Test! I'm not going to go into details, but this student and tutor team overcame many bumps in the road and never gave up. I will be honored to attend the citizenship ceremony later this month and I'm so proud of this student/tutor accomplishment. Pictures and full coverage will be in the March edition of the "Star". (For the record, this is our eighth student in a row to take and pass the US Citizenship Test on the first try!).

This week our Student/Tutor Support Committee will set the date, time and location for this year's Recognition Day. Tentatively, it will be late March or early April. For new tutors, Recognition Day is our celebration of student and tutor accomplishments and the support of our wonderful supporters. The event is sponsored by Dominion Energy and has been the highlight of every year (except 2012). Last fall we chose a date that had many conflicts and it was decided to postpone the event until this spring. Tutors, you'll get a complete Recognition Day package in the mail this February. Please make every effort to attend with your family, your student and his/her family, too!

# THE STAR

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A Bi-Monthly Publication of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County

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### Features:

From the Back of the Boat  
Tutor Training  
Health Literacy  
Student Success  
Little Free Libraries  
Of This and That  
Board Members  
Advisors  
Supporters

## **Literacy Partners Honored in Madison**

By: Bob Garfinkel

First Lady of Wisconsin, Tonette Walker, and Governor Scott Walker invited Literacy Partners and representatives from three non-profit organizations to a holiday reception at the Governor's Mansion on December 11, 2012. The Mansion was decked out with holiday decorations, lights, greeters, and security. Eight Christmas trees were in separate rooms and decorated by various community groups. Many of them were breathtaking.



President Bob Garfinkel at Governor's Mansion in Madison, WI.

The First Lady spoke highly of the four non-profit groups at the reception. I was proud to be your representative!

## Tutor Training is Around the Corner!

Bob Garfinkel

Tutors and Friends of Literacy,

Once again we need your help to spread literacy within our communities. In short, we need more tutors! Our 46 active tutors cannot meet the growing needs of our county. The longer a potential student is on our waiting list, the better the chance he/she will not receive services when we are able to help them. Below are the orientation and class dates for our next tutor training sessions. Please contact friends, family and anyone who you'd think would enjoy the experience and be a good tutor! Have them contact Bob at [Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com), [www.literacykewaunee.org](http://www.literacykewaunee.org), or 920-845-2516.

Thank You!

-Literacy Partners Board of Directors

Orientation and all classes will be at Hillcrest School, 915 Second St, Kewaunee		
DATE	CLASS	TIME
April 4	Orientation	9 am -10:30 am
April 11	Class #1	9 am -12:30 pm
April 16	Class #2	9 am -12:30 pm
April 18	Class #3	9 am -12:30 pm
April 23	Class #4	9 am -12:30 pm

## Lary Swoboda (1939-2012)

Tutor, Legislator, Teacher, Friend

Kewaunee County lost a good friend this past December. Lary Swoboda was a living legend. I used to tease him that he was the man who made Luxemburg famous! I don't know how many times through my travels around Wisconsin I'd meet state legislators, county officials, or people while fishing who would ask where I was from. I'd say, "Luxemburg", and they'd reply, "Oh, the home of Lary Swoboda!"

Lary was our 1<sup>st</sup> District State Assemblyman for 24 years. He was from the old school—let's meet and talk about it. He took the time to meet with constituents at local coffee spots on certain days of the month and talk politics. Sometimes he even bought the coffee! He could have a completely opposing view than you had, but never raised his voice, listened intently, and left the discussion as friends. Compare this to what is going on now! He had the respect from both sides of the aisle.

Lary was a dedicated tutor with Literacy Partners. He tutored through illness the past couple years and

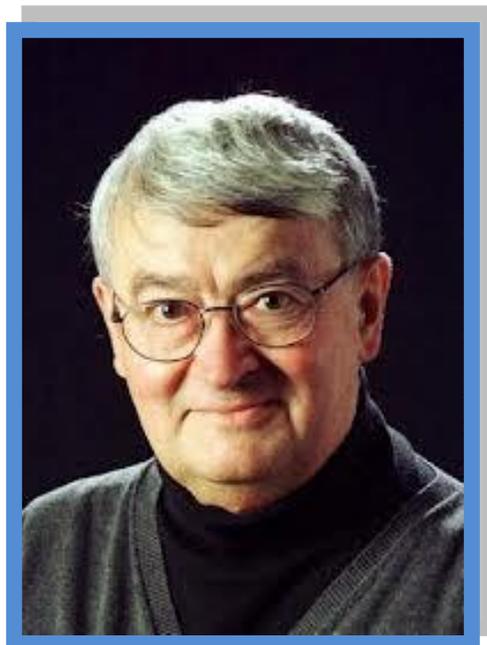
had my respect and that of his student. Jan, his wife and partner in politics and other endeavors, presented me with a generous donation in memorial of Lary, earmarked for our new textbooks.

I worked with Lary on the last effort to start a public library in Luxemburg. We did not succeed (I didn't say failed). What resulted from that effort was Lary and some friends installed his vast library on the stage at the Luxemburg Village Hall for everyone to enjoy.

Lary's love of reading made him the perfect candidate for a position on the Kewaunee County Library Board. His presence on the board was felt from the beginning and was a special voice for the people in Kewaunee County. I served with Lary on the Library Board for 5 or 6 years. Our latest fight was to rectify the \$68,000 library usage bill we received from Brown County for withdrawal of their library materials. The fight will go on, unfortunately without Lary.

Lary was also a school teacher and principal. His thirst for learning was unquenchable! Lary taught me a lot about education and life. He was a person I looked up to and was an important role model for me.

Lary was honored at his funeral by the presence of people from all walks of life. It was the largest tribute to a person I had ever attended. Lary Swoboda was truly a "Man of the People".



## First Aid Presentation in Algoma!

By: Anne Laurent

Our Healthy Communities committee will be holding a First Aid Seminar at the Algoma Public Library on **March 13, 2013 at 5:30 pm**. The one hour program will be conducted by Cindy Kinnard, RN. She will cover all sorts of household occurrences that both children and adults should know! This is the same program that was offered to our students in 2012. This one, however, is open to the general public—so spread the word!

Topics covered will include:

**Bruises  
Stings  
Sprains  
Fractures  
Dislocations  
Animal bites  
Nosebleeds  
Heat Exhaustion**



**Ticks  
Fainting  
Sunburn  
Cuts/Scrapes  
Choking  
Shock  
Poisoning  
Puncture Wounds**

All participants will receive some first aid reference materials to take home for use in their household, and there will be a drawing for first aid kits, as well.

This presentation is made possible by the **Greater Green Bay Community Foundation**, as well as the **Shopko Foundation**. We appreciate their commitment in helping us educate the community on these important health literacy topics.

*We hope to see you there!*

## Computer Classes to Start

Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County will sponsor a beginner computer class for our tutors, students, and Board Members at NWTC in Luxemburg this April. There will be several classes and there is no charge for the class. Dates have not been set, although the time will be in the early evening. At this point, we want to see how much interest there is. If you and/or your student would like to attend these classes, please call or email Bob by February 1<sup>st</sup> ([Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com), or 920-845-2516). If you have a preference of day of the week, please let us know!



## New Textbooks

By: Bob Garfinkel

Our textbook committee met in early spring of 2012 and studied 8 texts for possible adoption. After the committee narrowed the selection to the top two series, four tutors piloted each series with their students for more than 7 months. The committee, along with the pilot tutors, will meet later in January and decide on a single text for our program.



Of particular interest, after extensive discussion, our committee made an important decision. While all 8 of the new series had modern up-to-date stories, they were definitely very limited in phonics instruction. All members agreed that Laubach was more user friendly for speakers of other languages and had much more phonics instruction than the new series. The procedure we'll follow is new students will be evaluated as in the past. Students that score level 3 and above will start in the new series (and take a placement test). Others will start Laubach 1 or 2. After a student completes Level 2 Laubach, he or she will take the placement test for the new series.

After texts are delivered, we'll have tutor inservices for those whose students qualify for the new texts.

*Thank you to the committee and pilot groups!*

### Committee:

Maureen Kinnard, Barb Baldwin, Jackie Yon, JoAnn Werner, Kate Phillips, Jan Zenner, Lorraine Aspenleiter, Mary Anne Albert, and Bob Garfinkel

### Pilot Tutors:

Avery Garcia, Karen Robillard, Terry Casper, Barb Baldwin, Maureen Kinnard, JoAnn Werner, Mary Anne Albert, and Nancy Lamack

## Of This and That Bob Garfinkel

1. Wisconsin Literacy's annual 1200 Tutors in 12 Weeks campaign attracted 817 new volunteer tutors this past fall throughout Wisconsin.
2. Our First Aid Program is excellent. (See article) It is open to the public and all ages. Please pass on the word!
3. A big thanks goes out to the Lary Swoboda Family, Kewaunee Lions, and the Green Bay Packers for recent donations and support of our programs!

## What's New in the Resource Center?

By: Bob Garfinkel

“Writing in English Step by Step” (6 copies available)

A systematic approach to writing clear, coherent, grammatically correct paragraphs for ESL students and native English speakers with limited knowledge of English grammar and sentence structure. (Exceptional guide for writing). This book is found in our Writing section.

“I Speak English” (1 copy available)

This is a guide to teaching English to speakers of other languages –Listening, speaking, reading and writing. (Packed with teaching ideas, games, etc). Found in our Conversation section.

Teaching Adults (1 copy)

This is an English Language Learner resource book. It is found in our Tutor Reference section.

Teaching Adults (1 copy)

This is a literacy resource book. It is found in our Tutor Reference section.

We have 4 puppets in a zip lock bag you can find in our Conversation section of the Resource Center. The figures include a policeman, fireman, doctor and a repairman. They are a blast to use with ELL students to stimulate conversation.

*Resource Center Note: All of the books mentioned above are excellent and were purchased as a result of the last tutor survey. Additional materials will be added throughout the year. Your suggestions are always welcome and important to us!*



Did you know Literacy Partners is on Facebook? Log on and type in “Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc” into the search, and become a “Friend of Literacy” today! You will get important announcements, and be the first to know what is new and happening with us. Plus, it is a great way to stay connected, ask questions, and connect with other tutors and students. Please also let your student know that they can friend Literacy Partners, as well. We love to see members of our organization interacting!



## Student Success

Healthy Ways of Cooking with Darlene

Cooking is a lot of work, but it can be healthy. I like to make extra food to eat at work and for the freezer for eating later. And, in the summertime when it is too hot to cook, frozen dinners are ready to eat. My story is about Tater Tot Casseroles, diabetic cooking, microwave cooking and popcorn. I hope you like it.

My favorite food is the recipe for Tater Tot Casserole. My casserole is very good to eat. Now I'm going to tell you how to make it. You cook the hamburger and drain the grease. Put the hamburger in a cake pan and add in mixed vegetables. Put the Tater Tots on top. Put it in the oven at 325 degrees for a half hour and check it to see if it is done.



You don't have to have diabetes to eat diabetic cooking. Diabetic cooking is a healthy way to eat. Things to stay away from are too many potatoes, white sugar, white rice and white bread. We can eat whole grain breads, brown rice and vegetables like lettuce, cabbage, sauerkraut, squash, onions and many more. Reading labels is important to check for dates, sugar and salt.

Popcorn is the perfect snack for watching tv or watching movie. You can make popcorn balls, caramel popcorn, cheese popcorn or Cracker Jacks. Popcorn can be put on a string so you can put it on your Christmas tree or you can sit by the campfire and eat it. If you drop popcorn on the ground, the birds will eat it.

Microwave cooking can be healthy because you can cook using water or no calorie sprays. What I like about microwave cooking is that food gets done faster than cooking on the stove. You can defrost foods that are frozen quickly. With microwave cooking you can also use fewer dishes and save time and energy. My favorite foods to cook in the microwave are baked potatoes, sweet potatoes, ham, hotdogs, chicken, corn, yellow beans, and soup.

My story was about a casserole, popcorn, microwave cooking and diabetic cooking. Of all the foods I talked about, the Tater Tot Casserole is my favorite. Remember, you don't have to be a diabetic to eat healthy.

### Note from the Tutor:

The story above is an exercise in a short essay required for the 5.09 GED. The story demonstrates Darlene's use of correct sentences, topic sentences, paragraphs, spelling and dictionary work. She has been working hard for about a year and a half and will earn her GED before the end of May. I am proud of Darlene and her never-give-up attitude!

-Bob Garfinkel

## Tutor of the Season: Sue Weisser

By: Mary Anne Albert

Our Tutor of the Season for this issue is Sue Weisser. Knowing that she was one of the original Literacy partners from 2006, and continues to be active, gives us a hint of the value she places on literacy. With a background in education, she is convinced that effective communication is a key element in anyone's life.

Sue comments that communication, the ability to read, to comprehend, and to express oneself, is key in one's life. It helps a person go so much further in life and to overcome many limitations that society presents.

She considers herself fortunate to be able to help people through her involvement with Literacy Partners. "My student has grown immensely in speaking, reading, writing and communicating in English. It is a great feeling to be a part of that," Sue comments.

## Little Free Libraries are a Hit!

Our Little Free Libraries (LFL) have been open since last May and have been a rousing success! Our four locations in Luxemburg, Casco, and Algoma have experienced over 1,000 book exchanges in the last 7 months.

If you are not familiar with the LFL program, it is a free book exchange where you take a book out of the library and put one of your own back in its place. It is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. No library card is required. Locations are in Fireman's Park, Luxemburg, near the right door as you enter the Bank of Luxemburg, Luxemburg, in front of CenturyLink, Casco, and on the porch at the Belle Isle Inn, Algoma. Someday, LFLs will be in every part of Kewaunee County!



Two of our libraries were donated as memorials from family members honoring a loved one. At this point, donations will determine location of new libraries. Call Bob for more information about LFL or with any questions.

Several notes recently left in our libraries by LFL users include:

"What a blessing this is. Thank You!"

"This is the best idea ever! I just love it!"

"Thank you for starting this wonderful program. I hope everyone can keep it going."

"Really cool! This is so cute! I love it! This might be the new generation to our society"



*Just a side note:  
Those who say that people don't read anymore don't know what they are talking about!*

## Tutor Survey Results

Thank you to the 25 tutors and Board Members who returned our tutor survey in December. The results are listed below (with my comments in red) and will help our committees plan the 2013 literacy calendar. Your comments are important. Thank you so much!  
--Bob

### Question 1

Name the one workshop that would help you be a more effective tutor.

#### **Answers**

- a. **Writing paragraphs and stories**  
COMMENT: I agree. It's been 2-3 years since we had this kind of program. Writing and reading go hand in hand. We do have quite a few books covering writing and grammar in the Resource Center, but can always use more. Check out the "Whats New in the Resource Center" article in this issue of the "Star".
- b. **Workshop on conversation**
- c. **Workshop on different cultures that may affect our lessons**  
COMMENT: We had 3 such workshops in the last 5 years. Perhaps next year.
- d. **Issues involving driver's licenses and immigration**  
COMMENT: There is nothing new to report at this time. The internet has all of the information a person needs.
- e. **Understanding how the adult ESL learner learns**
- f. **Learn about exciting new methods**  
COMMENT: See Sharing Sessions in this survey

### Question 2

What new materials do we need in our Resource Center at Hillcrest?

#### **Answers**

- a. **How to fill out forms, especially healthcare**
- b. **Books on how to write paragraphs, English grammar, or spelling. Bilingual books are nice**  
COMMENT: We have many books on these subjects. Check out our "Writing" section.
- c. **More books and stories about real life, personal friendship and family scenarios, hunting, fishing, camping, etc.**

COMMENT: We'd like to do this, but we lack the space and funding. Please use our wonderful public libraries. The purpose of our Resource Center is to provide specific material for adult instruction that is not found in a public library.

- d. **Maybe a language program for the computers**  
COMMENT: We are looking at software right now. Our 2 computers at the Resource Center should be up and running this winter!
- e. **More bilingual books**  
COMMENT: I agree!
- f. **Reference Materials-World Atlas**  
COMMENT: Please use public libraries.
- g. **More male oriented stories**  
COMMENT: Our Resource Center has over 2 dozen titles (with multiple copies) of such books. They are written at levels between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading levels.
- h. **I find we have our greatest success when we work from readily available media. He is well advanced in speaking. Much of our resources do not challenge him.**  
COMMENT: Please spend some time in the Resource Center looking around. If this does not work out, please use the public libraries in Algoma or Kewaunee.

### Question 3

Would you be in favor of having several tutor social events to meet other tutors?

**Answer- 18 YES, 5 NO**

COMMENT: Sounds great! If we have 2 or 3 volunteers to help plan, we can have some fun. Call Bob at 920-676-2061 and volunteer today!

### Question 4

Depending on the date and time, would you attend a tutor get-together to share ideas and solve common problems?

**Answer-23 YES, 2 NO**

COMMENT: We could try to have one during the day and one at night.

### Question 5

Is there an area within health literacy (Healthy Communities) that our committee should explore?

#### **Answers**

- a. **Teaching babies at home before they start school**
- b. **Alcohol and drug abuse**
- c. **List of health providers that provide low cost/no cost services**  
*COMMENT: Anne is updating our web page right now. It should have most of the information you and your student would need.*
- d. **Importance of getting vaccinations.**
- e. **Nutrition (4 responses!)**
- f. **County/state programs for assistance**  
*COMMENT: Anne is updating our web page right now. It should have most of the information you and your student would need.*
- g. **Visit a hospital**
- h. **CPR**

### Question 6

Name one way you think Literacy Partners could attract new tutors within Kewaunee County

#### **Answers**

- a. **Advertise in newspapers**  
*COMMENT: I agree. We average about 1-2 new tutors every two articles.*
- b. **Go to schools, community service organizations and churches for students or others who need service hours**  
*COMMENT: We have not gone to churches, but have attended most organizations with such programs without much success. Our ads for new tutors are in most church bulletins. If they are not in yours, and you would like to submit it for us, please contact Bob.*
- c. **Try getting younger people involved.**  
*COMMENT: We do not accept people under 18 years of age as tutors for safety reasons. Generally, tutors in their 20s and 30s quit after several months due to lack of time (small children at home, etc).*
- d. **Through businesses-connecting with people who are retiring.**  
*COMMENT: We find retirees usually want to take a break for 1-2 years before taking*

*on something new. If interested, they can respond to our local advertising.*

- e. **Advertise, advertise, advertise!**  
*COMMENT: We do with little success. Our training classes average 5-6 new tutors.*
- f. **Address the groups at aging centers**
- g. **I believe “word of mouth” is the best**  
*COMMENT: I agree. Let’s get the word out!*
- h. **Presentations to various groups**  
*COMMENT: I have spoken once or more to almost every group in Kewaunee County and have had Little success attracting tutors (money, yes-which we greatly appreciate...but tutors, no.)*
- i. **Have meetings at the libraries**
- j. **Use church bulletins**  
*COMMENT: I agree. They have been fairly productive for us thus far.*
- k. **Have social events and bring a non-tutor with you**  
*COMMENT: 2 people mentioned this. We need volunteers to be on the committee. Call Bob @ 920-676-2061 today!*

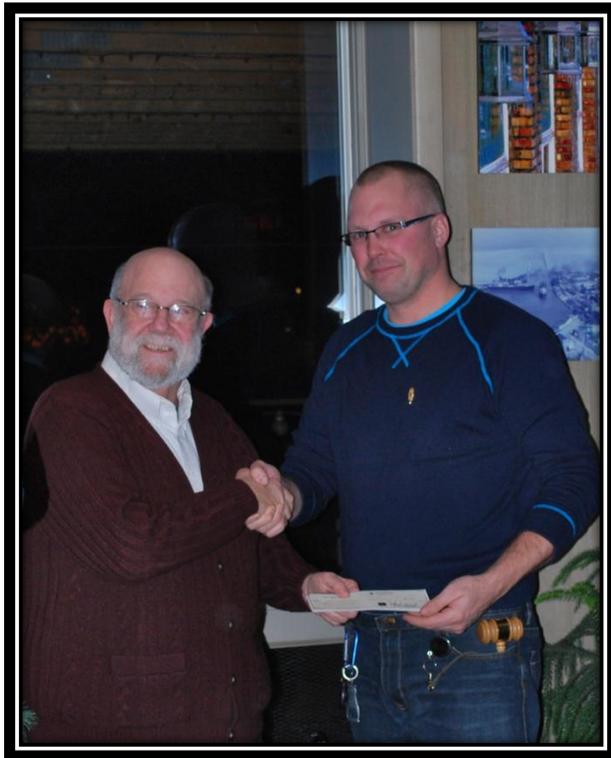
### **Thank You!**

By: Anne Laurent

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Sister Mary Anne Albert. She usually volunteers her time to put the newsletter together for us. This month she was unable to, and I took on the task—and let me tell you—it was a task!

These newsletters are packed with so much exciting and pertinent information for our organization. We all benefit from receiving them—and I want Sister Mary Anne to know how much we all appreciate the time she puts in!





*Literacy Partners President  
Bob Garfinkel accepting a check  
from Jeff Kohnle of the Kewaunee  
Lions.*

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