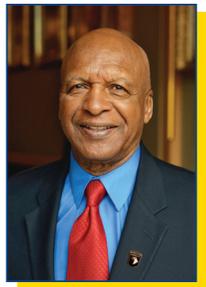


ILLINOIS LITERACY

SPRING 2019

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

Last November, literacy programs, libraries and schools throughout the state hosted events to celebrate Family Reading Night. Fun and creative programs inspired and encouraged families to spend time reading together. In partnership with the Illinois Literacy Foundation, I was honored to spend Family Reading Night at the Waukegan Public Library distributing complimentary books to children and families for their home library collections. I want to thank everyone for participating in this very special annual program and once again making it a success.



Volunteers are an essential part to literacy programs in Illinois. The integral role these volunteers play in providing tutoring to adult learners is invaluable to the success of the Illinois State Library's Adult Literacy Grant Program. Please take the time to recognize them during National Volunteer Week in April.

I appreciate your commitment to improving the lives of Illinois citizens through literacy services. While these accomplishments are outstanding, demand continues to grow. With your assistance, my office will continue to provide these services to all those in need.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

Celebrate volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April



2018 Spotlight on Service award winner Marlene Delaney (center) with Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White (left) and Illinois State Library director Greg McCormick (right).

Volunteer tutors play a very important role in literacy programs throughout Illinois by providing their unpaid time to improve the lives of adult learners and their families through education. Last year, 5,355 volunteer tutors provided 354,356 hours of tutoring to 11,035 adult learners in Illinois. According to the Independent Sector, volunteer service equates to \$26.02 per hour in Illinois. These volunteer tutors provided \$9,220,343 in services.

"Volunteers are a key factor in the Adult Volunteer Literacy Program in Illinois. Without volunteer tutors, we would not be able to successfully improve the lives of many adult learners," says Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. "I encourage all programs to utilize National Volunteer Week, April 7-13, to recognize the volunteer tutors in your literacy programs for the selfless dedication and work they provide to citizens who are in need of improving their education."

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Secretary White & Illinois Literacy Foundation attend Family Reading Night



Secretary White and Illinois Literacy Foundation staff distribute books at Waukegan Public Library's Family Reading Night.

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White joined the Illinois Literacy Foundation (ILF) and local dignitaries in celebrating Family Reading Night at Waukegan Public Library in November. Sponsored by Secretary White and the Illinois Center for the Book, Family Reading Night (FRN) is an annual statewide event held the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. At the event, children had the opportunity to meet Secretary White, ask questions and receive books from the Illinois Literacy Foundation. During the event, local families learned about the importance of reading together and discovering their local library.

"Reading prepares you to be a good citizen," White said, speaking to the group of children, parents and elected officials.

Previous reading programs at the library have encouraged children and their parents to use books as a way to expand children's experiences of the world. The library's 2019 winter reading club focused on teaching children about different holidays through reading.

"We believe that reading is a great way to understand and celebrate the diversity of our community," said Selina Gomez-Beloz, executive director of Waukegan Public Library, echoing White's sentiments. "We're honored to have hosted Secretary White and appreciate his commitment to our services for children and especially for adults." The library's adult literacy tutoring program, which is the only library-based program in Lake County funded through an Illinois Secretary of State grant, uses one-on-one tutoring and small group formats to help adult learners with their reading, writing and/or math skills.

White left the children with some thoughts about reaching goals, speaking to them about how important it is to persevere through challenges. "If someone tells you that you can't achieve something, you say – just watch me!" White said, earning applause from the little ones in the front row. He noted that it is the role of parents and community members to help children reach their dreams and that family activities, like reading, can be part of that effort.

White's visit to Waukegan came six months before the city hosted the 2019 Illinois Reads Book Festival. This will bring a number of authors to Waukegan High School for book talks, book signings, activities and more. For additional information on Illinois Reads, visit the program website at <https://illinoisreads.org/>.

Literacy programs and libraries celebrate Family Reading Night



Children participating in Sauk Valley Community College's family literacy night to celebrate Family Reading Night.

Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon

The adult education department at Sauk Valley Community College held a family literacy night that provided a variety of activities allowing families to explore how learning to read and write begins at home. The activity stations included: write your own story with circus pictures, read a book with your parents, memory games, crafts and circus storytelling time. The participating parents learned a variety of literacy skills that can help them to become reading role models to their children. All participants received prizes and the children were able to choose a free book to take home.

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Celebrate Service NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 7-13

Electronic literacy resource list addresses volunteers

The Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy Office provides an electronic literacy resource list of relevant topics for literacy programs and literacy practitioners to utilize. With National Volunteer Week in April, the Literacy Office would like to promote resources relating to volunteers that appear on the list.

The resource list contains publications, books and scholarly articles ranging from volunteer management, recruitment and retention, as well as outcome evaluation procedures to measure impact. Literacy programs are encouraged to access the list as a resource for volunteers, and to discover many additional topics pertinent to literacy. The resource list is available at: https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/pdfs/literacy_resource_list.pdf.

Kane County Law Library's Family Reading Night with the Judges celebrates its 20th anniversary



From left to right: 16th Judicial Circuit retired judges Judith Brawka and Keith Brown (dressed in character to read the "True Story of the Three Little Pigs as Told by A. Wolf") along with newly-appointed associate judge Salvatore LoPiccolo.

In November of 1998, Judith Brawka, Keith Brown and Thomas Mueller were the first judges to trade in their robes for pajamas and read bedtime stories to children at the Kane County Law Library's Family Reading Night with the Judges.

Fast forward to 2018, and the Kane County Law Library and Self Help Legal Center has facilitated this family-friendly program to over 600 children and their parents. From its inception, 47 Judicial Circuit judges of the 16th District have participated in this popular event that attracts families from throughout the community. Law library director, Halle Cox, says she started the program in order to impart a positive image of the law into children's minds. Cox says, "A lot of people do not have a pleasant initial experience with the legal system and because of that, we thought it would be great for the children and their parents to have a positive experience with the judges and to see the inside of a courthouse."

Over 50 children and adults attended the anniversary event and enjoyed hearing stories from retired Chief Judges Judith Brawka and Keith Brown, who reprised their roles in honor of the 20 year celebration. They were joined by newly appointed Associate Judge Salvatore LoPiccolo. Each year after hearing stories, children have the opportunity to visit a courtroom and sit behind a real judge's bench.

Woodstock Public Library

The library celebrated Family Reading Night with reading forts, therapy dogs and special guests. The guests took turns reading to the children and families. The community leaders who participated included the mayor of Woodstock, Dr. Brian Sager, as well as police chief, John Lieb, and fire chief, Michael Hill. Children built reading forts out of blankets and library furniture to create a comfortable place to read. The children practiced their reading by reading aloud to the therapy dogs. The children, as well as the K-9 reading buddies, enjoyed the night of fun activities.



Lucy is one of the reading buddies from Family Reading Night at Woodstock Public Library.

Family Legacy Foundation, Chicago

Family Legacy Foundation Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant participants attended a night out to celebrate Family Reading Night. The evening began with families reading and playing word games and culminated with a dance performance from the renowned Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago. In the Bantu language, "muntu" means "the essence of humanity." Founded in 1972, the Chicago-based group performs authentic, colorful and energetic interpretations of contemporary and ancient African and African-American dance, music and folklore. Families were entranced by the performance and enjoyed the night immensely.



Children enjoy reading time during Family Legacy's night out to celebrate Family Reading Night.

ON THE HORIZON

April 7-13 – National Library Week, <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

April 7-13 – National Volunteer Week, <https://www2.pointsoflight.org/nvw>

April 29 – May 5 – Children's Book Week, <https://everychildareader.net/cbw/>

May 3-4 – PTA State Convention, Champaign, <https://www.illinoispta.org/convention-2019>

June 11-13 – CASAS Summer Institute, Orange County, CA, <https://www.casas.org/si>

June 18-20 – National Conference on Volunteering Service, St. Paul, MN, <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>

June 20-25 – American Library Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., <https://2019.alaannual.org>

More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/home.html (click Calendar of Literacy Events).

WWW

<http://appreciatevolunteers.com>

A blog created by two veteran volunteers to provide helpful ideas for appreciating and recognizing volunteers.



<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/creative-ways-to-thank-volunteers-2502573>

Ideas that can help express genuine appreciation to your volunteers can be found at this site. The emphasis is not so much on cost, but the genuineness of the recognition.

<https://volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA-Managers-101-Ways-to-Recognise-Your-Volunteers.pdf>

From down under (Australia), here are numerous ideas for recognizing your volunteers, from easy daily cost free ways to salute your volunteers, approaches to show that you value their input, to more elaborate recognition concepts.

Illinois Literacy is a publication of the Secretary of State,
Illinois State Library Literacy Office.

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director, Illinois State Library

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