Family Reading Night 2016

Before you know it fall will be here and it will be time again for Family Reading Night (FRN), so it’s not too early to begin planning and preparing. FRN is an annual statewide event held the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. The event is sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book. This year’s event will be November 17, 2016, with the theme “Read – For the Win!”

“It is important for families to spend time reading together,” says Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. “A parent is a child’s very first teacher. This night provides parents with an opportunity to read with their children and spend quality time together as a family.”

Each year, posters and bookmarks are made available for librarians, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their FRN programs. Unfortunately, due to the state budget impasse, the Illinois State Library will be unable to print the posters and bookmarks but have made them available for download from the Secretary of State’s website—at http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html.

Program history

In 1984, the Illinois Literacy Council was established by then-Secretary of State Jim Edgar and held a series of hearings ... find that one in five Illinois citizens were at a literacy level that precluded them from being able to properly function on the job and in society. It was also determined that less than 5 percent of those citizens were receiving services to improve their literacy levels.

For the past 30 years, Illinois residents both young and old in need of help with reading, writing or learning the English language have been able to receive free services to assist them thanks to the Adult Literacy Grant Program offered through the Secretary of State’s Literacy Office. A myriad of agencies from the far southern tip of Illinois, over to the Quad Cities and into the inner city of Chicago have been awarded grant funds and have served countless individuals.

The Secretary of State’s Adult Literacy Grant Program is unique in that it provides services to individuals who may be unable to receive literacy services from other agencies or function in traditional learning environments. The program utilizes citizens who volunteer their time to tutor individuals on a one-to-one basis, promotes learning as a family unit and provides workers with an opportunity to receive instruction while at work.

“A parent is a child’s very first teacher. This night provides parents with an opportunity to read with their children and spend quality time together as a family.”

“It is important for families to spend time reading together,” says Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. “A parent is a child’s very first teacher. This night provides parents with an opportunity to read with their children and spend quality time together as a family.”

Each year, posters and bookmarks are made available for librarians, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their FRN programs. Unfortunately, due to the state budget impasse, the Illinois State Library will be unable to print the posters and bookmarks but have made them available for download from the Secretary of State’s website—at http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html.

Program history

In 1984, the Illinois Literacy Council was established by then-Secretary of State Jim Edgar and held a series of hearings on adult literacy needs in Illinois. The information gathered from the hearings brought to light the need for adult literacy in the state. It was found that one in five Illinois citizens were at a literacy level that precluded them from being able to properly function on the job and in society. It was also determined that less than 5 percent of those citizens were receiving services to improve their literacy levels.

Although great strides have been made in addressing literacy needs over the last 30 years, statistics reveal there is much more work to do. The most important thing we can do is create awareness about the need for literacy in Illinois. Two upcoming events encourage you to engage in are National Literacy Month in September and Family Reading Night in November. More details about these events are available in this issue of Illinois Literacy. I encourage you to celebrate the successes we have achieved together, but to also consider what more can be done.
the Illinois General Assembly to establish adult volunteer literacy grant programs. In addition, the scope of those eligible to receive grants was widened to include both public and non-public entities such as community-based organizations.

In June 1985, the Illinois Literacy Act was passed with grant funding for the program beginning in fiscal year 1986. In the first year of grant funding, 67 grant awards totaling $2 million were made to a variety of agencies. The following year, the appropriation for the program was increased to $4 million with 84 grants awarded.

For 30 years, the Literacy Office has offered different types of literacy grants providing services for many areas of need. These include summer reading programs, domestic violence victims, and transitioning individuals from welfare to the workforce. The program has evolved into what is now the Adult Literacy Grant Program. The program supports services in the following areas:

- Adult Volunteer Literacy – Provides training for volunteers who tutor adults over age 17 in basic reading, math, writing or language skills.
- Penny Severns Family Literacy – Provides instructional services to parents and children to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills, and encourages and identifies opportunities for parents and children to learn together.
- Workplace Skills Enhancement – Provides on-site instructional services to employees of Illinois businesses to enable them to increase their basic reading, math, writing or language skills, maintain their employment and increase their eligibility for promotion.

Program impact

Since the Adult Literacy Grant Program inception:

- An average of 31,000 Illinois residents have been served each year.
- An average of 10,000 Illinois residents have volunteered their time to tutor each year.
- Over 204 different entities have participated in the Adult Volunteer Literacy.
- Over 430 different entities have participated in the Penny Severns Family Literacy.
- 669 different Illinois businesses have participated in Workplace Skills Enhancement and have contributed over $11.5 million to match state funds.

Current literacy needs in Illinois

Thirty years of literacy grants have had an effect on thousands of low-literate individuals, but the need continues. The most recent census information collected by the American Community Survey indicates that of the 12.6 million Illinois residents, an estimated 2.1 million (16.6 percent) need adult literacy and/or English language instruction. The survey also shows that 2.7 million (22.5 percent) residents over age 5 speak a language other than English. Of those, 1.1 million (40.7 percent) report that they speak English less than very well. These numbers only reflect some of the Illinois residents who could benefit from English language instruction.

The survey further finds that of the 8.5 million Illinois residents over age 25, about 471,000 (5.5 percent) have less than a ninth-grade education. Additionally, 590,000 (8.9 percent) residents have between a ninth- and 12th-grade education. Combined the numbers indicate that over 1 million (13.4 percent) residents over 25 years of age do not have a high school diploma. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

Organizations involved in the Adult Literacy Grant Program

The following organizations received Secretary of State funding in 1986 and are still involved in the literacy effort in 2016:

- Albany Park Community Center, Chicago
- Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago
- Pyramid, Chicago Heights
- Gail Radner Library, Elgin
- Joel Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- Triton College, River Grove
- Waukegan Community College, Aurora
- Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon
- Highland Community College, Freeport
- Black Hawk College, Moline
- McLean Regional Office of Education, Normal
- Danville Area Community College
- C.E.F.S., Effingham
- Lake Land College, Mattoon
- Spoon River College, Canton
- YWCA, Peoria
- Commonwealth, Peoria
- John Wood Community College, Quincy
- Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
- Kaskaskia College, Centralia
- Regional Office of Education Randolph County, Chester
- John A. Logan College, Carterville
- Regional Office of Education Peoria County, Peoria

Celebrate National Literacy Month

September is National Literacy Month. Celebrate this important month by becoming a volunteer tutor or helping an adult in need of services find a literacy program. For information on becoming a volunteer tutor for a literacy program near you or a literacy program for services, contact the Adult Learning Hotline at 800-321-9511 or online at www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline/ (index.html).

History timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Governor signs 1986 Illinois Literacy Act into law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 4 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 2 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 4 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Illinois Literacy Act renewed for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White (left) addresses the audience during the “Night of 1000 Stars” event and is joined by Chandira Jordon (right), chair of the South Side Literacy Coalition.

The South Side Literacy Coalition (SSLC) hosted its 15th annual “Night of 1000 Stars” in April at the Delta Literacy Project in Chicago. The evening got underway after SSLC Chair Chandira Jordon welcomed everyone and introduced the emcee, Monica Harris, a student at UIC Family Start Learning Center.

Acknowledgments included recognition of all active members of SSLC, with special thanks to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for donating the event space and to Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition for donating the meal and printing the ad book. Joining the festivities were longtime supporter Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, State Rep. Elgie Sims, Jr. and Alderman Rodrick Sawyer. All three distinguished gentleman addressed attendees with uplifting messages of hope, encouragement and their unwavering support of adult and family literacy.

This year’s theme was “Literacy in a Changing World.” Adult students shined as they shared their stories, poems and writings. The SSLC celebrated 30 years of its 19th annual “Night of 1000 Stars” event and is joined by Chandira Jordon (right), chair of the South Side Literacy Coalition.

“I applaud the South Side Literacy Coalition for their ongoing support of literacy programs,” said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. “Throughout the years attending this event, I am pleased to have witnessed many adult learners take the necessary steps to better themselves.”

The survey further finds that of the 8.5 million Illinois residents over age 25, about 471,000 (5.5 percent) have less than a ninth-grade education. Additionally, 590,000 (8.9 percent) residents have between a ninth- and 12th-grade education. Combined the numbers indicate that over 1 million (13.4 percent) residents over 25 years of age do not have a high school diploma. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
the Illinois General Assembly to establish adult volunteer literacy
grant programs. In addition, the scope of those eligible to receive
grants was widened to include both public and non-public entities
such as community-based organizations.

In June 1985, the Illinois Literacy Act was passed with grant fund-
ing for the program beginning in fiscal year 1986. In the first year of
grant funding, 67 grant awards totaling $2 million were made to a
variety of agencies. The following year, the appropriation for the
program was increased to $4 million with 84 grants awarded.

For 30 years, the Literacy Office has offered different types of liter-
acy grants providing services for many areas of need. These include
summer reading programs, domestic violence victims, and transi-
tioning individuals from welfare to the workforce. The program has
evolved into what is now the Adult Literacy Grant Program. The pro-
gram supports services in the following areas:

- **Adult Volunteer Literacy** – Provides training for volunteers
  who tutor adults over age 17 in basic reading, math, writing or
  language skills.

- **Penny Severns Family Literacy** – Provides instructional
  services to parents and children to enhance their basic read-
  ing, math, writing or language skills, and encourages and
  indicates opportunities for parents and children to learn
  together.

- **Workplace Skills Enhancement** – Provides on-site
  instructional services to employees of Illinois businesses to
  enable them to increase their basic reading, math, writing or
  language skills, maintain their employment and increase
  their eligibility for promotion.

**Program impact**

Since the Adult Literacy Grant Program inception:

- An average of 31,000 Illinois residents have been served
each year.
- An average of 10,000 Illinois residents have volunteered
time to tutor each year.
- Over 234 different entities have participated in the Adult
  Volunteer Literacy.
- Over 430 different entities have participated in the Penny
  Severns Family Literacy.
- 669 different Illinois businesses have participated in
  Workplace Skills Enhancement and have contributed over
  $11.5 million to match state funds.

**Current literacy needs in Illinois**

Thirty years of literacy grants have had an effect on thousands of
low-literate individuals, but the need continues. The most recent
census information collected by the American Community Survey
indicates that over 12.6 million Illinois residents, an estimated 2.1
million (16.6 percent) need adult literacy and/or English language
instruction. The survey also shows that 2.7 million (22.6 percent)
residents over age 5 speak a language other than English. Of these,
1.1 million (40.7 percent) report that they speak English less than
very well. These numbers only reflect some of the Illinois residents
who could benefit from English language instruction.

The survey further finds that of the 8.5 million Illinois residents over
age 25, about 471,000 (5.5 percent) have less than a ninth-grade
education. Additionally, 590,000 (8.9 percent) residents have
between a ninth- and 12th-grade education. Combined the numbers
indicate that over 1 million (13.4 percent) residents over 25 years of
age do not have a high school diploma. (Source: U.S. Census
Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

**Organizations involved in the Adult Literacy Grant Program**

The following organizations received Secretary of State funding in
1986 and are still involved in the literacy effort in 2016:

- Albany Park Community Center, Chicago
  - Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago
  - Universidade Popular, Chicago
  - Prairie State College, Chicago Heights
  - Gailhardt Literacy, Elgin
  - Joilet Junior College
  - Kankakee Community College
  - Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
  - Triton College, River Grove
  - Waubonsee Community College, Aurora
  - Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon
  - Highland Community College, Freeport
  - Black Hawk College, Moline
  - McLean Regional Office of Education, Normal
  - Danville Area Community College
  - C.E.F.S., Effingham
  - Lake Land College, Mattoon
  - Spoon River College, Canton
  - WYGA, Pekin
  - Common Place, Peoria
  - John Wood Community College, Quincy
  - Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
  - Kaskaskia College, Centralia
  - Regional Office of Education Randolph County, Chester
  - John A. Logan College, Carterville
  - Regional Office of Education Peoria County, Peoria

**History timeline**

In June 1985, the Illinois Literacy Act was passed with grant fund-
ing for the program. In the first year of grant funding, 67 grant awards totaling $2 million were made to a variety of agencies. The following year, the appropriation for the program was increased to $4 million with 84 grants awarded.

- 1986: Illinois Literacy Grant Program established.
- 1986: SOS Literacy Program established.
- 1999: Fulbright Language Programs added to the program.
- 2005: Fulbright Language Programs added to the program.
- 2001: Appropriation for literacy grant program raised to $8 million.
- 2014: Appropriation for literacy grant program raised to $10 million.
- 2016: Appropriation for literacy grant program raised to $12 million.

**Celebrate National Literacy Month**

September is National Literacy Month. Celebrate this important month by becoming a volunteer tutor or helping an adult in need of services find a literacy program. For information on becoming a volunteer tutor for a literacy program near you or a literacy program for services, contact the Adult Learning Hotline at 800-321-9511 or online at www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline/index.html
Family Reading Night 2016

Before you know it fall will be here and it will be time again for Family Reading Night (FRN), so it’s not too early to begin planning and preparing. FRN is an annual statewide event held the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. The event is sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book. This year’s event will be November 17, 2016, with the theme “Read – For the Win!”

“It is important for families to spend time reading together,” says Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, “a parent is a child’s very first teacher.” This night provides parents with an opportunity to read with their children and spend quality time together as a family.

Each year, posters and bookmarks are made available for librarians, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their FRN programs. Unfortunately, due to the state budget impasse, the Illinois State Library will be unable to print the posters and bookmarks but have made them available for download from the Secretary of State’s website—at http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html

http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html

This collection of Adult Literacy tutor training videos was produced by San José Public Library’s Partners in Reading and Santa Clara City Library’s Read Santa Clara. These videos feature tutor/learner pairs demonstrating evidence-based reading strategies in clear, easy-to- replicate segments.

www.Coursera.org
This resource allows anyone to take free online courses. These courses are made available from a variety of universities. Participants can take classes on a wide variety of topics including grammar, parenting, problem solving skills, etc.

www.gcc.edu/resources/tutoring/volunteer/resources-for-tutors.html
A collection of resources for ESL tutors, courtesy of Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. Listening, pronunciation, vocabulary and reading skills are among the topics covered.

june 2016 issue 1

The State Library’s Literacy Office addresses the educational needs of adult learners and families through the Adult Literacy Grant Program. Learners in this program embark on a journey of lifelong learning with the assistance of dedicated volunteer tutors, teachers and mentors in more than 150 literacy projects throughout the state. I am pleased to be able to captain a program that I truly believe makes a difference in the lives of Illinois citizens. For 30 years, this program has been providing the necessary avenues for individuals who need literacy instruction.

Although great strides have been made in addressing literacy needs over the last 30 years, statistics reveal there is much more work to do. The most important thing we can do is create awareness about the need for literacy in Illinois. Two upcoming events encourage you to engage in are National Literacy Month in September and Family Reading Night in November. More details about these events are available in this issue of Illinois Literacy. I encourage you to celebrate the successes we have achieved together, but to also consider what else can be done.

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

ON THE HORIZON

September – National Literacy Month


October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month


October 18-20 – Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL, & www ila.org


November 8-11 – American Association for Adult and Continuing Educators, Albuquerque, NM, www.aaace.org


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

print by authority of the state of illinois, august 2016 — ilc 18

june 2016 issue 1

produced by the communications department.

so that it’s not too early to begin planning and preparing. FRN is an annual statewide event held the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. the event is sponsored by the illinois secretary of state and state librarian jesse white and the illinois center for the book. this year’s event will be november 17, 2016, with the theme “read – for the win!”

“it is important for families to spend time reading together,” says secretary of state and state librarian jesse white, “a parent is a child’s very first teacher.” this night provides parents with an opportunity to read with their children and spend quality time together as a family.

each year, posters and bookmarks are made available for librarians, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their FRN programs. unfortunately, due to the state budget impasse, the illinois state library will be unable to print the posters and bookmarks but have made them available for download from the secretary of state’s website—at http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html

http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/frn.html

this collection of Adult Literacy tutor training videos was produced by San José Public Library’s Partners in Reading and Santa Clara City Library’s Read Santa Clara. these videos feature tutor/learner pairs demonstrating evidence-based reading strategies in clear, easy-to- replicate segments.

www.Coursera.org
this resource allows anyone to take free online courses. these courses are made available from a variety of universities. participants can take classes on a wide variety of topics including grammar, parenting, problem solving skills, etc.

www.gcc.edu/resources/tutoring/volunteer/resources-for-tutors.html
a collection of resources for ESL tutors, courtesy of Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. Listening, pronunciation, vocabulary and reading skills are among the topics covered.

june 2016 issue 1

the state library’s literacy office addresses the educational needs of adult learners and families through the Adult Literacy Grant Program. learners in this program embark on a journey of lifelong learning with the assistance of dedicated volunteer tutors, teachers and mentors in more than 150 literacy projects throughout the state. i am pleased to be able to captain a program that i truly believe makes a difference in the lives of Illinois citizens. for 30 years, this program has been providing the necessary avenues for individuals who need literacy instruction.

although great strides have been made in addressing literacy needs over the last 30 years, statistics reveal there is much more work to do. the most important thing we can do is create awareness about the need for literacy in Illinois. two upcoming events encourage you to engage in are national literacy month in september and family reading night in november. more details about these events are available in this issue of Illinois Literacy. I encourage you to celebrate the successes we have achieved together, but to also consider what else can be done.

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

ON THE HORIZON

September – National Literacy Month


October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month


October 18-20 – Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL, & www ila.org


November 8-11 – American Association for Adult and Continuing Educators, Albuquerque, NM, www.aaace.org


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

print by authority of the state of illinois, august 2016 — ilc 18

june 2016 issue 1

produced by the communications department.